

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
IX BOMBER COMMAND

A-A-1

Exh #30-Aug 1944

APO 140, U S Army
7 August 1944

201.22

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION

TO : All Units, IX Bomber Command.

The receipt of the following letter from Lieutenant General Lewis H. Brereton, Commanding General Ninth Air Force, gives me deep satisfaction. I am proud that I have the great privilege of commanding units who so richly deserve General Brereton's commendation. I add my own congratulations for the skill, courage and hard work all units have exhibited during the past months. I request that particular pains be taken to the end that all ground crews will have knowledge of General Brereton's commendation and my own.

"1. The bombardment units of your command during the past busy and productive weeks have shown an exceedingly high degree of skill in destruction of enemy bridges. This skill in many cases has been brought to bear in the face of bad weather, enemy flak and enemy fighters only by a most commendable determination on the part of every crew member to reach and destroy his target. The present critical state of the German armies in Normandy, slowly strangling for want of supplies, is attributable to a very large degree to the work of all personnel of the Ninth Bomber Command.

"2. An outstanding mission was performed on 1 August 1944 when the 386th Bomb Group destroyed two assigned high priority bridges in one mission. These two, at Nogent-sur-Le Loire and at Goutard Pert Martneau, had never been attacked before and had become an integral part of the interdiction net designed to prevent all enemy rail movement through the Paris-Orleans Gap. Both bridges, each attacked by only a box of eighteen B-26's, were completely destroyed.

"3. All of your Groups have done excellent bombing on bridges and each deserves special commendation for it. Congratulations to your entire organization. It is my desire that this letter be brought to the attention of all members of your command and particularly to the ground crews who keep your airplanes fit to fly."

/s/ Samuel E. Anderson
/t/ SAMUEL E. ANDERSON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

This is a TRUE COPY:

Frank M. Hoppa
FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A.C.
Group Historical Officer.

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