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HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

5-2/10/45
GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 47

ORIGINAL ORDER & RECORD

APD 33
22 November 1944.

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:

Major Reynold C. Erichson (then Captain) 01293693, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy from 6 August 1944 to 12 August 1944, in France. On 6 August 1944, the battalion of which Major Erichson is a member was assigned the mission of holding the high ground around Mortain, France, and the town itself. During the night of 6 August 1944, the battalion was hit by a strong and numerically superior enemy force and completely surrounded. The majority of the members of the battalion headquarters, situated in the town of Mortain, were eventually killed or captured, with but a few managing to escape. Major Erichson's company was among those units isolated on Hill 314 by the sudden enemy thrust. He immediately assumed command of the remaining units of the battalion. He organized patrols, maintained communications, directed operations of the units isolated on Hill 314 and performed heroically for the entire six days of isolation. He risked his life innumerable times in checking and encouraging his men and though the enemy pressure was unrelenting, he displayed unsurpassed heroism. Faced with a shortage of water, food and medical supplies, the situation at times becoming seemingly hopeless, Major Erichson steadfastly refused when approached by the enemy with an offer of honorable surrender. Never once did he waver in his determination to hold out against almost certain defeat, realizing the disaster should the enemy gain Hill 314. His personal courage and heroic example so inspired the men under his command that they exerted their supreme effort to hold this strategic position at all costs. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Major Erichson reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Iowa.

Captain Ralph A. Kerley (then First Lieutenant) 01297549, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army. Entered military service from Texas.

Captain Ronal E. Woody, Jr. (then First Lieutenant) 01309642, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army. Entered military service from Virginia.

First Lieutenant Joseph C. Reaser, 01293114, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy from 6 August 1944 to 12 August 1944, in France. On 6 August 1944, each of the above officers was in command of a company of the battalion to which was assigned the mission of holding the high ground around Mortain, France, and the town itself. During the night of 6 August 1944, the battalion was hit by a strong and numerically superior enemy force and completely surrounded. The majority of the members of the battalion headquarters, situated in the town of Mortain, were eventually killed or captured, with but a few managing to escape. The companies commanded by the above officers were isolated on Hill 314 by the sudden enemy thrust. Each of these officers immediately assumed personal direction of every phase of the action of his respective company and performed heroically for the entire six days of the isolation. They risked their lives innumerable times in

- 1 -

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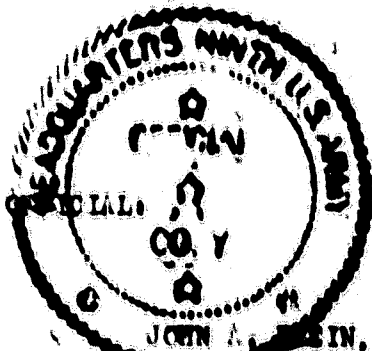
R E S T R I C T E D

CO 47, 94 Ninth U.S. Army, 22 November 1944, cont'd.

checking and encouraging their men and though the enemy pressure was unrelenting, they displayed unsurpassed heroism. Faced with a shortage of water, food and medical supplies, the situation at times becoming seemingly hopeless, they steadfastly refused when approached by the enemy with an offer of honorable surrender. Never once did they waver in their determination to hold out against almost certain defeat, realising the disaster should the enemy gain Hill 314. Their personal courage and heroic example so inspired their men that they exerted their supreme effort to hold this strategic position at all costs. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions displayed by these officers reflect great credit upon themselves and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

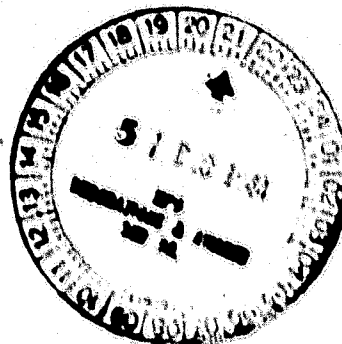
First Lieutenant Robert J. Henglein (then Second Lieutenant) 01294664, 119th Infantry Regiment, 50th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 21 August 1944, in an attack on La Parce, France, Lieutenant Henglein led his platoon into the town, along with another platoon of his company. When they suddenly encountered resistance from enemy machine guns, mortars and three enemy tanks, the two platoons withdrew, leaving Lieutenant Henglein and about twelve men to face the enemy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Henglein, armed with a rocket launcher, moved forward, exposing himself to enemy fire, and knocked out the leading tank, causing the remaining two to withdraw. In performing this heroic act, Lieutenant Henglein was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding shell. Disregarding his wound he returned to the rear, reorganized his platoon and again led the attack on the objective. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Henglein reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

By command of Lieutenant General SUTTON:



Colonel, Adjutant General.

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



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- 2 -
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