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HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

Gd

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 30

APO 338
2 February 1946.

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS).
II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-48, 7 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:

Reb by 20 Sept 16, 1945
Lieutenant George T. Van Giesen 01306023, Infantry, 414th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 8 November 1944, Lieutenant Van Giesen, a platoon leader, volunteered to lead a combat patrol against enemy positions which he had located the previous night while on a reconnaissance patrol. While skillfully leading his men over the same route he had passed the night before, he and his men were suddenly subjected to intense machine-gun fire which caused many casualties. Realizing that maneuver was impossible, he ordered his men to withdraw while he, completely disregarding his own personal safety, moved among his wounded men, rendering first aid and moving them to safer positions. This courageous act was done without thought for himself and amid intense machine-gun fire which took his life. Lieutenant Van Giesen demonstrated a spirit of unselfishness and fearless devotion for his comrades that is an inspiring example for all. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Lieutenant Van Giesen reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from California.

✓ Technical Sergeant Phillip F. Sawyer, 18002388, Infantry, 400th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy. On 19 November 1944, during an attack on enemy positions in Germany, an assaulting platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun fire. The men were unable to move because of the open terrain and the fierceness of the enemy fire. Sergeant Sawyer demonstrated the highest type of leadership in coolly estimating the situation and quickly taking action against the obstacle in the path of the advance. This gallant man charged headlong at the enemy emplacement with rifle and bayonet. He was shot on the way and continued to draw fire but his great courage carried him on. He killed three men in the enemy position and three more surrendered to him. Sergeant Sawyer was in the act of directing the three prisoners when one of the enemy who had concealed a grenade in his hand threw it at him and killed him instantly. The outstanding courage and aggressiveness of Sergeant Sawyer and the supreme sacrifice he had made inspired his men with vigor and determination to prosecute the attack to a successful conclusion. The extraordinary heroism and courageous actions of Sergeant Sawyer reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Oklahoma.

II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-48, 7 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:

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OO 30, Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 2 February 1948, cont'd.

✓ Captain John S. R. Popham, 0484149, Ordnance Department, 312th Ordnance Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 28 July 1944 to 20 August 1944. Entered military service from North Carolina.

✓ Captain Norbert H. Schmidt, 0480388, Ordnance Department, 312th Ordnance Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 28 July 1944 to 20 August 1944. Entered military service from Illinois.

✓ Staff Sergeant John J. Cunningham, 32194916, Chemical Warfare Service, 30th Chemical Decontamination Company, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 6 June 1944 in Normandy, France. Entered military service from New York.

✓ Corporal John T. Lennon, 20214787, Branch Immunization, 6804th Quartermaster Car Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 28 June 1944 to 12 July 1944. Entered military service from New York.

✓ Technician Fifth Grade Charles W. Downin, 32743909, (then Private First Class) Ordnance Department, 312th Ordnance Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 28 July 1944 to 20 August 1944. Entered military service from New York.

✓ Private First Class Albert J. Visscher, 33028262, Branch Immunization, 6804th Quartermaster Car Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 July 1944 to 20 July 1944. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

✓ Private Herman H. Baggio, 32911688, Ordnance Department, 6804th Quartermaster Car Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 July 1944 to 18 January 1948. Entered military service from New Jersey.

✓ Private William J. Goss, 18009238, Quartermaster Corps, 6804th Quartermaster Car Company, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 July 1944 to 18 January 1948. Entered military service from Maryland.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

J. B. MOORE,
Brigadier General, USA, Chief of Staff.

