

4. The *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Luzon, Philippine Islands, from 1 to 8 February 1945. On 1 February 1945, the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, attacked the town of Munoz, Nueva Ecija, Luzon, Philippine Islands, which at the time was held by a Japanese tank regiment reinforced with an infantry battalion, an artillery battery, and the antitank battalion of an armored division, totaling 1,935 men. The enemy defense was built around mutually supporting dug-in medium tanks, covered by riflemen, 105-mm guns, 47-mm ground antitank guns, automatic weapons, and mortars. Slight gains were made against heavy opposition from 1 to 2 February by the *3d Battalion* at considerable cost. On 3 February, the attack was continued by the *3d Battalion* which had now been joined by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 20th Infantry Regiment. By this time, 11 Jap medium tanks, three 47-mm antitank guns, and one 105-mm gun had been destroyed on the front of the *3d Battalion*. For 3 more days, the *3d Battalion*, led by bazooka men and antitank grenadiers who operated both day and night, hammered the fortress of Munoz. The enemy bitterly contested the ground, counterattacking repeatedly with tanks. On several occasions, savage hand-to-hand fighting occurred on the parapets of tank pillboxes. Finally, at 0400 on the morning of 7 February, the Munoz garrison, having suffered heavy losses, including the commanding officer, attempted to break out of town and escape. Part of the Jap armored column managed to reach the highway east of town, where its destruction was completed by other elements of the 6th Infantry Division. At the end of this abortive attempt, the 20th Infantry Regiment advanced to secure the town against light resistance. The enemy lost 1,280 killed and 3 prisoners of war in Munoz. Within the town, 38 Jap medium tanks, 3 light tanks, 4 armored cars, two 105-mm guns, sixteen 47-mm ground antitank guns, and 48 trucks and other vehicles were found destroyed. During the engagement, the *3d Battalion* suffered 29 dead and 114 wounded. The aggressiveness and skill of the *3d Battalion* was largely responsible for the destruction of the largest concentration of Jap armor encountered in the Luzon campaign. The fortitude and determination shown by all members of the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. (General Orders 140, Headquarters 6th Infantry Division, 18 July 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)