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HEADQUARTERS 21 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 558

G/2

14 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 96 )

CITATION ..... SECTION I  
ASSIGNMENT OF UNITS ..... SECTION II

SECTION I

1. The 96th Combat Bomb Wing (H) is cited for outstanding performance of duty and gallantry in action against the enemy on a mission to enemy-occupied territory on 11 June 1944.

2. On this occasion, the 96th Combat Bomb Wing (H) was ordered to destroy, regardless of cost, a railway bridge which was a vital communications link in enemy counter-invasion operations. The officers and men participating well know that the importance of this bridge was such that there was every likelihood of encountering large numbers of hostile fighters and intense, accurate, heavy flak in the target area. Nevertheless, every officer and man in this Wing was so imbued with determination to destroy the target that when clouds were encountered over the target area, the formation descended through the overcast, and proceeded as individuals and small units to bomb the target from the extremely dangerous altitude of 6500 feet. Bombing was accomplished with such conspicuous success that the bridge was destroyed and this key artery of the enemy communications system completely severed.

3. The courage, audacity, and determination displayed by the officers and men of the 96th Combat Bomb Wing (H) on this occasion and their complete disregard for the hazards of this dangerous undertaking are in the highest traditions of the service, and reflect the greatest credit upon themselves, their organization, and the United States Army Air Forces.

SECTION II

1. The VOGG of 6 April 1944, assigning the following named Groups to the 95th Combat Bomb Wing (H) is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record:

- 489th Bombardment Group (H)
- 491st Bombardment Group (H)

2. The VOGG of 8 April 1944, assigning the 492nd Bombardment Group (H) to the 14th Combat Bomb Wing (H) is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record.

By command of Brigadier General HODGES:

CHARLES B. WESTOVER  
Colonel  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*Raymond E. Strong*  
RAYMOND E. STRONG  
Captain IGD  
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