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WAR DEPARTMENT
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DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER)—Awards-----	Section I
BATTLE HONORS—Citations of units-----	II

I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).—1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished-Service Medal awarded by the War Department to Major General *John R. Hodge*, as published in General Orders, No. 65, War Department, 1943, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster was awarded to him by the War Department under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bul. 43, WD, 1918). The citation is as follows:

Major General *John R. Hodge*, O7285, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility from 8 April 1944 to 10 February 1945.

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished-Service Medal awarded by the War Department to Lieutenant General *Daniel I. Sultan*, as published in General Orders, No. 56, War Department, 1922, a second bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster was awarded to him by the War Department under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bul. 43, WD, 1918). The citation is as follows:

Lieutenant General *Daniel I. Sultan*, O2212, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility from 24 October 1944 to 28 January 1945.

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II. BATTLE HONORS.—1. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citations of the following units in General Orders, No. 49, Headquarters Seventh Army, 12 February 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, 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 citations read as follows:

Company E, 7th Infantry Regiment, is cited for outstanding performance in combat during the period 31 October to 4 November 1944, near Le Haut Jacques, France. On 31 October 1944, *Company E*, led by Captain George R. Ellis, spearheaded a 5-day offensive to seize the strategic cross roads and pass commanding the Taintrux Valley, a corridor to the fortress city of St. Die. Fighting their way forward through the steep, forested mountains of the Vosges in cold, rain, and fog, the men of *Company E* engaged fanatical, well-trained German infantry, heavily equipped with automatic weapons and occupying prepared positions in depth guarded by minefields. Although subjected to terrific concentrations of mortar and artillery fire and to heavy, defensive small-arms and machine-gun fire, *Company E* nevertheless closed with the enemy and slowly pushed him back. So tenacious was German resistance that the foe had to be killed in their foxholes and dugouts with hand grenades and point-blank small-arms fire before ground could be won. Although the company commander was wounded and the company had run so dangerously low on ammunition that captured German weapons had to be employed, the troops pressed the attack relentlessly. Assuming command, First Lieutenant James F. Powell led the company in dislodging the enemy from his successive strongholds and seizing one intermediate objective after another. On the fifth day, *Company E* battered

through the German main line of resistance and, though almost surrounded, fought to take and hold the cross roads dominating the mountain pass. With over half of its riflemen killed or wounded, *Company E, 7th Infantry Regiment*, accomplished its mission, having killed 37, wounded 130, and captured 78 of the enemy, and opened a gateway to St. Die and the Meurthe River crossing.

Company A, 315th Infantry Regiment, is cited for the extraordinary gallantry and heroism it displayed in moving against overwhelmingly superior enemy numbers and fire to seize and hold the high ground east of Embermenil, France, during the period 20 to 22 October 1944. In the early evening of 20 October 1944, the 315th Infantry Regiment was ordered to attack enemy strong points constituting a formidable line on the high ground east of Embermenil, France. *Company A* of this regiment was given the mission of seizing and holding a portion of this sector on the left of the XV United States Corps' objective. Jumping off on the morning of 21 October 1944, *Company A* pressed forward over open terrain toward an enemy-occupied hill, a wooded crest affording excellent concealment for the thoroughly aroused defenders. As the attack progressed, the second and third platoons were subjected to extensive machine-gun fire from the front and both flanks while the first platoon, in reserve, was momentarily pinned down by flanking automatic weapons fire. Although the second platoon commander and his platoon sergeant were both wounded, both the second and third platoons ignored this distracting fire and, with fixed bayonets, assaulted and seized their objectives on the wooded hill. Because of *Company A's* swift and fearless advance, the entire regiment was soon on its objective. At 2400 hours the enemy counterattacked with three tanks supported by an estimated company of infantry. So determined was this effort that men at the company CP, forced into foxholes, were literally run over by the tanks and subjected to 75-mm fire at point-blank range. The company machine-gun section carried its share of the fighting to the enemy in an action so valiant that each member of the section was subsequently killed or wounded. Riflemen fixed bayonets and pressed the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. Until 0600 hours the following morning, 22 October 1944, the enemy persisted in his all-out attempt to wrest the hill from *Company A*. Enemy casualties were approximately 30 killed and 175 wounded, plus 78 prisoners. Twenty enemy dead, clutching machine pistols, were found in and near foxholes within the company area after the action. *Company A's* casualties totaled 57, ten of whom were killed in action. By its heroic action in storming, seizing, and holding a strategic high point against overwhelming enemy superiority, *Company A, 315th Infantry Regiment*, contributed substantially to the success of the Regiment in this action.

2. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citations of the following units in General Orders, No. 9, Headquarters 14th Armored Division, 1 February 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, 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 citations read as follows:

1st Platoon, Company A, 48th Tank Battalion, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action on 9 January 1945 near Rittershoffen, France. Assigned the mission of repulsing an enemy armored attack, the *1st Platoon, Company A, 48th Tank Battalion*, consisting of four operating medium tanks, moved rapidly and decisively to the support of friendly infantry already partially overrun by enemy armor. Displaying great skill and superior marksmanship,

ship, the platoon engaged 16 Mark IV tanks in a deadly fire fight and, without suffering loss of men or equipment, destroyed 6 enemy tanks and forced the remainder to flee. Later in the day the *1st Platoon* destroyed four disabled enemy tanks which the German forces were attempting to evacuate. The fearless, daring, and intrepid actions displayed by the members of the *1st Platoon, Company A, 48th Tank Battalion*, exemplify the high traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

Troop C and 3d Platoon, Troop E, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action on 9 January 1945 in the vicinity of Hatten and Rittershoffen, France. *Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized)*, together with the *3d Platoon, Troop E, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized)*, operating under Task Force Wahl, was assigned the mission of maintaining an observation screen to detect enemy armored penetrations through the main line of resistance of the task force. From well established observation posts, *Troop C and 3d Platoon, Troop E* supplied higher commanders with rapid, accurate information of the attack on Hatten by an estimated three armored infantry battalions of a Panzer Grenadier division. As the overwhelming enemy attack overran two of the observation posts, their locations were displaced to effective positions without interruption of the flow of information. In the early afternoon of the same day a tank battalion of a Panzer Grenadier division attempted to double envelopment of the town of Hatten, with a force of 15 Mark IV tanks followed by a company of mounted infantry on the south flank. *Troop C and 3d Platoon, Troop E* made prompt and detailed reports in a manner which enabled reserves to be so effectively committed as to decisively defeat and repel the enemy attack. Information furnished direct from the observation posts caused tank and assault-gun fire to be directed at the south enemy tank force with the resultant destruction of 7 Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun. The outstanding performance of the officers and men of these units under exceptionally difficult and hazardous conditions reflect great credit on all concerned and are in keeping with the high traditions of the military service.

3. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bull. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citations of the following units in General Orders, No. 63, Headquarters First United States Army, 27 September 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, 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 citations read as follows:

The *1st Platoon, 30th Chemical Decontamination Company*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 6 June 1944 in Normandy, France. Landing very early on D-day in the face of the enemy's artillery and mortar barrage covering the entire beach and immediately subjected to heavy machine-gun and small-arms fire, the *1st Platoon, 30th Chemical Decontamination Company*, had the mission of supporting the assault troops of the 1st Infantry Division. Using a varied assortment of weapons, the valiant men of this unit became combat troops as they fought their way along with the infantry they accompanied. After using hand smoke grenades to perform their mission in screening a section of the beach for the landing of following troops, the men of this platoon, never resting, reorganized into parties to collect the wounded and aid in their evacuation. Some of the men helped

to clear mine fields with no more equipment than their bayonets. Salvage parties secured portable smoke generators which were to have landed with the unit, repaired them, and used them to set up a smoke screen during the afternoon of D-day. Suffering 25 percent casualties in this 1 day, each man of the *1st Platoon, 30th Chemical Decontamination Company*, performed his duty heroically with the determination and courage necessary to overcome the strongly entrenched enemy and in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces.

The *37th Engineer Combat Battalion* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 6 June 1944 in Normandy, France. As the assault battalion of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade, the *37th Engineer Combat Battalion* landed very early on D-day. Their mission was to support the assault landing of the 16th Infantry Regiment and, to accomplish this mission, elements of the battalion were landed with the initial assault waves of the infantry. At the time of the landing, the enemy strong points on the high ground commanding the beach were still firmly resisting and heavy artillery, mortar, machine-gun, and small-arms fire poured on our troops as they landed. Several of the landing craft transporting troops of this unit were hit and damaged while attempting to land, yet these men bravely, determinedly, and with great perseverance successfully performed their assigned mission. Because of the strong enemy resistance still remaining in the hills commanding the beach, three platoons of the battalion were committed to combat along with the infantry immediately upon landing and these units contributed greatly to the successful reduction of enemy pill boxes and dugouts. Individual feats of heroism were performed throughout the day while clearing the enemy from their strong points on the beach and while executing difficult engineer tasks of removing obstacles, opening and maintaining beach exits, and clearing mine fields. The courageous performance of the officers and enlisted men of the *37th Engineer Combat Battalion* and the complete devotion to duty demonstrated by each individual contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces.

The *1st Platoon of Company A, 203d Quartermaster Gas Supply Battalion*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 6 June 1944 in Normandy, France. Landing to furnish services and support to assault elements of the 1st Infantry Division, the personnel of this platoon were loaded on landing craft with those assault troops. Their landing craft was struck by an enemy artillery shell while landing and three officers were wounded before the unit's arrival on the beach. Landing less than 4 hours after the initial assault, the beach was still being covered by enemy artillery and mortar shells and raked by machine-gun and small-arms fire. The personnel of this platoon courageously started firing on the enemy from their deployed positions as soon as they reached the beach and continued throughout the day in engaging the enemy with small-arms and rocket fire, scoring many direct hits and killing many of the enemy. The personnel of the *1st Platoon, Company A, 203d Quartermaster Gas Supply Battalion*, performed their duties in an exceptionally meritorious manner despite the hazardous battle conditions which existed. Each man of this unit fought courageously and with the determination and devotion to duty necessary to overcome the enemy on D-day.

4. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders, No. 53, Headquarters Seventh Army, 16

February 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is 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 *1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance in combat. On 27 August 1944, the *1st Battalion*, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Paulick, approached the town of Montelimar, France, by shuttle and forced march, to come to grips with the major part of the German 338th Infantry Division and elements of four or five other enemy divisions. Marching and fighting in unbearable heat, weary from the 12 days of strenuous offensive combat which followed the Riviera landings, the *1st Battalion* drove relentlessly forward, compressing the numerically superior hostile force into an ever smaller space. Caught in the Montelimar-Orange-Nyon triangle, its left flank pinned against the Rhone River and its escape routes to the north and northeast dominated by other units of the Seventh Army, the German force resorted to violent and incessant counterattacks to break through the Allied cordon that was suffocating it. Constricting the major part of the enemy force within the immediate vicinity of Montelimar, the *1st Battalion* drove forward in 3 days of continuous battle and smashed every German counterattack, including an assault by an entire enemy regiment. Pounding the enemy force with concentrations of artillery and mortar fire, withstanding frenzied German efforts to break out from the trap, the *1st Battalion* penetrated into Montelimar and completed the annihilation of the German force. During this action the battalion took 804 prisoners, killed and wounded 435 others, captured or destroyed at least 500 vehicles, and an estimated 1,000 horses. Inflicting the most disastrous blow of the southern France campaign on the German Nineteenth Army, the *1st Battalion, 15 Infantry Regiment*, was mainly responsible for destroying German resistance south of the Drone and east of the Rhone Rivers and for annihilating a major portion of the mechanized and motorized equipment available to the enemy.

5. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders, No. 30, Headquarters 24th Infantry Division, 17 December 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army forces in the Far East, is 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 *2d Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for conspicuous gallantry and the accomplishment of an extremely hazardous mission in action against armed Japanese military forces in the Leyte Island operation of the Philippine liberation campaign, 10 to 23 November 1944. On 10 November, this battalion, entering its twenty-first day of continuous combat, with only 692 men, was ordered to move from Hill 1525 into the Ormoc Valley and drive a wedge between two enemy regiments already at the northern end of the valley and reinforcements moving up from Ormoc. It fought its way through the enemy screen over difficult mountain terrain, despite heavy rain and high winds, and on the 15th drove strongly entrenched forces from a dominating hill and severed the enemy line of communications. For 5 days, surrounded, attacked repeatedly, unable to evacuate its wounded, and with ever increasing attrition from hunger and exposure, the battalion held. It broke up four enemy truck columns, dispersed

three strong foot columns, neutralized four field pieces, and artillery observers directed devastating fire on numerous concentrations. Enemy supply was reduced to sporadic runs of a few light tanks and enemy reinforcements limited to infiltrations by small parties. Withdrawal was ordered on 19 November. At daylight 20 November, a Japanese "Banzai" attack of an estimated battalion was repulsed as was a second attack 30 minutes later. The evacuation was a running fight over rugged terrain, during which the battalion protected a party which had been sent to carry out wounded and sick. Many of the carrying party themselves were wounded, and some of those already wounded were wounded again or killed. Litters had to be passed from hand to hand in moving up and down steep slopes. One blinded casualty and the soldier leading him were killed by snipers. Appropriately, first elements of the battalion arrived at Pinamopoan on Thanksgiving Day, the remainder on 24 November, to begin staging immediately for another operation. Unit morale, including that of attached troops, was high throughout the 13-day mission. The battalion had completely outfought elements of the Japanese 1st Infantry Division, hardened veterans of fighting in Manchuria and China. With a loss of 31 killed, all of whom were buried with religious services, and 2 missing, the unit had killed at least 606 enemy troops, a ratio of 20 of the enemy to 1 of its own. It successfully evacuated 55 wounded, and although 241 men were hospitalized for skin disorders, sore feet, and fatigue, it was not until they had seen the action through. The establishment and maintenance of this block of enemy communications contributed decisively to cracking of the strong Japanese defense of "Breakneck Ridge" and paved the way for the advance of our troops toward Ormoc. The men of the *2d Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment*, by their outstanding courage, fortitude, and tactical skill, have written a stirring chapter in American military history.

6. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders, No. 23, Headquarters 95th Infantry Division, 19 November 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is 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 *2d Battalion, 378th Infantry*, in division reserve in the vicinity of Batilly, France, as the 95th Infantry Division initiated its operations against the fortified City of Metz, received orders at 1515, 10 November 1944, to move to Thionville, 22 miles to the north, in the 90th Infantry Division zone, force a crossing of the Moselle River, and reconnoiter for a possible bridge site there. The importance of this mission was stressed in the order from XX Corps. The corps plan for the encirclement of Metz had been jeopardized by inability to establish a bridgehead across the flooded Moselle for the crossing of the 10th Armored Division. The battalion closed at Thionville at 0330 on 11 November 1944, but engineer assault boats for its crossing did not arrive until after daylight. At 0830 on 11 November 1944, the battalion sent its first assault wave across under the guns of Fort Yutz, which dominates the east bank of the Moselle. By dark, Company E and a platoon of Company F had captured the ground between the river and the canal that winds moat-fashion around the fort. The success of this operation caused a change in mission. The battalion was directed to seize a bridgehead, and bridging equipment was moved to Thionville during the night. Despite a continuous hail of artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire, the battalion was completely across the river by 0900, 12 November 1944, and was fighting inside Fort Yutz. The battle for the fort continued throughout the day and night, and the last of

the battered German garrison surrendered at 1200, 13 November 1944. During the afternoon the battalion completed its occupation of the town of Basse-Yutz and the bridge site was safe from direct fire. On the morning of 14 November the battalion turned south in an effort to expand the bridgehead and to relieve the beleaguered 1st Battalion of the 377th Infantry, which had crossed the river at Uckange on 8 November and had been isolated by counterattacking German armored vehicles and infantry. Haute-Yutz was captured during the morning, and during the afternoon the battalion pushed on to encircle Fort D'Illange, a modern fortification more formidable than Yutz. The commander of the German garrison declined to surrender, and during the afternoon the battalion began its assault across broad bands of barbed wire, moats, and heavy masonry walls. At 1130, 15 November 1944, Fort D'Illange was officially reported captured. During the bitter fighting around the fort, the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Autrey J. Maroun, was severely wounded in the left arm but declined medical aid and accompanied his troops as they pushed on into the village of Illange where he received another wound which forced his evacuation. At 1430, 15 November 1944, the battalion, now reinforced by the 95th Reconnaissance Troop and under the command of Task Force Bacon, reached elements of the 1st Battalion, 377th Infantry at Imeldange. The German containing force, which by now had reduced the 1st Battalion, 377th Infantry, to less than one-half effective strength, was routed and driven to the south. Without pause the battalion continued to advance along the east bank of the Moselle River, spearheading the rapid advance of Task Force Bacon. During the 5 days of this action, the *2d Battalion, 378th Infantry*, engaged in its first offensive operation and functioning until the last day as a separate command, forced a crossing of the flooded Moselle River, advanced more than 3 miles against a stubbornly resisting enemy, killed an estimated 300 Germans, captured 215 prisoners, reduced 2 major fortifications, and routed a large enemy force. During this period the battalion suffered more than 200 casualties. The desperate determination, great personal courage, and outstanding professional skill of the officers and men of the *2d Battalion, 378th Infantry*, gained the bridgehead at Thionville, which made possible the successful execution of the XX Corps plan for the capture of the City of Metz and saved the isolated 1st Battalion, 377th Infantry, from destruction. Their example is an inspiration to all members of this command.

7. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec. I, Bul. 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bul. 11, WD, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders, No. 263, Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, 8 December 1944, as approved by the Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, is 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 *27th Fighter Group* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations on 10 September 1943. Distinguishing itself through extraordinary heroism and determination in the face of vigorous aerial and ground opposition, the *27th Fighter* (then *Fighter-Bomber*) *Group*, by its outstanding performance in disrupting the movement of vital enemy reinforcements in the Tanegro River Valley, Italy, set itself above and apart from other similar units participating in the same engagement. On 10 September 1943, when the outcome of the battle for the Salerno beaches hung in the balance and powerful enemy armored units in the south were known to be moving up to the assault zone, the *27th Fighter Group*, then operating from

a base in Sicily, was ordered to conduct armed reconnaissance and block any movement of enemy reinforcements through the Potenza-Polla-Sapri area. At 0740 hour, a flight of twelve A-36's of the group observed and attacked a huge German column of 500 trucks, half-tracks, and armored cars moving north through Lagonegro, a scant 70 road miles from Salerno. In the all-out effort which followed, the *27th Fighter Group* flew five effective missions in rapid succession and by midday had so accurately dive bombed the Lagonegro-Auletta road that the enemy movement was completely disorganized with vehicles stalled bumper to bumper at numerous road blocks. Aggressively continuing the attack throughout the afternoon, determined pilots resolutely dived through intense accurate anti-aircraft fire to create additional highway blocks, repeatedly returning at minimum altitude to strafe the ever increasing stream of enemy transport, armored cars, and motorized artillery attempting to move northward to the beachhead. The chaos and destruction resulting from their punishing low-level, strafing attacks completely neutralized the combat effectiveness of three Axis Panzer divisions. When the final mission returned to its base, the *27th Fighter Group* had, in 12 missions totaling 102 sorties, destroyed 177 and damaged 246 enemy vehicles and guns, cratered the roads at many strategic intersections, shot down 2 ME. 109's, and damaged 7 other enemy aircraft. This grueling daylong aerial assault by the *27th Fighter Group*, coordinated with attacks by other units of the Allied air forces, prevented the effective transfer of overwhelmingly powerful enemy reinforcements and contributed in great measure to the successful establishment of the Salerno beachhead. In these operations, the skill and devotion of administrative and ground personnel and the determination and selfless heroism of the pilots of the *27th Fighter Group* have reflected the highest credit on themselves and the military service of the United States.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIO

Major General

The Adjutant General

G. C. MARSHALL

Chief of Staff