

HEADQUARTERS 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

A.P.O. 469, U. S. Army,
1 July 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 100)

UNIT CITATION

As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Section I, War Department Bulletin 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Section III, War Department Bulletin 11, 1942), and under the provisions of Section IV, War Department Circular 333, 1943, as amended, with the approval of Commanding General, Fifteenth United States Army, (2nd Indorsement AG 200.6, GNMAG-P (17 April 1945), dated 20 June 1945), Company "A" 504th Parachute Infantry, is cited as evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation is as follows:

"Citation:

Company "A", 504th Parachute Infantry, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict against the enemy in GERMANY on 6--7 April 1945. This Company crossed the RHINE RIVER at 0230 hours, 6 April 1945, and seized the mile-long town of REIDORF on the eastern shore, with the mission of providing a base for further patrolling, and to cause the German High Command to commit disproportionate forces against them in the belief that it was to be a major river crossing. The enemy immediately counter-attacked, but their assault groups were met with great vigor, and virtually destroyed to a man. Apparently under the impression that a strong American bridgehead had been established overnight, the Germans assembled and directed a considerable portion of two divisions to the mission of containing and annihilating this formidable thrust. In mid-afternoon the entire area was subjected to a withering and devastating artillery barrage for two hours, after which counter-attacking forces in overwhelming strength, with tanks in support, assaulted the defending troopers from every direction and penetrated to the heart of the town. The troopers of Company "A" doggedly stood their ground, fought at close quarters and at point-blank range, and inflicted terrible casualties on the masses of the enemy. Fighting with relentless ferocity throughout the afternoon and night, this gallant company held its ground and carried out its mission until it was finally ordered to withdraw to the west bank of the RHINE on the night of 6--7 April. Fighting was bitter and at close quarters. The German armor committed was destroyed with hand weapons, most of the troopers using captured German panzerfausts. The Company fought its way back step by step during the hours of darkness to their boats. The courageous and skillful efforts of the officers and men of this brave group, although outnumbered numerically at least eight to one, is reflected in the total number of casualties inflicted on the German forces during the day's fighting. Eighty prisoners were taken and evacuated, and conservative estimates indicate that 150 of the enemy were killed and 250 wounded. The conduct of Company "A" reflects great credit on the Airborne Forces of the United States Army.

In accordance with the provisions of War Department Circular 333, 1943, Company "A", 504th Parachute Infantry, is entitled to citation streamer, and individuals assigned or attached to this unit are authorized the Award of the Distinguished Unit Badge.

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RESTRICTED

GO #100, Hq 82d Abn, APO 469, US Army, 1 July 1945, cont'd.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MARCH:

R. H. WIENECKE,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ John D. Gray
JOHN D. GRAY
Major, AGD
Adjutant General

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10 to CO, 504th Pch Inf

THIS IS A TRUE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ORIGINAL:

R. J. Tallman
R. J. TALLMAN
1st Lt, 504th Pch Inf
Personnel Officer