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HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 117)

ORIGINAL ORDER

APD 339
20 April 1945

AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of Act 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:

Captain Robert E. Lee, 0446843, (then First Lieutenant), Cavalry, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations. On 17 November 1944 in Germany, Captain Lee's unit, after suffering a heavy loss of tanks, had been ordered to withdraw from their positions. Captain Lee, acting without order, chose to keep his three remaining tanks in place to cover the withdrawal of the infantry. He then ordered two tanks to withdraw while he remained upon the exposed slope until the last infantryman was killed, making himself the sole target of the enemy guns. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Captain Lee reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Arizona.

Technical Sergeant William B. Hawk, Jr., 38867136, Infantry, 334th Infantry Regiment, 84th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 1 March 1945. While his platoon was subjected to the cross fire from enemy machine guns, Sergeant Hawk, with complete disregard for his own personal safety crawled fifty-five yards directly into the intense fire and hurled a grenade into one position, destroying it. Although wounded during this action he continued to crawl to within grenade range of a second position and destroyed it with another grenade. While attacking this second position he was mortally wounded. These daring, self-sacrificing deeds enabled his entire company to advance and prevented many casualties to his company. The devotion to duty, disdain for danger, and determined spirit displayed by Sergeant Hawk reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Ohio.

Technical Sergeant Russell M. Snoad, 31018801, Infantry, 100th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 23 December 1944. When his company was pinned down by an extremely heavy hail of enemy fire coming from a house held by the enemy, Sergeant Snoad and a comrade, displaying complete disregard for personal safety, volunteered to go through the intense fire and take the strongpoint. Sergeant Snoad boldly made his way, in full view of the enemy, across the street from the house where he could cover his comrade's advance. After twenty of the enemy were killed, a burst of fire wounded his comrade and killed Sergeant Snoad. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Snoad 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 Abraham Matza, 32983757, Infantry, 289th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 6 January 1945 in Belgium. Machine guns and automatic weapons firing from well camouflaged positions opened up on a ten man advance element of Private Matza's platoon, killing one of the members. Firing his automatic

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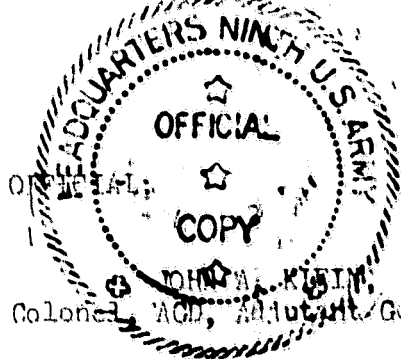
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rifle at an enemy machine gun nest, Private Matza charged into a hail of bullets and had his gun shot from his hands. Despite his wounded hand, he quickly returned, seized another weapon and resumed firing. As his comrades withdrew he ignored their requests for him to follow, but chose to cover their withdrawal, diverting enemy fire until he was killed. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Matza reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

Private First Class Halbert E. Olson, 37585302, Infantry, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations. On 26 February 1945 in Germany, Private Olson intending to throw a grenade into a cellar, pulled the pin, but as he commenced hurling the missile, it became entangled in his clothing, the striker hitting the primer. Instantly realizing the terrible danger to everyone near him, he plunged several paces forward and curled his body over the grenade so that he absorbed all its fragmentation and no one else was injured. He gave his life for his fellow soldiers. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Private Olson reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Minnesota.

Private First Class Srecko F. Radich, 42140374, Infantry, 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations. On 23 February 1945, during the assault across the Roar River, enemy machine-gun fire directed against the landing elements, endangered the life of a soldier, too wounded to move from his exposed position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Radich ran to the wounded soldier and as he stooped to pick him up, was hit by tracer fire. Even though mortally wounded, Private Radich carried his comrade to a covered position and fell dead. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Radich reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



Colonel, AGC, Adjutant General.

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

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