

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
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AGO 339
30 January 1945.

AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 27 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:

HVF First Lieutenant Harold E. Hylden, 01012618, Infantry, 709th Tank Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 26 November 1944, Lieutenant Hylden was leading his tank platoon in support of an infantry attack on enemy-held positions in Germany when his tank was hit by enemy fire. Forced to abandon his tank which was burning, he successfully evacuated the members of his crew, all of whom were wounded. Observing a second tank on fire, Lieutenant Hylden ran through enemy fire, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, to evacuate the crew. Making three trips to the burning tank, he was able to remove each crew member to a place of safety. His gallant and unselfish action was an inspiration to all who saw him. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Hylden reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Minnesota. *File 200m*

First Lieutenant Everett E. Pruitt, 01289319, Infantry, 415th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 30 December 1944, Lieutenant Pruitt, a platoon leader, led a six-man patrol across the remains of a destroyed bridge over the Roer River in Germany. When three of his men stepped on enemy mines, becoming casualties, he rendered first aid and ordered his squad to withdraw, dispatching one man to return for litter bearers. Though the area was now heavily subjected to enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire, Lieutenant Pruitt, with no thought for his own personal safety, alternately fired upon an advancing enemy patrol and assisted his wounded men. When his carbine became jammed, he hurled hand grenades at the enemy, holding them back while his men crossed the bridge. Learning that one of his men was not present, he courageously started to return to the scene of the fighting, despite the known dangers of the mine field and the lurking enemy troops. As he advanced across the bridge, he heard the missing man call to him, saying that he had reached safety by swimming the river. The devotion to duty and great leadership of Lieutenant Pruitt were an inspiration to all. His extraordinary heroism and courageous actions reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Texas. *File 200c*

HVF Second Lieutenant Clyde W. Hull, 0886894, Infantry, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 5 October 1944, during an attack in Germany, Lieutenant Hull, a mortar section leader, was directing mortar fire upon the enemy from an observation post when an exploding enemy shell destroyed his position. Headless of the known dangers and displaying great courage, he moved forward to within fifty yards of the enemy lines and continued to direct mortar fire. Under his cool-headed direction, his mortars silenced two enemy machine guns, permitting the attacking company to advance. In the

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subsequent counterattack, Lieutenant Hull was temporarily stunned by an exploding enemy shell. Upon recovering consciousness, he killed an enemy scout who had approached to within four yards of his position. Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant Hull, after being wounded, feigned death to let four enemy scouts pass his post. After passing, the enemy scouts observed his attempt to secure his submachine gun and in the ensuing struggle, he killed or wounded all four of them. Though wounded, he courageously remained at his observation post and directed mortar fire until the objective was attained. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Hull reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Maryland.

Sergeant Clifford P. Hinkel, 36709357, (then Private) Infantry, 415th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 26 October 1944, the battalion in which Sergeant Hinkel was a machine gunner was subjected to an enemy counterattack which had encompassed the left flank of their position. The enemy had brought forward machine guns and, with intense fire, pinned Sergeant Hinkel and his fellow soldiers to the ground. Entirely on his own initiative, Sergeant Hinkel seized his own heavy machine gun and, without fear or hesitation, dragged it forward more than one-hundred yards through intense enemy machine-gun and sniper fire. Completely disregarding his own personal safety, he set up his weapon within plain view of the enemy and opened fire. For more than thirty minutes he poured fire into the enemy position, causing many casualties and neutralizing the enemy fire in that sector. Through the valiant, voluntary act of Sergeant Hinkel, a grave threat to his battalion was averted. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Hinkel reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Illinois.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



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

JOHN A. KLEIN,
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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