

HEADQUARTERS 2ND BATTALION 15TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. #3 U. S. ARMY

C E R T I F I C A T E

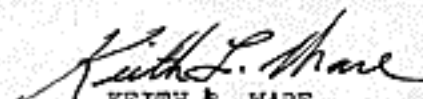
I am KEITH L. WARE, Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, Fifteenth Infantry. At the time of the following action, I was Executive Officer, Fifteenth Infantry Regiment, in which capacity I have intimate personal knowledge thereof:

During the offensive which smashed the COLMAR Bridgehead and drove the German forces from their last foothold on French soil, Company "B", Fifteenth Infantry, moved into the BOIS DE RIEDWIHR. Control of this forest had been wrested from the enemy at a heavy cost in blood. Its possession was of cardinal importance as the woods dominated the German stronghold of HOLTZWIER, reduction of which was essential to the prompt accomplishment of the Third Division's offensive tasks.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of 26 January 1945, the enemy launched a determined counterattack, hurling two companies and six heavy tanks at Company "B"'s position in an effort to retake the woods at any cost.

The heroism of one man, Second Lieutenant AUDIE L. MURPHY, was primarily responsible for repelling this ferocious counterattack. Voluntarily remaining at the hazardous post he had chosen after the rest withdrew, Lieutenant MURPHY first directed deadly artillery fire on the advancing enemy, then held the assault elements off with machine gun fire from the exposed turret of a knocked-out and burning tank destroyer. Personally killing or wounding an estimated 50 Germans, fighting on despite a painful leg wound and despite the fact that his tank destroyer threatened to explode under his feet, Lieutenant MURPHY shattered the enemy counterattack, saving his Company from possible encirclement and destruction and enabling his Regiment to hold the woods which had been won with such difficulty.

Had Lieutenant MURPHY failed to make his heroic one-man stand, he would not have been censured.


KEITH L. WARE
Lt. Col., 15th Infantry
Commanding.

CONSIDERED BY THE DECORATIONS BOARD

18 APR 45

Inc 1'