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Page 1: November 26, 1944 -- Ben mentions this commendation in his 11/30/44 letter to his family. The print is hard to read, so please listen to it.

HEADQUARTERS 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 26, U.S. Army
November 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

To: All members of the 26th Infantry Division

The following letter is from our Corps Commander:

“My dear General Paul:

When I tell you that some of the bitterest fighting of our entire front during the last three weeks has taken place in your own zone, I tell you nothing that you and the 26th Infantry Division do not already know. Some of you may not know, however, that your drill and gallantry in your first major engagements have won the respect and admiration of the whole X11 Corps -- and even, I feel sure, of the German troops facing you.

Some of Germany's finest fighting forces are on your front, including the tough and tested 11th Panzer Division. I can give no higher compliment to your Division than to assure you that, if these battle-trying German troops expected to deal easily with a new and untried American division, they have received one of the great surprises of their careers. The remarkable speed with which your fighting troops have acquired the spirit of veterans deserves commendation second only to the high courage and constant aggressiveness with which you have battled across Lorraine.”

/s/ N.S. Eddy
/f/ N.S. Eddy
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

I desire to express to each and everyone of you my profound appreciation of your aggressiveness and ever willing spirit to close with the enemy face to face and destroy him. Our relatives and friends back home now may rest assured that the Yankee Division is living up to its glorious record of the last war. Comrades, God bless you.

W.S. Paul
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

My name is _____

I am _____