

MEMMINGEN MISSION

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
AFO 520

C_UPD-rmb

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 2331)

5 August 1944

Section

Citation of Unit I

SECTION I - CITATION OF UNIT

Under the provisions of Circular 333, War Department, 1943, and Circular 26, North African Theatre of Operations, 6 March 1944, the following unit is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy:

483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H). For outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 18 July 1944. In connection with the counter air offensive against vitally important and high priority targets in Germany, the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) was ordered to attack and destroy the enemy airdrome and installations at Memmingen. Enroute to the target, the Group became separated from the other Groups in the formation and from the fighter escort by extremely severe and adverse weather conditions. Alone, the Group proceeded to the target area where it was aggressively attacked by approximately two hundred (200) enemy fighters. In the air battle which ensued, gunners of the Group shot down or damaged sixty-six (66) enemy aircraft at the same time losing fourteen (14) airplanes with their entire crews. Undismayed by the ferocity and viciousness of the attack and in spite of the severe losses suffered, the remainder of the Group proceeded, and with great heroism, gallantry and determination, carried out the bombing attack as ordered, though under the concentrated gunfire of the entire enemy fighter force. The bombs were dropped on the target with devastating effect, destroying all major installations and destroying or damaging an additional thirty-five (35) grounded enemy aircraft. Throughout the entire action which was carried out with exceptional gallantry and determination, and in spite of overwhelming opposition, crew esprit and individual heroism could not be excelled. By their professional skill and devotion to duty, their extraordinary display of heroism in the face of unparalleled odds and the exceptionally gallant manner in which this attack was carried out, combat and ground personnel, 483rd Bombardment Group (H), have reflected great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

By command of Major General TWINING:

R.K. TAYLOR
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

J.M. IVINS,
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.
