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SECRET DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

HEADQUARTERS NORTHWEST AFRICAN AIR FORCES
APO 650

Secret by
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1 April 1943

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GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 34)

COMMENDATION OF 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES

The 301st Bombardment Group (H), United States Army Air Forces, is commended for outstanding performance of duty. Despite intense, very accurate, heavy flak and the attack of a large number of enemy fighters, on 22 March 1943 this Group carried out an extraordinarily successful raid on the docks and shipping at Palermo harbor, Sicily. Bombs were dropped from 24,500 feet with extreme accuracy. Interpretation of photographs show that three merchant vessels, a coaster and several smaller vessels were sunk, in addition to damage to other vessels, to docks and harbor installations. One of the vessels sunk was loaded with munitions probably consigned to enemy forces in Tunisia. The explosion of these munitions, so forceful that it could be felt by the crews nearly five miles above, added greatly to the damage of the bombs. To mention one item alone, a gap 350 yards long by 150 feet deep was blown in the side of the Piave pier. This bombing mission was one of the most successful conducted in the Northwest African Theater of War and reflects great credit upon the entire personnel of the 301st Bombardment Group (H).

By command of Lieutenant General SPAATZ:

E. P. CURTIS,
Colonel, USAAF,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Air Adjutant General.

REPRODUCED:
Hq, 301st Bomb. Gp. (H) AAF,
NATOUA, APO 520.
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