

**R E S T R I C T E D**  
**HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY DISTRICT CENTER**  
**Office of the Commanding General**

GENERAL ORDERS }  
NUMBER 143 }

AGO 339

5 May 1946

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

I. REVOCATION OF GENERAL ORDERS. Section II, General Orders No 124, this headquarters, 26 April 1946, which awards the Distinguished-Service Cross, posthumously, to Staff Sergeant William H. Crabtree, 34392357, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, is revoked.

II. 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 H. Crabtree, 34392357, Infantry, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany. On 18 October 1944, Sergeant Crabtree fearlessly remained at his observation post even though he had been wounded and part of his 57mm gun destroyed. During a lull caused by his effective fire which knocked out an enemy tank, Sergeant Crabtree moved forward about one hundred yards for better observation. Observing eight enemy soldiers leaving a pillbox, Sergeant Crabtree and another soldier opened fire with their rifles and killed or wounded the entire group. Despite his wound, Sergeant Crabtree remained in his advanced position until the enemy counterattack had been repulsed. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Crabtree reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Alabama.

Staff Sergeant William A. Flesch, 36561683, Infantry, 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 5 March 1945 in Germany. When the advance of his platoon was halted by enemy machine-gun fire while crossing an open field, Sergeant Flesch completely disregarding personal danger, dashed to a vantage point, killed an enemy machine gunner and wounded the other member of the crew. During this action, Sergeant Flesch's platoon continued its advance into an enemy town. Sensing that the platoon was surrounded, Sergeant Flesch ran a quarter of a mile to the rear to contact friendly tanks. Dismounted, he led the tanks into the town in support of the riflemen, whereupon enemy resistance became disorganized. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Flesch reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

III. 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:

Captain James M. Watkins, 0351346, Infantry, 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection

R E S T R I C T E D

GO 143, HQ Ninth U.S. Army, 8 May 1945, cont'd.

with military operations on 5 March 1945 in Germany. When a strong enemy force began to encircle an attacking platoon and attached tanks of his company, Captain Watkins quickly organized infantry and tank reserves and led them to the rescue, directing the attack from the deck of the control tank. When the tank was hit by enemy anti-tank and machine-gun fire, Captain Watkins pulled the tank commander from the burning vehicle. As he continued to lead his men from another tank, he was wounded and died before he could be moved to safety. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Captain Watkins reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Virginia.

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:

✓ Colonel Harry R. Pierce, 05302, Coast Artillery Corps, 2nd AAA Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 24 March 1945 to 17 April 1945. Entered military service from Maine.

✓ Colonel Lester P. Voigel, 019317, Medical Corps, 1st Medical Group, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 23 February 1945 to 15 April 1945. Entered military service from North Dakota.

✓ Major Lorance L. Dennis, 0383692, Field Artillery, 272nd Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 7 August 1944 to 15 April 1945. Entered military service from Michigan.

✓ Captain Arthur Scharf, 01576611, Quartermaster Corps, 195th Quartermaster Gasoline Supply Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 1 March 1945 to 12 March 1945. Entered military service from New York.

✓ Captain Robert S. Whitney, 0990848, Air Corps, Detachment 2F, 21st Weather Squadron, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 15 September 1944 to 1 April 1945. Entered military service from Colorado.

✓ First Lieutenant Gordon J. Clark, 02047275, Medical Administrative Corps, 472nd Ambulance Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945. Entered military service from Minnesota.

✓ First Lieutenant Robert D. Crowley, 01545937, Medical Administrative Corps, 472nd Ambulance Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

Approved for Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

J. E. MOORE,

Major General, GSC, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

JOHN A. KLEIN

Colonel, Adjutant General.

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