

Lieutenant Donald Weber Receives Distinguished Unit Badge Recently ^{may 8} 1945

With the Thirty-eighth Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mechanized) in Germany.—Word has just been received from the First army that Second Lieutenant Donald J. Weber has recently been awarded the Distinguished Unit badge as a member of the Thirty-eighth Cavalry Reconnaissance squadron (mechanized) which received the Unit Citation for repelling the German counter-offensive at Monschau last December.

Lieutenant Weber is an executive officer in this famous squadron which has fought the Germans from the hedgerows of Normandy to the very heart of Germany. Among his brighter memories is the glorious 25th of August when his squadron was the first American unit into the city of Paris.

In addition to the award of the Distinguished Unit badge, Lieutenant Weber has been awarded three bronze battle stars on his service ribbon for his participation in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, and Germany with the Thirty-eighth Cavalry.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weber of Newton.

The citation reads in part:

Citation

“The Thirty-eighth Cavalry Reconnaissance squadron (mechanized) with attached units consisting of the Third Platoon, Company A, 112th Engineer Combat battalion and Company A, 146th Engineer Combat battalion, are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy during the period from December 16 to 18, 1944, in Germany. During the major counter-offensive staged by the German Sixth Panzer army, the squadron and attached units displayed extraordinary heroism and outstanding combat proficiency in repelling for three successive days the desperate attempts by the 326th Volks Grenadier division to open the Monschau sector for exploitation by the Second Panzer division.

Thinly Spread

"Defending a front of 9,000 yards and standing alone between the full scale German attack and vital road nets leading to Eupen and Liege, this thinly spread force held its ground in the face of five attacks ranging in strength from a reinforced battalion to the combined elements of two infantry regiments. Three of these assaults were supported by direct self-propelled artillery and rocket fire which preceded the attacking infantry. The battalion of German paratroopers which had been dropped behind the lines on the first night of the engagement seriously harassed frontline elements as well as the forces' rear area. Despite the fact that the numerically superior enemy made several penetrations, one of which was in battalion strength, isolated outposts and platoons held their lines with grim determination.

"Although artillery observation posts were overrun, the personnel fought with small arms to maintain their positions and adjusted devastating fire upon waves of German infantry. All enemy infiltrations were thwarted by determined fighting and close hand-to-hand combat. When the battle was most intense every available man, including personnel of rear echelon maintenance and supply sections and soldiers being treated in the squadron infirmary, were employed to drive back the advancing forces."