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

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:

Private Anthony J. Blazus Jr., 33263720, Infantry, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 17 July 1944, when approximately six enemy soldiers, armed with hand grenades and machine pistols, attacked a machine-gun nest in France, the gunner was wounded. Private Blazus, the assistant gunner, immediately manned the weapon and opened fire on the advancing enemy. When his machine gun was hit twice by enemy fire and had ceased to function, he courageously seized his carbine and continued to hold off the enemy until the carbine was shot from his hands. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Blazus turned to his machine gun, remedied the malfunction, placed it in an alternate position and opened fire with such ferocity that the enemy was forced to withdraw. By his cool-headed initiative, calm courage in the face of enemy fire and knowledge of what to do in a critical situation, Private Blazus prevented the enemy from occupying a vital defensive position. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Blazus reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

II. 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:

Staff Sergeant Ralph D. Herin, 34570464, Infantry, 406th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 17 November 1944, during an attack on enemy positions in Germany, an advancing platoon was pinned down by intense machine-gun fire. Due to the open terrain and the fierceness of enemy action, the men were unable to move. Sergeant Herin, completely disregarding his own personal safety and displaying indomitable courage, left his sheltered position and charged across the open, intervening space toward the enemy position. He was seen to stagger and fall after being hit; but with undying determination, Sergeant Herin arose and fearlessly pursued his self-initiated task. Just before reaching his objective, Sergeant Herin was mortally wounded by a withering blast from the enemy gun. Through his supreme sacrifice, he gave added inspiration and determination to his men which enabled them to carry on until the obstacle had been eliminated. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Herin reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

R E S T R I C T E D

9, Hq Ninth U. S. Army, 28 December 1944, cont'd.

AWARD OF SILVER STAR. 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 Silver Star is awarded to:

First Lieutenant Donald S. Davies, 01630752, Cavalry, 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy in France. On 23 August 1944, Lieutenant Davies was platoon leader of a platoon that was ambushed from cleverly concealed enemy positions on either side of a wooded road. As the enemy had allowed the entire platoon to enter the trap, Lieutenant Davies' men were on the verge of disorganization due to being scattered. Later, after the platoon was reorganized, Lieutenant Davies, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved from man to man encouraging and calming them. Lieutenant Davies led his platoon in a limited counterattack to recover as many vehicles as possible. This counterattack succeeded in forcing the enemy to withdraw with numerous casualties being inflicted against them. Lieutenant Davies then recovered the remaining vehicles which had not been destroyed and in doing so, received severe wounds and had to be evacuated. The inspirational leadership and dauntless courage of Lieutenant Davies averted loss of life and the possible rout of his platoon. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

IV. 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:

Sergeant Stanley A. Holman, 12125281, Corps of Engineers, 551st Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 22 November 1944 in Holland. Entered military service from New York.

Private Joseph J. Giantar, 32460487, Corps of Engineers, 551st Engineer Heavy Ponton Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 22 November 1944 in Holland. Entered military service from New Jersey.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON;



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