

UNITED STATES  
Office of the Commanding General

INTERNAL ORDERS )  
DE 123 205 )

APD 339  
9 June 1945

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.  
II. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS 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:

Staff Sergeant Walter J. Baecker, 36228999, Armored, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 4 January 1945. Although realizing the danger involved, Sergeant Baecker volunteered to assist in the evacuation of two seriously wounded men. Silhouetted against two burning tanks, Sergeant Baecker and his companions were under continuous enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire till they reached the wounded men. They placed the men on litters, carried them up a steep hill, still under enemy fire and placed them on a tank which evacuated them. While under constant enemy shelling, Sergeant Baecker never faltered and his courage and willingness was an inspiration to the men of his organization. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Baecker reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Illinois.

Technician Fifth Grade Earl W. Barton, 39420339, Infantry, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 4 January 1945. Although realizing the danger involved, Technician Barton volunteered to assist his platoon sergeant and two other men in evacuating two seriously wounded soldiers. Silhouetted against two burning tanks, they were under continuous enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire till they reached the wounded men. They placed the men on litters, carried them up a steep hill, still under enemy fire and placed them on a tank which evacuated them. While under constant enemy shelling, Technician Barton never faltered and his courage and willingness was an inspiration to the men of his organization. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Technician Barton reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from California.

Technician Fifth Grade George R. Wolff, 39459929, Corps of Engineers, 309th Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 6 April 1945. During an important river crossing by the 34th Infantry Division, Technician Wolff, with complete disregard for his own safety under intense enemy fire, made four trips ferrying assault boats with infantry troops across the river. On his fourth trip, despite hostile fire which destroyed two boats and slightly wounded him, he located another assault boat and successfully carried the infantrymen across the river. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Technician Wolff reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Washington.

Private First Class George D. Chamberlain, 7040810, Armored, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in

D 205, Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 9 June 1945, cont'd.

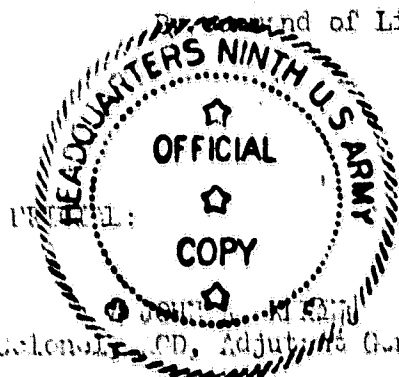
in connection with military operations in Belgium on 4 January 1945. The tank in which Private Chamberlain was riding was struck by direct enemy anti-tank fire and seriously wounded the driver and assistant driver. Regardless of the hazards involved, under constant heavy artillery and small arms fire, Private Chamberlain immediately went to the aid of his stricken comrades. Assisted by another uninjured member of the crew, he lifted the wounded men through the hatches of the tank, carried them to foxholes nearby and administered first aid. After placing the wounded men on a tank-ambulance, Private Chamberlain fearlessly rode on the outside of the vehicle guiding the driver. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Chamberlain reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Private First Class Wilo C. Huempfer, 16091778, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 1st Airborne Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 23 and 24 December 1944. When his truck was immobilized and encircled by the enemy, Private Huempfer, after destroying his vehicle, remained in a Belgian town for two days waging single-handed warfare against a hostile force. During this period, he destroyed two armored vehicles, neutralized a machine gun position and killed three of the enemy. On three occasions, he left his place of concealment to warn friendly convoys of the presence of the enemy thereby saving many lives and much vital equipment. The extraordinary heroism and individual courage of Private Huempfer reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

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 458th Amphibian Truck Company for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 20 February 1945 to 22 April 1945, the 458th Amphibian Truck Company rendered meritorious service in the accomplishment of its numerous duties on the continent. Throughout this period, this unit maintained and demonstrated a high standard of discipline and superior performance in every duty it was assigned. The conduct of the 458th Amphibian Truck Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



J. E. MOORE,  
Major General, GSC, Chief of Staff.

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