

HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
Order of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS  
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AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS ORDER. 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:

First Lieutenant Kenneth U. Eakens, 0526512, Infantry, 413th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 26 February 1945. Although twice wounded, Lieutenant Eakens led his platoon in assaulting a huge, strongly-defended enemy castle. Defying intense enemy fire, his small group routed the enemy and captured the objective by the sheer force and audacity of his platoon's onslaught. After securing the objective Lieutenant Eakens encountered two enemy sentries who, from hidden positions, commanded him to halt. Although unarmed, wounded, and suffering from exhaustion, he flung himself upon the two enemy soldiers, disarmed and captured both. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Eakens reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New Mexico.

Second Lieutenant Grant W. Claymore, 01825050, Infantry, 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 11 April 1945. When a tank destroyer was hit and set afire by an enemy panzerfaust, the explosion resulted in the serious injury of several members of the crew who were unable to escape because of their wounds. Despite intense enemy machine-gun, mortar, artillery and rifle fire directed at their position, Lieutenant Claymore dashed into the blazing destroyer and pulled his sergeant gunner to a place of safety. Returning to the flaming vehicle which had now become so intensely hot that its ammunition was exploding, Lieutenant Claymore pulled another member of the crew to safety. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Claymore reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from California.

Staff Sergeant Joseph DiGiorgio, 42049936, Infantry, 345th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 17 March 1945. While clearing enemy-held houses, Sergeant DiGiorgio's platoon encountered intense enemy 20mm cannon, rocket launcher and small arms fire resulting in his platoon sergeant being wounded. Sergeant DiGiorgio immediately assumed command and lead the platoon through intense enemy fire to a position 50 yards from the objective. Calling for a rocket launcher, Sergeant DiGiorgio fired two rounds at the 20mm cannon silencing the weapon. Then, crawling to within six yards of the hostile machine-gun position Sergeant DiGiorgio threw a grenade at the emplacement killing two of the enemy and destroying the gun. Signalling his men to move forward Sergeant DiGiorgio led them in a fierce attack on the houses capturing 20 and killing five of the enemy. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Sergeant DiGiorgio reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

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Staff Sergeant Woodrow W. Holmes, 6388061, Cavalry, 82nd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 17 April 1945. Learning that an American Officer and enlisted man were trapped in a house during street fighting, Sergeant Holmes, armed only with a pistol, crashed through a window killing two and capturing five enemy soldiers. Returning with his prisoners he was fired on from upper windows and with utter disregard for his personal safety, returned to the house, killed another enemy soldier and captured three additional prisoners, freeing the captive Americans. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Sergeant Holmes reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

Staff Sergeant Harry J. Specht, 33498051, Infantry, 289th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 9 April 1945. Taking defensive positions in a house situated alongside a strategic road junction, Sergeant Specht and his nine men withstood the pounding of enemy 88mm and machine-gun fire of counterattacking tanks and infantry. From close range Sergeant Specht fired one round from a bazooka, striking the lead tank in the rear setting it afire. The oncoming infantry were met by intense fire from his BAR. Enemy panzerfaust fire blew in the door bringing him face to face with an enemy soldier. Both opened fire and the enemy soldier fell to his death. Then, with rifle and carbine, Sergeant Specht accounted for six enemy soldiers contributing greatly in repelling the counterattack. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Sergeant Specht reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Technician Fifth Grade Edgar Pelletier, 6146091, Field Artillery, 901st Field Artillery Battalion, 76th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 10 March 1945. While accompanying infantry troops as a forward artillery observer, in the attack on a prominent hill, Technician Pelletier, though wounded by enemy grenade fragments, continued in the attack until the hill was successfully taken. In the fierce enemy counterattack with tanks and supporting weapons, Technician Pelletier with utter disregard for his personal safety, stood in plain view of the enemy to direct and adjust the fire of friendly artillery. Though wounded again by enemy machine-gun fire, Technician Pelletier fearlessly engaged the enemy with his carbine, killing several. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Technician Pelletier reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

in command of Major General MOORE:

GEORGE A. MILLEMER,  
Colonel, GSC, Deputy Chief of Staff.

