

- Second Lieutenant *William D. Canfield*, O1650458 (then staff sergeant), Signal Corps, Army of the United States. 11 May 1943.
- Captain *Joseph O. Craig*, O497253, Corps of Engineers, Army of the United States. August to November 1944.
- Technical Sergeant *Rudolph W. Faber* (Army serial No. 37143879), Air Corps, Army of the United States. February 1943 to December 1944.
- Captain *Peter P. Gach*, O579939, Air Corps, Army of the United States. July to December 1944.
- Second Lieutenant *John W. Huff*, O1649498 (then staff sergeant and master sergeant), Signal Corps, Army of the United States. January 1942 to March 1944.
- Colonel *Jean Le Troadec*, Artillery, Headquarters First French Army. 1 February to 18 August 1944.

IX. AIR MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (WD Bul. 25, 1942), as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (WD Bul. 49, 1942), an Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight during the periods indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers and enlisted man:

- First Lieutenant *Albert G. J. Cullum*, O535830, Medical Corps, United States Army. 11 November 1944.
- Corporal *John J. McLaughlin* (Army serial No. 32863203), Medical Corps, United States Army. 11 November 1944.
- First Lieutenant *Herbert W. Mueller*, O874392 (then second lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army. 6 January 1944 to 31 January 1945.
- Lieutenant Colonel *Henry T. Myers*, O286971, Air Corps, United States Army. 21 January to 24 February 1945.

X. BATTLE HONORS.—1. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders 141, Headquarters Seventh Army, 11 April 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is 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 citation reads as follows:

The *3d Platoon, Company C, 61st Tank Destroyer Battalion*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 14 December 1944 in the vicinity of Climbach, France. The *3d Platoon* was an element of a task force whose mission was to storm and capture the strategically important town of Climbach, France, on the approaches of the Siegfried Line. Upon reaching the outskirts of the town, the task force was halted by a terrific hail of fire from an enemy force firmly entrenched in the surrounding woods and hills overlooking the route of approach. The only position available for direct fire upon the enemy was an open field. As the *3d Platoon* moved into position, its commander and several men were wounded. Undeterred by heavy enemy small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire, which was now being directed against their position, the men of the *3d Platoon* valiantly set up their 3-inch guns and delivered accurate and deadly fire into the enemy positions. Casualties were mounting; two of their four guns were knocked out; nevertheless, the remaining crew members heroically assisted in the loading and firing of the other guns.

At the height of the battle, enemy infantry converged on the position from the surrounding woods, threatening to wipe out the platoon's position. While a few members of the gun crews remained firing the 3-inch guns, others manned machine guns and individual weapons, laying down a devastating curtain of fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy and successfully repulsed the attack. During the firefight an ammunition shortage developed, and gun crews were reduced to skeleton size, one man loading, aiming and firing, while the other men repeatedly traveled a distance of 50 yards through a hail of mortar and small-arms fire to obtain shells from a half-track which had been set on fire by a direct hit from an enemy mortar shell. Heedless of possible injury men continuously exposed themselves to enemy fire to render first aid to the wounded. In this engagement, although the platoon suffered over 50 percent casualties and lost considerable matériel, its valorous conduct, in the face of overwhelming odds, enabled the task force to capture its objective. The grim determination, the indomitable fighting spirit, and the esprit de corps displayed by all members of the *3d Platoon, Company C, 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion*, reflect the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

2. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following unit in General Orders 128, Headquarters 2d Air Division, 10 April 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, is 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 citation reads as follows:

The *392d Bombardment Group (H), 2d Air Division*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy on 24 February 1944. The group dispatched thirty-two B-24 type aircraft, the maximum number available to bomb the most valuable single target in the enemy twin engine fighter complex, the aircraft and component parts factory at Gotha, Germany. Of these, one was forced to turn back shortly after take off. Flying as the lead group of the second combat wing in the division formation, they were attacked by the enemy upon entering the Dutch Coast. In the bitter aerial battle that ensued, the group was viciously attacked for over 2½ hours by approximately 150 enemy fighters, consisting of F. W. 190's, ME. 110's, ME. 210's, and JU. 88's, who raked them with cannon and rocket fire and even attempted air-to-air and cable bombing in a vain effort to disrupt the formation. As the *392d Bombardment Group (H)* neared the initial point, the units of the lead combat wing were observed to be proceeding on divergent courses. The group was faced with the decision to follow the lead units of the air division to a questionable target and maintain the integrity of the division formation, or to pursue a separate course that might later prove to be erroneous and which would expose the group formation to even greater enemy attacks. The group chose the latter, and maintaining perfect formation valiantly fought its way through the flak defenses to bomb the target with pin-point accuracy, virtually destroying it. Although 7 of their aircraft were lost to the relentless enemy in the battle into and from the target and an additional 13 aircraft suffered battle damage, they accounted for the confirmed destruction of 16 enemy fighters, the probable destruction of 1, and the damage of 5 additional fighters. The destruction of this high priority target was a serious blow to the German air force and was a contributing factor to its impotency in the invasion of Continental Europe. The aggressive courage, determination to do their task at all costs, and combat efficiency of the air crews, together with the professional skill and