

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS
A.P.O. 307 U.S. Army

20 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation for Construction of Bridge Across Roer River.

TO : Commanding Officer, Company "B", 237th Engineer Combat Battalion,
A.P.O. 230, U. S. Army.

1. I commend Company "B", 237 Engineer Combat Battalion, for its superior performance in the construction of an infantry support bridge across the Roer River under extremely heavy enemy fire and difficult technical conditions on 23 and 24 February 1945.

2. The construction of this bridge for the passage of supporting weapons and supplies for one of the Infantry Regiments of the 104th Infantry Division was an urgent necessity. Your Company commenced the construction of the bridge immediately after the first waves of the infantry were on the far bank. Heavy mortar and artillery fire during the early morning interfered greatly with the operation and during this period the bridge was partially swept away when the anchor cable was cut by shellfire. At 1000 hours when the bridge had been reconstructed, it was again practically destroyed by observed enemy artillery fire and numerous casualties were suffered. Throughout the day your men stayed at or near the site awaiting an opportunity to reconstruct the bridge. Under cover of darkness on the night of 23-24 February construction was resumed and the bridge was complete at 0500 hours on 24 February. A total of seven casualties were suffered by your Company.

3. The courage of every officer and man in the face of heavy enemy fire and their determination to complete the assigned task at all costs were exemplary and reflect the high state of morale and discipline within your Company.

/s/ J. LAWTON COLLINS,
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.