

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

13 September 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 59



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 Mar 1944, a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded posthumously to:

Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM M. HERNANDEZ, 0191305, Field Artillery, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 20 August 1944 near ST VINCENT de BOIS, FRANCE. With utter disregard for his own safety Lieutenant Colonel HERNANDEZ personally directed the fire of one of his tank destroyers, silencing the enemy fires and enabling the forward movement of our troops to continue. His continuous presence with the forward elements combined with his exemplary judgment and leadership, maintained in the face of intense enemy fire, during which he was fatally wounded, set an inspiring example for his command, and are worthy of the best traditions of the service.

+ + +
By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:

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

R. E. Cummings,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY

ELMER V. SPARKS,
Captain, F.A.,
Adjutant.