

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 266

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18 June 1945

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).  
II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL.  
III. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS).

I. 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:

Captain Howard J. Wall, 01299654, Infantry, 345th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 7 February 1945. Captain Wall, with utter disregard for his own safety, led two tank destroyers forward and directed their fire against an enemy pillbox and succeeded in knocking it out. Encountering another pillbox, Captain Wall worked his way to its entrance, threw a grenade inside and upon entering he killed two and captured six of the enemy. In the midst of an artillery barrage, Captain Wall singlehandedly went forward and rescued two wounded soldiers. Later, Captain Wall again led two tank destroyers forward and knocked out another enemy fortification. This action caused the occupants of another nearby pillbox to surrender. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Captain Wall reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

First Lieutenant James Dupas, II, 01015003, Cavalry, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations from 4 to 7 October 1944. Lieutenant Dupas continually exposed himself to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire in order to lead his platoon in the vicious and heavy fighting to secure the flanks of his battalion and its advance. On 7 October 1944 when his tank suffered a direct hit from an enemy anti-tank gun, Lieutenant Dupas remained with his tank and continued to direct its gun fire until further damage forced him to abandon it. Then disregarding his personal safety, Lieutenant Dupas fearlessly exposed himself to enemy fire while moving from tank to tank in order to bring effective fire on the enemy. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Dupas reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Illinois.

Sergeant Leonard B. Haymaker, 33132460, Armored, 34th Tank Battalion, 5th Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 12 April 1945. When the commander of the lead tank was killed, Sergeant Haymaker took over the lead and continued the fight vigorously until his tank was hit by enemy fire and burst into flames. With complete disregard for his own safety, he chose a position in front of his vehicle and laid accurate fire on the enemy. While covering the withdrawal of his crew, Sergeant Haymaker was killed by a heavy concentration of enemy fire. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Haymaker reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Virginia.

GO 266, Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 18 June 1945, cont'd.

II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S 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, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to:

Sergeant Joseph W. Clay, 30411131, Ordnance Department, 640th Ordnance Ammunition Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Texas.

Sergeant Vernon J. McCall, 33378426, Ordnance Department, 640th Ordnance Ammunition Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Maryland.

Private First Class Howard P. Mouton, 38411356, Ordnance Department, 640th Ordnance Ammunition Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Texas.

For distinguishing themselves by acts of heroism involving voluntary risk of life on 24 March 1945. When an Allied plane crashed and burst into flames in an area containing stores of explosives, the above named enlisted men, disregarding the danger caused by detonating ammunition from the plane, assisted in the removal of the injured passengers. They were seriously injured while removing explosives from the area when a large quantity of TNT was detonated. The heroism and courage of the above named enlisted men reflect much credit upon themselves and uphold the highest traditions of the military service.

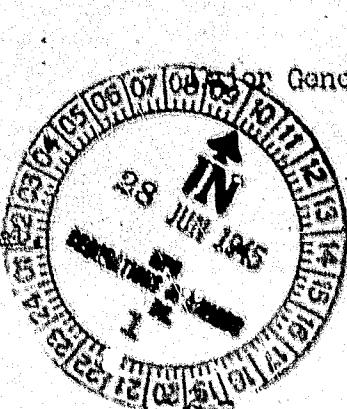
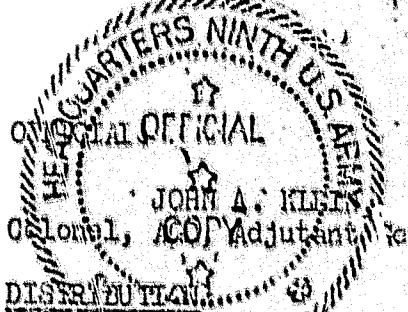
III. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular No 32, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Soldier's Medal is posthumously awarded to:

Technical Sergeant James L. Weaver, 13131594, Ordnance Department, 640th Ordnance Ammunition Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Staff Sergeant Earl O. Tappan, 33411347, Ordnance Department, 640th Ordnance Ammunition Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Texas.

For distinguishing themselves by acts of heroism involving voluntary risk of life on 24 March 1945. When an Allied plane crashed and burst into flames in an area containing stores of explosives, the above named enlisted men, disregarding the danger caused by detonating ammunition from the plane, assisted in the removal of the injured passengers. They lost their lives while removing explosives from the area when a large quantity of TNT was detonated. The heroism and courage of the above named enlisted men reflect much credit upon themselves and uphold the highest traditions of the military service.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



J. E. LOCRE,  
Major General, QSC, Chief of Staff.

