

GENERAL ORDERS)

13 October 1944.

NUMBER 13)

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I -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded, posthumously, by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

MASANAO OTAKE, O-1703069, Second Lieutenant, Company "C", *** Battalion, *** Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 17 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. In the *** Battalion's attack on Hill 578, it became necessary to send some riflemen to an isolated farmhouse, situated on flat open ground, to secure the battalion's left flank. Lieutenant Otake, who was assigned the task of leading a squad of eight men to capture the enemy occupied farmhouse, dashed out toward the building, running through a hundred yards of open field raked by machine gun and small arms fire. Inspired by his example, his men immediately followed, and after a brief fire-fight succeeded in capturing the farmhouse. Observing that Lieutenant Otake and his men were in a vulnerable position, an enemy platoon launched a determined counter-attack against the farmhouse. Though greatly outnumbered, Lieutenant Otake urged his men to hold their hard earned position, and while gallantly resisting the enemy assault he was mortally wounded by several machine pistol bullets and died a short while later. By complete disregard for his personal safety, gallant leadership and determination of purpose, Lieutenant Otake exemplified the finest traditions of the United States Army. Next of kin: Mrs. Kikuno Otake (Mother), Lahaina, Maui, Territory of Hawaii.

REYNOLD J. KING, 32211556, Technician Fourth Grade, Fourth Company, First Regiment, *** Special Service Force, for extraordinary heroism in action near Fort Eminence, Ile de Port Cros, France, on the morning of 15 August 1944. Repulsed by devastating machine gun and mortar fire in its assault on the strongly defended Fort Eminence, Sergeant King's company was momentarily disorganized. Rallying the men of his light machine gun squad, Sergeant King, upon his own initiative moved them to a flank position where fire could be brought to bear on the determined enemy. In crawling well forward to an exposed position to get better observation and to determine the effect of his squad's machine gun fire on the enemy, he succeeded at the same time, with deadly rifle fire, in silencing an enemy machine gun. When his company was directed to withdraw, Sergeant King ordered his squad to remain in position and directed the covering fire for its movement to new positions. The withdrawal of the company completed, he continued to remain in place while he protected, in turn, the withdrawal of his squad, and while thus engaged he was killed by an enemy sniper. The actions of Sergeant King throughout the engagement were above and beyond the normal call of duty and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Next of Kin: Mr. Olen King (Father) Rural Free Delivery Number 5, Ithaca, New York.

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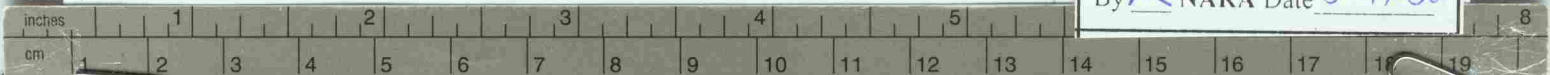
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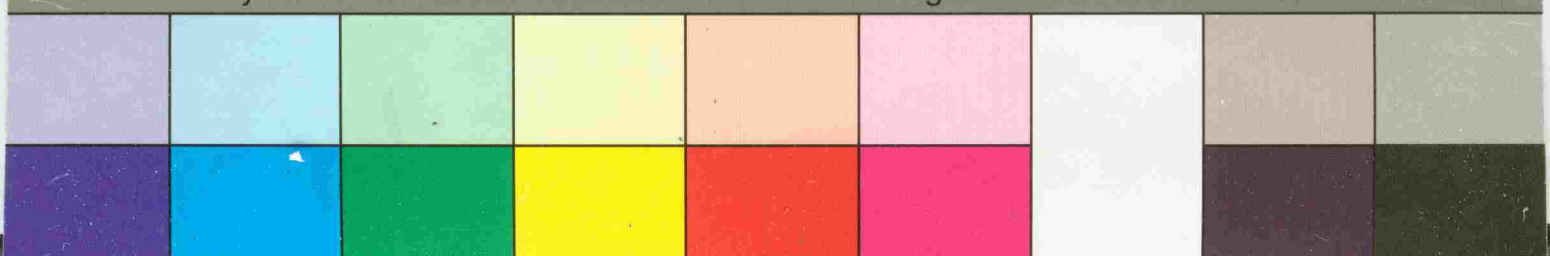
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II -- AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

RALPH W. ZIMMER, O-1105949, First Lieutenant, CE, Company "C", *** Engineer Regiment (C), for extraordinary heroism in action near Olivetta, France, on the night of 7-8 November 1944. In charge of a rescue party to locate four mine casualties of a lost patrol, Lieutenant Zimmer penetrated deep into heavily mined enemy territory, made doubly hazardous by cleverly concealed booby traps. Despite audible calls for help from the casualties, their location was very difficult to determine because of the mountain masses. Forced to return to the Regimental command post after locating and evacuating one of the wounded, Lieutenant Zimmer organized another patrol and set out again. Preceding his men and clearing the mines and booby traps from their path with his bare hands, Lieutenant Zimmer established voice contact with the remaining casualties, until a definite direction was established. While thus engaged the rescue party was overheard by the enemy, resulting in fire concentrations of artillery into the area. Despite this added hazard Lieutenant Zimmer continued to maintain voice contact until the remaining casualties were located, the nearby mines removed, and the evacuation accomplished. By his outstanding courage and highly skilled handling of an exceedingly hazardous mission, Lieutenant Zimmer reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Entered the service from West Point, Mississippi.

GEORGE W. HECKARD, 35098690, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, *** Parachute Infantry, for extraordinary heroism in action during the period 15 August to 21 August 1944. Injured in a parachute jump near Fayence, France, and separated from his unit, Sergeant Heckard assisted in the establishment of a small hospital for other members of his battalion. On 17 August, disregarding his injury, he joined a patrol consisting of an OSS officer and several French partisans. While thus engaged he observed a column of Germans en route to the La Roche garrison near Fayence. Moving off the road, he with-held fire until the column reached a point 30 yards from his position, and then opened fire with a British Sten gun, killing approximately twenty of the group. Later that evening, Sergeant Heckard volunteered to accompany the American officer on the dangerous mission of negotiating the surrender of the German garrison. This was effected on 19 September while the village was under heavy artillery fire, and resulted in the capitulation of 174 prisoners, 15 machine guns, two 20-millimeter guns and 175 rifles. Later that day, while attempting to rejoin his unit with two of his companions, they were fired upon by an enemy machine gun concealed in a house by the side of the road. Disregarding the bullets hitting the ground all around him, Sergeant Heckard charged across an open field and threw a hand grenade into the house through a window, killing three Germans and resulting in the capture of fourteen others. Entered the service from Marion, Indiana.

WILFORD C. ANDERSON, 19087083, Staff Sergeant, Company "C", *** Parachute Infantry, for extraordinary heroism in action on 18 June 1944, near Grosseto, Italy. In executing an attack on strongly fortified enemy positions, Sergeant Anderson's company found itself deployed by platoons along the military crest of a ridge, and receiving heavy small arms and mortar fire from the foot of the hill. Accompanied by a Private, Sergeant Anderson voluntarily moved forward into enemy resistance two hundred yards ahead of his platoon, captured five Germans who were part of a

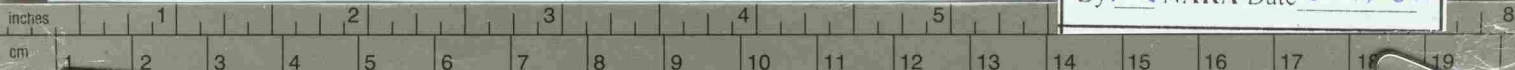
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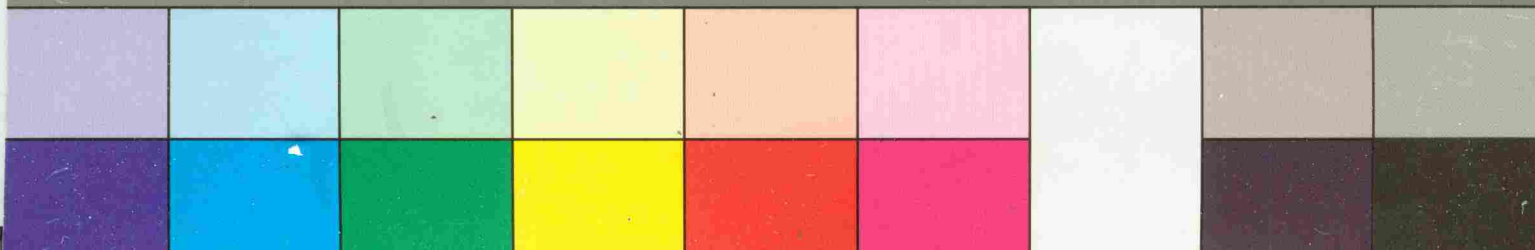
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mortar crew, silenced a machine gun, and returned to the lines with the prisoners. Though momentarily pinned down by machine gun fire, Sergeant Anderson and his companion moved into enemy territory again and once more returned with a group of prisoners. Sergeant Anderson then proceeded to the machine gun he had previously silenced and opened fire on a group of the enemy, killing six, wounding four and silencing another active machine gun. Joining forces with the Private once more, Sergeant Anderson again crawled to the enemy lines, and withdrew with four more prisoners when friendly artillery fire made his position untenable. By his courageous acts Sergeant Anderson made possible the capture of nineteen German prisoners, the killing and wounding of ten more, and acted as an inspiration to all those with whom he served. Entered service from San Francisco, California.

NOLAN L. POWELL, 32835212, Private First Class, Company "C", *** Parachute Infantry, for extraordinary heroism in action on 18 June 1944 near Grosseto, Italy. In executing an attack on strongly fortified enemy positions, Private Powell's company found itself deployed by platoons along the military crest of a ridge, and receiving heavy small arms and mortar fire from the foot of the hill. Private Powell, accompanied by a Sergeant, voluntarily moved forward into enemy resistance two hundred yards ahead of his platoon, captured five Germans who were part of a mortar crew, silenced a machine gun, and returned to the lines with the prisoners. Though momentarily pinned down by machine gun fire, Private Powell and the Sergeant moved into enemy territory again and, on nearing the lines, ordered the enemy to surrender. Ten prisoners came out of the brush and were taken to the American lines. Once more Private Powell and the Sergeant penetrated the enemy lines, withdrawing when friendly artillery fire made their positions untenable, with an additional four prisoners. By his courageous acts, Private Powell made possible the capture of nineteen German prisoners, the killing and wounding of ten more, and acted as an inspiration to all those with whom he served. Entered service from Rochester, New York.

III -- AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

RALPH W. BECKET, Lieutenant Colonel, Canadian Army, *** Special Service Force, for gallantry in action near Castillon, France, on 4 September 1944. Lieutenant Colonel Becket, without regard for his personal safety, drove deep into enemy held territory, over mined roads, to secure necessary intelligence for operations of the unit under his command. Acting upon information thus obtained, he led his troops in a boldly devised and vigorously executed plan of attack which quickly overcame enemy resistance and resulted in the capture of Mount Ours, a terrain feature of critical importance to the advance of friendly troops. The courage and aggressiveness shown by Colonel Becket in personally reconnoitering enemy dispositions, and his ability to quickly exploit knowledge thus obtained, reflects great credit upon himself and is in keeping with the high standards of the Allied forces. Entered the service from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

DAVID V. MAHAN, O-438674, First Lieutenant, Cav., Battery "C", *** Field Artillery Battalion (Pack), for gallantry in action on 5 November 1944, in the vicinity of Moulinet, France. When an animal in his wire laying detail discharged a Teller mine and seriously injured three of his men, Lieutenant Mahan promptly

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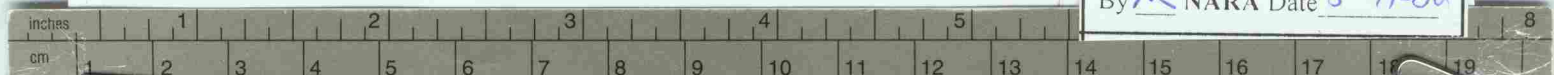
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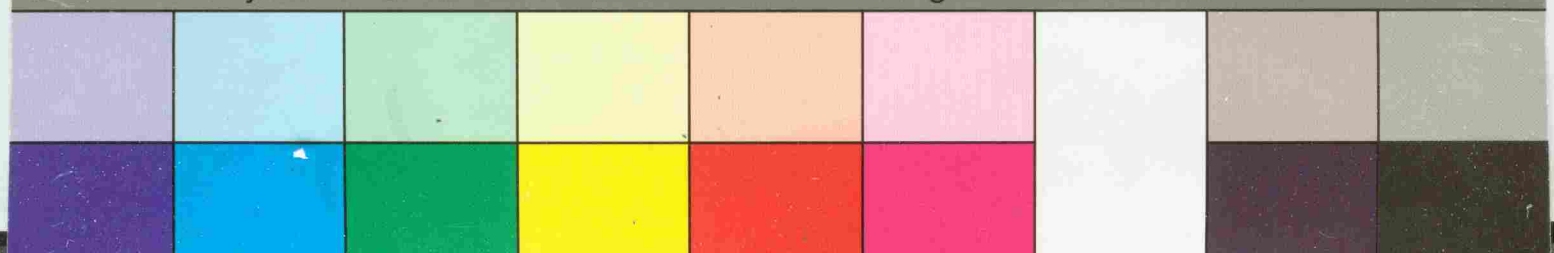
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gave them first aid. Without regard for his own safety he personally undertook the removal of most of the mines from the area through which the wounded men had to be evacuated and, while thus engaged, was himself wounded by an exploding mine. Disregarding his wounds and using an improvised stretcher, he effected the evacuation of the men from the mined area until a second explosion blew off his right foot and further wounded him. Refusing help from the others for fear of having them set off more mines, Lieutenant Mahan tended to himself and crawled thirty yards until clear of the infested area. Entered the service from Waterford, Pennsylvania.

KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company "C", *** Battalion, *** Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944, in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon, engaged in fierce house-to-house fighting, was denied advancement by the enemy in a building well defended with automatic weapons and rifles, Private Sekimura voluntarily advanced on the enemy-occupied building. Although under heavy machine pistol fire, Private Sekimura, utilizing the corner of a building for cover, succeeded in throwing two fragmentation grenades into the enemy-occupied position, wounding three, causing the abandonment of the structure by the enemy, and thereby contributed immeasurably to the subsequent occupation of the town. Entered the service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

IV -- AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended the Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

ROBERT M. AKITA, 39914554, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, *** Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in combat, on 20 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. During an attack on enemy positions by two of the battalion's companies, all wire communications were cut by the enemy barrages, leaving only the radio, operated by Sergeant Akita, as a means of contact between the two companies. Despite the heavy enemy fire which was directed in his immediate vicinity, Sergeant Akita stubbornly remained at his post and was directly responsible for the excellent coordination of the two attacking units. Entered the service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

THOMAS R. KINCH, M 106249, Private, Canadian Army, Fourth Company, Second Regiment, *** Special Service Force, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy, near Valmontone, Italy, on 29-30 May 1944. Prevented by enemy outposts and patrols from completing a night mission of obtaining vital enemy intelligence, Private Kinch volunteered to remain with his leader, hide in a neighboring wheat-field during the day, and return with the necessary information the following night. Although subjected to enemy, as well as friendly artillery fire during the entire day, he remained with his group, returning the following night with information which prevented an enemy counter-attack and also materially aided in his unit's offensive against the enemy. Entered the service from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

V -- AWARD OF THE SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individual, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight:

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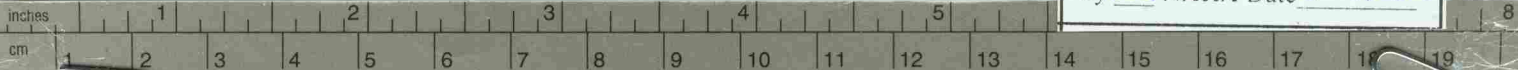
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