

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 24

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 5 APRIL 1945

E X T R A C T

BATTLE HONORS--Citations of Units _____ 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 The battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, when it was withdrawn from the front lines for the movement to the Bastogne, Belgium area.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 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 Dwyer, Jr.
MATTHEW L. DWYER, JR.
Major, Infantry
Commanding

Will tell you all about this battle when I get home. It took place just before I got hit the town underlined is where I got hit

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 80. U. S. Army

5 December 1944

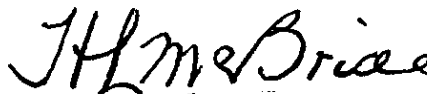
SUBJECT : Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 318th Infantry Regiment, APO 80, U.S. Army.

The attack of the 318th Infantry on 4 December once again demonstrated the superb spirit and dash that has characterized all the actions of the Regiment in the recent offensives.

The attack was well planned and coordinated, and admirably executed. All members of the Regiment share equally in the superb performance. The Regiment continues to make difficult assignments appear easy. The performance of the Regiment has elicited favorable comment from both the Corps and Army Commanders.

I wish to commend you and your Regiment on its outstanding accomplishments.



H. L. McBRIDE,
Major General, United States Army.
Commanding.

Commendation

1st Ind.

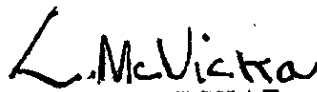
IM/wrh

(5 Dec 44)

HEADQUARTERS 318TH INFANTRY, APO 80, U. S. ARMY, 8 December 44.

TO : MEN OF THE 318TH INFANTRY.

This commendation belongs to you. It is your Regiment, the Regiment you have made. Be proud of it. Live up to it.



L. McVICKAR
Colonel, 318th Infantry
Commanding