

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

25 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 87)

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, War Department, 1943, the following units are commended:

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THE 636TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION is commended for outstanding performance of duty in action, on 13 and 14 September 1943, during the invasion of Italy. The 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion was assigned a 1500 yard sector in the vicinity of La Cosa Creek and the Calore River when an armored attack by the enemy was anticipated. Following two hostile air attacks, the expected armored assault was launched directly at the positions occupied by this battalion. Some of the enemy tanks succeeded in crossing the La Cosa Creek, overrunning the positions held by the battalion's reconnaissance company. This emergency outpost line held, with members of the unit firing machine guns and rifles point blank into the approaching tanks and engaging the enemy vehicles with hand grenades. The enemy supported its attack with a heavy artillery concentration, but throughout the engagement the officers and men of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion courageously held their positions and delivered withering fire from their three-inch tank destroyer guns into the enemy armor. During the battle 14 Mark IV enemy tanks and one ammunition vehicle were destroyed and the enemy attack so overwhelmingly crushed that no further attempt was made in this sector. The courageous performance of each man in the battalion contributed materially to the prevention of a breakthrough which would have threatened the solidarity of the entire beachhead. The 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion's performance is worthy of emulation and reflects the highest traditions of the Army of the United States.

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By command of Lieutenant General CLARK:

A. M. GRUENTHER,
Major General, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/S/ M. F. Grant
/T/ M. F. GRANT
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Jesse F. Tucker
JESSE F. TUCKER
WOJG, USA, Ass't Adjutant
636th TD Bn

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