

A F F I D A V I T

On the date 28 July 1943, our unit, "Colvert Force," was situated in a perimeter on a ridge top on Scout Trail, 400 yards west of Roosevelt Ridge.

We were held up here by a large force of Japs, later proving to be two battalions. Our force being only 160 men, we were forced to dig in and hold until reinforcements could arrive. The enemy was in a well organized perimeter 250 yards to our front.

At 1730 hours the enemy brought artillery fire to bear on us, which was lifted 15 minutes later. The Japs then attacked under the cover of heavy and light machine guns and knee mortars. They pressed their heaviest attack on the quarter of our perimeter at the front; in consequence these men were soon dangerously low on ammunition and grenades.

Sergeant Leonard DeWitt, 20933467, picked up ammunition and grenades from the men in the rear of the perimeter and distributed it to those in front. As it was pitch dark and overcast, he was continuously in danger of being fired on by his own troops as well as the enemy.

Sergeant DeWitt moved among the men in the front positions and gave them much needed encouragement. This being their first heavy engagement with the enemy, our troops lacked confidence to a degree. The morale of the enemy was exceedingly high.

As the fight progressed, two of our men in one sector were wounded and one became panicky and lay in the bottom of his fox hole firing wildly in the air. Sergeant DeWitt aided First Sergeant Hudson in evacuating these men. During his absence the Japs regrouped and on his return he found them within five yards of the vacant positions and preparing to enter the perimeter. X

Sergeant DeWitt stood on the edge of the hill in the break in our perimeter and fired clip after clip into the enemy. When his ammunition was exhausted, he was forced to beat one Jap, who was trying to force his way through, with his helmet. This action disorganized the enemy to the point where they withdrew and did not attack the sector again that night.

In my estimation we would have sustained many casualties and lost much valuable ground to the enemy had it not been for the coolness of Sergeant DeWitt and the courage with which he acted. Most of this action was witnessed by me and the rest I learned from men who were nearby. X

Courage and resourcefulness of this caliber should be recognized, and in my estimation Sergeant DeWitt is deserving of a citation and decoration.

Laurance Parker
Laurance Parker,
Sergeant, Company I, 162d Inf.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15 day of Nov. 1943.

B. A. BACH
B. A. BACH,
CAPT 162d INF.

Summary Court Martial.

FORWARDED BY THE REGISTRATION UNIT

31 APR 44

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