

HEADQUARTERS 9TH ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 259 U. S. Army

10 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Officers and Men of the 9th Armored Division, 12th Armored Group, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 482nd AAA Battalion AW (SP).

1. The division is assembled again after having fought severe and critical battles in several different sectors. We all regret that the 9th Armored Division did not fight as a single unit.

2. Combat Command "B" and attached elements of the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 482nd AAA Battalion fought gallantly in the vital St. Vith area, performing an important role in upsetting the enemy's action in that sector. Combat Command "R", Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 12th Armored Group, and elements of the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 482nd AAA Battalion, attached, delayed the enemy to the northeast of Bastogne, Belgium thus enabling other American troops to occupy and prepare defensive positions in Bastogne. Elements of Combat Command "R" later fought with the 101st Airborne Division and Combat Command "B" of the 10th Armored Division in the siege of Bastogne.

3. The division, less Combat Command "B" and "R", held the sector in Luxembourg between the 4th and 28th Infantry Divisions. Combat Command "A" and elements of the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 482nd AAA Battalion, attached, carried the fight to the enemy thus enabling the Third Army to launch an attack on 22 December.

4. Combat Command "A" with attached units was attached to the 4th Armored Division on the night of 26-27 December and carried out its mission of opening and protecting the Neufchateau-Bastogne Road. The division (less its three combat commands) operated road blocks and maintained contact between the 28th Division and the III Corps 22-23 December. Several units were improvised for this mission. One improvised reconnaissance troop maintained a counter-reconnaissance screen on the left rear of VIII Corps. Personnel of the Engineer and Reconnaissance battalions and the clerks and service personnel of the division were used as infantry during this action. The supply, evacuation and maintenance units of the division performed their duties in a commendable manner.

5. The entire division and attached units fought like veterans and proved their battle leadership and combat efficiency to be superior. The courage, resourcefulness and aggressiveness of the groups who were surrounded have never been excelled.

6. As Division Commander, I express my pride and my sincere appreciation of your splendid record. We will move forward to greater accomplishments.

7. Let us not forget our gallant dead, and let each of us say a fervent and humble prayer that God will have mercy on their souls.

/s/ John W. Leonard
/t/ JOHN W. LEONARD
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding