

HEADQUARTERS
US FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

GFH/gh/il

201 - Vandenberg, Hoyt S. (O) GAP-AGG

APD
APO 757
16 August 1946

SUBJECT: Foreign Award

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

1. The Belgian Government has awarded the l'Ordre de Leopold, Grade de Grand Officier avec Palme and Croix de Guerre 1940 avec Palme to Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, 015355, US Army, per Decree No. 827, 30 July 1945.

2. Authority is granted for the acceptance and wearing of these awards.

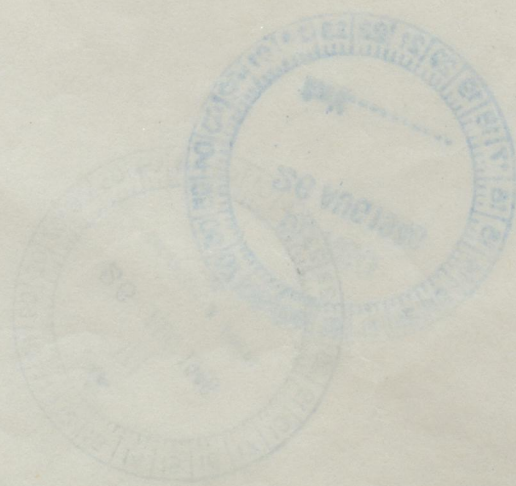
3. There is no indication as to when the medals will be available. In the meantime the ribbons representing these awards may be worn.

4. It is requested that this correspondence be forwarded to General Vandenberg's present station or home address.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:



George F. Herbert
GEORGE F. HERBERT
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General



WASHINGTON, le 31 janvier 1946

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to officers of the U.S. Army whose conspicuous services to the common cause and direct contribution towards the liberation of Belgium are gratefully acknowledged by eight million people in my homeland.

In so doing, we honor not only the leaders but the men and women of this great country, who fought and worked and did the job. Our tribute is offered, above all, to those who took part in the battle of Belgium. We are privileged in having in our midst some of their brothers in arm, to whom we owe so much. Our thoughts naturally revert to the dead, buried in our soil, part of our own heritage, to whom we owe even more.

In welcoming you today, I am happy to fulfill a special mission with which I have been entrusted by the Prince Regent. It is with great respect that I offer to the President of the United States (a veteran - himself - of the great war), so graciously represented here, the warm and friendly token of Belgium's highest regard and good wishes. It is with great humility that I bow to the memory of the late Commander in Chief, whose very name, in the heart of mankind, will always echo the simple word: freedom. It is with great pleasure that I greet the representatives of the Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff, the new Ambassador designate Vice Admiral Alan Kirk, one of the pioneers of the liberation of Europe, the distinguished members of the Senate and of the House who are enhancing this ceremony by their presence. It is with great pride that we number in our ranks members of the American forces who already wear, pinned on their breast, the ribbon of the Belgian orders given them in recognition of the services rendered. To them all, let this ribbon remain the grateful acknowledgment of a nation that knows how to endure but does not know how to forget. It is my privilege to be assisted today by the Belgian Military Attache who fought in two great wars, took part in the desperate

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struggle of 1940, organized the resistance movement under the enemy and represents at once the Belgian army and the undying forces of the interior in their struggle for independence and freedom.

Mrs. Patch, your late husband led the army that bore the brunt of the battle at Laroche and Houffalize. Circumstances have not made it possible for a presentation to him, before his untimely death, of the high awards which I shall now place in your hands. His spirit will be with us in Belgium long after the colors of this ribbon fade away. I have the honor to present you with the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold II with palm and the Belgian War Cross with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred to Lieutenant-General Patch in recognition of his outstanding services to Belgium.

General Hodges, your leadership of the First United States Army was largely instrumental in driving the enemy from the soil of Belgium. Your masterful conduct of operations was in itself a great contribution to victory.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold with palm, and the Belgian War Cross, with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

General Simpson, the action of the Ninth United States Army under your command helped stemming the tide of the last German counter-offensive in the Belgian province of Luxembourg; your brilliant offensive cleared the way for the crossing of the Rhine - and victory.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold with palm, and the Belgian War Cross, with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

General Vandenberg, as Commanding General of the Ninth Air Force, your tactical support proved invaluable in the operation of

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the late summer and autumn of 1944. In honoring you, Belgium honors today not the few but the many who cleared the skies for the dawn of a new freedom.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold with palm, and the Belgian War Cross with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

General Taylor, the Battle of the Bulge is truly a Belgian-American epic. The gallantry and fortitude of the 101st Airborne Division is forever recorded in the annals of our two countries.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown, with palm, and the Belgian War Cross, with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

General McAuliffe, the people of the Ardennes are dour and stern people. But you are more determined than them all. Your spirit is engraved forever in the stones of Bastogne. Your name is part of Belgium's history.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Commander of the Order of Leopold with palm. The Belgian War Cross with palm having been already given you in Belgium - in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

Colonel Coster, it is fitting that tribute be paid to the intelligence service in which you so brilliantly displayed qualities of the highest order that contributed substantially to the common victory.

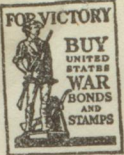
I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Commander of the Order of the Crown, with palm, and the Belgian War Cross, with palm, which the Belgian Government has conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

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Colonel de Vel, when the V-bombs and the rocket shells were raining on Antwerp and Liege, your assistance was readily and fearlessly given to the thousand people, holding their own fronts behind the lines. Your contribution has been an outstanding one not only to the cause of Belgium but in the service of mankind.

I have the honor to present you with the Cross of Officer of the Order of the Crown, in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

AGPO-M 201 Vandenberg, Hoyt S.
(31 Jan 46) 015355

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FJM/jjk/3802



18 March 1946

Subject: Letter of Transmittal

To: Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, 015355, United States Army
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Room 2E800, The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

1. There is transmitted herewith a copy, received from the Military Attache of the Belgian Embassy, Washington, D. C., of the tribute paid upon the occasion of the presentation to you of the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold with palm and the Belgian War Cross with palm, conferred upon you in recognition of your outstanding services to Belgium.

2. A copy of this tribute has been placed in your official record.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General

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