

R E S T R I C T E D
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GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 199)

ORIGINAL ORDER

AGO 339
June 1945

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).
- II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR. (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).
- III. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE.

I. 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:

First Lieutenant Arthur F. Peebles, Jr., 01014354, Cavalry, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations from 3 to 6 October 1944. The personal courage displayed by Lieutenant Peebles played a major part in the successful breaching and expanding of a hole in the Siegfried Line. His confidence in himself and his men, coupled with his coolness and professional skill at a critical period contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of his mission. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Peebles reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Ohio.

Technical Sergeant Ewel Blakely, 34085473, Cavalry, 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 6 and 7 October 1944. In the midst of heavy enemy artillery, anti-tank, mortar and small arms fire, Sergeant Blakely fearlessly dismounted from his tank destroyer and directed effective fire on enemy installations. The following morning, when an enemy gun fired on his vehicle at point blank range, Sergeant Blakely directed effective fire from his gun on the enemy vehicle. Immediately after his gun had fired, another enemy gun opened fire on Sergeant Blakely's vehicle, killing Sergeant Blakely. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Blakely reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

Staff Sergeant Abu M. Kuzminsky, 33745357, Infantry, 406th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations on 26 February 1945. While leading his squad in an attack, Sergeant Kuzminsky was seriously wounded by intense enemy machine-gun fire. The enemy was well concealed and after ordering his men to cover, he deliberately exposed himself in order to draw hostile fire which would reveal the enemy's position. Although he lost his life as a result of this gallant action, his men were able to neutralize the enemy emplacement. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Kuzminsky reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Washington D. C.

Private Harlon W. Way, 37634674, Infantry, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 25 March 1945. During an attack against the enemy, Private Way and four comrades were suddenly caught in the cross fire of enemy machine guns. Although he was suffering from a wound in the foot, Private Way unhesitatingly crawled to a position from where he delivered effective fire on the enemy despite the murderous fire centered on him. Private Way gave his life

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in order to occupy the enemy so that his four comrades could escape. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Private May reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Missouri.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER). 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, in addition to the Silver Star previously awarded a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

Major General Matthew B. Ridgway, 05264, USA, XVIII Airborne Corps, United States Army, for gallantry in action in Germany on 30 April 1945. When heavy artillery concentrations forced the suspension of work on a ponton bridge being constructed across the Elbe River, General Ridgway proceeded to the site where, despite the falling artillery, he moved among the dug-in troops and encouraged them to proceed with their work. Inspired and encouraged by his presence the troops resumed construction and completed the bridge in record time. The gallantry and courage of General Ridgway reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from United States Military Academy.

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 960th Quartermaster Service Company for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 11 February 1945 to 15 April 1945, the 960th Quartermaster Service Company 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 960th Quartermaster Service Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

Signature of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



Colonel AGD, Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

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J. E. MOORE,

Major General, GSC, Chief of Staff.

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