

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 75

21 October 1944.

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- SECTION I - Award of Oak-Leaf Cluster
- SECTION II - Award of Distinguished Service Cross
- SECTION III - Award of Silver Star
- SECTION IV - Award of Bronze Star Medal

I. AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER - 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, in addition to the Distinguished Service Cross previously awarded, a Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

Brigadier General WILLIAM G WEAVER, 03413, United States Army, 90th Infantry Division. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 17 August 1944, elements of the 90th Infantry Division were stopped in their advance upon LE BOURGE ST LEONARD, FRANCE, by a strong enemy force. Brigadier General WEAVER, Assistant Division Commander, when informed of the situation, immediately went into the front lines to coordinate and direct the action. With complete disregard for his own safety he personally manned a machine-gun on his vehicle at a strategic point until he could bring up troops to take over the position. During this action enemy mortar fire upon the position wounded three of his party and destroyed his  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck and a motorcycle. When assistance arrived, he went to other parts of the lines to reorganize and encourage his men, making his way under constant and heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. Many times he stood in the open oblivious to such fire, shouting commands to his troops, and by his inspiring, fearless leadership, rallying them to push forward to capture the town. His bold, gallant actions under grave threat to his own safety, his courageous leadership, and his supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

II. 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:

Colonel WELBORN B GRIFFITH JR, 016194, General Staff Corps, Headquarters XE Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy at CHARTRES, FRANCE. On 16 August 1944, Colonel GRIFFITH entered the city of CHARTRES, FRANCE, in order to check the actual locations and dispositions of units of the 7th Armored Division which was occupying the city. Upon observing fire being directed at the cathedral in the center of the city, with utter disregard for his own safety, Colonel GRIFFITH, accompanied by an enlisted man, searched the cathedral and finding that there were no enemy troops within, signaled for cessation of fire. Continuing his inspection of outlying positions north of the city, he suddenly encountered about fifteen of the enemy. He fired several shots at them, then proceeded to the nearest outpost of our forces at which point a tank was located. Arming himself with an M-1 rifle and again with complete disregard for his own safety, Colonel GRIFFITH climbed upon the tank directing it to the enemy forces he had located. During the advance of the tank he was exposed to intense enemy machine-gun, rifle, and rocket-launcher fire and it was during this action, in the vicinity of LEVES, FRANCE, that he was killed. His courageous efforts to gain necessary information concerning the enemy and his supreme heroism and 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. 75 Hq Third US Army 21 October 1944 (continued).

✓ Captain JOHN W MARSH, 0364376, Infantry, Company "M", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in FRANCE. On 10 July 1944, Captain MARSH was commanding Company "M", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, advancing against a strong enemy position in the vicinity of the FORET DE MONT CASTRE, FRANCE when the rifle companies of the 3d Battalion became disorganized and separated in the face of intense enemy fire. Captain MARSH, realizing that many of the officers were replacements with little combat experience, left his heavy weapons company in control of the second in command and went forward to assist the battalion commander in organizing a hasty defense. With utter disregard of enemy fire coming from the front and both flanks, he led small groups of riflemen forward to close gaps in the line, boldly directing their fire until the enemy was forced to retire. Before a complete reorganization could be effected, the enemy counter-attacked and again Captain MARSH left his company to proceed to the foremost front line troops to give his assistance. As he directed fire on the enemy he took up arms of the wounded and inspired his men to drive off the enemy. Even after suffering the wounds which resulted in his death he continued to lead his men until he fell, unable to go farther. The inspired leadership of Captain MARSH, his courage and complete devotion to duty, exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Technical Sergeant DUPE A WILLINGHAM, 15060098, Infantry, \*\* Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Sergeant WILLINGHAM, on 23 August 1944, was acting as platoon Sergeant of the 2d Platoon, Company "G", during the assault upon FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE. When his commanding officer called for a volunteer to cross the Seine River with him for the purpose of reconnoitering the enemy position there, Sergeant WILLINGHAM volunteered without hesitation despite the fact that the point of crossing was under intense enemy fire. Paddling a canoe they reached the far side of the river where the officer was pinned down by heavy enemy fire when his position was discovered. Sergeant WILLINGHAM recrossed the river, still under fire, to direct the troops over to the enemy shore, but finding this impossible because of the intense enemy fire, he built up a strong firing line. Under cover of this friendly fire the officer was able to swim back across the river and rejoin his company. The inspiring courage of Sergeant WILLINGHAM, his heroic action accomplished in the face of grave danger, and his supreme devotion to duty exemplify the finest traditions of the service.

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:

Captain JACK S GERRIE, 0389065, Infantry, \*\* Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 23 and 24 August 1944 in the vicinity of FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE. Captain GERRIE was commanding officer of our advance forces in the establishment of a vital bridgehead over the Seine River. Under heavy fire, this officer, accompanied by an enlisted man, paddled a canoe across the river which was almost 200 yards in width and upon reaching the far shore, crawled up to high ground to observe and determine the location of the enemy's positions. Captain GERRIE

RESTRICTED

GO No. 75 Hq Third US Army 21 October 1944 (continued).

then sent the enlisted man to the friendly bank for reinforcements while he continued his reconnaissance of the enemy's dispositions. When an increase in the effectiveness of enemy fire prevented the crossing of reinforcements, the intrepid captain swam the river and organized supporting fires which, by his able direction and intimate knowledge of enemy dispositions, so dominated the far shore that he was able to lead his company across the river. By his extraordinary heroism and his bold and decisive leadership in exploiting a tactical advantage, Captain GERRIE's company was able to secure a footing and cover the establishment of a bridgehead, thus preventing the enemy from making an effective defense along a formidable obstacle.

Staff Sergeant WILLIAM A DELMONT, 32368386, Infantry, Company "I", \*\* Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 10 July 1944, during the action in the vicinity of LA HAYE DE PUISS, FRANCE, two platoons of Company "I" were pinned down by fire from three well concealed enemy machine-gun positions, in addition to heavy fire from mortars, artillery, grenades, and snipers. Sergeant DELMONT (then Private First Class) rallied his platoon and led an assault on the enemy positions, displaying the highest degree of courage and leadership. He continually covered the movements of other men, clearing out hedgerows and killing snipers. Upon observing a squad of men entering terrain which he realized was covered by enemy machine-gun fire, Sergeant DELMONT, although under enemy fire himself, made his way to the men, warned them of their danger, and led them to a safer position. He completely routed the enemy with his platoon and personally killed at least five snipers. During this engagement Sergeant DELMONT captured two German prisoners. The conspicuous leadership of Sergeant DELMONT, his aggressive, heroic determination, and his supreme devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Sergeant ROBERT H THRASHER, 38147212, Infantry, Company "E", \*\* Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in FRANCE. On 11 June 1944, the advance of Company "E", \*\* Infantry Regiment, of which Sergeant THRASHER was a member, was stopped in the outskirts of ETIENVILLE, FRANCE, by heavy enemy machine-gun and rifle fire. When the platoon leader and platoon sergeant became casualties, Sergeant THRASHER displayed aggressive leadership by leading a three-man bayonet attack against a strong enemy position to relieve their company from the withering fire. Sergeant THRASHER and his men, although exposed to constant enemy fire, crawled to a stone wall, vaulted it in the face of point-blank fire, rushed forward and bayoneted the enemy in their fox holes. On 15 June 1944, Sergeant THRASHER again distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty when, as a volunteer, he crawled 100 yards under enemy machine-gun fire, rushed the enemy as they attempted to withdraw and assisted in killing several of them. He was wounded in this engagement. The intrepidity of Sergeant THRASHER, his fearless courage and devotion to duty, merits the highest commendation and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

III. 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, a Silver Star is awarded posthumously to:

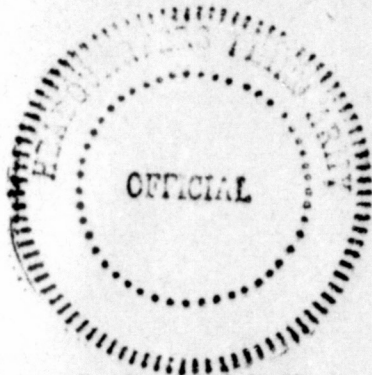
First Lieutenant VICTOR K VAIL, 01550295, Ordnance Department, \*\* Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the English Channel off the coast of FRANCE. On 20 July 1944, the LCT on which Lieutenant VAIL was crossing hit a mine and sank. Many of the troops on board escaped to the LCT preceding them which swung alongside and tied to the sinking craft, but Lieutenant VAIL was drowned when he courageously, and with complete disregard for his own safety, attempted to rescue one of his men. The supreme devotion to duty of Lieutenant VAIL exemplifies the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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

Technician Fifth Grade ROBERT E ELIASSEN, 12095131, Ordnance Department, \*\* Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 20 July 1944 when the LCT carrying Technician Fifth Grade ELIASSEN's unit struck a mine and began to sink, this soldier, without regard for his own safety, remained aboard the sinking ship to aid other personnel to safety. The heroic conduct of Technician Fifth Grade ELIASSEN was instrumental in saving the lives of fourteen men and reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Sergeant LEE DONALD, 7001585, Cavalry, Troop "B", \*\* Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States on the BRITANNY PENINSULA in FRANCE from 5 August 1944 to 8 August 1944.

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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