



COLONEL MURPHY

Murphy Wins Second Star

Fort Collins Officer is Dec- orated for Courage on Anzio Beachhead

News of the award of an Oak Leaf cluster to the Silver Star to Lt. Col. Preston J. C. Murphy, veteran of all the toughest battles which the Fifty-fifth "Thunderbird" division has fought in Sicily and Italy, was received here yesterday by Mrs. Murphy. The award is the equivalent of a second award of the Silver Star, an American Army decoration for courage in battle.

The citation for the decoration, signed by Maj. Gen. W. W. Eagles, commander of the Forty-fifth, indicates that probably it was awarded for his work under fire with the 179th infantry regiment of the Forty-fifth during an early phase of the "Battles of the Caves" on the Anzio beachhead in Italy last February.

At 'Bloody Ridge'

The language of his first Silver Star indicated that it was given for his leadership of a battalion of the 157th infantry in the taking of "Bloody Ridge" from the Germans in Sicily in July of 1943. Exact places and circumstances were not stated in either citation, however.

Colonel Murphy, one of Fort Collins' most distinguished soldiers of World war II, for sev-

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Murphy Wins

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eral months has been executive officer, and several times acting commander, of the 179th infantry in battles ranging north from the Anzio beachhead to beyond Rome. He joined the National guard here in 1921 and in the years just before the war commanded Company H of the 157th as a National guard unit.

'For Gallantry'

His newest citation for the

Oak Leaf cluster states:

"For gallantry in action Feb. 18-19, 1944, in the vicinity of Padiglione, Italy.

"The main German offensive against the Anzio beachhead had driven back the forward elements of the regiment and the enemy was attacking the regiment's main line of resistance. The attack by enemy infantry and armor, strongly supported by artillery and airplanes, had been maintained for two days and was continued both day and night on the 18 and 19 of February.

Under Heavy Fire

"During this time Colonel Murphy moved about the regimental positions under heavy fire. He visited front line units, checking their location and condition and co-ordinating the defense.

"By the orders and encouragement he gave individuals and units and the personal example he set, he inspired confidence in officers and men to hold the position against the enemy's desperate attempt to break through the beachhead line. Colonel Murphy's gallantry and leadership were in accordance with the high traditions of the armed forces."

Lt. Col. Murphy Gets Oak Leaf

An Oak-Leaf cluster to the Silver Star has been awarded Lt. Col. Preston J. C. Murphy, of Fort Collins. Col. Murphy, a long-time friend of Cecil Brierley of Boulder, is a veteran of all the toughest battles which the "Thunderbird" division has fought in Sicily and Italy. Co. F of Boulder and other Colorado National Guard Units are in this division. Boulder Camera 8/12/44

Postcard header with fields for No., To, and From. Includes a circular censor stamp with the name 'Murphy' and the text '(CENSOR'S STAMP)'. The 'To' field is addressed to 'Lt. Col. P. Murphy' and the 'From' field is signed 'Cecil Brierley'.

Dear Cec -
Thought you would like to hear from Section 8 house just made very amphibious landing - and glad to report a very successful one. The French people are refreshing. The Italian very few exceptions are a sorry lot. In contrast the French are wholehearted. They greet us with genuine enthusiasm showing us as conquerors or perhaps little less. with showers of roses, twice (for men & women) fruit - wine - cognac - vegetables. The country is hilly and wooded - many nice homes and roads. a little narrow but good. The Magis of French - a Pastelien organ is and has been very effective in our advance and cutting the German lines of communication. One German 44 yrs old, a bookkeeper, in the army about year serving in a headquarters. He believed the war would be over - we take

V-MAIL