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RESTRICTED

ORIGINAL ORDER - ETOUSA

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
403

GENERAL ORDERS

3 September 1944.

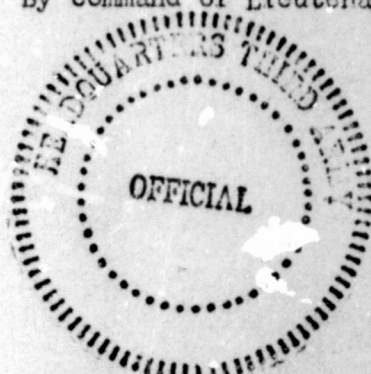
NUMBER 51

AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

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

Major General JOHN S WOOD, 03352, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. Major General WOOD, Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, on 27 July 1944, received word at the Command Post of Combat Command "B", located north of COUTANCES, that advance elements of his command were stopped by heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire on the outskirts of COUTANCES. He immediately proceeded to the front with his aide and driver, and ordered an immediate advance on the city. General WOOD walked along-side the leading elements of the infantry shouting encouragement to the men, and by his personal example and conspicuous leadership inspired the infantry to continue their advance into the city. When the light tanks ran into mines, General WOOD stopped all vehicles and proceeded with the infantry, securing and marking a route along which the vehicles could proceed. During all this time heavy mortar fire was falling in the town and enemy snipers were active. At one point General WOOD walked alone down an alley leading a tank platoon through mined areas. His conspicuous leadership and zealous devotion to duty many times displayed his utter disregard for his own safety, and his audacious determination inspired all of his units and men to a successful accomplishment of their mission and exemplified the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:



HUGH J. GAFFEY,  
Major General, U. S. Army,  
Chief of Staff.

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

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- 3 - The Adj Gen
- 5 - G-1 Misc Sec (Maj-Gen Wood)

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