

HEADQUARTERS
FORTY FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 45, US ARMY

AG
LSL/cap
3 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 69

Award of the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque

Under the provisions of War Department Circular Number 345, 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to the following-named organization. Individuals assigned or attached to this unit are entitled to wear the Meritorious Service Unit Insignia only so long as they remain assigned or attached:

SERVICE BATTERY, 158TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, for superior performance of difficult tasks from 15 August 1944 to 31 January 1945 in France. During this period the Service Battery has maintained a constant flow of supplies to the other units of the battalion despite the handicaps of distance, weather and terrain. From the time of the landing on 15 August 1944 to the crossing of the Meurthe River, the rapidity of movement necessitated extremely long trips for rations and ammunition with a resultant loss of time for the upkeep of vehicles and rest for the men, yet the battery fulfilled its assignment with the maximum of efficiency, working long hours to maintain vehicles in working order and sacrificing their own comfort and rest to insure the prompt delivery of supplies and repair of equipment. During this time the ammunition dumps were distant from the unit so that trips of one hundred to three hundred miles were frequently necessary, but the battery maintained the required level of ammunition at all times in addition to furnishing vehicles for the shuttling of infantry. As the stiffening enemy resistance slowed the advance, it was necessary to use several officers in other capacities; however, the enlisted men responded to their additional responsibility with a cheerful enthusiasm which assured the continued efficient performance of their duties. The battery has achieved a high standard of discipline and military courtesy. As displayed by the appearance of the installations and the state of the equipment, and the enthusiastic execution of orders under the most trying of conditions, the battery has exhibited an efficiency of performance which reflects credit upon its officers and men.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK:

OFFICIAL:

KENNETH G WICKHAM
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

Henry B Roach
HENRY B ROACH
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

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