

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

30/10/3/45
Per ca 10/5

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 255

18 September 1945

SECTION I - Award of Distinguished Service Cross.

SECTION II - Amendment of General Orders number 123 and 246, this Headquarters, etc.

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS -- By Direction of the President and under provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 March 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to:

Private First Class WILLIAM H. STEEN, 38652567, Company C, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 20 March 1945, during an attack on MONSCHEIN, GERMANY, infantry advancing into the town and tank men attempting to clear a wrecked tank from a partially demolished bridge were subjected to intense hostile sniper fire. Private First Class STEEN, with utter disregard for his own safety, fearlessly advanced towards the enemy position. Driven back several times by withering fire, he finally succeeded in smashing through the gate of a wire fence and eliminating the enemy rifleman. Then, assisted by two comrades, he courageously entered an enemy-held building, captured two SS officers and enabled his platoon to establish a machine gun in this advantageous position. Private First Class STEEN'S, tenacious, gallant actions and unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Private First Class JACK THOMAS, 34743054, Company B, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 9 April 1945, during action near HARTZGERODE, GERMANY, Private First Class THOMAS, courageously led his squad on a mission to knock out an enemy tank providing heavy caliber support for a hostile road block. Skillfully directing the deployment and firing of his squad he advanced upon the enemy position and hurled two hand grenades, wounding several hostile soldiers. When two of his men manning a rocket launcher were wounded he picked up the weapon and launched two rockets at the enemy, preventing them from manning the tank. This gallant soldier then picked up one of the rocket launching team who was seriously wounded and with utter disregard for the intense small arms and automatic weapons fire, carried his comrade to safety. Private THOMAS', heroic leadership and unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Private DONALD L. PARTA, 36577674, Company L, 393d Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 10 April 1945, during an attack on HALBERBRACHT, GERMANY, Private PARTA, acting as first scout of his platoon, was fired upon by an enemy machine gun as he entered the town. With dauntless courage he advanced through direct hostile fire to kill the enemy gunner and wound his assistant. He then charged the position and captured six other enemy soldiers before they could man the gun. Private PARTA'S, heroic, aggressive actions enabled his company to continue their advance. His gallantry and indomitable fighting spirit are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

(Over)

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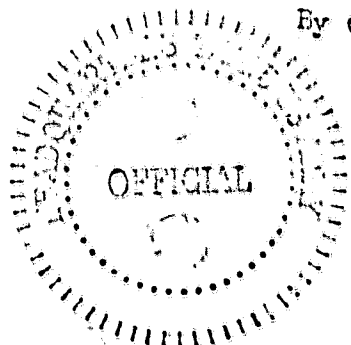
GO 254 Hq Third US Army 18 Sep 1945 cont'd.

II. AMENDMENT OF GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 123 AND 246, THIS HEADQUARTERS, CS. - 1.

So much of Section III, General Orders Number 123, This Headquarters, cs, awarding a Bronze Star Medal to Lieutenant Colonel JAMES N GOUDEN, 020158, as reads: "15 September 1944 to 8 May 1945" is amended to read: "15 September 1944 to 16 December 1944."

2. So much of Section III, General Orders Number 246, this Headquarters, cs, as reads: "The Purple Heart is awarded to:" is amended to read: "in addition to the Purple Heart previously awarded a Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:"

By command of General PATTON:



PAUL D. HARKINS,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Acting Chief of Staff.

L. L. MANLY,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Acting Adjutant General.

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