

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 24

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 6 APRIL 1945

E X T R A C T

BATTLE HONORS--Citations of Units Co F 318th Inf 80th Div VI

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VI BATTLE HONORS.--5. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9395 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942) citation of the following unit in General Orders, No. 29, Headquarters 80th Infantry Division, 29 January 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is confirmed under the provisions of section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry, is cited for outstanding performance of duty during the period 25 to 28 December, 1944. The battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, when it was withdrawn from the front lines for the movement to the Bastogne, Belgium area. Its effective rifle-fighting strength had been reduced to 200 men. Attacking on Christmas Day after several days without rest, the battalion began its assault of the enemy positions encircling Bastogne, Belgium. Throughout the next 4 days and 3 nights, the depleted battalion battled its way in freezing temperature through the strongly held woods and villages separating our troops from the besieged forces in Bastogne. The stubborn resistance of the enemy and well dug-in positions required constant use of the bayonet and hand grenade in their destruction. Suffering heavy casualties, constantly exposed to raking enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire from flanking positions, the battalion fought on with an unrelenting determination that overcame all obstacles, routed the enemy, and established contact with the forces within Bastogne. The aggressiveness of the heroic infantrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry reflects the finest traditions of the Army of the United States.

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

OFFICIAL:
J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General

G. C. MARSHALL
Chief of Staff

A TRUE COPY

Matthew L. Dwyer, Jr.
MATTHEW L. DWYER, JR.
Major, Infantry
Commanding