

SECRET

Exh #33-A- Aug 1944

FROM 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 07/15273
TO CO 416TH BOMB GROUPS (L)

PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL BT

97 CW A-42-A

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM COMMANDING GENERAL, IX BOMBER COMMAND, QUOTE MY REQUEST THAT YOU ASSIGN THE 416TH BOMB GROUPS OF YOUR COMMAND TO ATTACK THE OISSEL BRIDGE WAS PROMPTED BY MY GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE GROUP'S ABILITY AND COURAGE. THE BOMBING OF THE BRIDGE ON 06 AUGUST FULLY JUSTIFIED MY CONFIDENCE. IN SPITE OF INTENSE OPPOSITION AT THE TARGET THE ACCURACY OF THE BOMBING WOULD REFLECT CREDIT ON A GROUP BOMBING ON A PRACTICE RANGE AS A RESULT A TROUBLESOME AND IMPORTANT TARGET WHICH HAD ALREADY COST IX BOMBER COMMAND FOUR AIRPLANES LOST AND MANY MORE DAMAGED WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY DESTROYED. PLEASE INFORM THE GROUP OF MY ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE AND BOMBING ACCURACY DISPLAYED. OISSEL WAS AN IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT SUPERBLY ACCOMPLISHED. ANDERSON UNQUOTE.

TO THIS COMMENDATION, I WISH TO ADD THAT I AM INDEED PROUD TO BE THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE WING IN WHICH THE 416TH BOMB GROUP (L) IS SUCH AN EFFICIENT AND OUTSTANDING MEMBER.

I DEEPLY REGRET THE LOSSES SUFFERED IN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON'S MISSION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I WISH TO COMMEND YOU HIGHLY FOR THE SUPERB BOMBING ATTACKS CARRIED OUT AGAINST YESTERDAY'S TARGET, THE OISSEL BRIDGES, AND UPON THE COMPINGNE MARIGNY MARSHALLING YARDS ON 05 JULY 1944. YOUR DESTRUCTION OF THESE TARGETS WAS OF GREAT MILITARY VALUE AND IMPORTANCE.

BAGBUS COCBTWIG 97

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