

RESTRICTED

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AGO 339

1 December 1944.

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).

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:

Captain Michael S. Bouchlas, 01170291, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on 12 October 1944, in Germany. During a fierce enemy counter-attack made by desperate forces who sought to escape from an encircled pocket, extremely heavy pressure was placed on the infantry forces which the 230th Field Artillery Battalion was supporting. The artillery observation post was discovered by the enemy and a heavy concentration of fire placed upon it. After three of his comrades had been killed or wounded attempting to direct artillery fire from their exposed position, Captain Bouchlas, at great risk to his life, left the comparative safety of his position and crawled under fire to this observation post which was continually being subjected to extremely heavy enemy artillery and tank fire. Although two enemy tanks approached to within 100 yards of his observation post and were firing point blank at his position and despite the heavy artillery fire directed on him by the enemy, Captain Bouchlas heroically stood his ground. His accurate direction of artillery fire was largely responsible for the repulsing of the vigorous enemy attack with heavy losses in armor to the hostile forces. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Captain Bouchlas reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Florida.

Staff Sergeant Joseph J. Hammonds (then Private), 34830435, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on 4 October 1944, in Germany. Sergeant Hammonds, armed with a light machine gun, was occupying an outpost when an attack was launched by the enemy on his position, consisting of a tank with supporting infantrymen. When they approached his position, Sergeant Hammonds opened fire with such accuracy that the enemy was forced to withdraw in confusion. After reforming, another attack was launched at Sergeant Hammonds; this time the tank supported the attack with direct cannon and machine-gun fire. Waiting until the enemy was within fifteen yards of his position, Sergeant Hammonds opened fire again and the enemy was driven back a second time. Although all friendly troops withdrew in face of the heavy fire from a third enemy counter-attack, Sergeant Hammonds remained at his post alone and fought heroically until he became a casualty. Despite his wounds, he made his way back to the rear to call for friendly tank support and attempted to return to the front with a bazooka. Before he could reach a firing position with the bazooka, friendly tank and air support stopped the third enemy counterattack. Largely as a result of his heroism, at least seventeen of the enemy were killed and many more wounded and three vigorous attacks by the enemy were repulsed. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Hammonds reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

Staff Sergeant Frederick W. Unger, 6902858, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with

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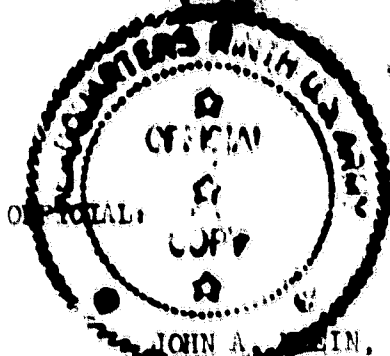
GO 55, Hq Ninth U. S. Army, 1 December 1944, cont'd.

military operations against the enemy on 29 August 1944, in France. Sergeant Unger was acting as section sergeant of a mortar platoon in support of infantry units making an aggressive attack on the enemy. Although Sergeant Unger and his section were in support of one infantry company, he immediately changed his mortar fire to another sector when it was discovered that an adjoining company had been pinned down by enemy fire. While directing this fire, Sergeant Unger was wounded in the hip by an enemy bullet, but heroically disregarding his wound, he crawled ten yards to a more advantageous observation point. At this point an enemy shell landed approximately five yards in front of Sergeant Unger and temporarily stunned him. Still disregarding his painful wounds, Sergeant Unger remained at his post for approximately two hours, continuing to direct effective fire on the enemy. The heroic devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Unger paved the way for a successful advance against the enemy. 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 New York.

II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).-- By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-16, 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:

Sergeant William T. Sipola, 36177482, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 14 August 1944, Sergeant Sipola led a reconnaissance patrol into enemy territory near Lonlay Abbaye, France. When his patrol was stopped by enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire, Sergeant Sipola, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, volunteered to assault the enemy position alone. Due to the ferocity of enemy action, Sergeant Sipola was forced to approach the gun emplacement three different times before he reached a position within hand-grenade range. After hurling two grenades into the enemy position, he courageously charged with fixed bayonet. During this encounter, Sergeant Sipola forced the enemy to abandon their gun emplacement; but in so doing he was mortally wounded. His accomplishment caused a superior number of the enemy to withdraw, thereby gaining time for his patrol to organize the terrain and then, under cover of darkness, to withdraw with the valuable information gained. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Sipola reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



Colonel, AGO, Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

