

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 80, U.S. ARMY.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 101)

12 APRIL 1945

E X T R A C T

1. THE FOLLOWING UNIT OF THE DIVISION IS CITED FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM, GALLANTRY, DETERMINATION AND ESPRIT DE CORPS IN OVERCOMING HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT CONDITIONS AGAINST AN ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES:

2ND BATTALION, 318TH INFANTRY: THE SECOND BATTALION, 318TH INFANTRY IS CITED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY DURING THE PERIOD 8 - 11 NOVEMBER 1944, IN FRANCE.

ON 8 NOVEMBER 1944, THE SECOND BATTALION, 318TH INFANTRY BEGAN ITS ASSAULT OF THE SEILLE RIVER VALLEY WITH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SEIZING DELME RIDGE COMMANDING THE EASTERN APPROACHES TO THE VALLEY. CROSSING THE SEILLE RIVER, FLOODED BY THE HEAVY AND CONTINUED RAIN, THE BATTALION GAINED CONTROL OF THE ENEMY HELD BANK IN FIERCE HAND TO HAND STRUGGLES. SECURING THEIR INITIAL BRIDGE-HEAD, THE BATTALION DUG IN UNDER INTENSE ENEMY ARTILLERY FIRE AS THE RAIN CONTINUED UNABATED. SPENDING THE NIGHT IN THEIR WATER-FILLED FOXHOLES, THE BATTALION PUSHED FORWARD AT DAYLIGHT, CROSSING THE FLOODED VALLEY FLOOR INTO THE FACE OF THE TERRIFIC ENEMY ARTILLERY CONCENTRATIONS. FIGHTING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DAY WITHOUT FOOD AND LITTLE AMMUNITION, THE BATTALION STORMED THE STRONGLY HELD HILLS BORDERING THE VALLEY, BLASTING EACH OF THE ENTRENCHED ENEMY POSITIONS INTO SUBMISSION WITH HAND GRENADES. SEIZING THE HEIGHTS THAT EVENING THE BATTALION AWAITED DAYLIGHT TO CONTINUE THE ASSAULT, AS THE RAIN AND ENEMY ARTILLERY CONTINUED. SUPPLY PROBLEMS WERE ACUTE AND AGAIN THE BATTALION ATTACKED WITHOUT FOOD OR DRY CLOTHING. CASUALTIES WERE MOUNTING AS THE BATTALION SCALED THE STEEP CLIFFS AND EJECTED THE STRONGLY ENTRENCHED ENEMY FROM THE TOWNS OF MANATEL AND SAILLY. ASSAULTING THE STRATEGIC DELME RIDGE, THE DEPLETED BATTALION SEIZED THE FANATICALLY DEFENDED OBJECTIVE ONLY THROUGH GRIM AND UNRELENTING DETERMINATION. ON THE FOURTH DAY OF THE ATTACK THE SECOND BATTALION SECURED THE APPROACHES TO THE RIDGE. REDUCED IN STRENGTH TO A COMPLEMENT LESS THAN THAT OF A NORMAL RIFLE COMPANY, THE BATTALION ATTACKED OVER UARSHLAND INTO THE RAGING ENEMY FIRE, CLEARING THREE TOWNS IN BITTER CLOSE-IN FIGHTING. IN THE FOUR DAYS OF ATTACK, THE SECOND BATTALION, DURING CONTINUOUS RAIN, HAD SPEARHEADED A DRIVE OVER A DISTANCE OF FIFTEEN MILES, CAPTURING SIX VILLAGES, CROSSING A FORMIDABLE WATER BARRIER AT FLOOD STAGE, AND PLAYING A MAJOR PART IN THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE FULL ENEMY DIVISION AND SUPPORTING FORCES. THE DETERMINATION, AGGRESSIVENESS, AND HEROIC COURAGE DISPLAYED BY EACH OFFICER AND ENLISTED MAN OF THE SECOND BATTALION, DESPITE HEAVY CASUALTIES, DIFFICULT TERRAIN, AND DEPLORABLE WEATHER, ARE COMMENSURATE WITH THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.