

The 30th Infantry Battles Way to Highest Laurels

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION—The 30th Infantry's attached tank battalion, made up almost entirely of north-westerners and commanded by Lt. Col. William D. Duncan, of Sioux Falls, S.D., fought its way ashore 10 minutes before H-Hour on D-Day, received a Presidential citation for subsequent operations, and since then has "rested" altogether about five days.

Four sergeants were given battlefield commissions, other men have won a mass of Distinguished Service Crosses and Silver Stars—and well over 50 German tanks and self-propelled guns knocked out prove they're good.

T/4 William A. Paulhamus, a mechanic from Williamsport, Pa., worked under a hell of enemy fire on the beaches to put five knocked-out tanks back into battle.

Pvt. Irvin H. Reddish, of Lincoln, Neb., a tank-dozer driver, saw his commander wounded in the landing so Reddish dragged him from the tank turret under fire to comparative safety 125 yards away, then returned to take command of his vehicle and lead it in every fight from then on.

Orlyn H. Folkstad, a youngster from Clinton, Minn., was commissioned on the battlefield. When his platoon leader was killed on D-Day Folkstad took over, and later he took command of his entire

company when the company commander was wounded.

Gerard B. Peterson, of Perley, Minn., Floyd M. Jenkins, of Jamaica, Ia., and Millard A. Glantz, of Melbourne, Ia., have won battlefield commissions by similar actions.

In a recent fight near Tessy Lt. Harry F. Hansen's company, which had only five tanks left, was pinned in an unhealthy position by terrain and a couple of heavy German tanks up ahead. The Baltimore officer crawled from his tank and, with two bazooka-firing doughboys, sneaked into a building behind the German vehicles. Accurate bazooka fire knocked out both tanks.

S/Sgt. James S. DuQuoin, of Kansas City, Mo., a communications chief, was bringing a radio ashore in the initial landing. Despite the action he went on to a previously-chosen spot on the beach and provided good communications for the battalion until he was relieved.

T/4 Henry J. Shicks, of Faribault, Minn., warned tanks behind of a hidden 88 that had knocked out his tank, then went back to his vehicle while it was under artillery fire to save his wounded driver.

Duncan, originally the battalion operations officer, took over on the beach after his CO was hit by shell fragments. In the next 12 days his unit fought in support of five different American regiments from the British sector to Carentan.