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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

11 January 1945.

NUMBER 10

SECTION I - Award of Oak-Leaf Cluster
SECTION II - Award of Distinguished Service Cross

1. AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER - By direction of the president and under the provisions of 5900 I, Cir 34, HQ DGO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec. I, Cir 56, HQ DGO US Army, 27 May 1944, in addition to the Distinguished Service Cross previously awarded, a Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

Lieutenant Colonel LEROY R FOND, 9370275, Infantry, 1st Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 16 and 17 August 1944, Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) FOND, commanding the 1st Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, was assigned the mission of holding ground in the vicinity of LEBOURG ST. LEONARD, FRANCE, preparatory to closing the FAULISE gap. He disposed his battalion with two companies in line and one in reserve. Late in the afternoon of 16 August the enemy attacked Company "A" at LEBOURG ST. LEONARD in force, driving through to the eastern edge of the village. Colonel FOND personally rallied the company and led it back to its original position. Later the enemy attacked with two battalions supported by tanks and Company "A" again gave ground. Colonel FOND again rallied the company, and reinforcing Company "A" with Company "B" personally led a counter-attack, forcibly ejecting the enemy from the village, killing or wounding scores of them. The following dawn an enemy regiment, supported by some 14 tanks, violently attacked Companies "A" and "B" dislodging them from their positions and forcing them to give ground for a short distance. Again Colonel FOND rallied the companies and personally led them in a successful counter-attack. At or around noon 17 August the enemy, reinforced by additional infantry and tanks again attacked and drove the remnants of Company "A" and Company "B" to the eastern edge of the village. Colonel FOND again rallied them and inspired the remnants of the two companies to hold. Soon after noon Company "C" arrived with an additional platoon of tanks and Colonel FOND again led a counter-attack, mounted on one of the tanks. In bitter fighting, with tank against tank at ranges from 75 to 200 yards, Colonel FOND so inspired his men that the enemy was again and finally ejected from the village. The enemy thus failed to establish an escape route and the following day the FAULISE gap was closed at CHAMBOIS. Colonel FOND's inspirational leadership, adequate estimates of the situation, and heroism over and above the call of duty exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Army.

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II. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

1. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded posthumously to:

First Lieutenant EDWARD D ELDRIDGE, 01296543, Infantry, Company "L", 379th Infantry Regiment, 95th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 15 November 1944, Lieutenant ELDRIDGE was in command of a rifle platoon of Company "L", 379th Infantry, 95th Infantry Division, with a mission to establish supply and communication lines to two infantry battalions that had been isolated by potent enemy action in the vicinity of FORT JEANNE D'ARC and FORT JUSSY, part of the perimeter defenses of METZ, FRANCE. Advance of "L" Company had barely started when an enemy machine-gun position was encountered, so firmly entrenched and protected that it could not be by-passed or captured without heavy casualties. Lieutenant ELDRIDGE ordered his men to remain under cover, while he, scorning personal danger, moved into the open and ran approximately 45 yards toward the enemy position, the machine-gunner desperately trying to bring him down and Lieutenant ELDRIDGE pausing occasionally to distract the gunner's aim by well placed shots from his carbine. Successfully reaching a point ten yards from the gun position, Lieutenant ELDRIDGE threw a hand grenade into the machine-gun position, killing the gunner, the other members of the crew and destroying the gun. He then returned to his platoon and, still ignoring enemy fire, led them against the enemy lines, knocking out three more machine-gun positions, killing an estimated thirty-five of the enemy, taking 33 prisoners and clearing the entire section of the line within his platoon's zone of advance. On 17 November, when Company "L" was serving as the spearhead of another battalion attack, Lieutenant ELDRIDGE, with total disregard of his own safety, led his platoon in an assault on an enemy 20 millimeter gun position, killing the entire crew, destroying the gun and opening the way for completion of the attack. During the entire three days from 14 November 1944, to 17 November 1944, Lieutenant ELDRIDGE displayed remarkable leadership, superior tactical knowledge and unexcelled heroism. His actions upheld the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

2. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to:

Lieutenant Colonel JACOB W BEALKE JR, 0305676, Infantry, 3d Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 10 July 1944, Lieutenant Colonel BEALKE, commanding the 3d Battalion, 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, with six men of his battalion headquarters was advancing through the dense undergrowth of the FORET DE MONT CASTRE, FRANCE, between his two assault companies. The battalion mission was to clear the forest of the enemy. After advancing some 100 yards into the forest approximately 20 paratroopers from the elite 5th German Parachute Division, attacked fanatically, screaming, throwing hand grenades and firing machine pistols. Colonel BEALKE killed two of the enemy with hand grenades, wounded a third and took two others prisoner. The enemy formation broke. A second German group then attacked from the right flank, but Colonel BEALKE killed two with his pistol, one falling at his feet. Twenty additional soldiers arrived as reinforcements just before a third enemy group attacked from the rear of Colonel BEALKE's group. Of this 3d attacking party 3 were killed, 8 taken prisoner and the remainder dispersed. Colonel BEALKE then

continued advancing through the forest. About 200 yards deeper into the timber three enemy grenade launcher teams opened fire. Colonel BEALKE wounded the German officer commanding the position and his detachment killed, wounded or dispersed the crews. Receiving word by radio that a company of enemy infantry, in column, was proceeding across his front, Colonel BEALKE with an artillery observer and one wireman swung to the left to reach high ground for observation. The observer was wounded and the wireman killed but Colonel BEALKE laid his own wire line to the observation point and from there directed artillery fire against the enemy column for more than an hour until it was destroyed or dispersed. Throughout this action Colonel BEALKE was under heavy mortar and small arms fire. From the observation point he ordered by radio the reorganization and employment of his battalion and directed the completion of the mission--occupation of the woods. Through the extraordinary heroism, aggressive leadership and dogged determination, in spite of heavy casualties among his officers and men, Colonel BEALKE led his men to a brilliant victory, one of the most outstanding in the operations of his Division in NORMANDY. His actions were in the very highest traditions of the military service of the United States.

Lieutenant Colonel BRUCE W REAGAN, 0387318, Corps of Engineers, 150th Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Colonel REAGAN, commanding the 150th Engineer Combat Battalion was assigned the mission on 8 December 1944, of constructing a Bailey Bridge over the SAANE RIVER at *** FRANCE. Upon the successful completion of this mission rested the security of the 35th Division bridgehead at that point. The bridge site, limited by terrain, was under direct enemy artillery observation from high ground to the north and from a dominating ridge 2000 meters to the east, where there were concentrations of enemy artillery. Three hours after construction began, enemy artillery of medium and heavy calibers forced cessation of work. Colonel REAGAN, reconnoitering damage, was wounded, but refused to be evacuated. Repeatedly, whenever inspection or work parties returned to the site, enemy artillery reopened fire. Colonel REAGAN explained to his command the vital necessity of completing the bridge and personally led them back to the site. Regardless of personal danger, constantly exposing himself to shell fire, remaining on duty even when casualties necessitated replacement of one engineer company by a second company. Colonel REAGAN and his command completed the bridge after 28 hours of incessant shell fire. By his exceptional devotion to duty, continuous and inspiring courage and his driving tenacity of purpose Colonel REAGAN materially aided the 35th Infantry Division advance, and upheld the highest traditions of the military service of the United States.

Lieutenant Colonel DAVID O BYARS JR, 021273, Infantry, 2d Battalion, 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 11 November 1944, Colonel BYARS, serving as Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, 328th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, was attacking strong enemy positions in the FORT DE BRIDE ET DE KOCKING, FRANCE. Leading the advance Colonel BYARS concluded that unusually heavy mortar fire was following the battalion's movement by adjusting on the battalion radio transmitters, and ordered them silenced. Subsequently when heavy machine-gun and antiaircraft fire centered on the advance rifle companies he diverted them to cover, and started back to support positions to load a telephone detail forward to establish wire instead of radio communication. Returning with the newly laid wire line Colonel BYARS and his signal detail of three were fired upon by enemy in ambush. One of the three men was killed and the other two wounded. Colonel BYARS plunged into the brush, worked his way

to the tank of the enemy ambulance, shot the enemy gasser with his pistol and drew further enemy fire from other concealed positions. Colonel BYARS decided that the enemy had deliberately allowed the three rifle companies of the battalion to pass, so as to permit an attack on their rear. He attempted to use the newly laid telephone line to summon reinforcements to wipe out the enemy ambush posts, but found the line out. He found the more seriously wounded man of his wire detail, aided him to the rear over a circuitous covered route and obtained assignment of an additional company and one tank destroyer to crush the enemy threat to the rear of his battalion. Colonel BYARS rode the tank back into action, directing its fire against the strong points previously located. He placed the reinforcing company on higher ground than that occupied by the enemy and killed or captured all of them. He then reorganized his own battalion positions so as to consolidate and hold all ground gained. During the reorganization Colonel BYARS directed operations from a position on the tank destroyer, exposed to small arms, mortar and 88 millimeter artillery fire. His brilliant display of courage, leadership and initiative inspired his command to hold hard won ground under enemy attack and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.

Staff Sergeant WILLIAM A CATRI, 31295164, Company "G", 10th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. September 20th, 1944, Staff Sergeant (then private First Class) CATRI was serving as a member of the rocket launching team of Company "G", 10th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, during an attack on POURCEY-LA-CHETIVE, FRANCE. His company had pushed up to the edge of the town when enemy tanks located in concealed positions opened fire at point-blank range. The tanks started moving forward and the first platoon of Company "G" was forced to give ground under intensity of tank, automatic weapons and small arms fire. Sergeant CATRI's team mate had been wounded earlier in the action and he had to operate his rocket launcher alone. Without hesitation, and without orders, Sergeant CATRI leaped forward as the platoon wavered and ran approximately forty yards under enemy fire to a shallow shell hole about fifty yards in advance of the foremost enemy tank. Several times he was buffeted by concussion of enemy tank fire, but held his feet uninjured until he reached the shell hole. He prepared his ammunition and loaded his rocket launcher alone and fired from a distance of 40 yards on the oncoming tank. His first shot disabled the tank, but the blast of his shot exposed his position accurately to the enemy. Small arms, automatic weapons and enemy tank fire poured in on his position. Sergeant CATRI, disregarding his own safety, remained in his exposed position however, and spotted a second enemy tank some sixty yards distant. He fired twice, the second shot hitting the tank a grazing blow. It withdrew rapidly. The platoon, no longer held down by the tank fire, pushed back to its original positions. Sergeant CATRI was subsequently slightly wounded and hospitalized during another attack, 14 November 1944. By his superlative demonstration of courage, knowledge of his weapon and its mission, Sergeant CATRI exemplified the highest traditions of the United States Army.

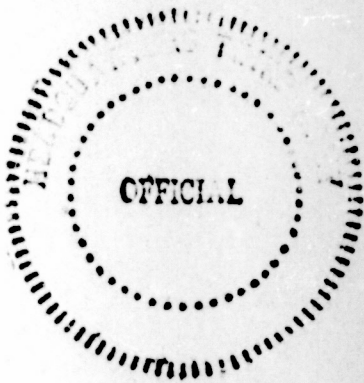
Private First Class ARNOLD F BECKMAN, 37153807, Company "I", 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 15 June 1944, Private BECKMAN was assigned as an automatic rifleman, Company "I", 357th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division. The company's mission was the capture of GOURNESVILLE, FRANCE. Two daylight attacks had failed. The enemy position was well prepared, visibility obscured by hedgerows and hilly terrain. Company "I" began a third attack, in late evening, under a full moon. Advancing toward the town an enemy machine-gun crew rapidly set up and opened fire. Private BECKMAN fired his BAR from the shoulder killing the three members of the gun crew. Private BECKMAN then observed a second enemy machine-gun crew in a dugout, placing a heavy concentration of

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fire across the front of "I" Company. Private RECKMAN jumped over a hedgerow, ran across an open field, and though exposed to the enemy field of fire, called upon the gun crew to surrender. His answer was a burst of machine-gun fire. Private RECKMAN coolly raised his automatic rifle to his shoulder and killed the enemy crew of four. Elimination of the two enemy machine-gun crews allowed the platoon to advance into GOURPESVILLE and was largely responsible for successful completion of its mission by "I" Company. Private RECKMAN habitually ranged in front of his platoon, seeking targets for his automatic rifle. He was seriously wounded 19 June 1944 by a mortar shell blast and was also shot in the foot by an enemy rifleman while aggressively taking the lead in another platoon attack. Private RECKMAN's chilled-steel courage and his devotion to duty without thought of personal danger exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:



HOBART R. GAY,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

R. E. CUMMINGS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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