

Medal of Honor Recipients

9th U.S. Infantry

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HENRY B. FREEMAN

First Lieutenant, 18th U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 17 Febuary 1862

First Lieutenant Freeman distinguished himself when he voluntarily went to the front and picked up and carried to a place of safety, under a heavy fire from the enemy, and acting field officer who had been wounded, and was about to fall into enemy hands.

FREDERICK PHISTERER

**First Lieutenant, 18th U.S. INFANTRY
Awarded: 12 December 1862**

First Lieutenant Phisterer distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service by voluntarily conveying, under a heavy fire, information to the commander of a battalion on regular troops by which the battalion was saved from capture or annihilation.

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IRA C. WELBORN

Second Lieutenant, 9TH U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 21 June 1899

Second Lieutenant Welborn Distinguished himself though conspicuous gallantry. He voluntarily left shelter and went, under fire, to the aid of a private of his company who was wounded.

GEORGE W. WALLACE

Second Lieutenant, 9TH U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 25 June 1900

Second Lieutenant Wallace distinguished himself with another officer and a native Filipino was shot at from an ambush, the other officer falling severely wounded, 2LT Wallace fire in the direction of the enemy, put them to rout, removed the wounded officer from the path, returned to the town, a mile distant, and summoned assistance from his command.

ROBERT H. VON SCHLICK

**Private Company C, 9TH U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 13 July 1900**

Private Von Schlick distinguished himself being previously wounded while carrying a wounded comrade to a place of safety, rejoined his command which partly occupied an exposed position upon a dike, remaining there after his command had been withdrawn singly keeping up the fire, and obviously presenting himself as a conspicuous target until he was off his position by the enemy.

LOUIS B. LAWTON

First Lieutenant, 9TH U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 13 July 1900

First Lieutenant Lawton distinguished himself by carrying a message and guided reinforcements across a wide and fireswept space, during which he was thrice wounded.

ANDRE W. BREWSTER

Captain, 9TH U.S. Infantry
Awarded: 15 September 1903

Captain Brewster distinguished himself while under
fire rescued 2 of his men drowning.

FRANK J. BRAT

Private, Company K, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 3 October 1918

Private Brat distinguished himself while being on duty as a company runner, when the advance was held up by machinegun fire voluntarily picked up an automatic rifle, ran out ahead of the line, and silenced a hostile machinegun nest, killing the German gunners. The advance then continued, and when it was again hindered shortly afterward by another machinegun nest this courageous soldier repeated his bold exploit by putting second machinegun out of action.

LUDOVICUS M. M. VAN IERSEL

Sergeant, Company M, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 9 November 1918

Sergeant Van Iersel distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement while a member of the reconnaissance patrol sent out at night to ascertain the condition of a damaged bridge. SGT Van Iersel volunteered to lead a party across the bridge in the face of heavy machinegun and rifle fire from a range of only 75 yards. Crawling alone along the debris of the ruined bridge he came upon a trap, which gave away and precipitated him into the water. In spite of the swift current he succeeded in swimming across the stream and found a lodging place among the timbers on the opposite bank. Disregarding the enemy fire, he made a careful investigation of the hostile position by which the bridge was defended and then returned to the other bank of the river, reporting this valuable information to the battalion commander.

WILLIAM A. SODERMAN

Private, Company K, 9TH Infantry Regiment

Awarded: 17 December 1944

Private Soderman distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement while armed with a bazooka defended a key road junction near Rochrath, Belgium on 17 December 1944, during the German Ardennes counter offensive. After a heavy artillery barrage had wounded and forced the withdrawal of his assistant, he heard enemy tanks approaching the position, where he calmly waited in the gathering darkness of early evening until the five Mark V tanks which made up the hostile force were within pointblank range. He then stood up, completely disregarding the firepower that could be brought to bear on him, he launched a rocket into the lead tank, setting it afire and forcing its crew to abandon it as the other tanks pressed on before Private Soderman could reload. The daring bazookaman remained at his post all night under severe artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, awaiting the next onslaught which was made shortly after dawn by five more tanks. Running along the ditch to meet them he reached an advantageous point and there leaped to the road in full view of the tank gunners, deliberately aimed his weapon and disabled the lead tank. The other vehicles thwarted by a deep ditch in their attempt to go around the crippled machine, withdrew. While returning to his post, Private Soderman braving heavy fire to attack an enemy infantry platoon from close range, killing at least three Germans and wounding several others with a round from bazooka. By this time, enemy pressure had made Company K's position untenable. Orders were issued for a withdraw to an assembly area, where Private Soderman was located when he once heard tanks approaching. Knowing that elements of the company had not completed their disengaging maneuver and were consequently extremely vulnerable to an armored attack, he hurried from his comparatively safe position to meet the tanks. Once more he disabled the lead tank with his last single rocket, but before he could reach cover, machine gun bullets from the tank ripped into his right shoulder. Unarmed and seriously wounded, he dragged himself along a ditch to the American lines and was evacuated. Through his unflinching courage against overwhelming odds, Private Soderman contributed in great measure to the defense of Rachrath, exhibiting to a superlative degree the intrepidity, and heroism with which American soldiers met and smashed the savage power of the last great German counteroffensives.

TRAVIS E. WATKINS

Master Sergeant, 9th Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 16 Febuary 1951

Master Sergeant Watkins distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and interpidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When an overwhelming enemy force broke through and isolated 30 men of his unit, he took command, established a perimeter defense and directed action which repelled continuous, fanatical enemy assaults. With his group completely surrounded and cut off, he moved from foxhole exposing himself to enemy fire, giving instructions and offering encouragement to his men. Later when the need for ammunition and grenades became critical he shot 2 enemy soldiers 50 yards outside the perimeter and went out alone for their weapons he was attacked by 3 others and wounded. Returning their fire he killed all 3 and gathering up the weapons of the 5 enemy dead returned to his amazed comrades. During a later assault, 6 enemy soldiers gained a defiladed spot and began to throw grenades into the perimeter making it untenable. Realizing the desperate situation and disregarding his wound he rose from his foxhole to ingage them with rifle fire. Continued to fire until he had killed the grenade throwers. With this threat eliminated he collapsed and despite being paralyzed from the waist down, encouraged his men to hold on. He refused all food, saving it for his comrades, and when it became apparent that help would not arrive in time to hold the position ordered his men to hold the position ordered his men to escape to friendly lines. Refusing evacuation as his hopless condition would burden his comrades, he remained in his position and cheerfully wished them luck. Through his aggressive leadership and intrepid action, this small force destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy befcore abandoning their position. M/Sgt. Watkins sustained personal bravery and noble self-sacrifice reflect the highest glory upon himself and is in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the U.S.Army.

JOSEPH R. OUELLETTE

Private First Class, Company H, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 25 April 1951

Private First Class Ouellette distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy in the Makioug--Chang River salient. When an enemy assault cut off and surrounded his unit, he voluntarily made a reconnaissance of a nearby hill under intense enemy fire to locate friendly troop positions and obtain information of the enemy's strength and location. Finding that friendly troops were not on the hill, he worked his way back to his unit under heavy fire. Later, when an airdrop of water was made outside the perimeter, he again braced enemy fire in an attempt to retrieve water for his unit. Finding the dropped cans broken and devoid of water, he returned to his unit. His heroic attempt greatly increased his comrades morale. When ammunition and grenades ran low, PFC. Ouellette again slipped out of the perimeter to collect these from the enemy dead. After collecting grenades he was attacked by an enemy soldier. He killed this enemy in hand--to--hand combat, gathered up the ammunition, and returned to his unit. When the enemy attacked on 3 September, they assaulted his position with grenades. On six occasions PFC. Ouellette leaped from his foxhole to escape exploding grenades. In doing so, he had to face enemy small-arms fire. He continued his resistance, despite a severe wound, until he lost his life. The extraordinary heroism and intrepidity displayed by PFC. Ouellette reflect the highest credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

LUTHER H. STORY

Private First Class, Company A, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 2 August 1951

Private First Class Story distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. A savage daylight attack by elements of 3 enemy divisions penetrated the thinly held lines of the 9th Infantry. Company A beat off several banzai attacks but was bypassed and in danger of being cut off and surrounded. PFC. Story, a weapons squad leader, was heavily engaged in stopping the early attacks and had just moved his squad to a position overlooking the Naktong River when he observed a large group of the enemy crossing the river to attack Company A. Seizing a machinegun from his wounded gunner he placed deadly fire on the hostile column killing or wounding an estimated 100 enemy soldiers. Facing certain encirclement the company commander ordered a withdrawal. During the move PFC. Story noticed the approach of an enemy truck loaded with troops and towing an ammunition trailer. Altering his comrades to take cover he fearlessly stood in the middle of the road, grenades he crawled to his squad, gathered up additional grenades and again attacked the vehicle. During the withdrawal to company was attacked by such superior numbers that it was forced to deploy in a ricefield. PFC. Story was wounded in this action, but disregarding his wounds, rallied the men about him and repelled the attack. Realizing that his wounds would hamper his comrades he refused to retire to the next position but remained to cover the company's withdrawal. When last seen he was firing every weapon available and fighting off another hostile assault. Private Story's extraordinary heroism, aggressive leadership and supreme devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and were in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the military service.

DAVID M. SMITH

Private First Class, Company E, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 21 August 1952

Private First Class Smith distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action. PFC. Smith was a gunner in the mortar section of Company E, emplaced in rugged mountainous terrain and under attack by a numerically superior hostile force. Bitter fighting ensued and the enemy overran forward elements, infiltrated the perimeter, and rendered friendly positions untenable. The mortar section was ordered to withdraw, but the enemy had encircled and closed in on the position. Observing a grenade lobbed at his emplacement, PFC. Smith shouted a warning to his comrades and, fully aware of the odds against him, flung himself upon it and smothered the explosion with his body. Although mortally wounded in this display of valor, his intrepid act saved 5 men from death or serious injury. PFC. Smith's inspirational conduct and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory on himself and, are in keeping with the noble traditions of the infantry of the U.S. Army.

EDWARD C. KRZYZOWSKI

Captain, Company B, 9TH Infantry Regiment
Awarded: 12 June 1952

Captain Krzyzowski distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy as commanding officer of Company B. Spearheading an assault against strongly defended Hill 700, his company came under veceous cdrossfire and grenade attack from enemy bunkers. Creeping up the fire--sweep hill, he personally eliminated 1 bunker with his grenades and wiped out a second with car9ine fire. Forced to retire to more tenable positions for the night, the company, led by CPT. Krzyzowski, resumed the attack the following day, gaining several hundred yards and inflecting numerous casualties. Overwhelmed by the numerically superior hostile force, he ordered his men to evacuate the wounded and move back. Providing protectine fire for their safe withdrawal, he was wounded again by grenade fragments, he refused evacuation and continued to direct the defense. On 3 September, he led his valiant unit in another assault which overran seceral hostile positions, but again the company was pinned down by murderous fire. Courageously advancing alone to an open knoll to plot mortar concentrations against the hill, he was killed instantly by an enemy sniper's fire. CPT. Krzyzowski's consummate fortitude, heroic leadership, and gallant self-sacrifice, so clearly demonstrated throughout 3 days of bitter combat, reflect the highest credit and lasting glory on himself, the infantry and the United States Army.

MAXIMO YABES

First Sergeant, Company A, 4TH Battalion, 9TH Infantry
Awarded: 26 February 1967

First Sergeant Yabes distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. LSG. Yabes distinguished himself with Company A, which was providing security for a land clearing operation. Early in the morning the company suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire followed by a battalion sized assault from 3 sides. Penetrating the defensive perimeter the enemy advanced on the company command post bunker. The command post received increasingly heavy fire and was in danger of being overwhelmed. When several enemy grenades landed within the command. LSG. Yabes shouted a warning and used his body as a shield to protect others in the bunker. Although painfully wounded by numerous grenade fragments, and despite the vicious enemy fire on the bunker, he remained there to provide covering fire and enable the others in the command group to relocate. When the command group had reached a new position, LSG. Yabes moved through a withering hail of enemy fire to another bunker 50 meters away. There he secured a grenade launcher from a fallen comrade and fired point blank into the attacking Viet Cong stopping further penetration of the perimeter. Noting 2 wounded men helpless in the fire swept area, he moved them to a safer position where they could be given medical treatment. He resumed his accurate and effective fire killing several enemy soldiers and forcing others to withdraw from the vicinity of the command post. As the gattle continued, he observed an enemy machinegun, killed the crew, destroyed the weapon, and fell mortally wounded, LSG. Yabes valiant and selfless actions saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers and inspired his comrades to effectively repel the enemy assault. His indomitable fighting spirit, extraordinary courage and intrepidity at the cost of his life are in the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

RUPPERT L. SARGENT

First Lieutenant, Company B, 4TH Battalion, 9TH Infantry
Awarded: 15 March 1967

First Lieutenant Sargent distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While leading a platoon of Company B, 1LT. Sargent was investigating a reported Viet Cong meetinghouse and weapons cache. A tunnel entrance which 1LT. Sargent observed was boobytrapped. He tried to destroy the boobytrap and blow the cover from the tunnel using hand grenades, but this attempt was not successful. He and his demolition man moved in to destroy the boobytrap and cover which flushed a Viet Cong soldier from the tunnel, who was immediately killed by the nearby platoon sergeant. 1LT. Sargent, the platoon sergeant, and a forward observer moved toward the tunnel entrance. As they approached, another Viet Cong emerged and threw 2 hand grenades that landed in the midst of the group. 1LT. Sargent fired 3 shots at the men then turned and unhesitatingly threw himself over the 2 grenades. He was mortally wounded, and his 2 companions were lightly wounded when the grenades exploded. By his courageous and selfless act of exceptional heroism, he saved the lives of the platoon sergeant and forward observer and prevented the injury or death of several other nearby comrades. 1LT. Sargent's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military services and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.

LOREN R. KAUFMAN

Sergeant First Class, Company C, 9TH Infantry Regiment

Awarded: 2 August 1951

SFC Kaufman distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and Intrepidty above and beyond the call of duty in action near Yongsan, Korea 4 and 5 September 1950. On the night of 4 September the Company was in a defensive position on 2 adjoining hills. His platoon was occupying a strongpoint 2 miles away protecting the battalion and his unit moved along a ridge when it encountered a hostile encircling force. SFC Kaufman, running forward bayoneted the lead scout and engaged the column in a rifle and grenade assault. His quick vicious attack so surprised the enemy that they retreated in confusion. When his platoon joined the company he discovered that the enemy had taken commanding ground and pinned down the company in a draw. Without hesitation SFC Kaufman charged the enemy firing his rifle and throwing hand grenades. During the action he 2 enemy soldiers and seized an unmanned machinegun and delivered deadly fire on the defenders. Following his encounter the company regrouped and resumed the attack. Leading the assault he reached the ridge, destroying a hostile machine gun position, and routed the remaining enemy. Pursuing the hostile troops he bayoneted 2 more and then rushed a mortar position shooting the gunners. Remnants of the enemy fled to a village where SFC Kaufman led a patrol into the town dispersing them and burned the village. The dauntless courage and resolute intrepid leadership of SFC Kaufman were directly responsible for the success of his company in regaining its positions, reflecting distinct credit upon himself and upholding the esteemed traditions of the military service.

NICHOLAS J. CUTINHA

Specialist Fourth Class, Company C, 4TH Battalion, 9TH Infantry
Awarded: 2 March 1968

Specialist Fourth Class Cutinha distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While serving as a machine gunner with Company C. SP4. Cutinha accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire, from a battalion size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communication with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties. When SP4. Cutinha observed that his company was pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his safety, firing his machinegun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, SP4. Cutinha assumed command of the survivors in covering fire for the evacuation of the wounded. He killed several enemy soldiers but sustained another leg wound when his machinegun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to operable machinegun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment. SP4. Cutinha maintained this position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing 15 enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least 9 members of his own unit. SP4. Cutinha's gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.