

SUBJECT: Unit Citation

TO : Commanding Officer, 274th Infantry, APO 461, U.S. Army

1. Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333; War Department 22 December, 1943, it is recommended that Co. "K", 274th Infantry, be cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the attack of STIRING WENDEL, France, 3 - 4 March 1945.

2. In the above action Co. "K" made the main effort on the right of the 3rd Battalion zone of action. Shortly after crossing the line of departure in KREUTZBERG FOREST at 0700, 3 March, leading elements of Co. "K" ran into an anti-personnel mine field covered by cross-fires from two concrete pillboxes. The approaches to the pillboxes were found to be thoroughly mined. Leaving a detachment to engage the pillboxes while a tank was being brought up to knock them out, "K" Co. moved through dense underbrush around the pillboxes and continued toward STIRING WENDEL. At this time, heavy artillery and mortar fires were placed on the woods and this fire continued throughout the action producing heavy casualties. In spite of these fires, "K" Co. moved forward overcoming enemy strong points and pillboxes, and reached their initial objective in the edge of STIRING WENDEL, thus creating a bridgehead into the city. Casualties of "K" Co. on

3. On 4 March, in spite of the heavy losses and strenuous action of the preceding day, "K" Co. moved aggressively through the assigned zone in STIRING WENDEL, clearing buildings of snipers and capturing five additional pillboxes. Enemy artillery and mortar fires were heavy throughout the day numbering into thousands of rounds.

4. In the action on the above two days, "K" Co. distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism, and exhibited gallantry, determination and unusual esprit de corps in capturing its objectives under unusually difficult and hazardous conditions. The capture of the initial bridgehead into STIRING WENDEL, on 3 March, 1945 by "K" Co. was the key to the success of the battalion in clearing the city on 4 March.

/a/ Karl S. LANDSTROM, Lt. Col., Infantry, Commanding