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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

21 December 1944.

NUMBER 114

SECTION I - Award of Distinguished Service Cross
SECTION II - Amendment of Section II, GO No. 112 this Hq cs

I. 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:

Major WILLIAM G GILLIS JR, 023909, Infantry, 1st Battalion, ** Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 15 September 1944, Major GILLIS commanded the 1st Battalion, ** Infantry during a crossing of the SAISON RIVER and the RHINE-MARNE CANAL at DOMBASLE, FRANCE. The enemy stubbornly opposed the crossing with strong forces of infantry which were dug in at close range, and by mortar and machine-gun fire from commanding positions on the hills. During the crossing, which was made by direct assault over improvised bridging constructed under intense direct enemy fire, Major GILLIS was regularly present with the leading elements of his troops, moving freely among them to direct the attack. Disregarding his own safety he waded and swam across the river and canal several times under heavy enemy fire. His courageous leadership and exemplary conduct under fire so inspired his men that they were able to force the crossing successfully against heavy odds. His heroic accomplishments and zealous devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military forces of the United States.

First Lieutenant MAX M FITZPATRICK, 01319406, Infantry, Company "C", ** Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 8 November 1944, Company "C", ** Infantry, attacking in conjunction with other units, was endeavoring to complete the occupation of the town of VIC SUR SEILLE, FRANCE, in which the enemy was still occupying some defensive positions. Lieutenant FITZPATRICK, commanding a platoon of Company "C", voluntarily led a group of six men against the enemy-held buildings, inspiring the assault in spite of intense enemy machine-gun and small arms fire by his fearless leadership and coolness. Upon reaching the first building, Lieutenant FITZPATRICK went from room to room in advance of his men searching out the enemy and in one of the rooms killed three of the enemy who were manning a machine-gun at a window. He then led his men to the next building which was also strongly defended and upon entering one of the rooms was killed by enemy fire. Lieutenant FITZPATRICK's heroic actions and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

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Private First Class GERALD D DOWNING, 33750843, Company "L", ** Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 29 September 1944, Company "L", ** Infantry Regiment, with which Private DOWNING was serving as a rifleman, was advancing against the enemy through the FORET DE GRENICEY, FRANCE. When heavy enemy machine-gun and small arms fire halted the advance of the company, Private DOWNING, having detected the position of one of the concealed enemy guns by the muzzle blast, crept forward to silence it. When he reached a point near the gun position he rose slightly to throw a grenade but was mortally wounded by a burst of machine-pistol fire. Despite his wounds he valiantly rose again and threw the grenade. Then, summoning his last bit of strength he got to his feet and closed in to kill the remainder of the gun crew before he collapsed from loss of blood. Private DOWNING's supreme devotion to duty, his utter fearlessness, and his courageous determination exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

2. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec 1, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec 1, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to:

Corporal CROWELL J SMITH, 34854697, Company "C", ** Tank Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 18 November 1944, when Company "C", ** Tank Battalion was attacking through the town of WOIPPY, FRANCE, the tank on which Corporal SMITH was the 75mm gunner was hit by enemy rocket-launcher and mortar fire. The wounded crew were forced to leave the tank but Corporal SMITH remained at his gun, loading and firing the weapon until he silenced the enemy fire. He then drove the tank to another position, picked up two additional crew members and continued to man his gun until the tank bogged down. Forced to abandon the tank, he dismounted a 30 caliber machine-gun and continued to fire against the enemy from another position until friendly infantry forces came forward. Corporal SMITH's calm courage under fire and his heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

II. AMENDMENT OF SEC II, GO NO. 112 THIS HQ CS - So much of paragraph 2, Section II, General Orders No. 112, this Headquarters, 18 December 1944, as awards a Bronze Star Medal to certain officers and enlisted men as reads: "Colonel JOHNSON P EDWARDS, 0235024, Field Artillery," is amended to read: "Lieutenant Colonel JOHNSON P EDWARDS, 0235024, Field Artillery."

Command of Lieutenant General PATTON:

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

OFFICIAL

R. E. BUNNINGS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Assistant General.

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15 - G-1 (O & EM concerned)