

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

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24 September 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 265*

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 March 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 THOMAS A DALY, OLB18416 Infantry, Company K, 376th Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 25 February 1945, near OCKTEN, GERMANY, Lieutenant DALY courageously volunteered to lead a squad to silence two enemy machine guns. Braving withering machine gun and mortar fire he approached the house from which the hostile fire was emanating, silenced the gun with a grenade and captured three prisoners. When fired upon from another house while returning with his prisoners, he fearlessly charged the building, knocked out the hostile machine gun with an anti-tank grenade and captured five more prisoners. Encountering a group of twelve enemy soldiers while searching through the second building, he killed two with his rifle, and was pursuing the other ten when he was killed by sniper fire. Lieutenant DALY'S intrepid actions and indomitable fighting spirit live on as an inspiration to the men with whom he fought.

Technician Fourth Grade MARION J GRASS, 37132042, Company F, 102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in BELGIUM. On 5 October 1944, near BULLINGEM, BELGIUM, Technician Fourth Grade GRASS' tank was immobilized by an enemy mine. Exposing himself to intense, close-range hostile machine gun fire, he assisted in removing the severely wounded bow gunner to cover. He again exposed himself to withering enemy fire by manning the anti-aircraft machine gun of the tank to kill two enemy soldiers attempting to destroy the tank with rockets. Realizing that his wounded gunner would die from loss of blood in a short time, this intrepid soldier left his position of shelter and assisted in carrying him towards friendly lines. This heroic, unselfish act cost Technician Fourth Grade GRASS his life but his dauntless courage and supreme devotion to duty will live on as an inspiration to his comrades.

2. By Direction of the President and under the 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:

First Lieutenant JAMES A KRUCAS, O1321782, Infantry, Company G, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 15 October 1944, during a fierce enemy counterattack near VERLAUTENHEIDE, GERMANY, Lieutenant KRUCAS skillfully deployed his outnumbered platoon in defensive positions and courageously advancing alone, using hand grenades, forced the enemy to withdraw. In the ensuing bitter action, this gallant officer personally repulsed four separate hostile attacks, inflicting heavy casualties upon them. After charging to the assistance of a surrounded mortar section, he audaciously

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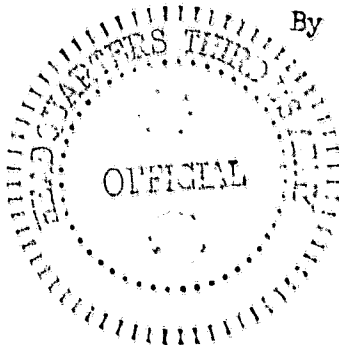
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rallied his depleted force and counterattacked the numerically superior enemy, clearing them from the area. Lieutenant KRUCAS' heroic, inspiring leadership and dauntless actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Second Lieutenant MICHAEL HRITSIK, 01060133, Infantry, Company F, 319th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in LUXEMBOURG. On 23 December 1944, Lieutenant HRITSIK led his platoon through a withering crossfire of hostile machine guns into the town of HELDERSCHIED, LUXEMBOURG. Although twice wounded, he courageously engaged three enemy tanks with a rocket-launcher and forced them to withdraw. When the enemy launched a fierce counter-attack, this gallant officer left the aid station where he was awaiting evacuation and aggressively formed rocket-launcher teams that destroyed two hostile tanks and repulsed the counterattack. Lieutenant HRITSIK'S heroic, intrepid actions and unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

Private First Class JOHN F MC KEON JR, 42088883, Company L, 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 5 April 1945, during action near GLEIDORF, GERMANY, Private MC KEON'S platoon was pinned down by withering hostile rifle and machine gun fire. Fearlessly crawling towards the enemy machine gun nest, he was within twenty yards of it when one of the enemy soldiers threw a grenade at him which fell short. He then aggressively hurled one of his own grenades at the emplacement, killing two of the gunners, and courageously charged and killed with fixed bayonet the remaining two enemy crew-men. Private MC KEON'S heroic, dauntless actions enabled his platoon to continue the advance. His indomitable fighting spirit and unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

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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TAC (Awards & Dec Br) 3
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G-1, this Hq 3
AC Misc 8

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