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HEADQUARTERS  
11TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO 30  
U.S. Army  
18 April 1945

200.6 - Conger, Alwyn D. (O)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, Ninth United States Army, APO 359, U.S. Army  
(THRU CHANNELS)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Memorandum No. 34, Ninth United States Army it is recommended that the Distinguished Service Cross be awarded the following officer for distinguishing himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, while serving with the Army of the United States.

1. Personal Data:

a.	ALWYN D. CONGER (name)	SECOND LIEUTENANT (rank)	O-987448 (ASN)
	FIELD ARTILLERY (Arm or Service)	BATTERY "C", 11TH FA BATTALION (Organization)	

b. Grade, ASN, assignment and capacity at the time of act or service for which award is recommended: Second Lieutenant, O-987448, Forward Observer.

c. Decorations previously awarded: Bronze Star, Section III, General Order No. 93, Headquarters 30th Infantry Division, dated 1 November 1944.

d. No decoration has previously been awarded for this act or service and Second Lieutenant Alwyn D. Conger has not previously been recommended for an award on the basis of this or related acts.

e. The entire service of Second Lieutenant Alwyn D. Conger since the rendition of the deed or service upon which this recommendation is based has been honorable.

f. Entered military service from Cedar City, Utah.

g. Nearest relative: Mrs. Marjorie Conger, wife, 443 W. 1st North, Cedar City, Utah.

2. General Data:

a. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the act or service upon which the recommendation is based.

b. Is recommendation supported by official records: No.

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3. Specific data:

a. Exact date of act or period during which service was rendered:  
26 March 1945.

b. Location at which act was rendered: Three miles East of Spellen,  
Germany - Coordinates 268355.

c. The following information is furnished:

(1) Character of terrain, of hostile observation and of enemy fire: Rolling terrain; hostile observation - excellent; enemy fire - direct fire from 20 mm Anti Aircraft Guns, 75 mm Tank Destroyer Guns, Machine Guns and Rifle fire.

(2) Visibility, time of day and atmospheric conditions: Visibility clear; time of day - afternoon; atmospheric conditions - fair.

(3) Location of enemy: No organized enemy Front Lines.

(4) Morale: Our forces - exceedingly good; enemy - poor.

(5) Casualties sustained: At least nine known enemy killed.

(6) Effect or result of deed or service in question: By effectively directing and placing the fire from the 105 mm Howitzer and the artillery fire from his Battery on the enemy positions and locations made it possible for the infantry to advance and seize its assigned objectives. Through his courage, bravery, devotion to duty, leadership, initiative, judgement and common sense displayed against an armed enemy he inspired those about him and successfully accomplished the purpose of defeating the enemy.

(7) Detailed resume: That while accompanying the 117th Infantry as a Field Artillery Forward Observer of this Battalion on the afternoon of 26 March 1945 and while advancing at the head of the lead elements with the Infantry Commander, the point received heavy enemy fire from dug in 20mm Anti-Aircraft Guns being twelve in number and three 75mm Tank Destroyer Guns which pinned down this officer and the advancing infantry. This officer without regard for his own safety and thinking only of his duty at the time crawled from his concealed place in the road ditch and from that point, while still under enemy fire crawled to a house about 100 yards to the flank of the Infantry's advance and there getting some concealment and observation and while still drawing heavy enemy direct fire on the house he brought such withering fire from our artillery upon the enemy guns that they were silenced and the personnel who were not killed and wounded withdrew to some nearby woods. The attic from which this officer directed his artillery fire was thoroughly perforated by enemy machine gun and direct enemy artillery fire and the house itself was practically demolished during the enemy's determined attempt to discourage the officer's activities and dislodge him from his advantageous observation post. Then our infantry was allowed to proceed forward without molestation from these guns which had been so successfully and quickly silenced through the efforts of Lt. Conger, who, without any regard for his own life and safety crawled to an observation post under heavy enemy fire and accomplished his mission of allowing the infantry to advance. Then, Lt. Conger stayed at his observation Post to cover the advance of the infantry across the open terrain and after it had passed he got his transportation and proceeded down the road over the same route and in the same direction that the infantry had gone. Just before he reached a body of woods he and his Forward Observation Party received withering machine gun fire from an enemy machine gun nest just before he entered some woods which were paralleling the road on both sides. He immediately stopped his jeep, directed his party into the road ditches to a place of safety and directed that they fire on the machine gun nest while he crawled

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EDWIN F. GRIFFIN  
Lt Col, 118th FA Bn  
Commanding

2 Incls:

- 1- Affidavit - Cpl. Morris
- 2- Affidavit - Cpl Doherty

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