


APD 470, US Army  
20 December 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that: I was the commander of a task force formed on 14 December 1944, for the purpose of storming and capturing the village of Glimbach, France, where a concentration of enemy anti armor constituted a menace and decided threat to the foot elements of the 411th Infantry Regiment, who were advancing on the town from the southeast. This task force was composed of one platoon of Company C, 611th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed); one platoon of tanks from the 14th Armored Division; and one company of Infantry reinforced by a platoon of heavy machine guns and 88mm mortars. As the two antitank guns and the M-20 Scout Car in which the tank destroyer platoon commander was leading the attack reached high ground three hundred yards southeast of the town they encountered heavy direct fire from enemy antitank units and tanks at the range of seven hundred yards. Despite several casualties, one of which was the platoon commander, being inflicted in the initial burst of enemy fire, the two antitank guns were immediately put into position and effectively returned the enemy fire. So fierce and accurate was the fire of these two guns that the enemy guns withdrew temporarily to defilade positions, and then attempted to overrun the gun positions with combined armor and infantry attack. At this time one antitank gun had been knocked out, and the two guns which had been interspersed in the column, which had halted well to the rear, were moved forward to exposed but effective positions against the new threat of a combined attack of the enemy. Despite the fact that one gun crew had been reduced to a lone cannoneer alternating between the use of small arms and his gun, the remaining gun crews alternated between the use of small arms and their guns as the threat of the close pressing Infantry and the harrassing tank fire became respectively paramount. One cannoneer, alternating between an antitank gun and a 50 caliber machine gun mounted on a burning half track, was largely responsible for repulsing an enemy attack in force against the gun positions. Undaunted by the failure of tank support aimed down too far to the rear to be effective; undismayed by the numerous casualties they were sustaining, which reduced their gun crews to skeleton size and eliminated completely their ammunition chain; but inspired by such individual actions as the driver of an ammunition truck who deliberately drove his vehicle into the open toward the gun positions until it was aimed down, and then personally carried the shells to the guns; this small group of determined fighters held off superior enemy force until foot elements could be deployed to relieve the pressure of the enemy Infantry, and artillery could be registered on the enemy armor. The unflinching determination of this group constituted the most magnificent display of mass heroism I have ever witnessed.

  
JOHN P. BLACKSHEAR,  
Lt Col, 411th Infantry,  
Executive Officer.

EOC NARA Date 0/3/11

EOE NARA Date 0/3/11

(Ltr, 614th TD Bn., 2 Feb 45, subj: Recommendation for Unit Citation, 3d Platoon Co. "C", 614th TD Bn., cont'd)

14 Encls.

- 1-Certificate, Lt. Col. John P. Blackshear
- 1-Statement, Capt. Barrios, 411th Inf.
- 1-Statement, Capt. Guthery, 411th Inf.
- 1-Statement, Capt. Pultz, 928th FA Bn.
- 1-Statement, Staff Sgt. Eisenmenger, 411th Inf.
- 1-Statement, Staff Sgt. Henriksen, 411th Inf.
- 1-Statement, Sergeant Pfister, 411th Inf.
- 1-Statement, Staff Sgt. Torkelson, 411th Inf.
- 1-GO #89, Hq. 103d Inf Div, 28 Dec 44.
- 1-GO #90, Hq. 103d Inf Div, 27 Dec 44
- 1-The Stars and Stripes, 1 Feb 45 (Nancy)
- 1-Yank Magazine, 4 Feb 45, Continental Edition.
- 1-Enlarged overlay of Climbach, France
- 1-Air Photo, #4118, (US 34/3034) 12 Oct 44(f/24)(25,000)(1145A).

(NOTE: A complete history of the Task Force Blackshear is on file in Historical Section, G-2, Seventh Army).