

George S. Buhler

HEADQUARTERS
490TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HHD/trk

APO 261, U. S. Army
17 May 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All members of this Command.

1. Through the untiring united efforts of each man and officer, there has been achieved by this Battalion a combat record that is in every respect superior. Each man without exception gave his untiring best for the benefit of the battalion, and subordinated, wherever necessary, personal desires to the needs of the group, for the furthering of the common good.

2. That the battalion was successful in all that it was called upon to do is evidenced by 1800 miles of fighting marked by no vehicular casualties caused from lack of maintenance, by the firing of close to 57000 rounds of ammunition without gun failure, by a very low personnel casualty rate, and by communication that at no time failed at such an instant as to be considered critical. We marched - we shot and we were always able to communicate - the three fundamentals of a good field artillery battalion.

3. We are now entering on a period in the military life of each of us for which we have never before specifically trained, a period in which all of our actions, no matter how small, will be critically watched by a conquered people in whose midst we will live. We will be subjected to the enticements of "familiarity" and fraternization that must be disregarded in a firm soldierly manner. Upon our actions, appearance, bearing and demeanor will depend the success or failure of the plan of military government and social education of the German people to prevent any duplication of the present war in the near or distant future.

4. With the greatest of humility I look back with unbounded pride on a superior combat record made by a great group of men whom I am fortunate enough to command, and I look forward with absolute confidence to the completely successful achievement of our present mission, and to whatever the future may have in store for us.

Harold E. Davitt Jr.
HAROLD E. DAVITT, JR.
Lt Col FA
Commanding