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HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 27)

APC 339
9 October 1944.

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.
- II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR.

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AF 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:

First Lieutenant George R. Mitchell, 01290982, 23rd Infantry Regiment, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 26 July 1944, near le Bois de la Roche, France, Lieutenant Mitchell, a company commander, led his men through extremely fierce machine gun, artillery and mortar fire against superior numbers to seize their objective. With many casualties among his men, Lieutenant Mitchell displayed great leadership and courage in keeping his unit organized by moving among his men and urging them on. In leading this advance through seemingly impregnable enemy defense lines, Lieutenant Mitchell personally silenced one machine gun with five shots from his rifle and fearlessly advanced alone toward a second gun emplacement. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, and in the face of withering fire, he moved into position and fired a clip of ammunition into the dugout, silencing this second enemy machine gun. Again Lieutenant Mitchell advanced, calling for his men to follow, and together they captured forty prisoners and overran the enemy positions. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Mitchell reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Staff Sergeant Gail H. Belmont, 3895257, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 7 June 1944, at au Guay, France, when the forward elements of his company were trapped by enemy machine guns on both flanks and to the front; Sergeant Belmont picked up an abandoned enemy machine gun and opened fire against the enemy. Although his position was exposed to and only fifty yards from the enemy, Sergeant Belmont succeeded in his voluntary purpose of drawing the enemy fire on himself, thus allowing his troops to advance. He received first aid for wounds received during the encounter only after the faithful fulfillment of this duty, and while returning to the beach to receive further medical attention, he captured two of the enemy. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Belmont reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Sergeant Theodore A. James, 6936331, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 6 June 1944, during the initial landings on the beach at Vierville-Sur-Mer, France, Sergeant James took command of his company when all the officers became casualties, and through his superior leadership, enabled many men to successfully cross the beach to their first objective. Here, he reorganized the company and led an assault on a heavily fortified hill to the rear of the beach. Despite being wounded severely in both hands, Sergeant James continued to direct operations and was among the first to reach the crest of the hill. Only after this

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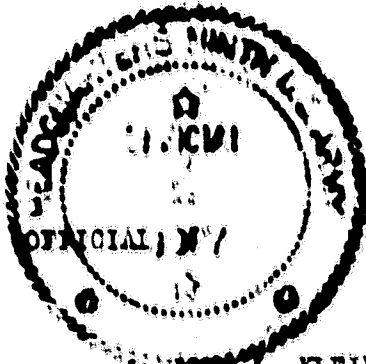
00 27. Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 9 October 1944, cont'd.

objective was reached, and their position secure, would Sergeant James return to the bench to receive medical treatment. His extraordinary heroism and courageous actions reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Arkansas.

II. 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:

Revised by #36 Oct 29, 1944
* First Lieutenant Eugene E. Little, 01292357, 23rd Infantry Regiment, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 26 July 1944, near the Berigny-St Lo highway, Lieutenant Little, executive officer of an infantry company, was ordered to take charge of a disorganized platoon which had suffered many casualties. He quickly reorganized the unit and with unusual initiative and resourcefulness led his men through an intense enemy barrage, directing them to a location from which they could attack a strong enemy position. As the drive progressed, Lieutenant Little, with no thought to his own personal safety, exposed himself repeatedly to heavy fire and was successful in launching such a merciless, lightning-fast attack that the enemy ran from their entrenchments to surrender. During this assault an enemy machine gun nest was causing heavy casualties among his men. Lieutenant Little, quietly and unobserved, out-flanked the nest and personally captured all five members of its crew. 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 South Carolina.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:



JOHN A. KLEIN,
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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

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