

E X T R A C T

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By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9396 (Section I, Bulletin 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075, (Section III, Bulletin 2, WD, 1942), and of Section IV, Circular No. 333, WD, 1943, the following units are cited by the Commanding General, Far East Air Forces:

S/Sgt. Wietecha

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307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

For outstanding performance of duty in action on 3 October 1944. Having proved by a successful strike on 30 September 1944 that Balikpapan, Borneo, was highly vulnerable to our land-based bombers, the 307th Bombardment Group (H), prepared again to hit at the 7,000,000-barrel high-octane gasoline and oil refineries at that heavily defended Japanese base. The ground echelon of this group worked tirelessly to perfect the tactical and technical planning of this second mission and to ready the B-24's for the long and hazardous flight. To reach Balikpapan the Liberator crews would have to fly 17½ hours for a round trip distance of 2,610 miles, further than any mass daylight mission ever flown by B-24's previous to the 30 September raid. The normal ammunition supply would have to be cut in half and the bomb and fuel load would have to be the heaviest ever carried by B-24's in the Southwest Pacific Area, 12,000 to 13,000 pounds greater than the recommended load. The planes of the 307th Bombardment Group (H) together with the B-24's of another group, made a night take-off from Moanfoor Island, Netherlands East Indies. Enroute to the target, enemy interception was even stronger and more aggressive than had been anticipated, as hostile fighters ascended from a new strip situated between the Mangar Airdrome and Balikpapan. For one hour and 15 minutes 30 to 40 Japanese aircraft pressed fierce attacks on the formation of the 307th Bombardment Group (H). Losing 7 of the Liberators, the group fought through the fighter opposition and terrific anti-aircraft fire and dropped its bombs throughout the target area. Several hits were made on the Pandansari refinery and 4 strings of bombs dropped on Edelcan refinery caused a large explosion and fire with yellow smoke rising to a height of 8,000 feet. This unusually long and daring raid was a serious blow to Japanese production at Balikpapan, and resulted in a disruption in the flow of oil and gasoline which had an immediate effect on the enemy's tactical operations. Credit for the success of the mission is due not only to the gallantry and skill of the air crews but also to the outstanding devotion to duty of the maintenance crews and other ground personnel, without whose determined efforts the strike could not have been made. The achievements of the 307th Bombardment Group (H) have brought great honor to the Armed Forces of the United States.

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/s/ George C. Kenney,
/t/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
General, United States Army,
Commanding.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Everett S. Ellmore
EVERETT S. ELLMORE,
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307th Bombardment Group (H).