

~~RESTRICTED~~  
HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS }  
NUMBER 56 }

APR 389  
25 February 1945

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).
- IV. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART.
- V. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE.

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:

Second Lieutenant Raymond B. Smelser, 02000038, (then Technical Sergeant) Infantry, 379th Infantry Regiment, 98th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 15 November 1944, Lieutenant Smelser, then a platoon sergeant, continued to advance toward enemy positions after his men had been pinned down by fire from two enemy machine guns. When he was within twenty-five yards of the enemy installation, he hurled hand grenades into their position. As the grenades exploded, Lieutenant Smelser opened fire with his rifle and charged. As he overran the enemy position, he destroyed the two machine guns and their crews, opening the way for his platoon to advance. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Smelser reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR 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 Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

Captain Vincent L. Anderson, 0507985, Signal Corps, 39th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 October 1944 to 31 January 1945. Entered military service from Illinois.

Technical Sergeant Patrick T. McMahon, 37122973, Chemical Warfare Service, 57th Chemical Maintenance Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 18 October 1944 to 12 January 1945. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Sergeant Wendell D. Turner, 12166469, Signal Corps, 39th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 October 1944 to 31 January 1945. Entered military service from New York.

III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER). 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, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

~~RESTRICTED~~

R E S T R I C T E D

OO 56, Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 25 February 1945, cont'd.

Colonel Walter M. Johnson, 016835, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 19 September 1944 to 2 October 1944. Entered military service from Montana.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Frankland, 0277098, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 19 September 1944 to 2 October 1944. Entered military service from Tennessee.

IV. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to:

Captain Walter J. Huchthauson, 0910847, Air Corps, Headquarters Ninth United States Army, for wounds received as a result of enemy action on 3 July 1944 in England. Entered military service from Minnesota.

V. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE. Under authority contained in Section I, Circular No 345, War Department, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to:

The 538th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank) for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 5 April 1944 to 22 August 1944, the 538th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank) rendered meritorious service in the accomplishment of its numerous duties. Throughout this period, this unit achieved and maintained a high standard of discipline and demonstrated superior performance in every duty it was assigned. The conduct of the 538th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Tank) is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



JOHN A. SIMPSON,  
Colonel, ACD, Adjutant General.

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

DISTRIBUTION:  
"S"