

Copy.
PERMANENT ARMISTICE COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL.

Spa, Belgium, Feb. 20th, 1919.

From; Major General C.D. Rhodes, U.S.A.
To; Colonel Harry Williams, U.S.A. Comdg 320 F.A.
Subject; Efficiency.

1. Upon the conclusion of the Armistice and on the occasion of the return of your regiment to America, it gives me great satisfaction to place on record this brief statement of your part in the great war.

2. You organized and trained your regiment under my direction as Commanding General, 157th Field Artillery Brigade, and brought the regiment to La Courtine, France, where it received such additional training as carried with it the commendation of inspectors from General Headquarters.

3. On or about August 4th, 1918, you and your regiment proceeded to the Chateau-Thierry Sector, where with the remainder of the brigade, you were held in reserve. About the middle of August, the brigade proceeded to the Marbache Sector, in preparation for the St. Mihiel drive; and meanwhile, you and your regiment were subjected to constant bombing by the enemy's planes, and to intermittent fire from his artillery, until September 12th, 1918.

4. On the latter date, you and your regiment participated in the St. Mihiel drive, where from the fact that the divisional artillery operated on the extreme right flank of the entire St. Mihiel salient, required excessive and prolonged counter-battery work by your regiment, pushed dangerously near the front and correspondingly exposed your regiment from front and flank to much hostile shelling and bombing, nicely regulated by the enemy's domination of the air.

5. On September 26th, after skillfully transferring your regiment by night marching from the Marbache to the Argonne Sector, you and your regiment took part in the Argonne drive, in reserve until October 6th, when the regiment took its place in the front line. From that date until the conclusion of the Armistice, you and your regiment took a most active part and materially contributed to the success of the Argonne and Meuse drives, in support of, first, the 82nd Division and later the 80th Division. It is pertinent to state that about October 13th,

Major-General Walsh, the French Chief of Corps Artillery, informed the Commanding General, 1st Corps, that the 157th F.A. Brigade was the best artillery on our front.

6. From February 20th, 1918, when I assumed command of the 157th F.A. Brigade, until October 31st, 1918, when I joined the 42nd Division, you were constantly under my observation, and I found you intensely loyal, industrious, professionally efficient, and of most exemplary habits.

Your military qualities, which deserve especial mention were your ~~66~~ tactical knowledge of the handling of your regiment in the field, your high sense of military discipline, your untiring physical activity, and the most commendable eagerness--especially in evidence in the Argonne drive--to push up the guns of your splendid regiment to the most extreme front of our lines.

7. During service in France, I officially recommended you at least four times, for promotion to the grade of brigadier-general and it is my earnest belief that you have most justly earned such promotion.

C. D. HOWLES,
Major-General, U. S. A.
Chief Amer. SMC., P. I. A. C.