

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 403

*Typed by A. Colby*

*12/14/44*

*Henry vs*

*12/15/44*

GENERAL ORDERS

ORIGINAL ORDER - ETOUSA

13 September 1944

NUMBER 59

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 Mar 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded posthumously to:

Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM M HERNANDEZ, 0191305, Field Artillery, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 20 August 1944 near ST VINCENT de BOIS, FRANCE. With utter disregard for his own safety Lieutenant Colonel HERNANDEZ personally directed the fire of one of his tank destroyers, silencing the enemy fires and enabling the forward movement of our troops to continue. His continuous presence with the forward elements combined with his exemplary judgment and leadership, maintained in the face of intense enemy fire, during which he was fatally wounded, set an inspiring example for his command, and are worthy of the best traditions of the service.

Captain WILLIAM F PIERI 0454921, Corps of Engineers, 4th Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. About 1000 hours on 29 July the entire column of Combat Command "B", 4th Armored Division was advancing south through COUTANCES, FRANCE, to attack AVRANCHES. Captain PIERI was leading the column in order to be prepared to sweep for mines and repair bridges which were known to be blown. Just south of the city of COUTANCES the column was brought to a halt by a hastily mined bridge. Immediately upon halting, enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire began pinning down the engineers. Captain PIERI with utter disregard for his own safety moved forward alone through the fire and without regard for the additional dangers personally deactivated and removed the row of mines which was blocking the bridge thereby enabling the armored column to move forward and attack the enemy and drive them from their positions. Throughout the next three weeks Captain PIERI was constantly with the leading elements of the column in its advance to AVRANCHES, RENNES, VANNES and LORIENT then reversing to take ORLEANS, butting by-passes, reducing road blocks and repairing bridges under enemy fire, until in the attack on ORLEANS Captain PIERI was killed while engaging the enemy with a machine gun mounted on his 1/4 ton truck. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Second Lieutenant JAMES I DURDEN, 01018134, Infantry, 6th Armored Division, United States Army. Second Lieutenant JAMES I DURDEN, while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 5 August 1944 at POUILLAOUEN, FRANCE, Second Lieutenant DURDEN led his Reconnaissance Platoon into POUILLAOUEN, ascertained the nature, extent and location of the enemy concentrations, transmitted this information to his Battalion Commander, then returned to take the lead in the fighting. Leaving the town of POUILLAOUEN while the fighting was still in progress, Second Lieutenant DURDEN went forward to three tanks of the advance guard which were engaged in a fire fight over a hasty mine field on the road northwest of HUELGOAT. Disregarding his own safety entirely, Second Lieutenant DURDEN walked down the road removing mines and directing the drivers of the tanks. He was constantly under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, but persisted in his self-chosen mission until the tanks had advanced several hundred yards, thereby permitting the advance of

- 1 -  
RESTRICTED

GO No. 59 Hq. Third US Army 13 Sep 1944 (continued).

the assault guns to relieve the advance guard. Second Lieutenant DURDEN was killed by enemy machine gun fire while performing this mission. The stalwart and heroic efforts of this officer redound to his honor.

Sergeant SAMUEL C DAVIS, 34603829, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 17 July 1944, Sgt DAVIS, whose tank battalion was working with infantry in attacking Hill 122, ST LO, FRANCE, observed that some of his unit's fire was inadvertently being directed near our own infantry men who had advanced further than expected. Radio communications between tanks had been completely disrupted by very heavy enemy artillery fire. Sgt DAVIS stopped his fire, left his tank and ran across the field under heavy enemy machine gun and artillery fire to another tank, jumped up on the back of it, and advised the tank commander to cease fire. He then ran across the field to another tank, and in a similar manner had that tank commander cease fire. While on the back of this tank, Sgt DAVIS was killed by enemy machine gun fire. By this time the rest of his unit had noticed that the three tanks had stopped firing, and they also ceased their fire. Sgt DAVIS' heroic sacrifice and devotion to duty were instrumental in saving the lives of many of 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:

First Lieutenant DAVID W ALLARD, 01013980, Infantry, Hq XX Corps, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 23 August 1944 near MELUN, FRANCE. First Lieutenant ALLARD volunteered and led an initial advance across the Seine River. The assault was launched in the face of heavy fire from enemy tanks and machine guns nested in emplacements on the enemy side of the river. Setting an example of exemplary courage and initiative, Lieutenant ALLARD crossed the river by swimming, walking on floating debris and by crawling along those portions of the bridge still remaining. Coming under heavy enemy fire he left the few remaining men and with utter disregard for his own safety proceeded alone to a short distance of the enemy where he, although under constant fire, obtained the disposition of the enemy. With this information he was able to divert a number of the troops crossing the river from advancing into direct fire of the enemy. After giving instructions as to the proper disposition of the troops on the enemy side of the river, Lieutenant ALLARD then proceeded to swim back to the other side of the river to bring back this most valuable information to the Corps Commander. In returning he continued to direct the troops across the river. Before reaching the river bank Lieutenant ALLARD was wounded by enemy fire. Despite great pain he reached the opposite bank, gave detailed accounts of the disposition of enemy troops and directed fire upon the enemy emplacements. By his heroic actions Lieutenant ALLARD gained valuable information of the enemy, led and directed the troops across the river, and through his own example, sound judgment, initiative and valor contributed in a great measure to the successful crossing of the Seine River.

R E S T R I C T E D

GO No. 59, HQ Third US Army, 13 Sep 1944, (Continued).

First Lieutenant RICHARD J MONIHAN, 01014753, Infantry, 5th Armored Division, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 13 August 1944, in the vicinity of MORTREE, FRANCE, a tank of this officer's command was hit by 88mm fire. Two of the crew escaped, two were killed and the fifth, Private Williams, was injured to such an extent he could only get far enough out of the tank to hang out of the top of the turret. Noticing this, Lieutenant MONIHAN rushed to the tank and started to pull Private Williams out of the turret. While engaged in this act, a second shell hit the tank and blew Lieutenant MONIHAN off the tank and knocked Private Williams to the ground. Enemy machine gun fire then opened on the tank, but despite this fact, Lieutenant MONIHAN returned to the tank, picked up Private Williams, and carried him across open fire-swept ground to a place of concealment. Lieutenant MONIHAN'S heroic action not only saved Private Williams' life, but also reflects great credit on the military service.

Corporal RICHARD S BUTTERFIELD, 20721319, Medical Department, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, on 21 July 1944 at ST LO, NORMANDY, FRANCE. On 21 July 1944 the 1st Battalion, \* \* \* Infantry was occupying the town of ST LO, NORMANDY, FRANCE, with the Battalion CP located in a cemetery. The Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion, was situated in a mill at the NE outskirts of Town. At approximately 1400, while an ambulance was being loaded adjacent to the mill, several enemy howitzer shells hit the mill and the area around the ambulance. At that particular time, Corporal RICHARD S BUTTERFIELD, Medical NCO, was engaged in the act of loading a shell concussion victim into the ambulance. He threw himself over the patient holding him down and protecting him with his own body. Corporal BUTTERFIELD'S gallant action; his unselfish zeal in protecting a patient, above and beyond the call of duty, resulted in the patient receiving merely some shell fragment wounds, enabling his being evacuated in good condition. Corporal BUTTERFIELD, however, as a result of his action, had his right leg blown off and the left leg badly fractured. The splendid bravery of this noncommissioned officer; his utter disregard for his own safety, merits the emblazoning of his name in the annals of the Medical Corps.

Private First Class BUSTER E BROWN, 37034212, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. On 16 July 1944 in the vicinity of ST LO, NORMANDY, FRANCE, Private BROWN, engaged in action with his platoon which was being subjected to effective fire from an enemy machine gun nest, advanced alone against the enemy position and silenced it single-handedly. On 17 July 1944, Private BROWN again distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against the enemy with his platoon. While his entire company was under a heavy concentration of mortar, artillery and machine gun fire, Pvt BROWN, armed with a BAR, courageously advanced alone to silence a disturbing machine gun nest. He was struck by a bullet while still 150 yards from the enemy position but, disregarding his wound, continued his lone advance firing steadily into the machine gun nest until he was once again wounded. His effective firing wiped out the enemy position. The cool-headed, calculated actions of Pvt BROWN in the face of enemy fire; his complete disregard for his own safety, persistence against seemingly unsurmountable obstacles and dogged determination resulted in facilitating the advance of his company and the saving of numerous of his comrades' lives. His courage and inspirational devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

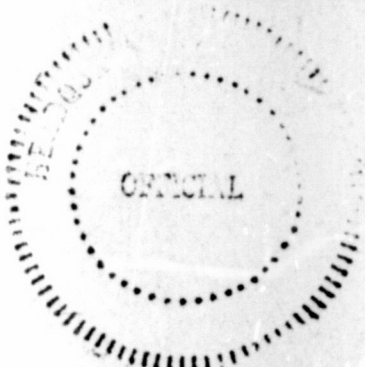
R E S T R I C T E D

GO No. 59 Hq. Third US Army, 13 Sep 1944 (continued).

*citations amended Aug 20 65, 26 Sep. 44*  
\* Private First Class MILO J FLYNN, 16007514, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Private FLYNN's platoon was halted by stubborn enemy resistance and his squad leader was killed by intense enemy fire in an attempt to man the guns of a disabled tank. When Private FLYNN's own weapon, an automatic rifle, jammed, he crawled to the tank, at all times exposed to enemy fire, and with complete disregard for his own safety, entered the tank and traversed the turret, spraying the hedge rows until his ammunition was expended and the enemy weapons had been silenced. Due to his heroic and courageous actions his platoon was able to repulse the enemy. Private FLYNN then remained to help evacuate his wounded platoon leader to a place of safety. The personal bravery and tenacity of purpose exhibited by Private FLYNN reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

X Private First Class, JOSEPH S PRZASNYSKI, 31324419, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 27 July 1944 in FRANCE. When his platoon had breached an enemy position and had been cut off from their supporting elements they were attacked by a superior enemy force. When heavy losses forced the platoons withdrawal, Private PRZASNYSKI volunteered to remain behind in the face of heavy enemy automatic fire to detract attention from his platoon with his automatic rifle. He, immediately, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the enemy's automatic fire and directed his own fire at enemy strongpoints. His action contributed in a high degree to the safe disengagement of the remainder of his platoon to a place of security from whence an organized fire fight could continue. Private PRZASNYSKI's personal bravery, determination, and devotion to duty reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces. Entered military service from Connecticut.

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.



DISTRIBUTION:

"A" "F" "I"  
2 - ETO US Army (Att: Awards & Decorations Br, AG Mil Pers Div)  
1 - CG ETO US Army ( : AG Opns Div)  
4 - CG 12th Army Gp (Att: G-1)  
3 - The Adj Gen  
3 - Ea O and EM concerned.  
31 - G-1, Hqs Hq

AGAR-SA 201 Pieri, Francis W.  
O 454 921 (28 Mar 56)

1 May 1956

**SUBJECT: Letter Orders - Amendment to General Orders**

So much of General Orders 59, Headquarters Third United States Army dated 13 September 1944, as pertains to the posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain Francis W. Pieri, O 454 921, as reads "William F. Pieri, O 454 921", is amended to read "Francis W. Pieri, O 454 921".

By Order of Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army:

*David H. Coy*  
Adjutant General