

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 US ARMY

C-BOW-cmf

GENERAL ORDERS)

9 August 1945

NUMBER 3674)

CITATION OF UNIT

Under the provisions of Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943 and Circular No. 73, MTOUSA, 12 May 1945, the following Unit is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy:

332ND FIGHTER GROUP, For outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. On 23 March 1945, the group was assigned the mission of escorting heavy bombardment type aircraft attacking the vital Daimler-Benz Tank Assembly Plant at Berlin, Germany. Realizing the strategic importance of the mission and fully cognizant of the amount of enemy resistance to be expected and the long range to be covered, the ground crews worked tirelessly and with enthusiasm to have their aircraft at the peak of mechanical condition to insure the success of the operation. On 24 March 1945, fifty-nine (59) P-51 type aircraft were airborne and set course for the rendezvous with the bomber formation. Through superior navigation and maintenance of strict flight procedures, the group formation reached the bomber formation at the designated time and place. Nearing the target approximately twenty-five (25) enemy aircraft were encountered which included ME-262's, which launched relentless attacks in a desperate effort to break up and destroy the bomber formation. Displaying outstanding courage, aggressiveness and combat technique, the group immediately engaged the enemy formation in aerial combat. In the ensuing engagement that continued over the target area, the gallant pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group battled against the enemy fighters to prevent the breaking up of the bomber formation and thus jeopardizing the successful completion of this vitally important mission. Through their superior skill and determination, the group destroyed three (3) enemy aircraft, probably destroyed three (3) and damaged three (3). Among their claims were eight (8) of the highly rated enemy jet propelled aircraft with no losses sustained by the 332nd Fighter Group. Leaving the target area and enroute to base after completion of their primary task, aircraft of the group conducted strafing attacks against enemy ground installations and transportation with outstanding success. By the conspicuous gallantry, professional skill and determination of the pilots, together with the outstanding skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel, the 332nd Fighter Group has reflected great credit upon itself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.