

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

30 March 1945

: E X T R A C T
NUMBER 127)

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IV - BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

THE 601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION is cited for outstanding performance in combat on 25 March 1943, near El Guettar, Tunisia. Filling a two and one-half mile gap in the American lines, the Battalion absorbed the shock of an all-out onslaught by the German 10th Panzer Division, and materially assisted divisional and attached artillery units in definitely stopping two successive, determined enemy tank attacks, launched in great strength. Although greatly outnumbered and outgunned, the Battalion traded shot for shot with the overwhelming enemy force. Doggedly holding its ground, harassed by enemy divebombers and long-range artillery, with ammunition running dangerously low, the Battalion prepared to hold out to the end despite the loss of twenty-seven of its thirty-seven guns. The German tanks approached to within one hundred yards of its positions only to be thrown back with heavy losses. When the enemy reformed for a second assault, the Battalion placed such intense fire on the advancing German soldiers that the attack was stopped before it could get well under way. The 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion contributed materially to this outstanding victory of the 1st Infantry Division, wherein, with other units of the Division, it fought with such ferocity and intense determination that at least four hundred enemy casualties were left on the field, thirty-seven enemy tanks destroyed, and numerous other enemy armored vehicles evacuated in a disabled condition.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL PATCH:

ARTHUR A. WHITE,
Major General, GSC,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ W. G. CALDWELL,
/t/ W. G. CALDWELL,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General

REPRODUCED - HQ 601ST TD EN - 6 Apr 45

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