

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

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 7 )

AGO 339  
7 January 1945

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

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS). 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 posthumously awarded to:

First Lieutenant Kermit G. Miller, 02040751, Infantry, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy in Normandy, France. On 8 June 1944 Lieutenant Miller was selected to lead a combat patrol into enemy-held territory with the mission of obtaining information regarding enemy dispositions near Colombieres. Despite fatigue, loss of sleep, and many hours of marching, Lieutenant Miller accepted the assignment with enthusiasm. The route chosen necessitated the crossing of an unfordable river and an inundated area two miles wide. Upon reaching the river Lieutenant Miller espied a canoe on the opposite bank, and disregarding his personal comfort, swam across the river and returned with the canoe. After crossing the river the patrol waded through the waist-deep swamp, capturing a three-man patrol. Reaching Colombieres, Lieutenant Miller was informed by French civilians that a large number of German soldiers were in a nearby building. Tactically disposing his men he then ordered the Germans to surrender but was answered by rifle fire. During the exchange of fire which followed, enemy reinforcements arrived and in the ensuing struggle many of the enemy were killed and wounded and seventeen captured. Aware that his men required rest, Lieutenant Miller moved his patrol to another sector of town where they remained in a barn that night. All through the night Lieutenant Miller was constantly alert, supervising the guard and attending the wounded. The return march next morning was extremely arduous and difficult; the wounded required constant attention and the prisoners required a close guard. Lieutenant Miller, during this ordeal, exhibited the patience found only in the highest type of leader. When he was assured that the patrol had reached friendly lines, he went ahead to secure an ambulance for the wounded. By the incomparable leadership and outstanding courage, force and initiative displayed by Lieutenant Miller, the patrol's mission was a distinct success. 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 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:

Staff Sergeant Forrest E. Lafferty, 20744178, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 8 July 1944 in France. Entered military service from Iowa.

**R E S T R I C T E D**

GO 7, Hq Ninth U. S. Army, 7 January 1946, cont'd.

Staff Sergeant Don N. Lonig, 20744277, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 9 July 1944 near Le Mesnil Veneron, France. Entered military service from Iowa.

Staff Sergeant Gerald L. Van Der Laest, 20744327, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 July 1944 to 26 December 1944. Entered military service from Iowa.

Sergeant Arnold G. Kruger, 37024022, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 23 August 1944 in France. Entered military service from South Dakota.

Sergeant John J. Ealtis, 32156494, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 July 1944 to 26 December 1944. Entered military service from New Jersey.

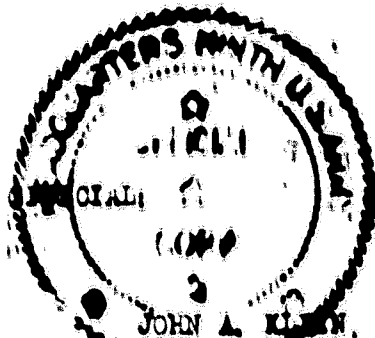
Sergeant William E. Davis, 20743175, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 8 July 1944 near Le Mesnil Veneron, France. Entered military service from Iowa.

Technician Fourth Grade John W. Terry, 20744325, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 4 July 1944 to 27 December 1944. Entered military service from Iowa.

Technician Fifth Grade Fayna G. Wilson, 32165680, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 9 July 1944 near Le Mesnil Veneron, France. Entered military service from New Mexico.

Private Jack Linn, 20200756, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 3 December 1944 near Beeck, Germany. Entered military service from New York.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



Colonel, Adjutant General.

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

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