

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO

79)

WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 4 OCTOBER 1944

VI BATTLE HONORS. 1. AS AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9396 (SEC. I, BULL. 22, WD 1943), SUPERSEDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO 9075 (SEC. III, BULL. 21, WD, 1942) CITATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS IN GENERAL ORDERS NO. 138, HEADQUARTERS 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, 23 MAY 1944 AS APPROVED BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES IN EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, ARE 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 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) IS CITED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF AN IMPORTANT TARGET AT MUNSTER, GERMANY, ON 10 OCTOBER 1943. THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) LED THE 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION AND THE 13TH COMBAT BOMB WING(H), IN THE AIR, ON THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 5 HOUR OPERATION WHICH INVOLVED A FLIGHT OF 520 MILES AT AN ALTITUDE OF 24,000 FEET. DURING THE PERIOD OF NO FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT THE GROUP WAS SUBJECTED TO VIOLENT AND CONCENTRATED ATTACKS OF APPROXIMATELY 250 ENEMY FIGHTERS, CHIEFLY F.W.190'S, JU 88'S AND ME. 110'S AND 210'S. CHOOSING THE 13TH COMBAT WING (H) AS A FOCAL POINT, THE WAVES OF ATTACKERS, AFTER SHOOTING DOWN ALL BUT ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE LOW GROUP, AND EIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE HIGH GROUP, CONCENTRATED ON THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H). TWIN-ENGINE ENEMY FIGHTERS, FIRING 20MM AND 37MM CANNON AND ROCKET PROJECTILES, ATTACKED IN STAPPELS OF 12 TO 15 EACH. LOSING FIVE AIRCRAFT TO THIS CONCENTRATED OPPOSITION, THE UNIT MAINTAINED A COHESIVE COMBAT FORMATION THROUGHOUT THE ATTACKS. THE 95 TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) IS OFFICIALLY CREDITED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF 41 ENEMY FIGHTERS, 5 OTHERS PROBABLY DESTROYED, AND 19 DAMAGED. BEGINNING AT DORSTEN AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE TARGET AREA, THE GROUP ALSO ENCOUNTERED EXTREMELY INTENSE AND DAMAGING ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. TEN OF THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT IN THE UNIT WERE DAMAGED. RALLYING THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT OF THE LEAD COMBAT WING, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) LED A 6 MINUTE BOMBING RUN IN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FORMATION, DROPPING ITS BOMBS DIRECTLY ON THE MAIN POINT OF IMPACT, FLYING DIRECTLY THROUGH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BARRAGE, WHICH GREW INCREASINGLY HEAVY AS THE BOMB RELEASE POINT WAS REACHED, THE UNIT TOOK MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE TURNS, SO THAT THE FOLLOWING GROUPS, WHICH WERE ALSO UNDERGOING VICIOUS FIGHTER ATTACKS, COULD REJOIN THE FORMATION AND RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF DEFENSIVE POWER. THE BOMBING RESULTS WERE SUPERIOR THOSE OF ANY OTHER BOMBARDMENT GROUP PARTICIPATING IN THE OPERATION. OF THE 102,000 POUNDS OF BOMBS RELEASED BY THIS UNIT, 36 PERCENT HIT WITHIN 1,000 FEET, AND 69 PERCENT FELL WITHIN 2,000 FEET OF THE ASSIGNED AIMING POINT. THE BOMBING PATTERN WAS EXCELLENT. TESTIMONY TO THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOMBING OF THE TARGET WAS THE AWARD OF THE BRITISH DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO THE LEAD BOMBARDIER FOR HIS WORK ON THIS MISSION. AFTER THE BOMBING, THE GROUP LED THE DIVISION'S FORCES TO THE RALLY POINT WHERE FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT WAS MET. AS A RESULT OF THE SAVAGE ENEMY OPPOSITION, 51 OF THE UNIT'S PERSONNEL ARE MISSING IN ACTION, AND 4 WERE WOUNDED. DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY COURAGEOUS RESOLUTION IN OVERCOMING VICIOUS ENEMY FIGHTER ATTACKS AND HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY VALOR, AUDACITY, AND COURAGE UNDER FIRE. BY HEROIC STRENGTH OF PURPOSE, IT LED THE WAY OVER THE TARGET TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION SUCCESSFULLY. THIS UNIT'S PERSONNEL PERFORMED ITS TASK WITH COOLNESS, SKILL, AND SELF-SACRIFICE IN THE FACE OF UNUSUALLY DETERMINED AND DAMAGING ENEMY FIRE. THE EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION TO DUTY AND DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY DISPLAYED, ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT OF ALL OTHER UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THE SAME OPERATION, RESULTED IN A VITAL BLOW AT THE GERMAN WAR EFFORT. THE OUTSTANDING VALOR AND BOLD, VIGOROUS HEROISM DISPLAYED ON THIS OCCASION PRESENTED AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER UNITS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE
COMBAT GROUPS DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 10, 1944
TO: THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 8TH AIR FORCE
FROM: THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
SUBJECT: VI BATTLE HONORS
RE: 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
1. THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) IS CITED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF AN IMPORTANT TARGET AT MUNSTER, GERMANY, ON 10 OCTOBER 1943. THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) LED THE 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION AND THE 13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H), IN THE AIR, ON THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 5 HOUR OPERATION WHICH INVOLVED A FLIGHT OF 520 MILES AT AN ALTITUDE OF 24,000 FEET. DURING THE PERIOD OF NO FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT THE GROUP WAS SUBJECTED TO VIOLENT AND CONCENTRATED ATTACKS OF APPROXIMATELY 250 ENEMY FIGHTERS, CHIEFLY F.W.190'S, JU 88'S AND ME. 110'S AND 210'S. CHOOSING THE 13TH COMBAT WING (H) AS A FOCAL POINT, THE WAVES OF ATTACKERS, AFTER SHOOTING DOWN ALL BUT ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE LOW GROUP, AND EIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE HIGH GROUP, CONCENTRATED ON THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H). TWIN-ENGINE ENEMY FIGHTERS, FIRING 20MM AND 37MM CANNON AND ROCKET PROJECTILES, ATTACKED IN STAPPELS OF 12 TO 15 EACH. LOSING FIVE AIRCRAFT TO THIS CONCENTRATED OPPOSITION, THE UNIT MAINTAINED A COHESIVE COMBAT FORMATION THROUGHOUT THE ATTACKS. THE 95 TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) IS OFFICIALLY CREDITED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF 41 ENEMY FIGHTERS, 5 OTHERS PROBABLY DESTROYED, AND 19 DAMAGED. BEGINNING AT DORSTEN AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE TARGET AREA, THE GROUP ALSO ENCOUNTERED EXTREMELY INTENSE AND DAMAGING ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. TEN OF THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT IN THE UNIT WERE DAMAGED. RALLYING THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT OF THE LEAD COMBAT WING, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) LED A 6 MINUTE BOMBING RUN IN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FORMATION, DROPPING ITS BOMBS DIRECTLY ON THE MAIN POINT OF IMPACT, FLYING DIRECTLY THROUGH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BARRAGE, WHICH GREW INCREASINGLY HEAVY AS THE BOMB RELEASE POINT WAS REACHED, THE UNIT TOOK MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE TURNS, SO THAT THE FOLLOWING GROUPS, WHICH WERE ALSO UNDERGOING VICIOUS FIGHTER ATTACKS, COULD REJOIN THE FORMATION AND RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF DEFENSIVE POWER. THE BOMBING RESULTS WERE SUPERIOR THOSE OF ANY OTHER BOMBARDMENT GROUP PARTICIPATING IN THE OPERATION. OF THE 102,000 POUNDS OF BOMBS RELEASED BY THIS UNIT, 36 PERCENT HIT WITHIN 1,000 FEET, AND 69 PERCENT FELL WITHIN 2,000 FEET OF THE ASSIGNED AIMING POINT. THE BOMBING PATTERN WAS EXCELLENT. TESTIMONY TO THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOMBING OF THE TARGET WAS THE AWARD OF THE BRITISH DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO THE LEAD BOMBARDIER FOR HIS WORK ON THIS MISSION. AFTER THE BOMBING, THE GROUP LED THE DIVISION'S FORCES TO THE RALLY POINT WHERE FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT WAS MET. AS A RESULT OF THE SAVAGE ENEMY OPPOSITION, 51 OF THE UNIT'S PERSONNEL ARE MISSING IN ACTION, AND 4 WERE WOUNDED. DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY COURAGEOUS RESOLUTION IN OVERCOMING VICIOUS ENEMY FIGHTER ATTACKS AND HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY VALOR, AUDACITY, AND COURAGE UNDER FIRE. BY HEROIC STRENGTH OF PURPOSE, IT LED THE WAY OVER THE TARGET TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION SUCCESSFULLY. THIS UNIT'S PERSONNEL PERFORMED ITS TASK WITH COOLNESS, SKILL, AND SELF-SACRIFICE IN THE FACE OF UNUSUALLY DETERMINED AND DAMAGING ENEMY FIRE. THE EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION TO DUTY AND DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY DISPLAYED, ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT OF ALL OTHER UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THE SAME OPERATION, RESULTED IN A VITAL BLOW AT THE GERMAN WAR EFFORT. THE OUTSTANDING VALOR AND BOLD, VIGOROUS HEROISM DISPLAYED ON THIS OCCASION PRESENTED AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER UNITS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES.

84 EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 654,
10 APRIL 1944
TO: COMMANDING OFFICERS, ALL ORGANIZATIONS, EIGHTH AIR FORCE.
IT IS VERY UNWANTING TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL TO RECEIVE THE ABOVE LETTER FROM GENERAL ABLE, AND IT IS HIS DESIRE TO CONGRATULATE ALL MEMBERS OF THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
/s/ EMIL C. KIEL
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. AIR FORCE
DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR ADMINISTRATION.

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCE
APO 399, D.C. 4
11 MAY 1945
TO: ALL PERSONNEL
SUBJECT: VI BATTLE HONORS
RE: 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
1. THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) IS CITED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF AN IMPORTANT TARGET AT MUNSTER, GERMANY, ON 10 OCTOBER 1943. THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) LED THE 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION AND THE 13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H), IN THE AIR, ON THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 5 HOUR OPERATION WHICH INVOLVED A FLIGHT OF 520 MILES AT AN ALTITUDE OF 24,000 FEET. DURING THE PERIOD OF NO FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT THE GROUP WAS SUBJECTED TO VIOLENT AND CONCENTRATED ATTACKS OF APPROXIMATELY 250 ENEMY FIGHTERS, CHIEFLY F.W.190'S, JU 88'S AND ME. 110'S AND 210'S. CHOOSING THE 13TH COMBAT WING (H) AS A FOCAL POINT, THE WAVES OF ATTACKERS, AFTER SHOOTING DOWN ALL BUT ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE LOW GROUP, AND EIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THE HIGH GROUP, CONCENTRATED ON THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H). TWIN-ENGINE ENEMY FIGHTERS, FIRING 20MM AND 37MM CANNON AND ROCKET PROJECTILES, ATTACKED IN STAPPELS OF 12 TO 15 EACH. LOSING FIVE AIRCRAFT TO THIS CONCENTRATED OPPOSITION, THE UNIT MAINTAINED A COHESIVE COMBAT FORMATION THROUGHOUT THE ATTACKS. THE 95 TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) IS OFFICIALLY CREDITED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF 41 ENEMY FIGHTERS, 5 OTHERS PROBABLY DESTROYED, AND 19 DAMAGED. BEGINNING AT DORSTEN AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE TARGET AREA, THE GROUP ALSO ENCOUNTERED EXTREMELY INTENSE AND DAMAGING ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. TEN OF THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT IN THE UNIT WERE DAMAGED. RALLYING THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT OF THE LEAD COMBAT WING, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) LED A 6 MINUTE BOMBING RUN IN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FORMATION, DROPPING ITS BOMBS DIRECTLY ON THE MAIN POINT OF IMPACT, FLYING DIRECTLY THROUGH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BARRAGE, WHICH GREW INCREASINGLY HEAVY AS THE BOMB RELEASE POINT WAS REACHED, THE UNIT TOOK MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE TURNS, SO THAT THE FOLLOWING GROUPS, WHICH WERE ALSO UNDERGOING VICIOUS FIGHTER ATTACKS, COULD REJOIN THE FORMATION AND RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF DEFENSIVE POWER. THE BOMBING RESULTS WERE SUPERIOR THOSE OF ANY OTHER BOMBARDMENT GROUP PARTICIPATING IN THE OPERATION. OF THE 102,000 POUNDS OF BOMBS RELEASED BY THIS UNIT, 36 PERCENT HIT WITHIN 1,000 FEET, AND 69 PERCENT FELL WITHIN 2,000 FEET OF THE ASSIGNED AIMING POINT. THE BOMBING PATTERN WAS EXCELLENT. TESTIMONY TO THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOMBING OF THE TARGET WAS THE AWARD OF THE BRITISH DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO THE LEAD BOMBARDIER FOR HIS WORK ON THIS MISSION. AFTER THE BOMBING, THE GROUP LED THE DIVISION'S FORCES TO THE RALLY POINT WHERE FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT WAS MET. AS A RESULT OF THE SAVAGE ENEMY OPPOSITION, 51 OF THE UNIT'S PERSONNEL ARE MISSING IN ACTION, AND 4 WERE WOUNDED. DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY COURAGEOUS RESOLUTION IN OVERCOMING VICIOUS ENEMY FIGHTER ATTACKS AND HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE, THE 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H) DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY VALOR, AUDACITY, AND COURAGE UNDER FIRE. BY HEROIC STRENGTH OF PURPOSE, IT LED THE WAY OVER THE TARGET TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION SUCCESSFULLY. THIS UNIT'S PERSONNEL PERFORMED ITS TASK WITH COOLNESS, SKILL, AND SELF-SACRIFICE IN THE FACE OF UNUSUALLY DETERMINED AND DAMAGING ENEMY FIRE. THE EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION TO DUTY AND DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY DISPLAYED, ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT OF ALL OTHER UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THE SAME OPERATION, RESULTED IN A VITAL BLOW AT THE GERMAN WAR EFFORT. THE OUTSTANDING VALOR AND BOLD, VIGOROUS HEROISM DISPLAYED ON THIS OCCASION PRESENTED AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER UNITS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER
28 SEPTEMBER 1944
DEAR GENERAL SPAATZ:
BY DIRECTION OF THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF THE U.S. STRATEGIC AIR FORCES ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONALLY RESPONSIBLE TO HEADQUARTERS. NEVERTHELESS THIS WHOLE COMMAND WILL CONTINUE WITH ENTIRE CONFIDENCE TO LOOK TO GENERAL DOOLITTLE AND THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE FOR THE SAME TYPE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AS THAT ORGANIZATION HAS CONSTANTLY EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF THE INVASION AS WELL AS DURING ITS ACTUAL EXECUTION.
THE STRATEGIC AIR FORCES HAVE NOT ONLY ANSWERED EVERY CALL MADE UPON THEM, CHEERFULLY, PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, BUT HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN DISCOVERING NEW MEANS AND METHODS WHEREBY THEY COULD HELP TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF COMMON OBJECTIVES.
I HOPE THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE STRATEGIC AIR FORCES MAY HAVE PERSONAL ASSURANCE OF MY LASTING GRATITUDE AND WILL REALIZE THAT THIS WHOLE COMMAND FEELS INDEBTED TO THEM FOR EXAMPLES OF UNEXCELLED COURAGE, SKILL AND PERFECTION IN COOPERATION.
WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,
SINCERELY,
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER