

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

Patton
7 September 1944.

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER 53

The following listed units of the 38th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade are commended for operations during the period from 1 August 1944 to 10 August 1944:

Hq & Hq Battery, 38th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade
24th Antiaircraft Artillery Group
207th Antiaircraft Artillery Group
115th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (I)
120th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (I)
217th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (I)
411th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (I)
390th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion
465th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (SP)
550th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (I)

Upon entering the Third Army Operation at noon, on 1 August 1944, the above cited units moved rapidly and efficiently by day and night from beaches or harbor defenses on the NORMANDY PENINSULA to assigned critical points along the vital supply route through COUTANCES, HYENVILLE, LA HAYE PESNEL, AVRANCHES, PONTAUBAULT, PONTORSON, ST JAMES, DUCY and the dam near DUCY. In many cases time did not permit the construction of revetments at the new battery positions because of immediate enemy air attack and the batteries went efficiently into action without such protection. As a result of their superior training, skill and coolness under heavy enemy bombardment and strafing, the above units have claims for 31 Category I and 32 Category II enemy planes shot down during the first nine days of operation. During this outstanding antiaircraft defense not a single defile, dam, or bridge was damaged by enemy air activity within the protected area. Such an enviable record is even more remarkable in view of the fact that the enemy planes flew singly or in small groups coming in from all directions and using "window" flares and smoke to mark defended objectives. The high degree of efficiency of these Antiaircraft Artillery units contributed immeasurably to the overall success of the Third Army operations by permitting an uninterrupted flow of vital traffic which was necessary for the rapid advance of this command. The loyalty, enthusiasm and extreme devotion to duty of every individual of these units exemplifies the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

G. S. Patton, Jr.
G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

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