

R E S T R I C T E D

GENERAL ORDERS)

HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 448, U. S. Army

NUMBER 171) EXTRACT

11 June 1945

I. AWARD OF UNIT CITATION. Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, the following Unit is cited:

The First Battalion, 347th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, distinguished itself by conspicuous heroism and exemplary teamwork during the crossing of the Rhine River, Germany, in the early morning of 25 March 1945. As the first assault wave left the west bank of the river, the enemy sent up flares and immediately opened machine gun, 20mm, artillery and small arms fire on the assault boats. In the face of the heavy fire, the first assault wave, without hesitation, completed the crossing and engaged the enemy on the east shore. Despite the numerous difficulties that were encountered, the entire battalion made the crossing in several hours, as each wave hit the east shore they quickly reorganized and bitterly fought their way forward in spite of heavy enemy defenses and captured their objective by 0600 hours. It was discovered later, that the enemy had been ordered to hold this particular ground at all costs. Despite heavy concentrations of all types of enemy fire during the ensuing twenty-four hours, the First Battalion withstood five enemy counterattacks in force. So rapid was their advance that many enemy positions, numerous small groups of enemy soldiers and many snipers were by-passed. However, the administrative section of battalion headquarters constituted a task force and engaged these groups and destroyed them one by one enabling the assault waves to continue their forward advance. The gallant performance of this unit and the conspicuous heroism and courageous determination of each member are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

By command of Major General CULIN:

GRANT LAYNG,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Mark Amen
/t/ MARK AMEN;
Lt Col, AGD;
Adj General.

A TRUE COPY:

William M. Churchill
WILLIAM M. CHURCHILL,
Captain, 347th Infantry,
Adjutant.