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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

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GENERAL ORDERS

10 April 1945.

NUMBER 76

SECTION I - Award of Distinguished Service Cross
SECTION II - Award of Bronze Star Medal

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES - 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:

Captain VAUGHN F SWIFT, O1312068, Infantry, Company "E", 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in LUXEMBOURG. On 25 December 1944, Captain SWIFT, Commanding Officer of "E" Company, 328th Infantry Regiment, led his company in an attack against ESCHDORF, LUXEMBOURG. Braving fierce enemy fire, this gallant officer rushed to summon friendly tanks to the support of his platoons which were cut off and surrounded by enemy armor and infantry. Clinging to the side of a forward vehicle, Captain SWIFT directed the tanks into the strongly-held town where his company, thus released from enemy fire, advanced in co-ordinated attack with the tanks. Despite being hurled from the side of the tank when it sustained a direct hit, the Captain managed to crawl back to his third platoon where he killed twelve of the enemy with his rifle. Directing artillery fire by radio, Captain SWIFT subsequently organized a perimeter defense which held the enemy. Captain SWIFT'S heroic determination and courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

7 Staff Sergeant EARL F THURSTON, 36534320, Company "I", 377th Infantry Regiment, 95th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 15 December 1944, Sergeant THURSTON led his squad in action against enemy fortifications at FRAULAUERTERN, GERMANY. When the squad encountered intense machine-gun and sniper fire the Sergeant ordered his men to cover and went forward alone. Maneuvering to the rear of the buildings in which the snipers were located he killed one with pistol fire, crawled silently upon the second one and killed him with his knife. Then, working his way cautiously to a position near the machine-gun, the intrepid soldier routed the crew with pistol fire, seized the captured weapon and opened fire upon the trenches surrounding the position. He inflicted heavy casualties upon the defending Germans, permitting his squad to capture its objective. His bold, fearless actions, inspiring leadership and courageous devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Private First Class ERNEST L STONE, 6972582, Company "A", 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 24 November 1944, during action in the vicinity of JAEGER HOUSE, GERMANY, Private STONE was advancing as a scout, ahead of the main body of his infantry company.

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When he and his group encountered heavy resistance at a strategic forward position, Private STONE voluntarily returned to the company through intense enemy fire to lead them forward to reinforce the new position. He made five trips over the fire-swept terrain, completely disregarding his own safety, inspiring the men by his fearless personal example. On one trip he encountered four of the enemy, and although wounded, killed one and wounded two of them with pistol fire. This soldier's conspicuous heroism and his fearless determination and inspiring, courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 44, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

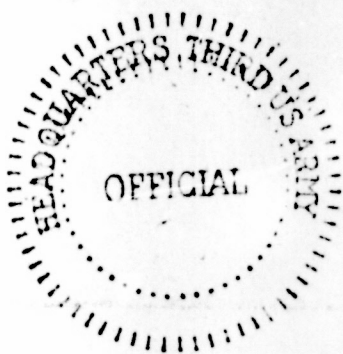
Captain ERLE J JOLLEY, 01541439, Medical Administrative Corps, 588th Medical Ambulance Company, Motor (Separate), United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in FRANCE from 13 August 1944 to 5 September 1944.

Staff Sergeant OREN G SHAFFER, 37153710, 166th Signal Photographic Company, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in FRANCE and LUXEMBOURG from 7 July 1944 to 26 March 1945.

Technician Fourth Grade STANLEY W SEPIETOWSKI, 33605526, 838th Ordnance Depot Company, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in FRANCE, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and GERMANY from 10 August 1944 to 15 March 1945.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:

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



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

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