

VI. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superceding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following unit in the general orders indicated is confirmed under the provisions of section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding gallantry and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy at Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, during the period 21 to 23 June 1944. On 21 June 1944, the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, began the attack to secure Lone Tree Hill. The objective was a precipitous hill composed entirely of coral rock, pitted with numerous caves offering natural defensive positions, covered with dense tropical jungle, and commanding friendly installations and communications in the Maffin Bay area. After a short advance under withering rifle, automatic-weapons, mortar, and artillery fire from the enemy's cleverly concealed and well-prepared positions, the battalion was halted and dug in for the night. For the next 3 days, the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, launched repeated assaults in a step-by-step advance toward the crest of Lone Tree Hill, which could only be reached by climbing steep slopes and precipitous cliffs offering little cover. The enemy, from his well-developed emplacements in caves and crevices, defended to the death and launched repeated and savage counter-attacks, both day and night. At times, fierce hand-to-hand fighting occurred in which the men of the battalion fought with bayonet and trench knives to hold their ground. Resupply of ammunition, water, rations, and plasma and evacuation were accomplished by reinforced carrying parties, who fought their way through despite heavy enemy fire from above and from flank positions which completely covered the supply line. Despite the exhaustion of 3 days and nights of constant fighting, with limited rations, water, and medical supplies, and in almost constant rain, a final assault was made at dawn 24 June 1944, which won Lone Tree Hill and held it against a last banzai attack that night. During the action, the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, lost 73 men killed and 181 wounded. Over 900 dead Japs were counted in the area after the battle. The battalion, by its distinguished performance of duty, captured a terrain feature of great tactical importance and overcame a fanatically determined and strongly entrenched enemy. The gallantry, tenacity, and undying spirit to close with and destroy the enemy displayed by all officers and men of the *3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment*, during this engagement, are in the highest traditions of the American soldier and reflect great honor on the Army of the United States. (General Orders 235, Headquarters 6th Infantry Division, 23 November 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)