

R E S T R I C T E D

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

5 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS )  
:  
NUMBER 95 )

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 48TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy, during the assault on Mount Porchia, Italy, between 4 January and 8 January 1944. As part of an engineer combat group, this battalion was assigned the mission of opening and maintaining axial supply routes for a task force assault to capture and occupy an enemy mountain stronghold. The 48th Engineer Combat Battalion not only performed its normal engineering tasks under fire from a fiercely resisting enemy, but also attacked as infantry during bitter fighting to secure the objective. During the engagement a gap developed on the left flank of the task force, and the engineers courageously fought to secure this flank and prevent enemy penetration. As the attack progressed, infantry losses were severe, and all reserves had been committed to action in the effort to destroy enemy resistance. All companies of the 48th Engineer Combat Battalion were then committed to action as infantry in the final and successful assault to drive the enemy from the task force objective. The courage and fighting determination exhibited by officers and men of the 48th Engineer Combat Battalion were vital factors in the successful accomplishment of the task force mission, and their performance reflects the heroic traditions of the Corps of Engineers.

THE 235TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy, during the assault on Mount Porchia, Italy, between 4 January and 8 January 1944. The 235th Engineer Combat Battalion was assigned the mission of opening and maintaining axial supply routes for a task force in an assault to capture and occupy an enemy mountain stronghold. This organization not only performed its normal engineering tasks under heavy fire from a fiercely resisting enemy, but also attacked as infantry during bitter fighting to secure the objective. On the right flank, engineers eliminated two obstacles of blown bridges to enable armor to move forward in support of the infantry attack. These obstacles were overcome in the face of intense enemy small arms, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. Twice during the operation it was necessary for the engineers to attack and drive the enemy from strongly fortified positions in order to clear routes for the advance of armor. The courage, determined spirit and sustained combat efficiency displayed by members of the 235th Engineer Combat Battalion were vital factors in

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the accomplishment of the task force mission and reflect the finest traditions of the Corps of Engineers of the Army of the United States.

THE 509TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action, on 29 February 1944, near \*\*\*, Italy. This battalion, depleted in strength after many days of continuous combat, received a terrific enemy artillery barrage during early morning hours ~~in the~~ ~~paratroopers' positions~~, and ~~at dawn~~ a German assault ~~was launched~~. Being considerably outnumbered, the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion held its fire until the last possible moment; then every weapon opened fire, cutting huge gaps in the first attacking wave. The enemy faltered in his advance; then surged relentlessly ahead from the sheer pressure of large numbers of troops in the rear. The soldiers of the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion fought desperately, disdaining retreat, engaging the overwhelming and constantly increasing German force with rifle butts and even fists. Late in the afternoon the German attack was halted. The badly battered but determined paratroopers immediately reorganized in preparation for counterattack. Outnumbering the paratroopers more than three to one, the enemy had overrun the front line, but was later held to a standstill, suffering immense losses in men and equipment. The courageous and determined stand made by officers and men of the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion resulted in the retention of a vital sector of the beachhead and prevented a dangerous German wedge between two infantry divisions.

COMPANY C, 509TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action, on 15 and 16 March 1944, near \*\*\*, Italy. Company C was given the mission of securing two heavily fortified houses vitally needed for use as a line of departure for a large-scale attack. These buildings were organized into a strongpoint, well wired in, heavily mined, and with mutually supporting machine gun fire. The attack took place under a full moon, across open, flat, marshy land. The leading platoons of Company C approached to a point within two hundred yards of the objective before contacting the enemy. At this point the attacking force encountered withering fire from ten enemy machine guns, in addition to heavy rifle fire. This fire momentarily halted the company, and intense enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on its position. Company C continued to push forward. About seventy-five yards from the houses, the company drew still more intense machine gun fire and encountered wire and mine fields. In spite of heavy casualties, this small group of men moved forward across the obstacles and rushed the houses to engage the enemy in close-in fighting with hand grenades. All but four machine guns were finally eliminated, but the opposition provided by these weapons and continual rifle and hand grenade assaults made the position almost untenable. The area around the house was subjected to a heavy mortar barrage, and the enemy launched a fierce counterattack with an estimated strength of two platoons; but the attack was halted by artillery, and small arms fire from Company C forced the enemy to withdraw. The objective was finally consolidated at daybreak; and throughout the day under heavy periodic artillery fire the position was held. Members of Company C continued to snipe at the enemy, adjusted artillery fire on enemy targets to the front, and repulsed an enemy patrol, inflicting heavy

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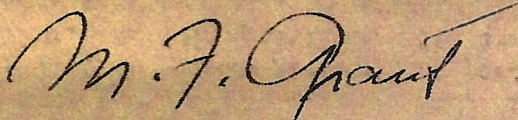
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casualties and capturing four prisoners. The courage and determination displayed by members of Company C against almost overwhelming odds reflect the finest traditions of the Armed Forces.

By command of Lieutenant General CLARK:

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

OFFICIAL:



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

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