



"BATTLE HONORS"

As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Section 1 War Department Bulletin 22, 1943), superceding Executive Order 9075 (Section III, War Department Bulletin II, 1942), citations of the following units in the General Orders indicated are confirmed under provisions of Section IV War Department Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction: ---

SECOND BATTALION, 511th PARACHUTE INFANTRY

The 2nd Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment is cited for outstanding heroism and conspicuous performance of duty in action against the enemy on Luzon, Philippine Islands, from 4 February to 10 February, 1945. During this period, this unit distinguished itself by the imposing part it played in the advance of an Airborne Division to Manila. After securing Tagatay Ridge following a parachute drop and contacting friendly units pushing in from the sea, the 2nd Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment was assigned the mission of spearheading the Division's advance on Manila. At 0600 hours, preceded by a small reconnaissance party, the Battalion proceeded by truck on Highway 17 to the town of Imus, where it was held up by hostile forces. The initial Japanese outpost was surprised by the sudden appearance of the Battalion, and was overwhelmed. The remnants of the enemy withdrew to their secondary position, a group of stone buildings, which covered the only road to Manila. With skill and speed, the Battalion attacked the position, overran it, and annihilated the entire garrison. The entire action was accomplished with rifles, grenades, and hand to hand duels, without support of artillery. Pushing ahead on foot, the 2nd Battalion rapidly seized three important road junctions and the Los Pinas Bridge, killing the confused defenders. The sudden attack penetrated the Japanese Genko Line and destroyed the outpost lines of resistance. One battalion of Japs was cut off from the right of the line and was later annihilated. Continuing on 5 February, the Battalion attacked the right flank of the main Japanese defense line in southern Manila. For six consecutive days the Battalion, supported by only light artillery, fought under continuous fire from small arms, mortars, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns of all calibers, through streets and houses mined with aerial bombs and torpedoes, depth charges, and booby traps, against defenders committed to die in their concrete pillboxes. The audacious and courageous penetration of the Battalion into the right flank of the line weakened the southern defenses of Manila and directly enabled the Division eventually to reduce the entire defensive line. The unsurpassed courage of the individual soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and their eagerness to close with and destroy the Japanese, are worthy of the highest praise and emulation of the military service.

(General Orders 69, Headquarters Eighth Army, 2nd Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 25 June 1945, as approved by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Forces, Pacific.)