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HEADQUARTERS  
THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO #719

27 June 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS )  
:  
NUMBER 78 )

BATTLE HONOR

1. As authorized by Executive Order No. 9396 (Sec. 1, Bull. 22, WD, 1943) and USAFISPA Radio NR H4100, 23 June 1944, the following unit is cited by the Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States, as public evidence of a deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The 307th Bombardment Group (H) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 29 March 1944 when it conducted the highly successful bombing of Truk, one of the most strongly fortified and heavily defended enemy bases in the South Pacific, and the key to the Japanese inner defense circle. This mission was in support of and coordinated with a Naval task force operating in that proximity, and had as its immediate objective the neutralization of Truk during our Naval action against the enemy. It involved difficulties and hazards greater than in any other single mission previously undertaken by units of the Thirteenth Air Force. To accomplish the assigned task, it was necessary that a flight of approximately seventeen hundred miles be made entirely over water, without any fighter support, and requiring thirteen hours and thirty minutes for its completion. Enroute to the target two severe weather fronts were successfully penetrated. From a navigational standpoint the flight represented a peak in achievement. Two squadrons with twenty (20) airplanes delivered a devastating attack against Eten airfield, the key airdrome in the Truk Islands, destroying forty-nine (49) enemy airplanes on the ground and destroying or severely damaging twenty-one (21) hangars, shop buildings and warehouses, and scoring thirty-seven (37) direct hits on the concrete runway, making it unserviceable. Immediately following this strike the formation was attacked by an estimated seventy-five (75) enemy fighters and for forty-three (43) minutes there ensued one of the bitterest aerial combats ever experienced in the South Pacific area, during which thirty-one (31) enemy fighters were shot down, twelve (12) probably destroyed, and ten (10) damaged. The brilliantly successful attack by the 307th Bombardment Group (H) demonstrated the vulnerability of Truk to our land based bombers. The success of this mission, which struck such a devastating blow to the enemy, exemplifies the highest type of leadership, team work, and flying skill, and is in

keeping with the highest traditions of the military service of the United States.

By command of Major General STREETT:

JOHN M. STERLING,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ T. W. Kirby,  
T. W. KIRBY,  
Major, A.G.D.,  
Actg. Adj. Gen.

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TRUE COPY:

*Saul C. Weislow*

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