

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 113

20 December 1944

SECTION I -- Award of Distinguished Service Cross.  
SECTION II -- Award of Bronze Star Medal.  
SECTION III -- Amendment of Section I, GO No. 110 this Hq cs.

1. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS - 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 to:

First Lieutenant MICHAEL V KRAVONKA, 01309659, Infantry, Company "C", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 21 November 1944, after Company "C", \*\*\* Infantry had successfully captured the high ground west of ALBERTROFF, FRANCE, it was assigned the mission of taking the town. Lieutenant KRAVONKA, a rifle platoon leader, led his platoon under heavy enemy mortar and machine-gun fire, into the buildings at the edge of the town, and set about clearing them of enemy pockets of resistance. While engaged in that dangerous mission, Lieutenant KRAVONKA received three severe wounds, two in the back and one in his right arm. Completely disregarding the wounds, he courageously continued to lead his men, inspiring them in their difficult task. When darkness fell the enemy heavily counter-attacked with a strong force led by tanks. Lieutenant KRAVONKA valiantly directed his men in the defense of their hard won ground until it was determined that they could no longer hold against the overwhelming enemy forces. He then reorganized the remaining men of his platoon and directed their successful withdrawal after which, despite his wounds, he made his way to the regimental command post and, before he was evacuated, delivered a complete report of the situation. His courageous determination and zealous devotion to duty, many times displayed, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Technical Sergeant PAUL A FALL, 20725543, Company "C", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, in the vicinity of CHARTEUSE, FRANCE, on 16 September 1944. Sergeant FALL, leading his platoon in an assault crossing of the MEURTHE RIVER, skilfully deployed his troops along the bank of the river and proceeded to secure the bridgehead. Shortly after reaching the hostile shore, he crawled forward alone and destroyed an enemy machine-gun which was delivering direct fire upon a squad moving along the shoreline. Despite constant enemy fire of all types, he moved among the men of his platoon, directing their movement and fire against a stubborn and well entrenched enemy. He directed attacks which resulted in the destruction of two more enemy machine-gun positions. With his rifle, he killed three German snipers who were firing at a squad advancing against the blind spot of one of the enemy emplacements. Sergeant FALL's intrepid actions and inspiring leadership enabled his company to secure a bridgehead and push on to the Battalion

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objective with minimum casualties. The courage which Sergeant FALL repeatedly displayed, his heroic determination and his zealous devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military forces of the United States.

Staff Sergeant WILSON B RHODES, 33381312, Company "C", \*\*\* Tank Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 15 November, Sergeant RHODES led his tank section against the enemy-held village of MAIZIERES-LES-METZ, FRANCE. In order to guide his own tank along the narrow streets of the village and to direct the fire of his 75mm gun he fearlessly exposed himself in the turret to enemy fire. When a 75mm shell stuck in the chamber of the gun, Sergeant RHODES calmly dismounted from the tank and although under intense enemy fire dislodged the projectile with a rammer staff. He then remounted the tank and resumed his mission, and while firing his gun suffered a broken arm from the recoil. Refusing to leave the tank, he bravely continued in action, killing and capturing many of the enemy, until after five hours he finally lost consciousness from the pain of his injury. Sergeant RHODES' heroic devotion to duty, his determination and inspiring leadership exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Sergeant MELVIN A CROSS, 20108671, Company "G", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 8 November 1944, as the 1st Platoon, Company "G", \*\*\* Infantry was advancing toward the enemy-held town of MONCOURT, FRANCE, Sergeant CROSS (then Private), the only remaining automatic rifleman of the unit was given the task of protecting the right flank of his platoon. Although subjected to intense enemy fire, he successfully accomplished his mission and prevented the enemy from closing in on the exposed flank. When the enemy was reinforced, compelling the attacking platoon to withdraw, Sergeant CROSS left his flank position and fearlessly went to the front of his platoon to cover the withdrawal with automatic fire. Sergeant CROSS held back the enemy and did not withdraw until his unit had established itself in a new position. Then, under extremely heavy enemy fire he slowly made his way back to his unit. The heroism and courageous devotion to duty of Sergeant CROSS and his outstanding ability as a soldier exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Private First Class HENRY F HOWINGTON, 33533002, Company "D", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 8 November 1944, Private First Class HOWINGTON was serving as a member of a rocket launching team supporting Company "A", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, in an attack against BEZANNE LA PETITE, FRANCE. When the attacking troops reached the town they were pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun fire, and because of the terrain were unable to advance or maneuver. Perceiving this, Private First Class HOWINGTON picked up a nearby enemy automatic weapon and with complete disregard for his own safety charged the enemy machine-gun position, killing three of the enemy and destroying the gun. Private First Class HOWINGTON's heroic action enabled the company to advance and capture the town. His fearless courage and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

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Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.

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