

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 50 }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 17 June 1944.

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I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 43, WD, 1918), a Distinguished-Service Medal was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers:

Brigadier General *Charles F. Craig*, O-7231, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a position of great responsibility from 8 November 1943 to 31 March 1944.

Brigadier General *Dean C. Strother*, O-18495, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility from 25 July to 20 November 1943.

II. LEGION OF MERIT.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, Bull. 40, WD, 1942) and Executive Order No. 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bull. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit was awarded posthumously by the War Department to the following-named officer:

Colonel *John D. Corkille*, O-11403, Air Corps, Army of the United States. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from 9 September 1939 to 23 February 1943.

III. LEGION OF MERIT.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, Bull. 40, WD, 1942) and Executive Order No. 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bull. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

Brigadier General *Clayton S. Adams*, O-101022, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from 23 December 1940 to 11 December 1943.

Technician Fourth Grade *Elias M. Cohen* (Army serial No. 32330097), Headquarters Company, 803d Signal Training Regiment, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Fort Monmouth camouflage area.

Colonel *William D. Eckert*, O-18147, Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from June 1940 to February 1944.

Major General *Thomas J. Hanley, Jr.*, O-3874 (then colonel, later brigadier general), United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 4 January 1942 to 10 June 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel *Gordon T. Kimbrell*, O-20851, Infantry, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service at the Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas.

AGO 291B: 580101*-44

Major *Harry A. Mackley*, O-174422, Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services at Cape Harrison, Laborador in 1943.

Colonel *John P. McConnell*, O-18728, Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from May 1942 to 6 July 1943.

First Sergeant *Eugene O. Norton* (Army serial No. 20752285), 461st Separate Battalion (AA) (then sergeant, 216th Coast Artillery Battalion (AA)), Army of the United States. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period 1 January to 16 May 1942.

Sergeant *William J. Piccirilli* (Army serial No. 13050785), 819th Bombardment Squadron (II), 30th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in June 1943.

Captain *Marvin C. Rall, II*, O-560254, Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from 24 September 1943 to 11 April 1944.

Brigadier General *Victor V. Taylor*, O-3872, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from June 1941 to March 1944.

Colonel *David H. Tulley*, O-16075, Corps of Engineers, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 4 May 1942 until 26 October 1943.

IV. LEGION OF MERIT.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, Bull. 40, WD, 1942) and Executive Order No. 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bull. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit, in the Degree of Legionnaire, was awarded by the War Department to the following named officer:

Major *Warren Frederick Martin Clemens*, British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defense Force. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 1 July to 5 August 1943.

V. DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), a Distinguished-Flying Cross was awarded posthumously by the War Department to the following named officer:

Lieutenant *John H. Klotchko, Jr.*, O-759620, Air Corps, Army of the United States. For heroism while participating in an aerial flight on 9 December 1943. In an endeavor to save the life of an enlisted man, Lieutenant *Klotchko* elected to attempt a dual descent with one parachute. Both of these individuals were killed. Lieutenant *Klotchko's* action in an effort to save the life of his comrade in the face of grave personal danger exemplifies the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

VI. DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), a Distinguished-Flying Cross was awarded by the War Department to the following named officer:

Captain *John S. MacManus*, O-470833 (then first lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the South Pacific route of the Air Transport Command between 6 December 1942 and 12 January 1943.

VII. SOLDIER'S MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), the Soldier's Medal was awarded posthumously by the War Department to the following-named enlisted man:

Private *Chester L. Lightfoot* (Army serial No. 35038266), 78th Division Fence Repair Company, 78th Infantry Division, United States Army. For heroism in the Tennessee Maneuver area, 6 March 1944. When the Fence Repair Company was cut off from its bivouac area by the flooding of a branch of the east fork of Stones River, Private *Lightfoot* volunteered to carry an anchor line across the stream to build a trail ferry. Without regard for personal safety and at the risk of his life, he entered the raging torrent. Half way across, the swift current swept him downstream and under water into the rapids below. After much effort, members of his company pulled him ashore. Although resuscitated after 1 hour of artificial respiration, Private *Lightfoot* contracted bronchial pneumonia and died a few days later.

VIII. SOLDIER'S MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), the Soldier's Medal was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

First Lieutenant *Norman N. Baker*, O-855242, Air Corps, United States Army. For heroism at March Field, California, on 24 January 1944. A B-24D airplane caught fire and there was imminent danger that the wing tanks would explode. Lieutenant *Baker*, at the risk of his life, entered the cockpit and shut off the booster pumps and the auxiliary power unit, thereby shutting off the flow of gas and enabling a fire truck to control and extinguish the flames.

Second Lieutenant *Kenneth J. A. Cleary*, O-1326077, Infantry, United States Army. For heroism at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, on 3 May 1944. At a rehearsal for the demonstration, "Attack of a Fortified Position," when a Bangalore torpedo failed to fire, Lieutenant *Cleary*, unable to be heard above the firing, at the risk of his life came out of his position in a shell hole approximately 30 yards from the charge and voluntarily exposed himself to the possible explosion of the torpedo by racing across the front of his men, forcing them to get down until the delay fuse or hangfire acted.

Corporal *Eugene A. Dollahon* (Army serial No. 38439422), 341st Military Police Escort Guard Company, United States Army. For heroism displayed near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona, on 26 February 1944. Corporal *Dollahon* was instrumental in rescuing a pilot and a cadet from an airplane which was on a routine training flight from Marana Army Air Field, that crashed and burst into flames near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona. With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal *Dollahon* assisted in lifting the left wing of the airplane, which had been bent back over the cowling, in tearing loose the red hot side bracings and in rescuing the cadet in the forward cockpit of the airplane, notwithstanding the intense heat and extreme danger of the gas tank in the wing exploding.

Private *Andy Kochen* (Army serial No. 38083173), 341st Military Police Escort Guard Company, United States Army. For heroism displayed near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona, on 26 February 1944. Private *Kochen* was instrumental in rescuing a pilot and a cadet from an airplane which was on a routine training flight from Marana Army Air Field, that crashed and burst into flames near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private *Kochen* assisted in lifting the left wing of the airplane,

which had been bent back over the cowling and in rescuing the pilot in the rear cockpit of the airplane, notwithstanding the intense heat and extreme danger of the gas tank in the wing exploding.

Staff Sergeant *Claire M. Peterson* (Army serial No. 19032020), Company L, 4th Infantry, United States Army. For heroism at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, on 3 May 1944. At a rehearsal for the demonstration, "Attack of a Fortified Position," when a bangalore torpedo failed to fire, Sergeant *Peterson*, at the risk of his life came out of his position in a shell hole and voluntarily exposed himself to the possible explosion of the torpedo in order to warn exposed members of his platoon to take cover until the delay fuse or hangfire acted.

Master Sergeant *Wallace A. Schaumburg* (Army serial No. 16004318), Air Corps, United States Army. For heroism near Station No. 4, EW Air Transport Command on the night of 27-28 December 1943. Several soldiers, who had attempted to rescue the crew of a crashed airplane, were trapped by the rising tide at the foot of a cliff in the night. Sergeant *Schaumburg*, at the risk of his life, volunteered to be lowered by rope 300 feet from the overhanging cliff in an effort to reach the men in peril. In pitch darkness he descended to the foot of the cliff but was unable to reach the men and effect their rescue.

Private *Edgar H. Shoemaker* (Army serial No. 37445712), 341st Military Police Escort Guard Company, United States Army. For heroism displayed near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona, on 26 February 1944. Private *Shoemaker* led a group of soldiers in rescuing a pilot and a cadet from an airplane that crashed and burst into flames near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona, while on a routine training flight from Marana Army Air Field. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private *Shoemaker* assisted in lifting the left wing of the airplane, which had been bent back over the cowling, obtained a fire extinguisher and sprayed the feet and legs of the cadet in the forward cockpit of the airplane and assisted in tearing loose the red hot side braces and in rescuing the cadet, notwithstanding the intense heat and extreme danger of the gas tank in the wing exploding.

Private *David Spencer* (Army serial No. 39545197), 341st Military Police Escort Guard Company, United States Army. For heroism displayed near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona, on 26 February 1944. Private *Spencer* was instrumental in rescuing a pilot and a cadet from an airplane which was on a routine training flight from Marana Army Air Field, that crashed and burst into flames near Cortaro Side Camp, Cortaro, Arizona. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private *Spencer* assisted in lifting the left wing of the airplane, which had been bent back over the cowling and in rescuing the pilot and cadet from the burning airplane, notwithstanding the intense heat and extreme danger of the gas tank in the wing exploding.

Captain *Harley A. Stewart*, O-349809, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army. For heroism at Bonita Point, Fort Barry, California, on 18 March 1944. The body of a soldier who had been missing from the battery was observed lying at the base of a sheer cliff, 270 feet in height. It was not known whether the soldier was dead or unconscious from injuries. Approach to the site by sea was impossible. At great personal risk, without ropes or other device, Captain *Stewart* voluntarily descended the cliff in the hope of rendering first aid. Finding the soldier dead, Captain *Stewart* ascended the cliff and procured Coast Guard assistance to recover the body.

IX. BRONZE STAR MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, Bull. No. 3, WD,

1944), a Bronze Star Medal was awarded by the War Department to the following-named enlisted man:

First Sergeant *George W. Tribell* (Army serial No. 6327452), Corps of Engineers, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period from 25 May 1942 to 24 May 1943.

X. AIR MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bull. 25, WD, 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bull. 49, WD, 1942), an Air Medal was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers and enlisted men for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight:

First Lieutenant *Albert W. Boyette*, O-660237, Air Corps, United States Army, from 1 September 1942 to 17 August 1943.

First Lieutenant *Paul E. Brosious*, O-416260, Air Corps, United States Army, from 30 January 1942 to 8 February 1943.

First Lieutenant *William H. Butler*, O-462630, Air Corps, United States Army, from 22 March to 10 May 1943.

Staff Sergeant *Fred T. Clemons* (Army serial No. 6990370), Air Corps, United States Army, from 1 December 1942 to 30 June 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel *Edward N. Coates*, O-277366 (then major), Air Corps, United States Army, on 17 November 1942.

Captain *John W. Dickinson, Jr.*, O-429371 (then first lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, from 8 December 1941 to 3 February 1943.

Captain *Elmer W. Harris*, O-433840, Air Corps, United States Army, from 23 March 1942 to 9 December 1943.

Technical Sergeant *Ralph S. Letts* (Army serial No. 6978349), Air Corps, United States Army, from December 1941 to October 1942.

Staff Sergeant *William F. Murphy, Jr.* (Army serial No. 15061515), Air Corps, United States Army, from 7 December 1941 to 30 June 1943.

Technical Sergeant *Manning Roberts* (Army serial No. 12018108), Air Corps, United States Army, from June 1941 to January 1943.

First Lieutenant *Rudolph B. Warner*, O-791876, Air Corps, United States Army, from December 1942 to October 1943.

Master Sergeant *William M. Wicker* (Army serial No. 6845592), Air Corps, United States Army, from 7 December 1941 to 2 November 1942.

XI. BATTLE HONORS.—1. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bull. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bull. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit by the Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, in General Orders, No. 355, 11 May 1944, under the provisions of section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction, is confirmed. The citation reads as follows:

The *1st Bombardment Division (H)*, is cited for extraordinary heroism, determination, and esprit de corps in action against the enemy on 11 January 1944. On this occasion the *1st Bombardment Division* led the entire Eighth Air Force penetration into central Germany to attack vital aircraft factories. After assembly was accomplished and the formation was proceeding toward Germany, adverse weather conditions were encountered which prevented effective fighter cover from reaching the *1st Bombardment Division*. Taking full advantage of

the relative vulnerability of the lead division, the enemy concentrated powerful forces against it. The scale of the enemy attack is graphically indicated by the fact that 400 encounters with enemy aircraft were recorded by units of the *1st Bombardment Division*. The gunners met these continuous attacks with accurate fire, and the division continued toward the targets as briefed where bombs were dropped with excellent results. On the return trip the enemy continued to concentrate his efforts on the *1st Bombardment Division*. Figures of enemy aircraft claimed by our gunners indicate that the heroism of this division inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in the air as well as on the ground. Two hundred and ten enemy aircraft, the largest number ever claimed by any division of the Eighth Air Force for any one mission, were confirmed as ~~destroyed, 43~~ probably destroyed and 84 damaged. The division lost 42 heavy bombers and many of those which returned were heavily damaged. Four hundred and thirty officers and enlisted men failed to return, 2 were killed, and 32 others wounded. The extraordinary heroism and tenacious fighting spirit demonstrated by the *1st Bombardment Division* in accomplishing its assigned task under exceptionally difficult conditions reflect highest credit on this organization, the Army Air Forces, and the armed forces of the United States.

2. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bull. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bull. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit by the Commanding General, First Cavalry Division, in General Orders, No. 6, 13 April 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, Sixth Army, under the provisions of section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction, is confirmed. The citation reads as follows:

The *2d Squadron, 5th Cavalry* is cited for extraordinary heroism in overcoming unusually difficult and hazardous conditions in battle. On 29 February 1944, this unit, landing on Los Negros Island, Admiralty Group, New Guinea, which was held by a determined, entrenched enemy in greatly superior numerical strength, quickly destroyed the immediate enemy defense, established its beachhead, and occupied the enemy airstrip within a few hours. The forcefulness and aggressiveness of its assault overwhelmed the enemy initially, and the brave spirit of the personnel of the squadron permitted the early seizure of a secure hold on the enemy territory. In subsequent operations for 3 days and 3 nights, the *2d Squadron* valiantly extended the controlled area by day and initiated the work prescribed in its mission under enemy fire, and by night stood by its defenses and repulsed determined and continuous infiltrating and harassing groups of the enemy, and on the second and third nights repulsed concerted counterattacks by the enemy in such force that annihilation of the squadron might easily have resulted, except for the grim determination with which the squadron maintained its defenses.

3. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bull. 22, WD, 1942), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bull. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit by the Commanding General, 37th Infantry Division, in General Orders, No. 27, 27 April 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army forces in the South Pacific area, under the provisions of section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction, is confirmed. The citation reads as follows:

Company E, 148th Infantry, is cited for the magnificent gallantry, heroism, teamwork, and will to win that it demonstrated in this crucial operation, and

for its tremendously significant part in the action on Hill 700, which resulted in a victory of major importance to the entire United States defense of Bougainville Island.

During the recent offensive action by Japanese forces against the United States positions on Bougainville Island, *Company E, 148th Infantry Regiment*, participated in a counterattack against enemy positions atop Hill 700, which resulted in the destruction of Japanese forces in that sector, and the removal of a major threat to our position.

This action, which took place on 11-12 March 1944, was a double-envelopment by *Company E* and *Company F, 148th Infantry Regiment*, and represented one of the outstanding examples of daring and courage to occur in this theater. The proximity of the enemy to our lines prohibited the use of supporting artillery and the rugged terrain precluded the use of tanks. Our attacking forces were compelled to advance against almost every conceivable obstacle. The enemy enjoyed a commanding position, excellent fields of fire, superior observation, and the natural advantage accruing to the defender. *Company E*, on the other hand, had to execute a difficult flanking movement across precipitous, fire-swept terrain against a determined and confident enemy occupying strong defensive positions.

The initial attack, on 11 March, resulted in capturing two flanking pillboxes, but left the enemy in control of the most important of his positions on the crest of the hill. Throughout that night the men of *Company E* clung tenaciously to their precarious position on the hillside, enduring constant fire from mortars and machine guns, and the effect of hand grenades rolled down the hill toward them. Next morning, 12 March, they renewed the attack, coordinating with *Company F* on the west flank, charging the enemy positions under a withering hail of fire at point-blank range. Utilizing rocket launchers, flame throwers, smoke grenades, and other infantry weapons, the men of *Company E* swept over the Japanese positions, made contact with *Company F* approaching from the west, and secured the objective. *Company E* lost one officer and 11 enlisted men killed, and three officers and 25 enlisted men wounded. The enemy lost 407 counted dead in this immediate area, and were practically annihilated. The backbone of the entire enemy offensive on Bougainville was broken.

4. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bull. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bull. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit by the Commanding General, 37th Infantry Division, in General Orders, No. 28, 27 April 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army forces in the South Pacific area, under the provisions of section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction, is confined. The citation reads as follows:

Company F, 148th Infantry, is cited for the magnificent gallantry, heroism, teamwork and will to win that it demonstrated in this crucial operation, and for its tremendously significant part in the action on Hill 700, which resulted in a victory of major importance to the entire United States defense of Bougainville Island.

During the recent offensive action by Japanese forces against the United States positions on Bougainville Island, *Company F, 148th Infantry Regiment*, participated in a counterattack against enemy positions atop Hill 700, which resulted in the destruction of Japanese forces in that sector and the removal of a major threat to our positions.

This action, which took place on 12 March 1944, was a double-envelopment by Company E and Company F, 148th Infantry Regiment, and represented one of the outstanding examples of daring and courage to occur in this theater. The proximity of the enemy to our lines prohibited the use of supporting artillery, and the rugged terrain precluded the use of tanks. Our attacking forces were compelled to advance against almost every conceivable obstacle. The enemy enjoyed a commanding position, excellent fields of fire, superior observation, and the natural advantage accruing to the defender. Company F, on the other hand, had to execute a difficult flanking movement, across precipitous, fire-swept terrain, against a determined and confident enemy occupying strong defensive positions.

The attack, begun simultaneously with the advance of Company E on the east flank, was a charge against enemy positions under a withering hail of fire at point-blank range. Utilizing rocket launchers, flame throwers, smoke grenades, and other infantry weapons, the men of Company F swept over the Japanese positions, made contact with Company E approaching from the east, and secured the objective. Company F lost three enlisted men killed, and four officers and 39 enlisted men wounded in this assault. The enemy lost 407 counted dead in this immediate area, and were practically annihilated. The backbone of the entire enemy offensive on Bougainville was broken.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIO,
*Major General,
The Adjutant General.*