

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 28

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 19 April 1948

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I. GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL.—By direction of the President, the commanding officer, Yokohama Command, is empowered, pursuant to the eighth article of war, to appoint general courts martial, *effective as of 16 April 1948*.

[AG 250.401 (15 Apr 48)]

II. SECTION 55C, NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT, UNIT.—*Effective 19 April 1948*, the section 55c, National Defense Act, unit located at Porterville Union High School and Junior College, Porterville, California, is inactivated.

[AG 00068 (7 Apr 48)]

III. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), the following unit is cited under the provisions of AR 260-15 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

Combat Command B, 2d Armored Division, composed of the following units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company;

67th Armored Regiment (less 3d Battalion);

1st and 3d Battalions, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment;

78th Armored Field Artillery Battalion;

Company B, Detachment E, 17th Armored Engineer Battalion;

Company B, 702d Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP);

Company B, 48th Armored Medical Battalion;

Detachment, 2d Armored Maintenance Battalion; and

Battery A, 195th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (SP), is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action from 27 to 30 July 1944, inclusive, during the critical break-through of German positions west of St. Lo, France.

Following the saturation bombing on 25 July, *Combat Command B* moved to Canisy as a part of the division column, advancing with considerable difficulty over terrain characterized by sunken roads, hedgerows, and bomb craters. Upon reaching Canisy, the command pivoted to the southwest and drove for its assigned objective of St. Denis le Gast and the Sienne River. Crack German troops were caught in the pocket created by this maneuver. The enemy endeavored to break through the extended lines of the command with a series of vicious and determined attacks. All of these failed, though well-supported and organized, by reason of innumerable acts of individual heroism on the part of the members of *Combat Command B* and the teamwork and indomitable ability of the command as a unit. Eight successive enemy assaults at Pont Brocard, Notre Dame le Centilly, la Penetiere, St. Denis le Gast, and on the road northwest of Grinesnil were beaten off in vicious hand-to-hand fighting and by direct fire from artillery and antiaircraft guns.

In less than 48 hours, *Combat Command B* forged its way from Canisy to the Sienne River and completed the encirclement of all German troops remaining in the area: Marigny, Coutances, and Cerences. This operation was a major factor in ending the hedgerow warfare of Normandy and opened the way for the subse-

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quent rapid advance of the Third United States Army. The entire command was operating over a greatly extended front and its units frequently were nearly surrounded by larger German forces. From reconnaissance elements to supply services, all were almost constantly in contact with the enemy, owing to the situation created by the break-through into the enemy's rear areas.

However, all members of the command, clearly conscious of the importance of their own particular mission to the success of the entire operation, displayed the highest degree of initiative and enthusiasm, coupled with a complete disregard for their personal safety. The superb efficiency and fighting qualities of *Combat Command B, 2d Armored Division*, in this action are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. (The foregoing citation supersedes those already made to subordinate units for action included in the above-cited period, and does not constitute an additional citation authorizing the wearing of an Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Unit Emblem to personnel cited in paragraph 7, section X, General Orders 2, War Department, 1946, citing Company I, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, and the following units of the 67th Armored Regiment: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (less the Assault Gun Platoon); Company E, and the 3d Platoon, Company B; and section II, General Orders 54, War Department, 1946, citing the 78th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General

OMAR N. BRADLEY

Chief of Staff, United States Army