

HEADQUARTERS 3RD BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 559

SUBJECT: Commendation.

31 March 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), AAF Station 119,
APO 559, U. S. Army.

It is my pleasure and privilege officially to commend the officers and men of the 95th Bombardment Group (H) for its outstanding achievement in successfully completing from 13 May 1943 to 23 March 1944 one hundred (100) heavy bombardment missions against the enemy. Engaged in daylight aerial combat against a mighty foe armed with the world's most concentrated anti-aircraft and fighter defenses, our bombers and crews each day are carrying the war home to Germany with increasing destruction to her war plants and installations.

In this gigantic undertaking, no Bombardment Group has earned more enthusiastic praise than the 95th. Some of the engagements in which it has precipitated will be recorded as the greatest air battles of this war. At Huls [Germany] on 22 June 1943 great devastation was rained down upon the plant producing twenty percent of the enemy's synthetic rubber. On 17 August 1943, the 95th added its fury to the assault which wrought destruction to the all-important Me-109 plant at Regensburg, then producing one-third of Germany's fighter planes. Results on the new and most vital fighter assembly plant at Marienburg on 9 October 1943 were so satisfactory that General Arnold proclaimed the attack as "the best precision bombing of the war". Accuracy again characterized the Schweinfurt raid on 14 October 1943, when the largest ball-bearing works in Europe was blasted. Requiring expert navigation to strike a small, distant target, on 16 November 1943 this Group combined with others in crippling seriously the plant at Rjukan, Norway, manufacturing nitrogen and other chemicals used for explosives. On 4 March 1944, this intrepid Group led the first daylight bombardment of Berlin by American heavy bombers, a feat for which already it has won world renown. Other deadly blows in which the 95th has contributed significantly to the success of our aerial invasion of enemy territory are the raids on La Pallice, 4 July 1943, on Paris, 3, 9, and 15 September 1943, on Bremen, 16 and 20 December 1943, and on Berlin, 6, 8, 9 and 22 March 1944.

The success of the Group's bombing operations testifies indisputably to the meticulous care with which its missions have been planned and executed and to the discipline, skill and gallantry of its combat and ground personnel, not only in the Group but in the related attached units of the station.

Commended alike are the officers and men now present for duty and those whose absence is keenly regretted. To you and to them are due eternal praise and gratitude for heroic accomplishment in battles well fought, worthy of the highest traditions of the United States.

I am confident that you will bring added honor to yourselves and your country in the future great air battles which must be fought to bring our common endeavor to a victorious conclusion.

CURTIS E. LE MAY
Major General, U. S. A.,
Commanding

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In this gigantic undertaking, no Bombardment Group has earned more enthusiastic praise than the 95th. Some of the engagements in which it has participated will be recorded as the greatest air battles of this war. At Euls on 22 June 1943 great devastation was rained down upon the plant producing twenty per cent of the enemy's synthetic rubber. On 17 August 1943, the 95th added its fury to the assault which wrought destruction to the all-important Me-109 plant at Regensburg, then producing one-third of Germany's fighter planes. Results on the new and most vital fighter assembly plant at Marienburg on 9 October 1943, were so satisfactory that General Arnold proclaimed the attack as "the best precision bombing of the war". Accuracy again characterized the Schweinfurt raid on 14 October 1943, when the largest ball-bearing works in Europe was blasted. Requiring expert navigation to strike a small, distant target, on 16 November 1943 this Group combined with others in crippling seriously the plant at Kjukan, Norway, manufacturing nitrogen and other chemicals used for explosives. On 4 March 1944, this intrepid Group led the first daylight bombardment of Berlin by American heavy bombers, a feat for which already it has won world renown. Other deadly blows in which the 95th has contributed magnificently to the success of our aerial invasion of enemy territory are the raids on La Pallice, 4 July 1943, on Paris, 3, 9 and 15 September 1943, on Bremen, 16 and 20 December 1943, and on Berlin, 6, 8, 9 and 22 March 1944.

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