

HEADQUARTERS
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 4, US ARMY

AG 201 - Primm, Charles T. (O)

Subject: Unexpurgated Citation to Award of the Bronze Star Medal.

To: First Lieutenant Charles T. Primm, 01644683, Signal Corps,
4th Signal Company.

Citation:

"CHARLES T. PRIMM, 01644683, First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, 4th Signal Company, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States, on the Cotentin Peninsula, France, from 6 June to 10 June 1944. Lieutenant PRIMM was in charge of construction of communication lines on the Cotentin Peninsula, France, from 6 June to 10 June 1944. Landing early on D-day, he personally supervised the construction of beach telephone installations across inundated area, and on inland terrain. Lieutenant PRIMM constantly went from one exposed location to another, advising and encouraging his men in their work. He would go forward, at great personal risk to himself, under artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, to help remove any obstacle that was impeding the wire teams' work. Without seeking rest, Lieutenant PRIMM visited his many teams, widely scattered over roads usually under fire, both day and night. His inspiration and enthusiasm made it possible for the wire communication teams to provide constant communication, during the period when communication was vital to the success of the Division's attack."



R. O. BARTON,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

"D" DAY UTAH BEACH NORMANDY 6 JUNE 1944

AFTER BOUNCING AROUND IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL FOR SEVERAL DAYS, I LANDED ON UTAH BEACH EARLY IN THE DAY WITH THREE WIRE TEAMS, A SMALL TRUCK AND AN AMPHIBIAN VEHICLE LOADED WITH AMMO FOR THE ARTILLERY. MY MISSION WAS TO CONNECT THE INITIAL INFANTRY AND AIRBORNE UNITS WITH WIRE AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS. THE AMPHIBIAN VEHICLE WAS DESTINED TO GET US ACROSS THE INUNDATED AREA JUST BEYOND THE BEACH IN CASE THE ROADS AND BRIDGES WERE OUT. A GERMAN ARTILLERY SHELL HIT THE AMPHIBIAN VEHICLE BEFORE IT CLEARED THE BEACH, SETTING IT ON FIRE. THE SHELLS BEGAN EXPLODING AND HAD EVERYONE DUCKING MOST OF THE DAY.

THE BEACH WAS LITTERED WITH CLOTHING LEFT BY EVERY ONE. EACH OF US HAD ON THREE SETS OF CLOTHING MAINLY FOR OUR PROTECTION IN THE WATERS OF THE CHANNEL. THE INITIAL SHOCK OF SEEING BODIES ON THE BEACH AND IN THE WATER WAS A HORRIBLE SIGHT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE.

ONE OF MY MEN WAS SHELL SHOCKED VERY EARLY AND I PLACED HIM IN A BOMB HOLE AND HAD HIM OPERATE THE SWITCHBOARD FROM THAT LOCATION,

GENERAL ROOSEVELT WAS A REAL INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US ON THE BEACH, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF US WITH NO COMBAT EXPERIENCE. WHEN SHELLS WERE COMING IN ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS WATCH HIM AND KNOW WHEN TO DUCK OR RUN FOR A HOLE.

BEFORE THAT DAY WAS OVER AND IT SEEMED TO BE AN ETERNITY, I WATCHED GEN ROOSEVELT IN HIS LITTLE WOOL KNIT CAP AND RIDING CROP LEAD THE TROOPS OFF THE BEACH AND INLAND.

ch, a German shell struck the landing
ge and no casualties. Lieutenant Goo-
ced it, accompanied by the knowledge
oming battle, perhaps even before they
ld lieutenant had two very special rean-
nfield farm girl waiting for him back

oodrich was in the third wave of Allied
reached the low seawall at the end of
bodies of soldiers from the first two

yond, a field with the warnings posted,
a German machine gunner sitting in a
beach. "I looked over the wall and no

is companions to the beach also carried
ay. When the tanks landed, they imme-
t the soldiers' advance was still stalled.
the seawall, leaving only three passable
roops were supposed to land about two
actually did, at a different pass," Mr.
ed in the Americans' favor. The other

said. But once the troops were off the
ng" as they moved inland on the second
take a hedgerow and then lose it in the
odrich said.

c, 22nd Infantry Regiment

ng Back

thousand yards off the French Coast
e beach of mines and barbed wire. Al-
wn the rope ladder to LCVP boats that
naval battleships and destroyers were
ong with the Air Corps overhead. We
e hundred fifty pounds. of equipment—
us until the beachhead would be estab-
down, that was it—no turning back.

red yards from the beach due to shell
equipment on stepped out in deep water
ch. Fortunately, we stepped out in about

one foot of water and headed for the beach wall. The Germans now knew we w
there and were pounding the beach with artillery causing a lot of wounded.

After reaching the top of the beach wall on D-Day, I saw an officer scanning
the French countryside with his binoculars. To my surprise, it was Brigadier Gen-
eral Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who came in on the first wave. I asked him, "How do
things look, sir?"

He responded, "I think the Krauts know we are here and all hell is going to
break loose in the next fifteen minutes."

He was right. We left the beach to be with the 22nd Infantry Regiment, push-
ing inland rapidly to avoid enemy shells raining down on the beach.

The Germans flooded the few causeways and roads that led inland, but it
didn't hamper us. Our objective was to contact the 82nd and the 101st Airborne,
which had dropped east of the beach around St. Mére Eglise and had helped us to
secure a beachhead.

We had accomplished our mission by driving the Germans back five miles
from the beach on the first day. I stayed with the 4th Infantry Division through the
entire war. I was in the Bavarian Alps when the war ended and was very fortunate
to be able to come home.

Tom Primm, Wilson, NC - 4th Signal Company

A Horrible Sight

After bouncing around in the English Channel for several days, I landed on
Utah Beach early in the day with three wire teams, a small truck, and an amphib-
ian vehicle loaded with ammo for the artillery. My mission was to connect the ini-
tial infantry and airborne units with wire and telephone communications. The
amphibian vehicle was destined to get us across the inundated area just beyond the
beach in case the roads and bridges were out. A German artillery shell hit the
amphibian vehicle before it cleared the beach, setting it on fire. The shells began
exploding and had everyone ducking most of the day.

The beach was littered with clothing left by everyone. Each of us had on three
sets of clothing mainly for our protection in the waters of the channel. The initial
shock of seeing bodies on the beach and in the water was a horrible sight...diffi-
cult to imagine.

One of my men was shell-shocked very early and I placed him in a bomb cra-
ter and had him operate the switchboard from that location. General Roosevelt
was a real inspiration to all of us on the beach, especially those of us with no com-
bat experience. When shells were coming in, all we had to do was watch him and
know when to duck or run for a hole.

Before that day was over, and it seemed to be an eternity, I watched General
Roosevelt in his little wool knit cap and carrying a riding crop, lead the troops off
the beach and inland.