

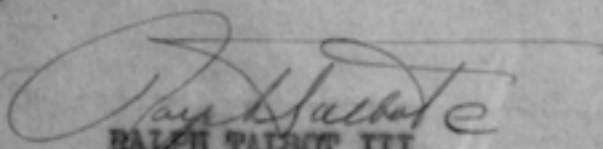
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HEADQUARTERS
702nd Tank Battalion
APO 403

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : All Officers and Enlisted Men of 702nd Tank Battalion

1. Since the arrival in France of the 702nd Tank Battalion the name "Red Devil" has become famous. Famous not only for fighting spirit but for excellence of performance of the combat duties entrusted to each tank, half-track, truck, or other vehicle driver and crew. Without fear of contradiction by any soul living I know that the record of accomplishment of the Red Devils is first in the Third Army.
2. The low loss in personnel and vehicles is the direct result of great painstaking effort by all members of the Battalion not only on the battle field but also during lull periods.
3. The remarks of the Army, Corps, and Division Commanders in their praise and admiration of the quality of performance and achievements of the "Red Devils" have in every case been of the highest order.
4. While I personally do not exercise great control over your detailed actions I cannot help but feel that I am lucky to command the finest tank battalion in the entire European Theatre of Operations.
5. I wish I could commend each and every one of you personally but as that is not feasible I take this method of showing my gratitude for the splendid record you have made for the Battalion as a whole.
6. Every man must know that he not only has set the highest example of soldiery, made his unit renowned, but also been a personal source of pride to me. I repeat again - We are the best.


RALPH TALBOT III
Lt Col, 702nd Tk Bn
Commanding