

Sgt Asher

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
APO 634

1 May, 1944

201.22 x 300.6
Subject: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division (H), A.P.O. 557.

1. On 24 April 1944, the 41st Combat Wing, under your command, executed a highly successful attack on important enemy airfields at Oberpfaffenhofen and Landsberg in southeastern Germany. The 41st Wing was formed for this operation into two separate combat wings, the 41st "A" Combat Wing, comprised of two groups from the 379th Bomb Group and one from the 303rd Bomb Group; and the 41st "B" Combat Wing, comprised of the 384th, 306th and a composite of the 384th-303rd Bomb Groups. On this operation, despite heavy losses, the 41st Combat Wing, under the air leadership of Brigadier General ROBERT F. TRAVIS, distinguished itself by penetrating through unusually severe resistance from enemy fighters and anti-aircraft fire and bombing its objectives with excellent results.

2. In particular it is desired that Colonel DALE O. SMITH and the officers and men of the 41st "B" Combat Wing (384th, 306th and 384th-303rd Bomb Group), who bore the brunt of the enemy attacks, receive special commendation for the exemplary manner in which their mission was accomplished. With its escort of P-51's outnumbered and drawn off in combat, this formation was left, for more than an hour, without fighter protection. Before and during this period, in addition to intense fire from ground defenses, the crews of the 41st "B" Combat Wing were exposed to repeated savage assaults from more than fifty ME109's and FW190's, at one time remaining under unremitting attack for approximately forty minutes. Undiscouraged by these difficulties and despite the loss of sixteen of its airplanes, the 41st "B" Combat Wing continued steadily on to the target at Oberpfaffenhofen, dropping its bombs with accuracy and inflicting severe damage on the enemy. Two instances serve to typify the spirit in which the crews of the 41st "B" Combat Wing carried out their assignment. Hit badly by one of the first enemy fighters encountered, Captain JOHN J. STOLZ, leader of the 306th (low) Group, with great courage and determination succeeded for three hours in holding his damaged plane in formation before a second enemy fighter attack knocked him out of position. The airplane of Captain ROBERT E. LANGLOIS, leading the 384th (high) Group, was seriously struck by enemy fighters before the target was reached. With high skill and heroism, Captain LANGLOIS continued to fly his disabled ship with the formation until his bombs had been released on the target, after which his plane was seen to go down.

3. It is desired that this commendation be published to all personnel in your command.

/s/ J. H. DOOLITTLE
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

201-22 x 300.6
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 2 May, 1944.

1st Ind.

TO: All Combat Bombardment Wing and Group Commanders, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557.

The fighting qualities demonstrated by these units plus their ability to put the bombs on the target, are vital factors in completing our job over here and are typical of the combat spirit of this Division.

/s/ Robert B. Williams
/t/ ROBERT B. WILLIAMS
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

Harold Nelson Jr.
HAROLD NELSON, JR.
Major, Air Corps,