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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

Tapped by 1777 5/17/45
ORIGINAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDERS

16 April 1945.

NUMBER 81

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:

Captain ROBERT H BERTSCH, O391384, Infantry, Company "A", 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in LUXEMBOURG. The gallant, inspiring leadership Captain BERTSCH displayed during action near ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBOURG, distinguishes him as an outstanding officer. On 7 February 1945 he led his company across the swollen SAUER RIVER into the Siegfried Line defenses against fierce enemy resistance, and there held his position although completely isolated and surrounded for two days. He was constantly in the thick of the fighting, inspiring and encouraging his men by his courage and fearless determination. On 9 February 1945 he slipped through the enemy lines to deliver vital information to his battalion commander, and while returning to his command post was fatally wounded. Captain BERTSCH'S heroic leadership and supreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the service and live on as a constant inspiration to his men.

Second Lieutenant WILLIAM H MAAS, O1321318, Infantry, Company "G", 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 29 January 1945, during action near WELCHENHAUSEN, GERMANY, the infantry platoon commanded by Lieutenant MAAS was given the mission of knocking out an enemy machine-gun nest strategically located on top of a hill. The Lieutenant, rather than commit his platoon, fearlessly advanced alone against the emplacement, completely disregarding his own safety. He suffered a severe wound as he made his way forward, but continued on and boldly assaulted the position, destroying the gun and killing and capturing several of the enemy. Lieutenant MAAS was mortally wounded before he could be evacuated, but his daring action permitted the company to advance and seize its objective. His courage and supreme devotion to duty, in keeping with the highest traditions of the service, live on as a constant inspiration to his comrades.

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 ERASMUS H STRICKLAND, O224303, Infantry, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in FRANCE. On 21 June 1944, the infantry battalion under Colonel STRICKLAND'S command spearheaded an attack to break through a formidable enemy defense line near RUFFOSSERS, FRANCE. In the lead of his troops, under withering fire, the Colonel made a personal reconnaissance of the approaches to the fortified area and deter-

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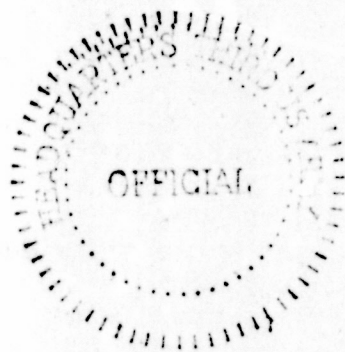
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mined that tank support was necessary. He went to the rear, directed the tanks forward and fearlessly led a tank-infantry assault in fierce hand-to-hand fighting personally killing and wounding many of the enemy. The inspiring, dynamic leadership he displayed was directly responsible for seizure of the battalion objective. His courage and loyal, heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

Sergeant HUGH P LOCKHART, 38098588, Company "B", 315th Engineer Combat Battalion, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in GERMANY. On 6 February 1945, during an attack against strongly defended Siegfried Line emplacement near BRANDSCHEID, GERMANY, Sergeant LOCKHART volunteered to breach a strategic pillbox which was surrounded by entrenched enemy soldiers. Carrying an explosive charge he fearlessly advanced toward his objective two hundred yards distant, braving hand grenades and a hail of small arms fire concentrated against him. Gaining a trench he worked his way down it for a few yards. Then, carefully noting his position he dashed through withering fire to the pillbox, placed his charge against the steel door and ran back to the trench. A few seconds later the charge exploded, blowing open the door; and before the smoke had cleared the Sergeant rushed to the opening, hurled a hand grenade inside and followed in to take prisoner fourteen of the enemy. Sergeant LOCKHART'S heroic action made possible the advance of the infantry to seize its objective. His fearless determination and courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

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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