

R E S T R I C T E D

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

GENERAL ORDERS)

27 April 1945.

NUMBER 112)

SECTION

- I - Unit Commendation.
- II - Unit Citations.
- III - Award of Bronze Star, Posthumously.
- IV - Award of Bronze Star.

I. The following unit of the Division is commended for heroic achievement in Germany on 15 March 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States:

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SECOND PLATOON, COMPANY F, 318TH INFANTRY: In a battalion attack on enemy positions near Frommersbach, Germany, the Second Platoon, Company F, 318th Infantry, led the battalion, assaulting in a column of companies. The attack of the Second Platoon was so well coordinated and executed that despite heavy resistance, fifty enemy soldiers were killed, seventy five captured, and twenty loaded supply vehicles captured as well as machine guns and one 88mm direct fire weapon, without a single casualty. The expert and aggressive advance of the Second Platoon, Company F, 318th Infantry, enabled the battalion to quickly attain its objective with negligible losses and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

II. The following units of the Division are cited for extraordinary heroism, determination, and gallantry in overcoming hazardous and difficult conditions against an enemy of the United States:

CANNON COMPANY, 317TH INFANTRY: The Cannon Company, 317th Infantry is cited for exceptional aggressiveness, extraordinary heroism, and outstanding performance of duty. Crossing the Moselle River the same day as the advance rifle units on 12 September 1944, the Cannon Company, 317th Infantry, gave close fire support to this regiment during this critical operation. The following day the enemy counterattacked employing infantry and tanks. The initial force of the attack pierced our defenses, penetrating one thousand yards to the left rear of the howitzer positions. Immediate counter measures reversed the attack, forcing the enemy back. A German self-propelled 76mm gun, attempting to overrun the howitzer positions, was destroyed and all its crew killed by direct fire. Three other enemy counterattacks were repulsed within the next few days in maintaining the Moselle bridgehead. The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the officers and men of the Cannon Company, 317th Infantry reflect the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON, 317TH INFANTRY: The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 317th Infantry, is cited for exceptional aggressiveness, extraordinary heroism, and outstanding performance of duty. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 317th Infantry, with

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twenty five men, armed with organic weapons, preceded the leading elements in the three day attack west of the Rhine River from 19 March 1945, to 21 March 1945. The men of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon cleared thirty two towns, including Kusel and Kaiserlautern, Germany. On 21 March 1945, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon entered Kaiserlautern, Germany, on foot, encountering small arms fire from an estimated two hundred fifty enemy troops defending the area. Using their automatic weapons the enemy was driven into a dugout and encircled. Members of the platoon advanced under fire and threw hand grenades into the entrance until the garrison commander of Kaiserlautern emerged from the dugout and arranged terms of unconditional surrender. Included in his command were one colonel, four majors, five captains, three first lieutenants, seven second lieutenants, twenty non-commissioned officers and ninety seven privates. The courage of the garrison commanding officer and staff of the city of Kaiserlautern eliminated all organized resistance and proved to be the motivating factor in the capitulation of the entire city. The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the men of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 317th Infantry reflect the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

III. Sections III and IV published as an extract.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WALKER

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