



The Congressional Medal of Honor



The Distinguished Service Cross
(First type)



The Distinguished Service Cross
(Second type)



The Distinguished Service Medal

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THE NEW HONOR MEDALS FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS

IN Secretary Baker's bill, now before Congress, three classes of decorations are provided for: Medals of Honor, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Distinguished Service Medals. The Medal of Honor is to be presented by the President, and takes the place of the Congressional Medal of Honor heretofore awarded only by special act of Congress. It is to be conferred upon a soldier for having, in action, in actual conflict with the enemy, distinguished himself conspicuously, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty. The terms of its bestowal make it similar to the French Croix de Guerre with palms, or to the Victoria Cross, considered the highest British distinction. The medal is of gold, composed of a five-pointed star with laurel leaves and oak leaves enameled in green. The medal is to be suspended from a blue silk ribbon spangled with thirteen white stars.

The Distinguished Service Cross is to be awarded to soldiers for acts

of bravery and conscientious performance of duty, not necessarily in the face of the enemy or at the risk of their lives. The cross will parallel the French Croix de Guerre or the British D.S.O. The ribbon has a center of blue bordered with a stripe of white edged with red.

The Distinguished Service Medal is the third in importance of the awards for valor or gallantry in action. It is of bronze with the seal of the United States forming the center design. The ribbon will have a center band of white bordered with blue edged with red.

The Distinguished Service Crosses and Medals were designed by Captain Andree Smith and Captain Arymar Embury of the Camouflage Section of the army. They were modelled by Private Gaetano Gecere. After the first type of Distinguished Service Cross had been struck, and about one hundred crosses had been made, the War Department concluded the design was too ornate; it was changed to the second type.