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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

9 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 76)

CITATION OF UNITS

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, War Department, 1943, the following-named organizations are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action, and are awarded citation streamers therefor. Individuals assigned or attached to these units are entitled to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge to identify such citation:

THE 2ND BATTALION (REINFORCED), 30TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period 8 August 1943 to 12 August 1943. When a determined enemy was successfully withstanding the attack of an American Army, the 2ND BATTALION (REINFORCED) made an amphibious landing near San Agata, Sicily, eight miles behind the German lines. This battalion forced a breach in the enemy positions, inflicted heavy casualties upon him in men and material, and advanced the American positions ten miles. Forty-eight hours later, without rest or normal preparation, the 2ND BATTALION made a second amphibious landing, this time fifteen miles behind the German lines, in order to seize Mount Creole, a dominating terrain feature between the Naso and Brolo Rivers. In the face of murderous fire from all types of weapons, and tanks, the battalion, without supporting artillery, doggedly fought its way up the precipitous heights of its objective. The soldiers of this organization maintained their captured positions for nineteen and one-half hours, despite constant shelling and repeated counterattacks, until the balance of the division drove through fifteen miles of enemy territory to their relief. In seizing Mount Creole, the 2ND BATTALION inflicted and suffered heavy losses in men and material, but forced the enemy to withdraw fifteen miles and denied him the use of a lateral supply line to his inland positions. The action of the 2ND BATTALION was marked by gallantry, fearlessness and profound devotion to duty in the successful accomplishment of two vital missions.

THE 2ND BATTALION, 157TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action, during the period *** February to *** February 1944, at *** ***, Italy. Approximately two and one-half hours after this battalion had completed the relief of American and British units in a strategic sector at *** ***, the full force of an all-out German offensive was launched against it. Attacks followed unrelentingly for eight days, and although the 2ND BATTALION suffered overwhelming losses, the unit held together and yielded less than 1,000 yards of ground during the entire action. Wave after wave of fresh enemy troops were thrown against the position in repeated attempts to breach the *** defenses. In all, a total of four to six German Infantry battalions

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were employed against the sector, and each assault was preceded by extremely heavy artillery concentrations. Repeatedly enemy tanks penetrated the forward areas on one flank or the other, isolating small elements of the battalion and disrupting lateral communications. To counter nightly infiltrations by German patrols, practically the full strength of the unit was required in the front lines to engage in vicious hand-to-hand combat with the enemy. At one time German machine guns were set up within forty yards of the battalion command post. The determined, heroic stand was climaxed when the courageous defenders called for artillery fire on the very caves and bluffs which members of the battalion occupied as the enemy closed in on the position. Losses inflicted on the enemy were known to be considerably in excess of the 2ND BATTALION's total initial strength. On the last night, while a British unit was attempting relief of the battalion, the sector was completely surrounded by an enemy envelopment, but the depleted battalion fought its way out of the encirclement through withering cross-fire from German machine guns and automatic weapons and under heavy artillery fire. The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by officers and men of the 2ND BATTALION, 157TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States.

By command of Lieutenant General Clark:

A. M. GRUENTHER,
Major General, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

M. F. Grant
M. F. GRANT,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS FORTY FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

TO THE HIGH POINT MEN OF THE 45TH DIVISION

It is difficult to leave an organization after living and working in it as long as you have. It is even more difficult for those of us who remain to express our emotions at your leaving.

Through your efforts and by your unselfish devotion to duty as members of the 45th Division, you have brought this division to the glorious culmination of the first stage of its mission—V-E Day. Now, it is the mission of this great battle-wise division to carry on in the war against the Japs. Your individual contribution has been recognized by our government and now you will be relieved of further combat duty.

The friendship, the loyalties and the deep sympathy which combat soldiers feel toward each other will not die with your departure. The 45th Division will always be the richer for having had you among its gallant men. I know I speak for every member of this command when I wish you good luck and extend to you a sincere salute from your division.

Robert T. Frederick

ROBERT T. FREDERICK
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

IN MEMORY OF 45TH VETS

4 July 1945

The war in Europe is over----- Victory has been attained---Hitler, Mussolini, Goebbels have been eradicated, These masters, parents of this crime in which thousands of courageous young men gallantly gave their lives. Foolishly?---- No, not foolishly.... nor unnecessarily,-----but willingly, for God, home and country----- that these criminals be brought to justice and this world be made a safer and better place to live.

Leaving family and home with one thought in mind.....To end it and return home to their loved ones----- Countless numbers never lived to see the end. They died as heroes and will never be forgotten, by those who ate, slept and fought beside them. May The Lord in Heaven above have Mercy on Their souls. The forgotten, man is the one who saw the finish and has but one vision, constantly before his eyes. The lad who initially waded in on the shores of Sicily, climbed the slopes of "Bloody Ridge", took potshots at the fleeing Germans as they crossed the Straits of Messina. Then pursued these children of Nazism through Salerno, and Venafro, sweated them out on the Anzio Beachhead and pushed on to free the Holy City of Rome.

No pausing----Onward to France, up the Rhone Valley, speeding toward the Siegfried Line. A tough nut to crack, but they cracked it, crossing the Rhine and pouring into the fatherland. They fell one by one, but so did these Nazi strongholds as well as the evil-minded Nazi defenders. Aschaffenburg, Nurnburg, Wurzburg, etc---~~perhaps the bloodiest of all Nazi Horror Camps~~
Crossing the beautiful Blue Danube, liberating Dachau, perhaps the bloodiest of all Nazi Horror Camps for the persecution of innocent people who outwardly opposed the policies of the Nazi political sovereigns. Then came to Munich, mother of "Der Fuehrer" and his Nazi Party. This was the end,-----

We had seen it all and happily making preparations for our return trip home.....Counting points.....getting addresses, trying to plan for the future. Then came the redeployment program----- "The Forty-Fifth is going home" The men who had seen it all would be transferred out of the Division into another outfit to await transportation back to the "Good Old U/S:.....New recruits would fill the vacancies, proudly don the "Thunderbird", and attempt to carry on in the same glorious manner as their predecessors. Those heroes who had lived through it all "transferred out to another unit"..... Prize winning thoroughbreds who had run their last race, no longer needed, cast aside, out in the fields, on their own..... ,,,,,,Alive and still as proud and brave as ever,----- -----but forgotten,.....

"The Forgotten Men"
Veterans of the Forty-Fifth Division
World WarII