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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

18 January 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 18*

- E X T R A C T -

SECTION II - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

1. By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir No. 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 March 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir No. 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded posthumously to:

✓ First Lieutenant RICHARD A REYNOLDS, O1170532, Field Artillery (TD), 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. During the period 3 December - 4 December 1944, Lieutenant REYNOLDS heroically led his tank destroyer platoon of the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion through the heavily defended town of SAARLAUTERN, GERMANY, and across the SAAR RIVER to assist infantry elements in exploiting a bridgehead on the eastern bank. He repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire while directing his platoon, completely disregarding his own safety. By his many conspicuous acts of heroism and fearless leadership he inspired his men to press forward relentlessly against the enemy. On one occasion, while heavily engaged with stubbornly resisting forces in the bridgehead area, he halted his tank destroyer in an exposed position and personally rescued members of another crew who were trapped in their burning tank destroyer. During subsequent action, while directing fire against enemy pillboxes, Lieutenant REYNOLDS was killed. The supreme devotion to duty and conspicuous heroism many times displayed by this intrepid officer exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

✓ Sergeant ROY E HOLCOMB, 39525060, Company "A", 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 1 December 1944, during an attack against the enemy-held town of ST BARBARA, FRANCE, a platoon of the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion was stopped within the town by a strategically placed enemy Tank. When it became apparent that the tank destroyer opposing the enemy could not maneuver into a position from which it could fire effectively, HOLCOMB, with complete disregard for his own safety, obtained a rocket launcher and crawled toward the enemy tank to destroy it or force it to move into a position. Covered by friendly small arms fire he crawled to within seventy yards of the tank and opened fire which proved to be ineffective. Undaunted, he approached from another direction, and when he was within fifty yards of the tank he again opened fire, partially disabling the tank and forcing it to retreat. As he made his way back to his platoon, another enemy tank moved into the position previously occupied by the one he had damaged. Thereupon, armed with a rocket launcher, he again crawled toward the position to attack the enemy tank. He fired four rounds of ammunition at the tank and partially disabled it but was killed by return fire. His courageous actions, however, forced the enemy tank destroyer to move into another position where it was completely destroyed by fire from another tank destroyer. Sergeant HOLCOMB's courageous determination and his heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

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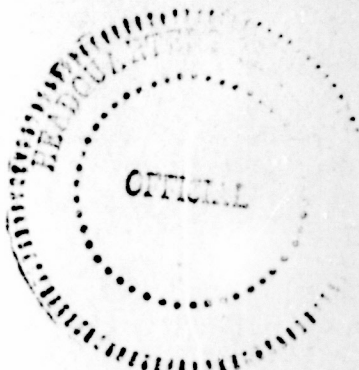
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Sec II, GO No. 18, Hq Third US Army, 13 Jan 1945, cont'd.

2. By Direction of the President and under the provisions of 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 March 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir No. 56, Hq Army, 27 Ma, 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to:

First Sergeant ALGY C SHAMEKLIIS, 20107647, Company "B", 104th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 20 November 1944, during an attack against an enemy-held hill near VAILLES BERTREUIL, FRANCE, the 1st Battalion, 104th Infantry Regiment suffered heavy casualties of officers and men. Sergeant SHAMEKLIIS, Company "B", 104th Infantry, perceiving the critical situation, took command of his depleted company, skillfully reorganized it and led the men forward in the attack, under a heavy enemy mortar barrage. The following morning when the Battalion attacked the town of ALBISSYR, FRANCE, Sergeant SHAMEKLIIS heroically led his company across five-hundred yards of open ground, under intense enemy machine-gun cross-fire, and gained the end of the town. Determined to hold the ground gained, he deployed his forces in defense against overwhelming odds and then personally led his forces against the enemy forces in an attempt to destroy their tanks. When enemy fire collapsed the walls of the building he was defending, Sergeant SHAMEKLIIS was seriously injured. Despite his wounds, and although suffering great pain, he continued to lead his men and brilliantly executed an ordered withdrawal when their positions became untenable. Sergeant SHAMEKLIIS' inspiring leadership, and his courage and heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

By command of Lieutenant General FAYON:



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

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

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* Sec I, GO No. 18, this Hq, 13 Jan 1945, classified "Confidential" and given limited distribution.