

# BATTLE HONORS

123

A T R U E C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
U.S. Army

MWC/wwb  
May 25, 1944.

Subject: Commendation of Unit.  
To : Commanding Officer, 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion,  
United States Army.

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, War Department, 1943, your organization is commended for meritorious performance of duty in action.

## COMMENDATION:

"The 4th RANGER INFANTRY BATTALION is commended for meritorious performance of duty in action, during the period 11 November 1943 to 14 November 1943, near Ceppagna, Italy. This battalion captured and held high ground overlooking the Ceppagna-S. Pietro Infine Road, to fill a gap between two infantry divisions. By aggressively moving into the attack, the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion overran and secured strong and well dug in enemy positions commanding the sector. Road blocks were established and the area around Ceppagna was out posted. Immediately thereafter, the enemy prepared to counterattack. After a night of steady harassing fire, the enemy blanketed the entire area with an intense and sustained 17Cmm artillery barrage, and as soon as the concentration lifted, attacked in waves of skirmishers, supported closely by mortar and automatic weapons fire. The thin line of defense imminently threatened by this overwhelming assault, all the battalion's reserves were rushed into action in an effort to stem the tide of battle. Although the flanks were driven back by continual enemy assault, the center held firm. Each officer and man faced the enemy with determination. Drivers became runners and ammunition bearers. The battalion's cooks worked heroically to remove, under heavy fire the dead and wounded from the fire swept slopes. Supporting mortar fire fell within 100 yards of the intrepid force's positions to stall the waves upon waves of Germans as they stormed the slopes. Although the entire rear area was being constantly shelled, disrupting communications, and although the front line elements were under continuous and heavy fire, with supporting fires falling dangerously close, the battalion provided an impenetrable barrier to the enemy at all times; and the deadly accuracy of Ranger fire stopped the advance of each wave. After five hours of sustained and ferocious assault, the enemy retired badly battered, suffering heavy casualties, unable to reorganize and renew the assault. The courage, combat skill and soldierly determination displayed by officers and men of the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion reflect the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States."

/s/  
MARK W. CLARK  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army,  
Commanding.