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HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
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- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).
- III. AWARD OF BRAVEHEART'S SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE.

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular No 32, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded to:

Technical Sergeant Charles W. McKeever, 33425746, Infantry, 347th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 25 March 1945. When enemy machine-gun fire had pinned down his men who had just reached the shore after crossing the Rhine River, Sergeant McKeever, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved forward under the hostile fire and after throwing a hand grenade, charged the enemy's position while firing his carbine from the hip. As a result of his daring actions, five of the enemy were killed, four surrendered and his platoon was able to seize its objective without loss. The extraordinary heroism and courage of Sergeant McKeever reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Private Jack C. Cunningham, 36470745, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 25 February 1945. A strong enemy position located in a trench was holding up the advance of Private Cunningham's platoon by intense rifle and machine-gun fire. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private Cunningham courageously crawled over twenty yards of terrain subjected to the enemy fire and grenades. Upon reaching the edge of the trench, he threw several grenades and opened fire with his rifle killing four of the enemy and wounding one. He then jumped into the trench despite the continuing resistance and forced the remaining men to surrender. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Cunningham reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular No 32, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is posthumously awarded to:

Second Lieutenant George Dail, 02001056, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 25 February 1945. When barbed wire and an intense hail of enemy machine-gun fire halted his platoon, Lieutenant Dail, realizing that the enemy strongpoint must be neutralized, made a personal reconnaissance of the position. After scouting the enemy guns, he crawled to a position where he killed one of the enemy. As Lieutenant Dail exposed himself to throw a grenade into one of the enemy machine-gun positions, he was killed by a burst of enemy fire. Lieutenant Dail's heroic self-sacrifice centered the enemy's attention upon himself, thereby allowing his men to move closer and later charge the enemy position without a casualty. The extraordinary heroism and courageous

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CO 198, HQ Ninth U.S. Army, 5 June 1945, cont'd.

actions of Lieutenant Dail reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Ova I. Ladson, 17116656, Infantry, 406th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 28 February 1945. Sergeant Ladson, armed only with a rifle and grenades, made two daring frontal assaults on enemy machine gun positions which pinned down his unit with withering fire. Although caught in a burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Ladson skillfully neutralized the first enemy weapon and its crew. As he assaulted the second enemy position he was mortally wounded but with his last ounce of strength, Sergeant Ladson hurled a grenade that wiped out the second gun. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Ladson reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Private First Class Jack E. Gobert, 35550357, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 21 December 1944. Hearing an enemy tank approaching, Private Gobert took his bazooka and moved forward to engage the tank before it could reach his company's position. He manouevred behind the enemy infantry and despite the intense hail of enemy fire he would attract, fired a round at the tank knocking it out. Displaying extraordinary heroism, Private Gobert later mounted a friendly tank to direct its fire against the enemy. Although the enemy fire was extremely close and the tank commander advised him to seek shelter, he remained pinned in out enemy positions until he was mortally wounded by enemy tank fire. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Gobert reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Indiana.

III. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE. Under authority contained in Section I, Circular No 345, War Department, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to:

The 349th Ordnance Depot Company for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 18 November 1944 to 28 April 1945 the 349th Ordnance Depot Company rendered meritorious service in the accomplishment of its numerous duties on the continent. Throughout this period, this unit achieved and maintained a high standard of discipline and demonstrated superior performance in every duty it was assigned. The conduct of the 349th Ordnance Depot Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

Hand of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

J. E. HOWE,  
Major General, GSO, Chief of Staff.

