

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 11 }

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 30 January 1946

**BATTLE HONORS.**—As authorized by Executive Order 9896 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citations of the following units in the general orders indicated are confirmed under the provisions of section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citations read as follows:

1. The *1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 25 December 1944 to 18 January 1945 during the Allied operation against the German penetration into Belgium. The *1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment*, fought and lived in snow and subzero temperatures in a sustained drive against the enemy from Ciney, Belgium, through Brazards, Conneux, Conjoux, Soinne, then through Grandmenil and Odelgne, Belgium, on to Houffalize to close the Allied pocket around the German salient in the Ardennes. The drive was launched through well-dug-in German infantry, organized in depth in successive strong points and roving antitank rocket teams, heavy enemy artillery fire, nebelwerfer, and small-arms fire from enemy positions protected by dense wooded areas. Despite the relatively short daylight hours and long nights spent in digging in defensive positions in the frozen ground, the cold, tired men of the *1st Battalion* pushed doggedly forward in the face of severe losses of personnel. At times their hands and feet were so cold that they could walk and fire their weapons only with the greatest difficulty. Many suffered from actual frost bite, but those gallant, determined, armored infantrymen gained their assigned objectives at a cost of 8 officers and 316 enlisted men after capturing 575 Germans and killing or wounding 540 of the enemy troops. This bold and aggressive action of the *1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment*, carried on under the most difficult conditions, did much to further the 2d Armored Division's successful offensive against the German bulge in Belgium and is worthy of the highest praise. (General Orders 81, Headquarters 2d Armored Division, 28 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Maine).)

2. The *1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 8 to 12 October 1944, in Germany. This battalion was given the mission of capturing and holding an important enemy-held town located on vitally strategic terrain. Due to the nature of this terrain, the attack was made across an unprotected area within full view of enemy defenses, so that when the objective was reached, the enemy was still able to deliver accurate fire. Despite violent opposition and heavy casualties, the troops fought tenaciously and seized the town. Four counterattacks were launched by the foe in the days following, and numerically superior infantry and armored thrusts were repulsed in bitter fighting. The enemy lost 38 tanks, and 125 troops were captured, in addition to an unknown number of killed and wounded personnel. The heroism exhibited by all members of the *1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment*, reflects great credit on themselves, and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. (General Orders 642, Headquarters Seventh Army, Western Military District, 9 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Maine).)

3. The *1st Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment; Company C, 774th Tank Battalion; 1st Platoon, Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion; 1st Platoon,*

*Antitank Company, 330th Infantry Regiment; and Mine Platoon, Antitank Company, 330th Infantry Regiment*, are cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy from 9 January 1945 to 11 January 1945. With its weary ranks depleted after a week of constant exposure to severe cold, including 4 days of bitter fighting, the *1st Battalion*, together with its supporting forces, was assigned the mission to seize and hold the town of Bihain, Belgium, and protect the right flank of the 83d Infantry Division in conjunction with the division's mission of establishing a bridgehead over the Langhir Ronce River. Despite the handicap of deep snow and extremely low temperatures, the assault companies of the battalion advanced over 900 yards across flat, exposed terrain. In the face of intense artillery, mortar, and automatic-weapons fire, this battalion succeeded in driving the enemy from his outpost positions east of Bihain. After a night characterized by heavy enemy shelling of the bitterly won position, the battalion resumed its attack on Bihain at 0730 hours, 10 January. Defending the town stubbornly, the enemy employed tank, mortar, artillery, and automatic-weapons fire and fanatically held their positions until either killed or overpowered by unrelenting pressure. Because of the exposed terrain, each house was an enemy fortification. Although the enemy fire caused heavy casualties among the attackers, it resulted only in an increased determination within the ranks to secure the objective. Evacuation of the wounded was extremely difficult because of the inclement weather conditions, the nature of the terrain, and the fact that the enemy artillery covered every approach to the town with heavy fire. On the morning of 11 January, the enemy completely blanketed the town with a ½-hour artillery barrage of great intensity and, at 0900 hours, an estimated force of 200 enemy infantrymen supported by five tanks attacked the town from the woods to the south. Once again the *1st Battalion* displayed its indomitable fighting spirit and, although outnumbered, rose to new heights in completely halting the enemy attack. The final assault was crushed decisively, the enemy annihilated, and the five tanks destroyed. In these 3 days of action the *1st Battalion* sustained 130 casualties against an estimated 525 for the enemy. Thus, as a result of the unswerving aggressiveness and outstanding courage of the men of the *1st Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment; Company C, 774th Tank Battalion; 1st Platoon, Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion; 1st Platoon, Antitank Company, 330th Infantry Regiment; and Mine Platoon, Antitank Company, 330th Infantry Regiment*, from 9 through 11 January 1945, a fanatical enemy was dislodged from the town of Bihain, Belgium, and the right flank of the division was secured. The aggressiveness and superb devotion to duty displayed by each man of the *1st Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment*, and its supporting forces are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces. (General Orders 222, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 3 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

4. The *1st Battalion, 334th Infantry Regiment*, and supporting personnel of the *326th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company, 334th Infantry Regiment*, are cited for extraordinary heroism and determined action against the enemy in the drive from the Roer River to the Rhine River, 23 February-5 March 1945. The *1st Battalion*, at 230330 February 1945, against positions well prepared over an extensive period of time, launched the Ninth Army offensive by crossing the Roer in assault boats. Heavy enemy artillery fire resulted in direct hits on the two boats, the loss of the battalion commander, and the loss of many engineer guides and boat personnel; however, the battalion completed the cross-

ing ready to advance in less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour. Under devastating enemy artillery fire, over flat terrain subjected to automatic-weapons fire from a dangerously exposed right flank, the *1st Battalion* cleared Korrenzig by 0830 and Rurich by 1410. Before midnight on 23 February 1945, the *1st Battalion* started a move 2,500 yards north to Baal to repel a strong counterattack supported by direct tank fire against the remainder of the regiment. At 240430 February 1945, the battalion regrouped in the southwest section of Baal, and amid severe artillery shelling and sniper fire, constituted a rear and left flank defense. By 1615 on 25 February 1945, the *1st Battalion* had moved to and captured Heterath, 2,600 yards north of Baal, from a fanatically resisting enemy force. In addition to many dead and wounded littering the town, Heterath was cleared of over 300 prisoners. The night of 25 and 26 February 1945 were spent in consolidating positions and establishing contact with flank units. On 27 February 1945, the battalion, Company A riding on the lead tanks of the 771st Tank Battalion, constituted the lead elements of Task Force Church, which initiated the Roer-Rhine break through, and thrust forward 20 kilometers before dark. The many prisoners and civilians streaming to the rear were evidence of this battalion's aggressiveness. By 281700 February 1945, the *1st Battalion*, brought up to the left flank of the 2d Battalion, which had passed through by pushing forward relentlessly on foot when the road was blocked, had destroyed or captured an enemy force east of Waldlel consisting of 500 troops and 7 tanks and self-propelled field pieces. At 010535 March 1945, the *1st Battalion* again detrucked and assisted in clearing Bolsheim. Again on 2 March 1945, at 1400, this tank-riding battalion led off, heading due east for the Rhine. East of St. Tonis, an encounter with a strong enemy force of 8 self-propelled 88-mm. guns and 200 infantrymen caused the loss of 4 tanks on which *1st Battalion* personnel were riding. A total of eight tanks ridden by *1st Battalion* men had been put out of action. Swinging north again toward Moers on 3 March 1945, the battalion passed through the 2d and 3d Battalions and broke up the Germans' last desperate counterattack west of the Rhine. The battle of Moers continued throughout 4 March 1945, with the *1st Battalion* flanking to the left through heavy artillery and intense automatic fire. At 050255 March 1945, the battalion reached the bridge site where, at daylight, 400 enemy troops were cleared from surrounding buildings. In 10 days of almost continuous movement and combat, the *1st Battalion*, *334th Infantry Regiment*, and supporting personnel of the *326th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company*, *334th Infantry Regiment*, in constant contact with the enemy, with the loss of the battalion commander and two rifle company commanders, despite fatigue casualties, made an assault crossing of the Roer River and, by forever keeping its spirit to advance and its will to fight, spearheaded the 84th Infantry Division in the rapid break through to reach the Rhine River. (General Orders 224, Headquarters 84th Infantry Division, 10 October 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

5. The *2d Battalion*, *63d Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on Luzon, Philippine Islands, during the period 23 June to 7 July 1945. The *2d Battalion* began its advance on Mount Santo Domingo, 4,200 feet in elevation, guarding the entrance to Kiangnan, last major Japanese defense position and supply base on Luzon. The advance through the rugged and wild mountain province was made along two parallel and tortuous mountain trails, blasted from the side of rock cliffs and flanked by dense jungle and rain forest. The trails were mined, cratered, and blocked by numerous landslides and tank traps. Eight gruelling days of bitter close-in fighting against

stubborn resistance brought the *2d Battalion* to within striking distance of the main enemy position. High winds and typhoon rains hampered engineer and pioneer operations and made supply and evacuation by hand carry extremely difficult. Well-trained enemy infantry in good physical condition and armed with a high percentage of automatic weapons, defended the knife-edged ridges of the positions, which were completely tunnelled through and honeycombed with caves. Jungle and vertical cliffs on either flank canalized the attack of the *2d Battalion*. For 4 days, the *2d Battalion* hurled attacks against this position until it was finally taken on 5 July by a savage assault with hand grenades, bayonets, and satchel charges. The enemy fought to the death, and friendly casualties were high. During the nights of 5-6 and 6-7 July, the enemy attempted to retake the position with fierce counterattacks which were beaten back. During the period 23 June to 7 July 1945, 345 enemy dead were counted on the front of the *2d Battalion* and two prisoners of war were taken. The defeat was a decisive one and opened the way to the seizure of Klangan. Tons of ammunition and large amounts of vehicles, supplies, and equipment were captured along the route of advance. The losses of the battalion were 10 dead and 42 wounded. Every officer and man displayed the highest kind of fortitude, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty. The distinguished performance of duty by the *2d Battalion, 63d Infantry Regiment*, exemplifies the true spirit of the American Army and reflects great credit on the military service. (General Orders 161, Headquarters 6th Infantry Division, 15 August 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

6. The *2d Battalion, 311th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy during the period 30 January to 7 February 1945. During this protracted period, the battalion captured Kesternich, Germany, against fanatical defense, and advanced at night over 4,000 yards of enemy-held terrain to capture Ruhrberg, Germany, on 4 February 1945. The *2d Battalion* continued its attack at 0330, 5 February 1945, over very rugged mountain terrain to capture Woffelsbach, Germany, and the high ground to the west and north. Some 23 pillboxes were captured in this operation. On 7 February 1945, the *2d Battalion* fought its way over 300 yards of mountainous forest, with slopes of from 80° to 60° to be overcome and defended by determined enemy in concrete pillboxes, wooden bunkers, and entrenchments. By its daring and vigorously persistent operations, this battalion outflanked the Straugh-Steckenborn segment of the Siegfried Line; successfully attacked and cleared the enemy from key terrain south and southwest of Schmidt, Germany, and thereby provided for the rapid reduction of the strongly fortified area protecting the Schwammenauel Dam, with a minimum of casualties. The courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty shown by the members of the *2d Battalion, 311th Infantry Regiment*, for a protracted period of 9 days in the face of severe weather and a determined, entrenched enemy—3 days of this operation being over terrain impassable to movement of any type of motor vehicle, necessitating the hand carrying of all supplies, equipment, and ammunition—resulted in a 6 mile advance into the enemy territory and the capture of three towns with over 300 prisoners. (General Orders 324, Headquarters 78th Infantry Division, 30 June 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

7. The *2d Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. At 0830 on 7 August 1944, the *2d Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment*, launched an attack toward St. Joseph, France. By 0930, the leading company began receiving intense

artillery, machine-gun, and small-arms fire. All through the rest of the day, heavy fighting went on and the two leading companies were able to advance another 800 yards before darkness came and defensive positions were prepared for the night. Before dawn on 8 August, the German artillery began a concentration which blanketed the entire battalion area and lasted for 45 minutes, and its intensity delayed the jump-off time of the battalion's attack. The battalion sector was some 1800 yards in width and ran through woods of varying density and over bald, open hills that were under direct enemy observation and subject to all their fire power. At about 0800, the battalion resumed the attack. Here the battalion bore the brunt of the division attack, being almost in the center of the division sector. It encountered the strongest of enemy installations, including permanent gun emplacements hewn out of the granite rocks of a quarry and an extensive series of fox holes and trenches reinforced by stone walls and barbed wire entanglements. Several times hand-to-hand combat was needed to reduce these positions. Even though outnumbered, it continued the attacks against fanatical opposition in the face of intense artillery concentrations, including multiple-barrelled rocket projectors, antitank guns, 88-mm guns, mortar, and machine fire. Through aggressiveness, determination, and sheer courage, by 1030 it had gained 600 yards of bitterly contested ground. Then the enemy counterattacked. The numerically superior enemy closed in upon the battalion and a furious hand-to-hand battle raged. Radio operators, runners, and liaison personnel all joined in the battle to muster every available weapon to force the enemy back. Finally, the fighting skill and spirit of the *2d Battalion* showed its effect. Those enemies who were not killed, wounded, or captured were put to rout and their morale broken. Without respite the battalions' attack continued. When one company was suffering heavy casualties and became disorganized by fire from a self-propelled gun, the last remaining officer in the company, at great risk to his life, knocked it out with a bazooka. Such leadership and disregard for personal safety characterized the actions of all members of the battalion. By nightfall it had advanced to within 500 yards of the St. Joseph fortress, and by constantly pouring fire from small arms, mortars, and artillery into the fortress, they prevented the enemy from manning their gun positions atop the fortress, thus being able to clean up the outposts of the enemy that surrounded the fortress. The heavy shelling shook the fortress continuously throughout the night. The next morning, the German commander of the fortress, his troops decisively defeated and thoroughly demoralized, and seeing the hopelessness of his situation, surrendered the fortress. Battalion losses during the 3-day action were 154 killed, wounded, or missing. An estimated 261 Germans were killed, 428 taken prisoner, and 178 wounded. Five enemy assault guns, three self-propelled guns, five antitank guns, seven antiaircraft guns, one tank, and seven mortars were destroyed. An undetermined but large amount of enemy small arms, ammunition, and food stores was captured or destroyed. Thus, during the 3 day period from 7 through 9 August 1944 the *2d Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment*, with a notable display of courage, combat skill, and determination broke stubborn enemy resistance at St. Joseph and the approaches to St. Malo, decisively defeated the enemy, and prevented them from denying our entry into the St. Malo-Dinard area. The undaunted courage and unswerving devotion to duty shown by each man of the battalion reflect the highest traditions of the armed forces. (General Orders 231, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 5 December 1945, as amended)

proved by the Commanding General, Third United States Army and Eastern Military District.)

8. The *3d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in France from 18 to 21 November 1944. On the morning of 18 November 1944, the *3d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment*, launched an attack toward high ground north east of Harprie, as part of the 35th Infantry Division offensive designed to break the winter offensive line established by the Germans on the axis of Nancy, Sarreguemines, and Mannheim. The first objective was seized at 0915 hours, after the battalion had forded an icy stream and had driven through barbed wire entanglements at the muddy approaches to the town of Bening. Pausing momentarily, the troops pressed on under increasingly accurate shellfire, across open terrain, and entered the town of Bistroff. Bitter house-to-house fighting ensued, until 1230 hours when possession of the town was secured. Marshy terrain in that vicinity defied all efforts to move either track or wheeled vehicles. In anticipation of an attempt to retake Bistroff, antitank mines were hand carried under cover of darkness and placed astride the two roads leading into the town. At 0600 19 November, Company K launched an attack on Hill 315, the outstanding terrain feature in this area, studded with gun emplacements which denied the use of nearby roads to our forces. Simultaneously the Germans counterattacked the town of Bistroff in company strength, supported by two Mark V Panther tanks. Both tanks were disabled by the well-placed antitank mines, and the *3d Battalion* riflemen, with artillery support, placed withering fire among the enemy ranks, stalled the enemy attack, gradually turned it, and forced the Germans back with heavy casualties. In the meantime, Company K achieved a tactical surprise and, supported by a heavy machine gun platoon, stormed the dug-in positions on Hill 315. The capture of this hill pierced the enemy defense line, and enabled armor and other units on the right to advance and seize Gros-Tenquin. At 0700 20 November, the *3d Battalion* moved toward the enemy stronghold of Freyhouse, across soggy terrain and under artillery and mortar fire, seized several intervening fortified positions, and that afternoon launched an attack which carried into the outskirts of Freyhouse. The enemy reacted strongly with well organized counterattacks. By nightfall, one platoon of Company K was established in a group of houses in the town. Other units of the *3d Battalion*, supported by two tank destroyers, attacked at 0700 the following morning, advanced relentlessly across an open field swept by machine-gun fire, joined the platoon already in the town, and, without respite, proceeded to drive the bitterly resisting Germans from Freyhouse, thereby eliminating the last major obstacle before Sarreguemines. The extraordinary heroism, exemplary endurance, and teamwork displayed by the members of the *3d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment*, fighting under adverse circumstances against a determined and resourceful enemy, are in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. (General Orders 56, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, 6 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

9. The *3d Battalion, 930th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. On the morning of the 10th December 1944, from an assembly area near Grosshau, Germany, the battalion attacked with the mission of capturing and securing the town of Strass, Germany, and thus permitting the 5th Armored Division a place of debouchment from the Hurtgen Forest in its drive to the Roer River. Taking advantage of darkness, the battalion entered the town of Strass, completely surprising the

enemy; but when the enemy discovered the battalion had entered the town, intense resistance was encountered. The enemy maneuvered its supporting forces until it had sealed off the assault companies by completely surrounding the town. Despite constant artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire, the *3d Battalion* threw back daily counterattacks by numerically superior forces of enemy infantry supported by tanks and assault guns. During the 4-day period which saw six battalion commanders in command, because of wounds or death incurred in action, the battalion displayed its superb fighting spirit by refusing to allow itself to be defeated. Although without food for 3 days and without sufficient medical supplies to treat the ever-increasing number of its own and enemy wounded, the battalion never lost its determination to succeed in the face of what appeared to be a desperate and hopeless situation. During this period the *3d Battalion* lost 293 men killed, wounded, and missing, while the enemy suffered an estimated 550 casualties. Five enemy tanks were destroyed by our forces during this period. As a result of the outstanding courage and determination to succeed displayed by every fighting man of the *3d Battalion, 390th Infantry Regiment*, from 10 through 13 December 1944, a strong enemy force was repeatedly driven from the town of Strass, which enabled the 5th Armored Division to execute its drive toward the Roer River and seal off the vitally important Roer River Dam area. The aggressiveness and superb devotion to duty displayed by the *3d Battalion* against overwhelming odds and under extremely difficult conditions merit much praise and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 230, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 4 December 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, Third United States Army and Eastern Military District.)

10. The *3d Battalion, 398th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat during the period 3 to 12 April 1945 in the vicinity of Hellbronn, Germany. After crossing the Neckar River by assault boat, the battalion secured a bridgehead and prepared to hold its position when intense enemy artillery and mortar barrages landed with almost pinpoint precision on the crossing site, making further use of assault boats impossible and isolating the battalion. Simultaneously wave after wave of hostile troops, an entire regiment in strength, counterattacked, and the weight of the numerically-superior foe forced the battalion to withdraw to the river's edge. Despite heavy losses, remnants of the battalion reorganized and, when the Germans stopped to dig in, attacked again and retook most of the lost ground. Every night for 5 nights the enemy attacked, trying desperately to regain the east bank, but each time they were thrown back. On one occasion, after a 3-mile-long column of enemy troops and vehicles poured into the lines, the Germans charged with reckless and fanatical zeal, and succeeded in making a slight penetration. Committing its reserves, the battalion stopped the attack and reestablished its lines. By the individual heroism and intrepidity of the officers and men of this command, the depleted battalion held the bridgehead for 8 days and nights under continuous and savage shelling, enabling the division to push other troops across the river and insure the success of the vital operation. The accomplishment of the *3d Battalion, 398th Infantry Regiment*, reflects the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. (General Orders 277, Headquarters 100th Infantry Division, 9 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater (Main).)

11. The *25th Liaison Squadron* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Philippine Islands from 17 April to 1 June 1945. During this period, members of the *25th Liaison Squadron*, flying light, highly vulnerable liaison type aircraft, rendered invaluable support to American air and ground forces cam-

palging on the island of Mindanao. Frequently braving enemy ground fire, pilots of the *25th Liaison Squadron* aided two divisions by carrying out photographic and reconnaissance missions, locating enemy positions ahead of advancing ground troops, directing tactical aircraft, pin-pointing targets with smoke grenades, leading transport aircraft on drop missions, and bringing messages and information to rapidly moving forward elements. With but little interruption throughout this period, the *25th Liaison Squadron* maintained a daily courier schedule for evacuating casualties from front lines to hospitals or to larger airfields for evacuation from the island. In all, airplanes of the *25th Liaison Squadron* flew a total of 2,530 hours in a single month, an average of 120 hours for each available pilot, and, during the entire period, carried a total of 2,444 passengers and 125,000 pounds of freight, mail, and supplies. To maintain this grueling schedule, practically all maintenance work and briefing was carried out at night. Many times the photographic section worked all night to meet photographic requirements, while the squadron's medical personnel rendered invaluable assistance to the ground forces medical troops in evacuation work. By the skill and courage of its pilots, and the tireless devotion to duty of its ground personnel, the *25th Liaison Squadron* played a major part in the conquest of Mindanao and the consequent liberation of the southern islands of the Philippines. By their achievements in the Mindanao operations, personnel of the *25th Liaison Squadron* brought great credit on themselves and on the United States Army Air Forces. (General Orders 2180, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

12. The *65th Troop Carrier Squadron* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Philippine Islands on 23 February 1945. On that day, American and Filipino forces undertook to liberate 2,100 Allied civilians and prisoners of war interned in the Japanese prison camp at Los Banos, at the southern end of Laguna de Bay, Luzon. The plan of operations called for a ground attack from the north, an amphibious attack from Laguna de Bay, and a paratroop attack, as well as guerilla infiltration. The mission of the *65th Troop Carrier Squadron* was to transport the air-borne troops and to drop them within a small target area in the proximity of the prison. Taking off in complete darkness from Nichols Field, Luzon, early in the morning of 23 February, the formation of nine C-47 aircraft headed toward Manila Bay, then turned and came back over the target. Although the small dropping zone was surrounded by trees on three sides, and a high-power electric line extended diagonally across the area, the air-borne troops were placed in the proper area, close to the compound, without injury, and were successful in neutralizing gun positions and entering the prison within 15 minutes after the first parachute had opened. All the internees, suffering from malnutrition and various diseases, were successfully released, as American and Filipino forces achieved complete surprise. By effecting the precise timing necessary to the success of this operation, and by dropping the paratroops into the target area as quickly and efficiently as possible, the crews of the *65th Troop Carrier Squadron* played a major part in the successful liberation of several thousand men, women, and children in desperate need of help. The courage and skill of the personnel of the *65th Troop Carrier Squadron* are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 2180, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

13. The *82d Engineer Combat Battalion* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 12 and 13 April 1945, near Magdeburg, Germany. Although taxed strenuously while supporting the 2d Armored Division's



long and hazardous drive from the Rhine River, this battalion accepted with great determination its mission of bridging the Moselle River. Even though it was impossible to make a detailed reconnaissance of crossing sites, the officers in command made a prompt decision, and operations began. Two bridges were approaching completion when intense enemy artillery fire destroyed both of the crossings. At this point, all troops were evacuated from the far shore, and general casualties were sustained. The battalion remained at the site, handling assault boats until evacuation was completed. Then, a third attempt to establish a crossing was made and resulted in the first bridgehead across the vitally important river. The skill, courage, and efficient efforts of the officers and men of the *82d Engineer Combat Battalion* assured the successful assault, despite fierce enemy resistance. Their achievement contributed materially toward the completion of the Allies' mission and was in keeping with the highest standards of the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 642, Headquarters Seventh Army, Western Military District, 9 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

14. The *166th Engineer Combat Battalion* is cited for outstanding performance of duty against the enemy from 7 to 10 February 1945. For 72 hours, the gallant men of this battalion battled the overwhelming difficulty of concentrated enemy artillery fire and the raging, flood-swollen current of the Sauer River, near Dilligen, Luxembourg, to maintain a constant flow of infantrymen and supplies to the hostile shore. Limited to night reconnaissance by constant surveillance from the Siegfried Line, they employed assault boats to transport the first company across. With daylight and the attack developing, the battalion attempted to construct footbridges, only to have them either destroyed by direct, hostile artillery fire or swept away by the torrential current. All else failing, the engineers brought up 450 assault craft and, despite heavy losses suffered in men and matériel, continued to ferry men, food, and ammunition across the river until the entire regiment and their equipage had been unloaded onto the newly established bridgehead and sufficiently secured against all enemy attack, except by artillery, these intrepid soldiers constructed a Class 40 ponton bridge downstream for the movement of reinforcements and supplies to the infantrymen assaulting the Siegfried Line. The *166th Engineer Combat Battalion's* indomitable fighting spirit, indefatigable efforts in the face of almost insurmountable odds, and their unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service. (General Orders 294, Headquarters Third United States Army, 14 October 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Rear).)

15. The *247th Engineer Combat Battalion* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 2 to 23 October 1944, in the vicinity of Marienberg, Rimberg, and Aachen, Germany. Against intense enemy mortar, artillery, and small-arms fire, this unit undertook its vital mission of constructing four bridges across the Wurm River, so that infantry and tank groups could cross the river and attack. Although the battalion was forced to deploy as infantry upon reaching the sites; and despite heavy casualties, the first bridge was completed 2 hours after construction began. This permitted tank support to launch an attack. The following day, while still under artillery fire, a Bailey bridge was built near the same site. On 4 October, after fighting as infantry for 2 days, the unit completed the fourth and final treadway bridge. Without a rest period, the battalion then assumed the offensive as infantry, and moved against the Siegfried Line. For 4 days and nights of continual combat, they drove from Kerkrade, Holland, into Aachen, Germany, to capture 22 pillboxes and 196 pris-

oners. The heroic achievement of the *247th Engineer Combat Battalion*, which enabled the 30th Infantry Division and the 2d Armored Division to drive to the Roer River line, was in keeping with the finest traditions of the combat engineers and the armed forces. (General Orders 642, Headquarters Seventh Army, Western Military District, 9 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

16. The *348th Fighter Group* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Philippine Islands on 24 December 1944. On that day, four P-47 squadrons of the group were assigned to provide protection for twenty-two B-24 aircraft making a raid on Clark Field, Luzon, then one of the principal Japanese strongholds in the Philippine Islands. Taking off from an airstrip on the island of Leyte, the airplanes of the *348th Fighter Group* rendezvoused over Masbate with the bombers, which were flying from Palau. Two of the P-47 pilots, dispatched on a pre-raid reconnaissance, reached the target area 25 minutes ahead of the main striking force without being detected. Finding the air filled with Japanese airplanes at altitudes of from 10,000 to 16,000 feet, they unhesitatingly dived into the nearest enemy formation and, in the ensuing battle, destroyed 3 enemy aircraft and damaged another. Then, before the remaining Japanese could close in on them, these pilots radioed full information to the main American force on the number and disposition of the enemy formations, the weather, and possible targets. As the American bombers approached Clark Field under a cover of P-47 aircraft at 20,000 feet, enemy fighters began to attack. Soon, a series of fights between elements and flights of P-47's against 2-airplane flights and single aircraft of the enemy raged at altitudes of 2,000 to 20,000 feet for 10 to 15 miles on either flank of the Liberators' approach. Despite increasing antiaircraft fire, two of the Thunderbolt squadrons provided close protection for the bombers, engaging the enemy fighter aircraft only when they broke through the cover to attack the bombers. In a 45-minute battle, the P-47 pilots destroyed 82 hostile aircraft and probably 2 others, or more than half of the airborne Japanese fighters, and thereby enabled the American bomb squadrons to destroy grounded aircraft, large hangars, extensive supply dumps, and repair installations without suffering a single casualty. Of the Thunderbolts which participated in this perfectly coordinated strike, four were lost, with one pilot crash-landing safely. Credit for the outstanding success of this mission must be given not only to the pilots of the group but also to the maintenance, operations, and intelligence personnel who readied the airplanes and airmen for the flight. In helping to deal a smashing blow at the center of Japanese air power in the Philippines and thereby pave the way for the invasion of Luzon some weeks later, the personnel of the *348th Fighter Group* brought great honor on themselves and the United States Army Air Forces. (General Orders 2186, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

17. The *403d Troop Carrier Group* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Philippine Islands from 17 April to 30 June 1945. When Eighth Army units, after landing on the island of Mindanao, quickly overreached their supply lines, and prolonged rains rendered ground routes impassable, it became necessary that air transport be used to resupply ammunition, rations, and medical, engineering, signal, and fuel supplies to the rapidly advancing troops. Assigned on sudden notice to take part in the Mindanao operations, the *403d Troop Carrier Group*, then engaged in transport activity over an area ranging from Australia to the Philippines, had to set up a temporary advance base to meet Eighth Army requirements. To accomplish their vitally important task, C-47 crews of the *403d*

*Troop Carrier Group*, frequently subjected to severe enemy ground fire, flew at dangerously low altitudes at minimum air speeds to carry out dropping missions, and made uplift flights to guerrilla-built jungle air strips or badly damaged pre-war landing fields. These hastily constructed fields, averaging less than 2,500 feet in length, made landing and take-off especially hazardous, while the absence of radio communications in many of the areas of Mindanao forced the pilots to determine from visual markings whether the strips were American- or Japanese-held. To reach ground force units in the mountainous districts, aircraft of the *403d Troop Carrier Group* had to wind through valleys and dodge treacherous peaks in ever-changing weather. One of the most noteworthy achievements of the *403d Troop Carrier Group* occurred on 20 and 21 May, when these transport planes landed at Libby Field in the midst of a fierce battle for the possession of the field, and, in 2 days, evacuated 343 wounded, although ground action was in progress less than 200 yards away. Despite the hazards which confronted their activities during this entire period, only 2 aircraft were lost and no personnel of the *403d Troop Carrier Group* were injured, although 12 of the airplanes were damaged by enemy fire. Ground crews of the *403d Troop Carrier Group* demonstrated exceptional skill and devotion to duty in maintaining and servicing the aircraft, working 24 hours a day to keep the airplanes flying. During this period, the *403d Troop Carrier Group* completed a total of 6,128 flights, delivering a total of 1,606,864 pounds of supplies and equipment in dropping missions, and 9,685,248 pounds in uplift missions, and evacuating 4,700 battle casualties. In making it possible for the Eighth Army to continue its drives through Mindanao, the personnel of the *403d Troop Carrier Group* made a decided contribution to the successful liberation of the islands of the southern Philippines and brought great credit on themselves and the United States Army. (General Orders 2180, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1946, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

18. The *451st Bombardment Group* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. Notified to prepare their aircraft for a vital mission against the Markersdorf Airdrome, Vienna, Austria, in a counter air operation, the ground crews worked with enthusiasm to insure the mechanical perfection of their airplanes for the forthcoming mission. On 23 August 1944, twenty-four B-24 type aircraft, heavily loaded with maximum tonnage, took off and set course for their destination. En route, the formation was intercepted by numerous enemy fighters in a well coordinated attack, emerging from protective cloud covering 6 to 10 abreast and employing 20-mm cannon in their violent assaults. The highly aggressive enemy fighters made suicidal attempts against the bombers in a desperate attempt to break up and destroy the formation, to prevent the successful completion of their vital mission. Displaying outstanding courage, professional skill and fortitude, the gallant crews battled their way through the overwhelming enemy opposition to the target, where, under continued heavy opposition, they completed a highly successful bombing run. Through their superior ability to maintain a tight protective formation and to direct heavy defensive fire against the fierce attacks of the enemy, the group accounted for 29 enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged in the air. The excellent bombing pattern on the ground installations inflicted grave damage to important buildings and supplies, and 12 enemy airplanes were destroyed on the ground. Throughout the aerial battle, the *451st Bombardment Group* lost nine heavy bombers, with others severely damaged by heavy enemy fire. Through this outstanding achievement, a telling blow was struck at the fighter aircraft concentrations in the Vienna area, thus effectively and seriously crippling enemy-

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operations efficiency at a time of great importance. By the outstanding courage, professional skill, and unwavering determination of the combat crews, together with the superior technical skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel, the *451st Bombardment Group* has upheld the highest traditions of the military service, thereby reflecting great credit on themselves and the armed forces of the United States of America. (General Orders 3757, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, 2 October 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater.)

19. The *475th Fighter Group* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Philippine Islands from 25 October to 25 December 1944. Operating from 3 airstrips on the island of Leyte, pilots of the *475th Fighter Group* destroyed 158 Japanese aircraft and probably destroyed 26 others in aerial combat during this period, assisting in wresting air supremacy from the enemy early in the course of the Philippine operations. Prior to the arrival of their airplanes at Leyte, pilots of the group, which had arrived in the Philippines shortly after the initial assault, borrowed aircraft of another organization and, of their own volition, made fighter sweeps over nearby enemy installations, while more than 200 officers and men of the unit worked for 2½ days throughout enemy bombing and strafing attacks to service United States naval fighters and attack bombers at Dulag airstrip, although necessary equipment and parts had to be borrowed, improvised, or salvaged. On 7 December 1944, the group flew 91 sorties to give patrol protection to American landing operations in western Leyte, and destroyed 28 enemy aircraft in numerous battles. On 25 December 1944, escorting heavy bombers over enemy-held Clark Field, Luzon, pilots of the *475th Fighter Group* destroyed 26 enemy aircraft to bring the total aerial victories of the group to 500. In addition, the *475th Fighter Group* destroyed numerous enemy airplanes on the ground and seriously damaged enemy airfield installations. Of the pilots who participated in these operations 2 were killed, 5 were reported missing, and 4 were wounded, while 14 of their aircraft were destroyed. Credit for the brilliant achievements of the group during this critical 60-day period must go to not only the pilots but also to the maintenance crews and other ground personnel without whose skill and tireless devotion to duty these victories would not have been possible. In making this outstanding contribution to the successful completion of the first phases of the Philippine liberation campaign, the personnel of the *475th Fighter Group* upheld the highest traditions of the United States Army Air Forces. (General Orders 2186, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

20. The *687th Field Artillery Battalion* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy during the period, 16-22 December 1944 in Luxembourg and Belgium. On 16 December 1944, the *687th Field Artillery Battalion*, less Battery B, was reinforcing the 28th Infantry Division from positions south of Wiltz, Luxembourg. The enemy launched a strong attack early on the morning of 16 December which penetrated the infantry and surrounded the battalion. The battalion was heavily shelled. The howitzer crews, on 16 December, with great courage and determination fought off repeated enemy attacks against their positions. Battery B was returned to the battalion. It arrived and was emplaced on the night of 16 December 1944, having passed through enemy territory. Throughout 17 December 1944, Battery B placed a barrage around the positions of Battery A and C, enabling them to beat off a determined enemy attack and to displace to more

advantageous positions. On the night of 17 December, the Battalion Headquarters and Battery B were surrounded but they broke out, made a night march through enemy territory, and went into position with Batteries A and B near Wiltz, Luxembourg, to support the defense of that city. All observation posts had been overrun and the personnel were missing. On 18 and 19 December, the battalion was the only artillery in the sector and, with outstanding initiative and admirable fortitude, supported the defense of the city of Wiltz. The supply lines were cut but the battalion trains fought through with ammunition and supplies. The batteries were in position in column and as the enemy attacked the first battery, it withdrew under the protecting fire of the remaining batteries. On the night of 19 December, the battalion command post was captured and heavy casualties were suffered by the remainder of the battalion. At 2200 that night, the battalion was attacked on all sides and fought courageously for several hours. The battalion command post was captured and heavy casualties were suffered by both sides. On 20 December 1944, the battalion fought its way to Bastogne and there reorganized. At 0200 on 21 December, Battery A was attacked from the south and by 0330 was engaged from all sides by machine guns, small arms, mortars, and grenades. At 0815, six enemy tanks encircled the position in the fog and attacked. The second section gun was destroyed after knocking out a tank at point blank range. After heavy fighting, the battery was overrun. The cannoners withdrew only after dismantling their howltzers. The battalion then deployed four howltzers in antitank positions and defended them as riflemen against incessant attacks. The supported infantry withdrew at 2000 on 22 December 1944, and the three remaining howltzers in the battalion remained to cover the withdrawal, firing continuously for 45 minutes after all communication had been lost. In one 11-hour period, this 3-gun battery fired over 1,200 rounds against the enemy and was the only organized artillery in the sector. At 2300, the three remaining howltzers were withdrawn to a position south of Neufchateau, Belgium. The individual leadership, courage, valor, and tenacity of the personnel of the *687th Field Artillery Battalion*, the success with which the battalion retained its fighting efficiency in the face of superior odds, and its courageous stand are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces. (General Orders 8, Headquarters 61st Field Artillery Brigade, 4 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

21. The *868th Bombardment Squadron (H)* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the Netherlands East Indies on 7 May 1945. On that night, B-24 aircraft of the *868th Bombardment Squadron (H)* made the second of three long-range strikes at enemy installations on the island of Java, Netherlands East Indies. Prior to undertaking this series of missions, which involved a round trip of approximately 3,000 miles, a number of experimental flights had been made to determine the minimum amount of fuel that could be used, so that a maximum bomb load could be carried. Having successfully made a similar raid on 27 April 1945, the *868th Bombardment Squadron (H)* dispatched a formation of 10 Liberators on 7 May to attack shipping in the naval and commercial basin at Soerabaja harbor, Java. Flying through a heavy barrage of accurate antiaircraft fire which damaged 3 of the aircraft, and held in the rays of 17 searchlights for approximately 15 minutes, the *868th Bombardment Squadron (H)* dropped 500-pound general-purpose bombs and scored hits on 5 vessels, AGO 2980B

causing extensive damage and destruction, starting 5 large and 8 small fires in the basin area. Two bombs struck submarine sheds, and one string of bombs hit a quay along the edge of the basin. Fires were visible for half an hour after the Liberators had left the target area. The superb courage and daring of the air crews in fighting their way through heavy enemy opposition to complete this extremely long and hazardous mission, and the exceptional skill and tireless devotion to duty of the members of the ground echelon who carried out the pre-mission experiments and readied the bombers for the strike are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army Air Forces. (General Orders 2186, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, 10 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

22. *Company C, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 10 to 27 September 1943, near Chiunzi Pass, Italy. This company landed at Maori, Italy, with the Ranger Force on the night of September 8 and 9, 1943, with the mission of seizing the high ground controlling Chiunzi Pass and of securing the left flank of the Fifth Army. The holding of this position was vital for flank security, for observation on the plains of Naples, and for observation on German supply routes and communication lines to the Salerno battlefront. During this period, *Company C* exhibited unusual gallantry and determination in manhandling mortars and supplies to mountain tops. The men worked continuously, night and day, keeping the unit supplied. Mortar crews were cut down to one and two men per gun, and the remaining men fought with the Rangers and went on combat patrols. Subjected to almost continuous mortar and artillery fire, and repeatedly attacked by a determined, numerically superior enemy, *Company C* maintained extremely heavy fire and filled in all gaps in the Ranger line. *Company C* men fought side by side with the Rangers, using their automatic weapons and grenades with devastating effect. *Company C* mortar fire was of necessity brought to within 50 yards of friendly units as seven major counterattacks were repelled during the period, and numerous enemy patrols were stopped, often in bitter, close-in fighting. *Company C's* mortars kept the German Army supply route under continuous effective fire, although the supply route was 2,000 yards beyond the authorized range. The men and officers of *Company C, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion*, displayed extraordinary determination in supplying their mortars, which were at the top of the mountain, with ammunition and spare mortar parts. Despite limited food and water supplies, and the continuous nature of enemy fire and activity, this company maintained its courage and determination throughout an extended onslaught by an enemy determined to wipe out its positions and made possible the successful accomplishment of a vital mission. (General Orders 647, Headquarters Seventh Army, Western Military District, 16 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

23. *Company L, 180th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 19 and 20 April 1945 in Nurnberg, Germany. After two infantry companies, attacking a well-fortified castle guarding the approaches to the walled "Inner-City" of Nurnberg, had been stopped by fanatical enemy resistance, *Company L* was committed in an attempt to clear the enemy from the castle. When two frontal assaults were repulsed, *Company L* maneuvered around the left flank of the area in an effort to gain entrance to the castle. Infiltrating into the walled city, *Company L* met a deadly hail of fire emanating from a museum to its rear. One platoon sent to clear this resistance was twice

denied entrance. Doggedly attacking a third time, the platoon seized the building, capturing 70 enemy and eliminating the strong point. Using hand grenades, pistols, rifles, and submachine guns, the members of *Company L* then assaulted the castle, engaging the enemy in 30 minutes of close combat, killing and capturing the entire garrison of 126 fanatical defenders. Resuming the attack on the following morning, *Company L* wedged through the enemy ring and continued its advance, clearing an area of 500 square meters, capturing an additional 80 enemy and crushing all remaining resistance. The heroism, combat proficiency, and brilliant achievement of *Company L* paved the way for the eventual reduction of the ancient Nazi shrine, and are exemplary of the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. (General Orders 358, Headquarters 180th Infantry Regiment, 9 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

24. The *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 329th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy from 4 to 16 September 1944. On 4 September 1944, the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon* crossed the Loire River into enemy-held territory, with the mission of scouting enemy positions and movements. After about 6 days of extended patrolling through an area some 70 miles wide and 100 miles deep south of the Loire River, the platoon received word through French informants in Issoudon, France, that a large force of approximately 20,000 Germans was moving eastward in an attempt to escape through the Belfort Gap into Germany. Racing through enemy territory, heedless of the threat of capture or annihilation which faced them at every turn, the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon* boldly effected a contact with the commander of the German forces and convinced him of the desirability of surrendering his force to the American Army. While the platoon leader returned to the regimental command post for instructions, the platoon was charged with the mission of maintaining contact with the enemy force and restraining the local FFI from making any premature show of force. Armed with but a few rifles, machine guns, and pistols, this courageous group virtually contained the entire enemy force by their sheer audacity and bold and aggressive patrolling. Constantly patrolling the area, tracking down rumors of other enemy groups, being sniped at by isolated enemy armed with burp guns, and having their vehicles sabotaged by collaboratorist French, the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon* held on to their prize until arrangements could be made to have the German commander meet with an authorized American representative. This meeting occurred on 11 September 1944 at the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon* command post at Romorantin. Arrangements were made to have the German force proceed to three assembly areas along the Loire River where they would formally surrender and turn in their weapons. The long trek to the river began with the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon* acting as guides, flank guides, and liaison agents with the French forces along the way. Only the timely intervention of the men of the platoon prevented frequent outbreaks by the FFI who were not familiar with the situation or the terms of the surrender. Finally, on 16 September 1944, at Beaugency, France, the German commander surrendered himself, his troops, and all of their equipment to Major General Macon, Commanding General of the 83d Infantry Division, acting on behalf of the Army commander. The outstanding gallantry of this intrepid group of soldiers in arranging and executing the first and largest mass surrender of the war up to that time is without parallel in the annals of military history. The courage and devotion to duty of every man

of the *Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 329th Infantry Regiment*, reflect the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 221, Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, 2 November 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

## OFFICIAL:

EDWARD F. WITSELL  
*Major General*  
*Acting The Adjutant General*

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  
*Chief of Staff*

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