

General Orders }
No. 36 }

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington 25, D. C., 1 May 1944

E X T R A C T

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XII--BATTLE HONORS. * * * * 2. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (sec I, Bull. 22, WD, 1943) superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (sec. III, Bull. 11, WD, 1942), the following unit is cited by the War Department under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:

The 3d Bombardment Division (H) (then the 4th Bombardment Wing (H)) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 17 August 1943. This unprecedented attack against one of Germany's most important aircraft factories was the first shuttle mission performed in this theater of operations and entailed the longest flight over strongly defended enemy territory yet accomplished at that date. For 4½ hours the formation was subjected to persistent, savage assaults by large forces of enemy fighters. During this bitterly contested aerial battle 140 German fighter aircraft was definitely destroyed and many more damaged. Despite desperate attempts by the enemy to scatter the bombers the groups of the 3d Bombardment Division (H) maintained a tight, defensive formation and, coordinating as a perfectly balanced team, fought their way to the assigned target at Regensburg. Though weary after hours of gruelling combat the bombardiers released their bombs accurately on the target and wrought vast destruction on an aircraft factory of vital importance to the enemy's war effort. The high degree of success achieved is directly attributable to the extraordinary heroism, skill, and devotion to duty displayed by members of this unit. Their actions on this occasion uphold the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. DUNLOP
Brigadier General
Acting The Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED: A TRUE COPY

Robert W. Saunders
ROBERT W. SAUNDERS
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. Tng. Secy.