

Distinguished Service Cross awards to members of the 24th Infantry Division World War Two

(Courtesy Doug Sterner, Home of Heroes)

BRASWELL, WILLIAM W.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to William W. Braswell, Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company B, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 26 May 1945. Technical Sergeant Braswell's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 279 (1945)

CLIFFORD, THOMAS EUGENE (KIA)

(First Award)

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Thomas Eugene Clifford (0-20339), Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces from 10 to 30 November 1944, in the Philippine Islands. Leading his Battalion in an amphibious operation to effect the envelopment of an enemy position which had prevented a frontal advance for several days, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford aggressively executed the maneuver and seized a prepared enemy position well in rear of the main hostile defenses. Under extremely difficult supply and evacuation conditions, always in contact with the enemy and frequently attacked by much larger forces, his Battalion made determined and sustained harassing attacks on enemy supply lines and communications thus diverting and destroying a large number of hostile troops and disrupting a major enemy counter offensive. Without rest, after this arduous and highly effective action, the Battalion under his command and when reinforced by fresh troops, immediately launched a further determined attack. During this entire period, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford, by his aggressive leadership and courageous personal conduct in close contact with the enemy, imbued his men with an indomitable fighting spirit, the direct result of which was a costly and serious defeat of the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel Clifford's gallant leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.



*Headquarters, Advanced Echelon, U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, General Orders No. 3
(December 10, 1944)*

***CLIFFORD, THOMAS EUGENE (KIA)**

(Second Award)

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Thomas Eugene Clifford (0-20339), Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military

operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces from 17 April 1945 to 24 June 1945, at Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Constantly advancing with his forward elements through mountainous jungle terrain despite adverse weather conditions, heavily mined roads, and bitter enemy resistance, Colonel Clifford aggressively led his unit in a grueling, sustained drive from Parang to the south bank of the broad, un-fordable Davao River. Davao City, the objective on the opposite bank, was surrounded by flat swamps to the south and was well defended by a battalion of Japanese naval personnel who manned eight captured naval guns and an elaborate system of mutually supporting machine guns and 20-mm. dual-purpose weapons. After making a rapid reconnaissance, Colonel Clifford personally led the advance elements of his assault company across a small, hastily repaired foot bridge and, under small arms and artillery fire, fearlessly directed the establishment of the initial beachhead. His vigorous and bold leadership inspired his troops to consolidate and expand their foothold before darkness. The following morning, he skillfully deployed his men and led them in capturing the important city. Later, while directing his troops in combat, he was mortally wounded by enemy fire. By his intrepid leadership, great personal bravery and fearless determination to perform his mission, Colonel Clifford played a major role in assuring the success of his regiment and his outstanding leadership and courage provided a lasting inspiration to his men. His actions exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 296 (October 28, 1945)

Home Town: Ronceverte, West Virginia

Personal Awards: 2@ Distinguished Service Crosses (WWII), Silver Star (WWII), Legion of Merit, 2@ Bronze Stars, Purple Heart

COTELO, MELCHIOR L.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Melchior L. Cotelo, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 29 November 1944. Private First Class Cotelo's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 295 (1945)

***CROUCH, THEODORE (KIA)**

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Theodore Crouch (0-1298669), Captain (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 23 May and 2 and 7 June 1945. Captain Crouch's outstanding leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 60 (1946)

Home Town: Bath County, New York

EASTMAN, WALTER R.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Walter R. Eastman, First Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 5 and 6 November 1944. First Lieutenant Eastman's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 61 (1945)

Home Town: Weed, California

FAIR, LELAND B.

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Leland B. Fair (0-558789), Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 4 July 1945, near Tuli, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. On this day as an Infantry company was attacking along a road leading from Kibangay to Tuli, the leading squad came under intense enemy machine gun fire from pill boxes and from a light machine gun mounted in a tree to the front. Mortar fire also fell on the platoon, and four men were killed instantly and six others were wounded by the initial fire. The fire was so intense that it was impossible to give medical attention to the wounded men who lay on the road in the path of the enemy fire. Second Lieutenant Fair volunteered to take a squad through the jungle to outflank the suspected locations of the enemy from the left. The squad approached the enemy positions from their right rear, and as they came near the first pillbox they received heavy machine gun, rifle, and grenade fire. Second Lieutenant Fair attacked the pillbox, approaching it from the blind side. With complete disregard for his own safety, he stood in full view of the enemy, fired his rifle and threw grenades into the embrasure, killing the enemy occupants. The men of the squad were inspired by this heroic action and followed Second Lieutenant Fair in advancing on the next pillbox. Four of the enemy pillboxes now brought fire to bear on the squad with machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Second Lieutenant Fair directed the fire of the lead scout and the automatic rifleman on the central pillbox, then left his position and rushed forward under their covering fire to the pillbox. He threw two grenades into the emplacement and disposed of its crew. After disabling the enemy gun in the emplacement, Second Lieutenant Fair moved toward the third pillbox. As he approached his right hand was injured by fragments of a Jap grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he ordered his men to cover him, and advanced on a fourth pillbox, exposing himself to enemy fire during his rush. He pitched a grenade into the emplacement and called back for the rocket launcher. When the bazooka man arrived, Second Lieutenant Fair directed protective rifle fire on the pillbox, meanwhile loading the bazooka himself. The first rocket blew a small hole in the top of the pillbox and Second Lieutenant Fair tossed grenades into the emplacement through the hole of the roof. He then attacked the remaining pillboxes and destroyed another light machine gun in one of them. Eight pillboxes were destroyed and 22 Japs were killed. Before his squad could leave the area, however, Japanese mortar fire was brought to bear, and two members of the patrol were wounded. A litter was improvised and the wounded were removed. After he had returned to the company and reported the action, it was determined that possibly one



forward pillbox might have been missed. Second Lieutenant Fair, although fatigued from the first assault and bleeding from the wound in his right hand, volunteered to return to the enemy area. He took command of a squad from another company to make his second assault, and he moved out in front of the first scout until he arrived at the fortified area. He deployed the squad on the edge of the pillbox area and led them through the abaca. Several additional pillboxes were spotted. Second Lieutenant Fair placed his men in a position to concentrate their fire on the pillboxes, when enemy mortar fire began to fall ahead of the squad. Despite the risk involved, Second Lieutenant Fair moved boldly and aggressively to the pillboxes, and determined that the enemy had withdrawn. After satisfying himself that there were no more in the vicinity, he evacuated the casualties from the first assault. Only then did he agree to submit to medical treatment. By his brilliant and aggressive leadership, and the resolute courage he exhibited in these actions, Second Lieutenant Fair inspired his men to extraordinary efforts and achievements. His matchless feats of valor won for him the respect and admiration of all, and are consistent with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, Department of the Army, General Orders 25 (8 June 2001)

Born: January 12, 1923 at Breckenridge, Missouri

Home Town: Chillicothe, Missouri

FLAHERTY, DAVID K.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to David K. Flaherty, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company I, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 19 May 1945. Private First Class Flaherty's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 295 (1945)

JAROSZ, EMIL W.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Emil W. Jarosz, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 9 May 1945. Second Lieutenant Jarosz's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 102 (1945)

JEPMA, SAMUEL

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Samuel Jepma, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 and 21 October 1944. Private First Class Jepma's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest

traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 195 (1945)

JORDAN, WILLIAM O., JR.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to William O. Jordan, Jr., Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 21 April 1945. Private Jordan's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 404 (1945)

***LAULE, WALTER F. (KIA)**

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Walter F. Laule (35051590), Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 31 October 1944. Private First Class Laule's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 195 (1945)

Home Town: Cuyahoga County, Ohio

MASON, DONALD P.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Donald P. Mason, Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 12 and 21 November 1944. Technical Sergeant Mason's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 147 (1945)

NEWMAN, AUBREY S.

Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Aubrey S. Newman, Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while Commanding the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 and on 30 October 1944, during the assault on Leyte, Philippine Islands. On 20 October Colonel Newman went ashore in the fifth wave of the amphibious landing of Leyte. He found the preceding waves compressed within a narrow space not more than one hundred yards wide and



twenty yards from the water's edge, pinned down by heavy rifle and machine gun fire and exposed to mortar and artillery fire. Confused by the loss of key officers, the men were without trained leaders competent to organize an attack. Colonel Newman at once took charge of the situation, issued necessary orders, and literally forced his men off the beach. Under his leadership and direction the troops promptly advanced and secured a beachhead approximately two hundred yards inland, and cleared the way for landing of additional troops, equipment, and supplies. Ten days later, near Jaro, Leyte, the leading elements of his assault battalion encountered heavy machine gun fire from an entrenched enemy position which commanded the main route of advance. Colonel Newman promptly made a personal reconnaissance and planned his advance, but while giving orders for the attack he was caught in heavy concentration of mortar fire and was hit. Critically wounded, he refused to be evacuated and continued to direct the attack until he lost consciousness. As a direct result of his energy, leadership and example the attack was pushed to a successful conclusion, and our troops drove the enemy from the position and continued their advance. Colonel Newman's outstanding leadership and heroic devotion to duty were an inspiration to all members of his command and a material contribution to the success of his regiment during the campaign on Leyte. His intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, General Orders No. 29 (1945)

Home Town: Sarasota, Florida

Personal Awards: Distinguished Service Cross (WWII), Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star (WWII), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star

POSTLETHWAIT, EDWARD M.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Edward M. Postlethwait, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 16 February 1945. Lieutenant Colonel Postlethwait's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, General Orders No. 131 (1945)

***QUARLES, WILLIAM C. (KIA)**

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to William C. Quarles (34948322), Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company E, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 24 May 1945. Private First Class Quarles' intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 334 (1945)

Home Town: Gordon County, Georgia

RAY, JOHN W.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to John W. Ray, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 21 October 1944. Private First Class Ray's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 295 (1945)

SPRAGINS, ROBERT B.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Robert B. Spragins, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces from 10 to 23 November 1944. Lieutenant Colonel Spragins' intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, General Orders No. 123 (1945)

***STOKES, WILMER E. (KIA)**

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Wilmer E. Stokes (6393977), Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company L, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 18 February 1945. Technical Sergeant Stokes' intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 182 (1945)

Home Town: Jackson County, Florida

STOREY, OAKLEY W.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Oakley W. Storey, First Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 4 and 5 February 1945. First Lieutenant Storey's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 184 (1945)

***SZYMANSKI, TEDDY (KIA)**

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Teddy Szymanski (15042706), Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company F, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 28 October 1944. Private First Class Szymanski's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 97 (1945)

Home Town: Lake County, Indiana

SZYMKO, MICHAEL

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Michael Szymko, Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 22 November 1944. Technical Sergeant Szymko's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 99 (1945)

Home Town: Brooklyn, New York