

HEADQUARTERS  
Company I  
162d Infantry  
APO 41

14 January 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that on the following occasion Sergeant Leonard C. DeWitt, 20933467, Communications Sergeant, Company I, 162d Infantry, did perform in a manner far beyond his normal duties.

On 28 July 1943 this unit moved forward and began to organize a defensive position at 1810 hours. Before we were completely organized Jap artillery started landing shells in our position from point blank range. As soon as the artillery lifted the Japs opened up with machine guns from the front and both flanks, and their riflemen started attacking with fixed bayonets in an attempt to penetrate our perimeter. Sergeant DeWitt with utter disregard for his personal safety crawled from man to man all around the outer positions of our perimeter. He then moved men into the weak spots by personally leading them there. Observing that grenades and ammunition were running short in certain sectors, he revisited the positions and issued more grenades and ammunition wherever needed. By this time it was 2000 hours and almost impossible to see more than about five to ten yards. I personally witnessed Sergeant DeWitt's actions up to this point.

X On the left flank of our perimeter there was a sharp drop of about twelve feet just below one of our positions. The Japs concentrated on this point and succeeded in making a slight penetration to the left of this position and were attempting to widen it. Their activity was so great and so close that the man occupying this position lost his self-control and started firing out into space and all around himself, endangering our own men with his fire. Sergeant DeWitt covered Sergeant Hudson's advance up to this man, and after Sergeant Hudson and another man had overpowered the man and removed him, Sergeant DeWitt armed with one grenade moved into the man's hole where he found Sergeant Hudson's M1 Rifle with three shells in it. He threw his grenade and emptied the M1 at the Japs just below him. Then he picked up a BAR and emptied the clip at the Japs. There was no more .30 caliber ammunition there, so he picked up a tommy-gun left by the soldier assisting Sergeant Hudson in removing the man who had lost control of himself. This tommy-gun was also out of ammunition. The Japs threw a grenade which lit just on the back edge of Sergeant DeWitt's hole, and in trying to get cover from it Sergeant DeWitt fell forward out of the perimeter. His tommy-gun hit a Jap during the fall and knocked him back down the slope below DeWitt. The Jap then charged at DeWitt who being unarmed picked up his helmet and threw it at the Jap, hitting him in the face. Several soldiers heard the Jap scream. Sergeant DeWitt scrambled back up to his position and when reinforcements arrived personally placed five men and picked their fields of fire. The Japs then withdrew.

Sergeant DeWitt's quick thinking and initiative was outstanding and was very instrumental in turning a possible defeat into a successful action. In the capacity of Communications Sergeant it was not part of his duties to function in the outstanding manner that he did. Any failure to have carried out these actions would most certainly not have been censured by this officer.

I have personal knowledge of Sergeant DeWitt's actions after 2000 hours by talking to Sergeant DeWitt and men who were near him at different phases of this action. A personal reconnaissance the following morning showed evidence of at least three dead or wounded Japs being dragged away during the night at the spot where this action took place.

AP3140 [Signature]  
~~CLASSIFIED BY THE REGULATORY BODY~~

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