

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U. S. Army
25 July 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER....144)

SECTION

BATTLE HONORS - Citation of Unit I
MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE - Award IIE X T R A C T

I--BATTLE HONORS.--Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following-named unit of the Ninth Air Force is cited for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. The citation reads as follows:

"The 416th Bombardment Group. For extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy from 6 August to 9 August 1944. During the withdrawal of the beleaguered German ground forces from the Falaise Gap the 416th Bombardment Group launched a series of determined attacks upon strategic and strongly defended enemy positions in an attempt to turn the enemy retreat into a rout. On the afternoon of 6 August 1944, the group dispatched forty aircraft in an attack against the key bridge at Oissel, the last escape route for the enemy across the Seine River. In anticipation of attack the enemy had concentrated a large number of anti-aircraft installations in this area. The withering barrage of fire which was thrown up took a toll of 3 Marauders destroyed and 26 damaged. Fighting through the intense resistance, with the wounded still at their posts, the flak-ridden formation released the bombs with devastating effect upon the bridge. Maintenance crews worked feverishly to repair the battle damage, and on 8 August a full-strength formation was dispatched to attack the railway junction at Frebent, France. Although two planes were shot down over the target area, and eight were severely damaged the airmen demonstrated extraordinary skill and determination in destroying a large quantity of vitally-needed enemy equipment and rolling stock. Both air and ground crews toiled ceaselessly to repair the crippled aircraft, and on the following day the group had launched two additional attacks, inflicting heavy damage on a German radar establishment at Bois du Pierre and destroying the enemy railroad bridge at Clauuny, France. The aggressive flying tactics and courage displayed by the airmen in attacking these vital targets, and the determined efforts and technical skill exhibited by the ground personnel during this critical period of operations in Northern France distinguish the 416 Bombardment Group above others engaged in similar action, and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces."

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BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEYLAND:

ROBERT M. LEE
Brig. Gen, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ & t/ F. H. MONAHAN
Lt. Col. AGD
Adjutant General

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

GEORGE SCHENKEIN, Major, Air Corps