

FROM: Press Relations Office, 40th Infantry Division, APO 40.

TO: (Passed by GHQ, SWPA Censor)

WITH THE 40TH INFANTRY DIVISION ON LUZON - Maj. Gen. O. W. Griswold, commanding general, XIV Corps, has commended the 40th Infantry Division for its fighting with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Luzon liberation forces during January and February.

The 40th division, composed mainly of former National Guardsmen of California, Utah and New York, but with replacements from the 48 states, opened the gateway to Manila by securing the mountains dominating Clark fields. For this fighting, Gen. Griswold issued the following commendation to Maj. Gen. Rapp Brush, 40th commanding general, and his entire command;

"Imbued with the determination to destroy the enemy whenever he chose to make a stand, the 40th Infantry Division moved rapidly inland from its initial beachhead (Jan. 9 at Lingayen) while pushing vigorous reconnaissance to the west (Pangansinan peninsula).

"Although confronted finally by a determined enemy firmly entrenched in strong defense positions (in the Zambales mountains), the division maintained constant pressure against the enemy.....

"By their teamwork, initiative and devotion to duty, all components of the 40th Infantry Division, in containing and subsequently initiating the destruction of a strong enemy force constituting a direct threat to the advance south and the extended supply route, contributed materially to the progress of the XIV Corps."



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WITH THE 40TH INFANTRY DIVISION ON LUZON - Maj. Gen. Rapp Brush, commanding general, 40th Infantry Division, has officially named three ridges in the Zambales mountains in honor of the division's infantry regiments which captured them in bitter fighting from the Japanese.

The former National Guard regiments so honored are: The 108th (New York) Infantry; the 160th and the 185th Infantry, both from California. Since its federalization March 3, 1941 the division's ranks have been supplemented by soldiers from the 48 states.

These rugged ridges, which now bear the numerical designation of the regiments, dominate Fort Stotsenburg, Clark fields and the central Luzon plains, the gateway to Manila.

Carrying the right flank of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Luzon liberation forces, the 40th fell heir to the difficult task of opening the valley passageway and driving the Japanese deep into the Zambales.

Beginning late in January, the 40th Division fought continuously for more than a month, blasting the Japanese from caves, tunnels and mountain fortifications.

It was an uphill fight all the way against scores of Japanese automatic weapons, mortars and artillery. Infantry and artillery, as a team, neutralized the fortifications with coordinated attacks.

The division's artillery battalions which softened the way for infantrymen are: The 143rd and the 164th (both of California), the 213th and the 222nd (both of Utah).