

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

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Tuller

1 October 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 425

Citation of Unit.....I
Award of Bronze Star Medal.....II

I. CITATION OF UNIT. Under the provisions of Circular 333, War Department, 1943, the following named organization is cited in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:

111TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION with 232D ENGINEER COMBAT COMPANY (attached), for heroism, esprit de corp and extraordinary achievement in combat from 23 October to 11 November 1944 near Bruyeres, France. When it was decided to attack through the Foret Dominiale De Champ and outflank the German forces in the Laveline-Corcieux valley, this unit was called upon to build a supply road out of a mountain trail that rose one thousand feet above the valley floor and progress through a dense forest to the Division objective. Working directly behind the assault elements the men of this unit labored unceasingly to build and maintain this road. Artillery fire crashed into the trees, showering shrapnel on the engineers who had no protection as they worked. Enemy snipers infiltrating behind our lines caused casualties and some of the engineers engaged these Germans in a fire fight while the others continued to work. Tanks were called up and though these heavy vehicles tore the bottom from the trail, the engineers were able to keep it open so that the constant flow of supplies to the nine infantry Battalions engaged in the action and the constant evacuation of dead and wounded was never interrupted. Corduroy and planking were used, hundreds of enemy mines were removed and gravel and paving stones were hauled from the surrounding country side. At no time during the nineteen days of this action did the work cease. Even though the engineers sustained fifty seven casualties in dead and wounded, they captured twenty seven German prisoners, and killed many more as they worked. Almost continuous rain and snow made their task more difficult, and yet by sheer determination and grit, these men accomplished this magnificent feat of engineering. Without this road the Division operation could not have succeeded and it is due to the extraordinary achievement of these men that the 36th Division was able to outflank the enemy forces in the Laveline-Corcieux valley and pursue a disorganized enemy to the banks of the Meurthe River.

II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for heroic achievement in combat:

HOWARD C. BRATT, 02006181, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, 3 May 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Pontiac, Michigan.

JOSEPH M. DENAS, 01173585, First Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, 29 May 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Southfork, Pennsylvania.

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