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GENERAL ORDERS

24 September 1944.

NUMBER 63

- SECTION I - Award of Distinguished Service Cross
- SECTION II - Award of Silver Star
- SECTION III - Award of Soldier's Medal
- SECTION IV - Award of Bronze Star Medal

I. AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS - 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:

Technician Fifth Grade FRANK F REYNA, 37259410, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 30 July 1944 in the vicinity of MOUFFET, FRANCE. Technician Fifth Grade REYNA was the operator of a tank that was hit and set on fire by an enemy anti-tank shell. After an unsuccessful attempt to extinguish the fire, Technician Fifth Grade REYNA decided to abandon the tank. As his assistant driver was helpless from wounds and burns, Technician Fifth Grade REYNA, although also suffering from burns, tried to remove him through the assistant driver's hatch but was hindered by the position of the 75 mm Gun. He then crawled back into the flaming tank, lifted the wounded man over the transmission, pulled him through the driver's hatch, and carried him to the safety of a fox hole where he administered first aid before taking the wounded man to the rear. Throughout the rescue the enemy kept up a withering and intensive fire from a distance of only 50 yards away. Technician Fifth Grade REYNA'S intrepid action, his outstanding heroism and disregard for personal safety contributed materially to the saving of his assistant driver's life.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR - 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, the Silver Star is awarded to:

First Lieutenant ARTHUR J MILLER, 01313034, Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy on 30 July 1944 in France. Lieutenant MILLER was forward observer for the cannon company of his regiment. The platoon of infantry which he accompanied in the advance was pinned down by enemy artillery and machine gun fire, and surrounded when the enemy counterattacked. Lieutenant MILLER, being unable to accomplish his mission from the position he occupied, crawled to the forward slope of the hill which was under direct observation and fire from the enemy, where, with utter disregard for his personal safety, he remained in an exposed position directing fire of the Division artillery and cannon company which was directly responsible for silencing the enemy fire and repelling the counterattack. Lieutenant MILLER, by his act of heroism, saved the lives of the members of the platoon in this isolated position and inspired the men to move forward under enemy fire to the objective and consolidate the position.

First Lieutenant DAVID S RINEHART, 01541963, Medical Administrative Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action. First Lieutenant DAVID S RINEHART was on duty with an ambulance platoon evacuating the Clearing Station of Company ***** near RECICOURT, FRANCE. In answer to a call for medical aid several miles in rear of the Station, Lieutenant RINEHART, personally driving his jeep, led two volunteer ambulance drivers to the scene through heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Upon arrival, and still under heavy fire, Lieutenant RINEHART, with the two volunteer drivers, crawled to the wounded men, rendered first aid, and succeeded in bringing them to the vehicles. An enemy force had meanwhile cut the road between this point and the Clearing Station; nevertheless Lieutenant RINEHART with four casualties on his jeep, led the ambulances on the return trip. En route he was called upon to halt by enemy troops on the road. Disregarding the order he increased his speed and drove through the hostile force, followed by the ambulances. The Germans immediately opened fire and wounded Lieutenant RINEHART in the left leg, in spite of which he continued to drive the remaining three miles to the Clearing Station. By his leadership, courage under fire, devotion to duty, and complete disregard for personal safety and the effects of his wound, Lieutenant RINEHART brought three vehicle loads of casualties promptly and safely to medical care and prevented the capture of the entire party by the enemy.

III. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL - 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, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to:

Technician Fourth Grade JOHN H JACKSON, 33588862, Quartermaster Corps, United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 1 September 1944, a gasoline can was accidentally turned over and the contents spilled in an area occupied by vehicles of the * * * * Company. When the gasoline became ignited, the flames surrounded a truck in which two soldiers were sleeping. Technician Fourth Grade JOHN H JACKSON quickly and without regard for his own safety, leaped into the cab of the truck and maneuvered it from the midst of the other parked vehicles until he was overcome by fumes and smoke, at which time another soldier relieved him at the wheel and removed the truck and its occupants from the dangerous area. The heroic action of Technician Fourth Grade JACKSON is in accord with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Technician Fifth Grade JOHNNIE D MATHEWS, 38475051, Quartermaster Corps, United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 1 September 1944, a gasoline can was accidentally turned over and the contents spilled in an area occupied by vehicles of the * * * * Company. When the gasoline became ignited, the flames enveloped a truck in which two soldiers were sleeping. Another soldier was overcome by smoke and fumes while maneuvering the truck from the midst of other parked vehicles. Noticing this, Technician Fifth Grade JOHNNIE D MATHEWS immediately, and without regard for his own safety, entered the smoke and flames, relieved the driver at the wheel, and removed the truck and its occupants from the burning area. This valorous act on the part of Technician Fifth Grade MATHEWS exemplifies the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL - 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, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

Captain ANGELO C ESPOSITO, 01500906, Ordnance Department, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States.

R E S T R I C T E D

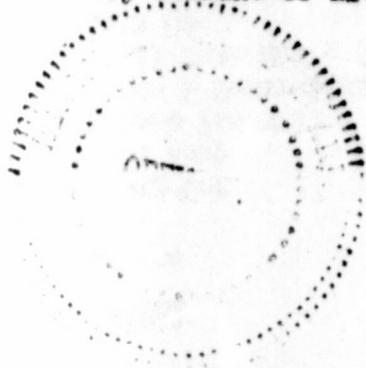
CG No. 63, Hq Third US Army, 24 Sep 44, cont'd.

Technician Fourth Grade GEORGE J LAPOINTE, 32740426, Ordnance Department, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 2 July 1944 to 30 July 1944.

Private FRANK E HATCHER, 34527967, Medical Department, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Private FRANK E HATCHER was on duty as ambulance driver on 1 September, 1944, evacuating casualties from the Clearing Station of ***** near RECIICOURT, FRANCE. In answer to a call for volunteers to bring medical aid and transportation to casualties in an infantry unit engaged with the enemy west of the town, Private HATCHER followed his platoon leader through heavy rifle and machine gun fire to the scene. Here he assisted, again under heavy fire, in bringing in casualties and loading them into vehicles. An enemy force had meanwhile cut the road between this point and the Clearing Station. Nevertheless, Private HATCHER drove his ambulance through the enemy force, disregarding order to halt and heavy rifle fire aimed at him at close range, and brought his vehicle load of casualties to the Clearing Station. By his courage and devotion beyond the call of his duty, and by his coolness and complete disregard for personal safety, Private HATCHER rescued wounded men from the field, brought them promptly and safely to medical attention, and prevented their capture by the enemy.

Private JOHN W LOONEY, 37516649, Medical Department, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Private JOHN W LOONEY was on duty as ambulance driver on 1 September 1944, evacuating casualties from the Clearing Station of ***** near RECIICOURT, FRANCE. In answer to a call for volunteers to bring medical aid and transportation to casualties in an infantry unit engaged with the enemy west of the town, Private LOONEY followed his platoon leader through heavy rifle and machine gun fire to the scene. Here he assisted, again under heavy fire, in bringing in casualties and loading them into vehicles. An enemy force had meanwhile cut the road between this point and the Clearing Station. Nevertheless, Private LOONEY drove his ambulance through the enemy force, disregarding orders to halt and heavy rifle fire aimed at him at close range, and brought his vehicle load of casualties to the Clearing Station. By his courage and devotion beyond the call of his duty, and by his coolness and complete disregard for personal safety, Private LOONEY rescued wounded men from the field, brought them promptly and safely to medical attention, and prevented their capture by the enemy.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:



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

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