

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington 25, D.C., February 1946

GENERAL ORDER
No. 13

BATTLE HONORS. — As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. 1, 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. The citations read as follows:

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8. The 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action from 6 February to 2 March 1945, at Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands. During this period the battalion distinguished itself by a display of fearless courage, aggressiveness, and resourcefulness in brilliantly accomplishing many varied and difficult missions which required the complete and exhaustive application of every man and weapon through extended and intensive combat. As special security force in an extremely active area of approximately 8 square miles, north of the Pasig River and east of Manila Bay, every possible man was pressed into combat duty; cooks, truck drivers, mechanics, and headquarters personnel aided in manning every available weapon on a 24-hour basis day after day with little or no rest, and annihilated numerous pockets of fanatically resisting Japanese, destroyed many heavily armed infiltrating demolition parties, and rescued from the water under enemy fire scores of refugees escaping from Fort Santiago and other Japanese installations on the south bank of the river. Moving to South Manila, elements of the battalion began a 2-week attack with sustained direct fire on heavily fortified modern concrete and steel buildings; to assure maximum effect, tank destroyer crews often approached to within 60 to 75 yards of their targets, though afforded very little protection from heavy enemy fire and flying fragments of our own shells. Concurrently, elements of the battalion rendered distinguished service in reducing strong enemy positions at Fort McKinley and Nichols Field, and assisted in the advance of the overland movement to the Los Banos Internment Camp. Throughout the period cited, prodigious feats of transporting huge quantities of ammunition from dumps more than 100 miles away, and maintaining all equipment at peak efficiency despite intensive use, were accomplished only through the tireless efforts and unflagging application of every member of the supply and maintenance section. The courage, aggressiveness, and tireless devotion of duty displayed by all personnel of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which itself accounted for more than 450 enemy dead and 60 machine guns and artillery pieces destroyed, contributed greatly to the success achieved by our combat divisions in annihilating the defenders of Manila, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 62, Headquarters XIV Corps, 14 August 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific).

By order of the Secretary of War:

OFFICIAL:

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
Chief of Staff

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General

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