

RESTRICTED
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APD 339
7 October 1944.

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR.
- III. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS).
- IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

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:

Second Lieutenant Well L. Smith, Jr., 01323868, 23rd Infantry Regiment, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 26 July 1944, in an attack on le Bois de la Roche, France, an entire company was stopped by a heavy artillery barrage. It was imperative that the left flank assault platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Smith, drive on, regardless of casualties, or the entire company would suffer heavily. Withstanding this artillery shelling and constantly exposing himself to merciless machine gun and small arms fire, Lieutenant Smith moved among his men, encouraging them and urging them on. Despite heavy casualties, the platoon advanced upon the enemy, driving forward with inspired aggressiveness. During this drive, Lieutenant Smith was seriously wounded. Headless of his own personal safety and disregarding his wound, he continued to display cool-headed, courageous leadership as he placed his remaining men in position. As the result of this daring drive by Lieutenant Smith and his platoon, the company was able to push on to their objective and only after reinforcements arrived would he permit himself to be evacuated to safety. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Smith reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Texas.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR. 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 Silver Star is awarded to:

Private First Class Roy L. Palmer, 33138996, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, Private Palmer, a rifleman, volunteered for hazardous duty when it became necessary to send out a patrol to locate and destroy four enemy artillery pieces which the enemy had withdrawn from Pointe du Hoc, France. As a member of this patrol, Private Palmer displayed extreme gallantry by intentionally pushing forward in such a manner as to draw fire from the enemy. After finding and destroying the hostile guns, Private Palmer and the patrol returned to their unit. The gallantry and courage displayed by Private Palmer reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Virginia.

Private Henry J. Tonn, 32936570, 23rd Infantry Regiment, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 26 July 1944, during an attack on enemy positions near the Dordogne-St. Lo highway, France, a flanking platoon of an assault company was forced to take cover from withering fire from an enemy machine gun nest. Private Tonn, upon his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own

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personal safety, rose and from the top of a hedgerow fired several rounds from his bazooka into the enemy position. Before he could fire his last round, enemy fire rendered his bazooka useless. Private Topp discarded the weapon, crawled to a wounded comrade and secured an automatic rifle. In returning to his position atop the hedgerow, Private Topp again exposed himself to the enemy gunners and drew a hail of machine gun fire. Unmindful of this action, he remained in this position and opened fire, knocking out the machine gun and killing the gunner. As a result of his voluntary action, the entire platoon continued its advance on the objective. The gallantry and courage displayed by Private Topp reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

III. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (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 Silver Star is posthumously awarded to:

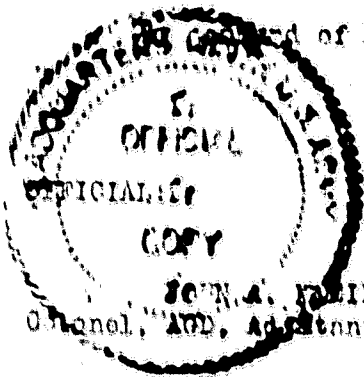
Staff Sergeant Frederick D. Smith, 20127670, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944 near Vierville-sur-Mer, France, Sergeant Smith, in a magnificent display of initiative and leadership, led his men up a hillside and across an open area entirely exposed to enemy observation. Through intense artillery, machine gun and small arms fire, he courageously inspired his men to advance. As Sergeant Smith, with no thought of his own personal safety, led his men toward their objective, he was mortally wounded by the withering enemy fire. His men, following the inspiring example of their fallen leader, carried on and cleared the area of much enemy opposition, thus making it possible for the remainder of the company to take command of the hill. The gallantry and courage of Sergeant Smith reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Connecticut.

IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. 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, 30 March 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

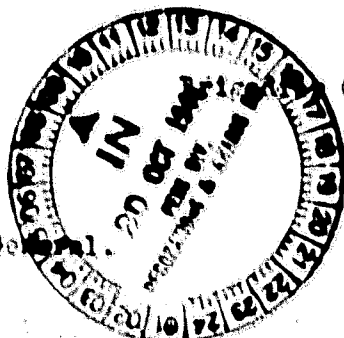
Captain Thomas J. Fiori, 0452175, 17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 3 August 1944 to 14 August 1944 in Brittany, France. Entered military service from New York.

ed of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

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



JOHN A. WALIN.
Colonel, AND, Assistant General.



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