

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 58WAR DEPARTMENT  
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## BATTLE HONORS—Citation of units.

2. *Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding achievement in combat during the period 17 to 19 December 1944 near Bobenthal, Germany. When other units were stopped by fierce resistance from a sector of the Siegfried Line, *Company K* was assigned the mission of flanking the enemy fortifications and attacking them from the rear. Passing through the sector of an adjacent unit, *Company K* engaged two enemy pillboxes and without the aid of special equipment drove off the defending enemy personnel. Two enemy counterattacks were repulsed before the company could proceed on its mission. At dusk of 18 December 1944, *Company K* reached the strongly fortified hill which it had been ordered to reduce. An attack was launched before dark, resulting in the capture of another pillbox. The enemy had meanwhile cut off *Company K* from the rest of the battalion, severing wire communications and preventing the delivery of supplies. While preparing to resume its attack in the morning, *Company K* was heavily counter-attacked from the rear by a large enemy force employing rocket launchers and machine guns. By means of a quick-flanking movement, *Company K* disorganized the enemy, killing 15 and driving off the remainder. Despite a limited quantity of ammunition and the lack of adequate communications, *Company K* then attacked a series of four pillboxes, connected by deep trenches, which had been holding up the advance of the battalion. With hand grenades and small-arms fire, the company assaulted enemy personnel in the trenches and with white phosphorous grenades forced the pillbox personnel out of their fortifications. In 3 days of attack upon fortified positions, *Company K* captured seven pillboxes, took approximately 50 prisoners, and killed and wounded a similar number of enemy. The conspicuous combat skill, determination, and heroism displayed by members of *Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment*, removed a major obstacle to the advance of their battalion, and reflect the highest attack traditions of the Army of the United States. (General Orders 150, Headquarters 45th Infantry Division, 14 May 1945, as approved by Commanding General, European Theater of Operations.)