

RESTRICTED  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General

ORIGINAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 137 )

AP0 339  
2 May 1945

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).
- III. 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:

Staff Sergeant William J. Widener, 35159806, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 20 and 21 December 1944 in Belgium. When his squad was pinned down by intense fire from an enemy half-track, Sergeant Widener rushed forward alone with a bazooka and knocked it out, thereby enabling his squad to take their objective. Although subjected to several enemy counterattacks during which Sergeant Widener was wounded, he and his comrades held their ground. Later, disregarding his wound, Sergeant Widener unhesitatingly led his squad in a diversionary attack on the enemy position, thus aiding in a successful assault by his company. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Widener reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Indiana.

Private First Class John Leinen, 38342488, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 20 and 21 December 1944 in Belgium. When the enemy succeeded in reoccupying portions of a monastery, Private Leinen, while defending an adjoining building with several comrades, was wounded in the hand. Refusing evacuation he returned to the rear under intense fire to secure ammunition. The following day his company assaulted the monastery and Private Leinen, armed only with a pistol, courageously advanced until wounded in the shoulder and chest. Exhibiting great courage, he continued advancing until severely cut in the face by flying debris. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Leinen reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Texas.

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:

Technical Sergeant Frank L. Wease, 35570305, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 14 January 1945 in Belgium. When it was necessary to cross two hundred yards of open ground in an attack on an enemy-held town, Sergeant Wease, seeing that his men were paralyzed by the extremely heavy hail of enemy fire, charged forward through his platoon firing his automatic rifle at the enemy. When he paused to shout encouragement to his men a burst of machine-gun fire mortally wounded him. His men were so inspired by his example that they charged forward, overrunning the enemy positions and driving them back. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Wease reflect great credit

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upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Indiana.

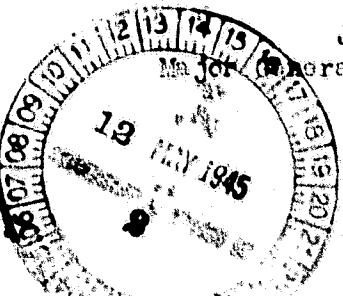
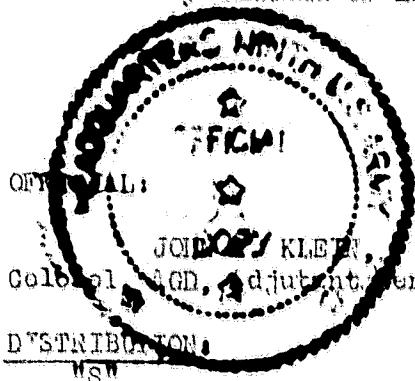
Staff Sergeant Charles L. Tate, 34085714, Infantry, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 3 January 1945 in Belgium. During a fierce engagement Sergeant Tate noticed a seriously wounded man who was in a dazed condition wandering about in an area which was under intense small arms fire. Unhesitatingly, Sergeant Tate left his covered position and dashed through a hail of enemy fire to his wounded comrade. While assisting the man to a sheltered position, a burst of fire from an enemy automatic weapon killed Sergeant Tate. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Tate reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Private Anthony F. Pistilli, 42019384, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 23 January 1945. When his platoon was halted by fire from enemy automatic weapons, Private Pistilli, armed with an automatic rifle crawled forward. Although he was observed by the enemy and machine-gun fire tore up the ground around him, Private Pistilli courageously opened fire on the machine-gun position killing its entire crew. Immediately turning his fire on an enemy automatic pistol, he silenced it, wounding two more of the enemy and causing the others to withdraw. He courageously continued firing at the fleeing enemy until he was instantly killed by a burst of fire from another enemy automatic pistol. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private Pistilli reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

III. 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 5th Auxiliary Surgical Group for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 15 February 1945 to 17 April 1945, the 5th Auxiliary Surgical Group rendered meritorious service in the accomplishment of its numerous duties on the continent. 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 5th Auxiliary Surgical Group is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



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