

VIII. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citations of the following units in the general orders indicated are 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 citations read as follows:

1. The *80th Field Artillery Battalion*, on 3 February 1945, supported the 53d Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 63d Infantry Regiment, in a flanking movement to bypass Munoz and clear Highway 5 to San Jose. Following the infantry forward elements, the battalion pushed its way by bulldozer across soggy rice paddies, swamps, and deep irrigation ditches. Enemy machine-gun, mortar, and artillery fire were received on this move and a danger of tank attack was always imminent. For 3 days and 4 nights, the battalion was attacked repeatedly by infiltrating enemy infantry, all of which was repulsed. On the morning of 7 February 1945 at 0330, the remnants of a Japanese armored task force, attempting to withdraw from Munoz to San Jose, attacked the battalion position area and neighboring infantry units. Eleven enemy tanks, carrying infantry, and 10 personnel carriers were taken under fire by 50-caliber machine guns on the battalion perimeter. One tank was set afire and halted on the road, while the remaining vehicles deployed. The accompanying enemy infantry dismounted and vigorously attacked the positions of the *80th Field Artillery Battalion* and elements of the 63d Infantry Regiment and 53d Field Artillery Battalion in the same area with small-arms, grenades, and machine-gun fire. Without hesitation, the cannoneers, except those necessary to man the pieces, deployed as infantry. Making use of bazookas, machine guns, and carbines, the men of the *80th Field Artillery Battalion* repulsed the attack, and then, seizing the initiative, sent bazooka teams forward, deployed their 15-mm howitzers to more advantageous positions for direct fire, and, at dawn, engaged in a vicious artillery duel with the tanks, at ranges of 50 to 300 yards. Enemy tanks scored direct hits on several gun pits. When the last enemy gun was silenced, it was found that six enemy medium tanks, five light tanks, ten personnel carriers and two 105-mm howitzers with prime movers had been destroyed in the close proximity of the battalion position area. The *80th Field Artillery Battalion* distinguished itself in action by its extraordinary heroism and exhibited such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps as to make it outstanding in this engagement. The magnificent courage and devotion to duty by all members of the *80th Field Artillery Battalion* are a credit and inspiration to the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 148, Headquarters 6th Infantry Division, 25 July 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)