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GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 63 }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 5 August 1944

BATTLE HONORS—Citations of units.

Company G, 180th Infantry Regiment is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period 17 to 18 February 1944 near Padiglione, Italy. On 16 February 1944 *Company G* occupied defensive positions in extremely open terrain in a sector of the Anzio beachhead. On that day the enemy launched a 3-day offensive designed to destroy the Allied forces on the beachhead, employing a reinforced battalion against the sector held by *Company G*. So aggressive was the initial attack, supported by tanks and artillery, that the enemy had to be driven off with hand grenades, bayonets, and other weapons of close combat. At night the enemy employed infiltration tactics in an attempt to overcome the resistance of *Company G*. When, on the following day, the unit on the left flank of *Company G* withdrew to a secondary defensive line, *Company G* was exposed to penetrating columns of enemy tanks and infantry which succeeded in establishing positions to the rear of the company. Despite intense artillery, small arms, and tank fire, a scarcity of ammunition, and a considerable reduction in strength, *Company G* remained firm in its stand against persistent attack by the enemy. At nightfall the enemy completed his encirclement of *Company G* by infiltrating through the right flank. Orders were issued by higher headquarters to withdraw the companies in this sector to a secondary defensive line, but having no communications, *Company G* did not receive the order. When the unit on its right withdrew the following morning *Company G* was left with both flanks exposed, with enemy strong points established to its rear and without a route of supply. For 12 hours the members of the company fought to drive off the attacking waves of enemy infantry. The combat strength of the company was reduced to approximately 50 men and the company commander, but the fighting spirit, courage, and determination of the company had not diminished. Finally receiving its orders to take up new positions *Company G* fought a gallant withdrawal action and reached the new beachhead line the night of 18 February 1944. The conspicuous combat skill, heroism, and determination of *Company G, 180th Infantry Regiment* contributed materially to the success of the Allied forces in defeating the enemy's main effort to destroy the Anzio beachhead and reflect the highest traditions of the armed forces.

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