

GENERAL ORDERS WAR DEPARTMENT
NO. 66 WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 10 August 1945

BATTLE HONORS. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citations of the following units in the general orders indicated are confirmed under the provisions of section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:

17. The 2d Engineer Special Brigade Support Battery (Provisional) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Biak Island, Netherlands East Indies, from 27 May to 14 June 1944. This unit rendered outstanding support to the task force which captured Biak Island. During the advance toward Mokmer Airdrome the overland route of supply was cut on several occasions by enemy activity. Landing vehicles, tracked, of this battery provided the only means of supplying organizations with food, ammunition, and medical supplies, and made many landings under fire to accomplish their mission. On return trips casualties were evacuated from the beach to landing craft standing off shore. When enemy fire became so intense as to prevent supply of the forces by daylight, landing vehicles, tracked, ran throughout the nights despite the danger of uncharted coral reefs. The rigor of their services is demonstrated by the fact that by 12 June only 7 landing vehicles, tracked, remained out of 54 which had begun the operation, because of enemy action and navigational difficulties. The tireless and gallant efforts of all members of this unit made possible the capture of Mokmer Airdrome. The lives of many casualties were saved because of prompt evacuation by landing vehicles, tracked. Acts of gallantry and heroism were numerous but difficult to single out of the uniformly high standard of achievement set by all personnel of the 2d Engineer Special Brigade Support Battery (Provisional). (General Orders 80, Headquarters 41st Infantry Division, 31 October 1944, as approved by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

Shore Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat & Shore Regiment

For outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Admiralty Islands, from 2 March to 6 March 1944. On 2 March 1944 this battalion landed on White Beach, Los Negros Island, as an element of the Task Force. Its mission was entirely an engineering project which consisted of clearing the beach, building

ramps out to amphibious craft, constructing a beach road net, developing beach dumps and, with attached units, unloading troops, equipment and supplies. Within thirty minutes after landing and while still in the process of organizing the beachhead, the beach was subjected to enemy mortar and sniper fire which continued spasmodically throughout the day. Despite numerous casualties, due to little or no cover, this unit carried on with courageous determination and complete disregard of danger to accomplish its mission. Only after all craft had retracted and darkness caused work to stop on the beach did this unit retire, and then not to rest but to take up defensive positions on the west flank of the Task Force perimeter. The positions had hardly been taken when the enemy began a series of infiltration and "Banzai" attacks, directed against the west flank of the perimeter, which lasted throughout the night. Amid considerable confusion, due to the lack of infantry training, with many troops seeing action for the first time, the officers and men of the Shore Battalion met every advance of the enemy with such determination, tenacity and courage that the enemy was driven off on every occasion with heavy casualties. Enemy infiltration was particularly prevalent and hand-to-hand combat, with knives and bayonets, was evident everywhere. When the enemy action ceased at dawn, the battalion returned to its task on the beach where it worked till night, returning then to the perimeter positions. During the night the attacks were renewed, but with the same intrepidity and valor the attacks were repulsed. The following day, when the infantry was held up by impassable terrain, the unit went out beyond the front lines to build roads in the face of sniper fire so that infantry and artillery force could be brought to bear on the enemy. Although working every day on the beach bringing in vital supplies and equipment, this unit returned every night to positions on the perimeter to fight the enemy. The unusual devotion to duty, grim determination, battle discipline and conspicuous gallantry of the officers and men of the Shore Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment had a stimulating effect on all troops of the Task Force and reflects the highest credit upon the United States Army.

Boat Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat & Shore Regiment

For conspicuous and heroic action against the enemy at Leyte, Philippine Islands, from 5 November until 10 December 1944. The battalion, then operating 170 small craft unloading ships at White Beach, Leyte, Philippine Islands, and landing combat patrols at various points on Leyte and Samar Islands was called upon to supply front line troops by landing supplies at Pinamopon Point. For four days, the officers and men of this unit determinedly landed on the rocky beach, in the face of the direct fire of a machine gun which the infantry could not locate. Each day, as the ramps of the LCMs were lowered onto the beach the machine gun would open fire directly into the well deck of the craft. Despite the fact that the boat crews were not responsible for unloading their craft, they voluntarily and with complete disregard of their own safety, unloaded the boats while the coxswains remained at the helm to keep the boats on the beach. Later the unit participated in the assault landing at Ipil, carrying troops and supplies for the final attack on Ormoc. Although the landing was made against only moderate enemy shore resistance, a fierce enemy air attack developed, later in the day, which forced

all craft off the beach. The LCMs of the battalion remained close inshore despite the desperate attempts of the enemy pilots and furnished supporting fire which destroyed two enemy planes and helped discourage any sustained attack on the beach. The enemy planes then attacked the shipping offshore scoring a direct hit on one ship and setting it afire. Two naval craft attempted to aid the ship but were driven off by the planes. Without hesitation the boats of this unit got under way to assist. The enemy planes then made two desperate attacks on the craft in an attempt to drive them off. In addition, shore batteries opened up and it was only due to the superb handling of the boats and their machine guns that no direct hits were suffered and at least one enemy plane was destroyed. As a result of this heroic action, the LCMs affected the rescue of 16 survivors. On the following day, while returning to the near shore with battle casualties and other personnel and without naval escort, the LCM convoy was spotted by enemy planes and attacked constantly for over an hour. Again the skillful handling of the boats and deadly fire from their guns accounted for four enemy planes and prevented serious damage. In all this unit accounted for 11 planes destroyed and several probably destroyed which in itself is an enviable record. The determination, conspicuous heroism and high esprit de corps of the Boat Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

SUMMARY

To 6 September 1945 (In order of award):

1. Company A, 542d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.
2. Collecting Platoon, Company —, 262d Medical Battalion.
- *3. Companies A and F, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.
4. Support Battery, 2d Engineer Special Brigade.
5. Shore Battalion, 532d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.
6. Shore Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.
7. Boat Battalion, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.

* Companies A and F, 592d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, are included twice in the above awards. The 26 officers and 543 men of these two companies who earned their first Presidential Citation at Corregidor are therefore entitled to the Oak Leaf Cluster for their second Presidential Citation.

A recommendation for Company A, 532d Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment for its work at Nassau Bay is pending.