

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 34

APG 339
23 October 1944.

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (PRISONER OF WAR).
- II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR.
- III. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL.

ORIGINAL ORDER - ETOUSA

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-CROSS (PRISONER OF WAR). 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 the following named officer, prisoner of war:

First Lieutenant William L. Pryor, 01293474, 28th Infantry Regiment, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 10 July 1944, near La C Barville, France, when an entire company was completely surrounded by the enemy, Lieutenant Pryor elected to remain with his weapons platoon and cover the withdrawal of the remainder of the company. Before a counterattack could be organized and thrown against the enemy, Lieutenant Pryor and his platoon were stormed while defending their position. He directed a withdrawal of his platoon so successfully that every man reached safety while he, alone, courageously stood his ground, firing upon the enemy as they closed in from three sides. During the final rush by the enemy, Lieutenant Pryor was last seen when, apparently hit by enemy fire, he staggered and fell. 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 Indiana.

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:

Sergeant Andrew J. Yardley, 20927510, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Sergeant Yardley and his squad, while on outpost duty, were completely cut off from their unit for two days by a strong enemy counterattack. When an opportunity arose to withdraw, Sergeant Yardley sent his men back while he, alone, remained behind to cover their withdrawal. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Yardley held his position despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire until his men had reached friendly lines. His display of leadership and courage were of the highest quality and were an inspiration to his men. The gallantry and courage of Sergeant Yardley reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Idaho.

Private Jack W. Hastings, 20532692, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Vierville-Sur-Mer, France, Private Hastings was wounded by enemy artillery fire before the Landing Craft Assault in which he was riding touched down. Despite his wound, he left the craft and started across the beach. While crossing the beach and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, he gave assistance to another soldier who was wounded. Private Hastings was again wounded by heavy machine gun fire enfilading the beach, but he courageously continued to assist the wounded soldier.

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until he reached cover of a cliff at the rear of the beach. The gallantry and courage of Private Hastings reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Indiana.

III. 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:

First Lieutenant Robert A. Atkinson, 01580582, 839th Ordnance Depot Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Arkansas.

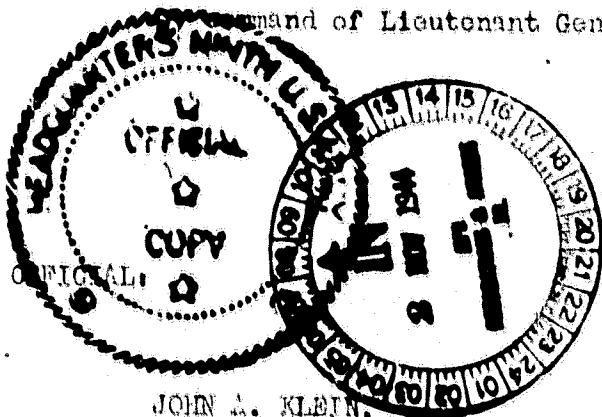
* Chief Warrant Officer Charles V. Cooke, W2126888, 320th Ordnance Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Minnesota.

Technician Fifth Grade Thomas C. Moore, 35556364, 839th Ordnance Depot Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Indiana.

Private Peter Holzapfel, Jr., 36251549, 839th Ordnance Depot Company, United States Army. Entered military service from Ohio.

For distinguishing themselves by acts of heroism and courageous actions. On 24 August 1944, near Toulon, France, after being notified that several enlisted men had been wounded by an exploding enemy "S" mine while bathing at a heavily mined beach, the above officers and enlisted men voluntarily entered the mined area to render first aid and to help evacuate the wounded and dying. With complete disregard for their own personal safety and fully aware of the dangers involved in their perilous mission, they diligently continued with their self-initiated task until all had been evacuated. Their courage and heroism reflect credit upon themselves and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



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

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

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