

HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 296)

AGO 339

June 1945

- I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).
- II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (MISSING IN ACTION).
- 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 Ralph W. Kestler, 0354663, Infantry, 347th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 3 January 1945. When his platoon was held up by fire from an enemy machine gun and Tiger Tank, Lieutenant Kestler, with utter disregard for his personal safety, started forward, alone, armed with a bazooka. Crossing a stream and crawling 150 yards across an open field, despite enemy fire, Lieutenant Kestler took position in a nearby building and fired one round from his bazooka striking the Tiger Tank in the tread. The tank turned immediately and fired into the building, then withdrew, permitting the platoon to destroy the machine gun and take its objective. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Kestler reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (MISSING IN ACTION). 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 the following enlisted man, missing in action:

Private Clyde W. Dillingham, 34195071, Infantry, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Belgium on 28 and 29 December 1944. Knowing there was only one narrow road, heavily guarded by dug-in enemy infantry armed with bazookas, on which to travel, Private Dillingham, acting as tank commander, unhesitatingly volunteered to lead an assault to clear a small woods. With his tank traveling at top speed and with all guns firing he succeeded in breaking through a road block which enabled other tanks to advance. This maneuver also completely disorganized the enemy causing them to flee, leaving a large number of their dead and wounded. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action Private Dillingham reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Georgia.

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 553rd Quartermaster Railhead Company for superior execution of duty in

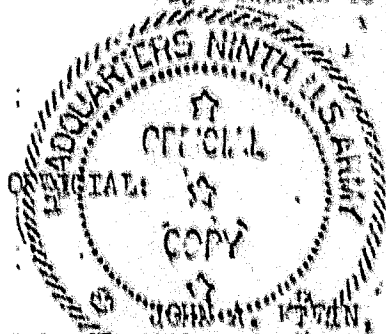
the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 1 September 1944 to 31 October 1944, the 553rd Quartermaster Railhead Company rendered meritorious service in the accomplishment of its numerous duties on the continent. Throughout this period, this unit achieved and maintained a high standard of discipline and demonstrated superior performance in every duty it was assigned. The conduct of the 553rd Quartermaster Railhead Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

The 2nd Evacuation Hospital for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 1 November 1944 to 31 December 1944, the 2nd Evacuation Hospital 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 2nd Evacuation Hospital is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

The 294th Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 1 August 1944 to 31 March 1945 the 294th Quartermaster Salvage Repair 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 294th Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

The 1510th Engineer Water Supply Company for superior execution of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks. From 30 June 1944 to 28 August 1944, the 1510th Engineer Water Supply 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 1510th Engineer Water Supply Company is in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

By command of Major General MOORE:



Colonel AGD, Adjutant General.



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