

7/11/44

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

GENERAL ORDERS )  
SER 75 )

AGO 339  
20 December 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

Captain William P. Williams, 0378493 (then First Lieutenant) Infantry, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on 6 June 1944. At the initial assault upon the coast of Franco, Captain Williams skillfully led his boat team through a hail of small-arms, mortar and artillery fire to the high beach just off the beach. At this point the party encountered a mortar emplacement which had to be either destroyed or neutralized before their advance could continue. Captain Williams, alone, charged the position but was thrown back by enemy grenades. With stubborn determination and without regard for his own personal safety, Captain Williams made four more attempts to knock out the enemy position; each time he was forced to fall back. Although wounded in his previous attempts but undaunted, Captain Williams courageously made another bold attempt; this time his grenades found their mark and the enemy position was destroyed. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Captain Williams reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

First Lieutenant Walter P. Taylor, 01312356 (then Second Lieutenant) Infantry, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 6 June 1944, Lieutenant Taylor landed with his boat section near Vierville-sur-Mer, Franco and led his men on to their initial objective through enemy machine-gun, artillery and mortar fire. After being joined by another section, Lieutenant Taylor and his group headed for the predetermined battalion rendezvous area. In this move one of his men was wounded. Disregarding his own personal safety and in the face of enemy fire, Lieutenant Taylor moved to aid the wounded man. In so doing his weapon was shot from his hand, but he courageously proceeded with his task and evacuated the wounded man to safety. During the following days, Lieutenant Taylor displayed inspiring leadership and outstanding courage as he skillfully led his men in numerous advances on enemy positions. At one time he led the spearhead of a battalion attack across a river and up a heavily-fortified enemy-held hill. On 13 June 1944, Lieutenant Taylor was wounded but his display of skillful, courageous leadership contributed immeasurably to the success of his unit and was a source of inspiration to his men. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Taylor reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

Private First Class Clifford W. Buzzard, 37378061, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on 7 August 1944, in Franco. When his unit was subjected to a severe counterattack by enemy armor and infantry

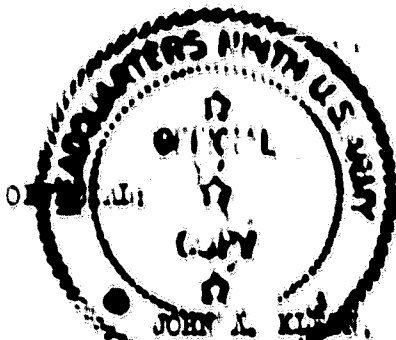
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which had overrun the battalion's forward units and were threatening the rear areas, Private Bussard and a companion, armed with a rocket launcher and two rounds of ammunition, valiantly crawled two-hundred yards under withering fire to a position only twenty yards from an enemy tank. With the tank's machine gun firing on them, Private Bussard and his companion loaded the launcher and fired two rounds, completely disabling the tank. Then, observing another enemy tank nearby, Private Bussard crawled back over his original route to obtain more ammunition. Returning under heavy fire, he joined his companion, who had moved into firing position near the second tank, and they again loaded the weapon and fired two rounds, completely destroying this second tank. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Bussard reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Missouri.

Private First Class Frank D. Joseph, Jr., 15360135, (then Private) Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on 7 August 1944 in France. When his unit was subjected to a severe counterattack by enemy armor and infantry that had overrun the battalion's forward units and was threatening the rear areas, Private Joseph and a companion, armed with a rocket launcher and two rounds of ammunition, valiantly crawled two-hundred yards under withering fire to a position only twenty yards from an enemy tank. With the tank's machine gun firing steadily on them, Private Joseph and his companion loaded the launcher and fired two rounds, completely disabling the tank. Then, observing another tank nearby, Private Joseph moved into firing position while his companion returned for more ammunition. Having obtained this, the two soldiers loaded their weapon again and fired two rounds, completely destroying this second tank. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Joseph reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Ohio.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



Colonel, Adjutant General.

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

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