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PFC. EARL GOINS GETS DSC

Pfc. Earl G. Goins of Co E, 80th Division's 317th Infantry Regiment is eloquent proof that military ability isn't a matter of rank. The 23-year-old Asheboro, North Carolina soldier has many times distinguished himself under fire and a grateful Government has seen fit to award him America's second highest military decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross.

In his own Company he's a legend and his comrades say "When the going's roughest, Goins toughest! A lanky, slow-drawling, easy sort of a guy, Goins is a terror with a Browning Automatic Rifle.

At Argentan, France, when his company was halted by raking German machine-gun fire from a strong concealed position, single-handed and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Pfc. Goins attacked the Nazi nest with such speed, fury and accuracy of fire that it was totally destroyed.

During another action he distinguished himself when his platoon was ambushed by the Germans while returning from a forward observation post. As the platoon deployed to meet the attack Goins fearlessly advanced on the enemy in an upright position, firing his twenty-two pound automatic rifle from his shoulder. He killed a Nazi machine-gunner and routed the remainder of the group, covering the withdrawal of his companions.

On September 26th, 1944, Pfc. Goins' squad was advancing on Meivrons, France, following a wave of tanks across an open shell-torn field covered by intense German machine-gun and mortar fire. When several of the tanks became mired in the mud of the battle field the advance was halted and Goins' squad was fired upon by two German machine-guns. Instantly Pfc. Goins came to his feet and entered into a fierce fire fight with the enemy guns, again firing his heavy BAR from his shoulder. He killed seven Germans in this action alone.

Said modest Pfc. Goins "This Automatic Rifle goed shootin' iron." Pfc. Goins entered the Service in July 1942. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross he holds the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. His mother Mrs. Nellie C. Goins resides in Asheboro, North Carolina.

Pvt. Goins was slightly wounded in the right arm in France on October 5th, but has since recovered and returned to duty.