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HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
APO #30
United States Army

BPP/her

20 February 1945

210.1 - Kitchell, Elmer (NMI) (Enl)

SUBJECT: Battlefield Appointment as Second Lieutenant, AUS.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth United States Army, APO 339 (Thru Channels).

1. Under the provisions of Circular 59, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, 1 June 1944, it is recommended that the following individual, having clearly demonstrated his fitness for appointment by outstanding performance in actual combat, be appointed a second lieutenant, AUS, for duty with Infantry:

Elmer	(NMI)	Kitchell	32563704	24
(First Name)	(Full Middle Name)	(Last Name)	(ASN)	(Age)

2. This individual has clearly demonstrated his fitness for appointment by outstanding performance in actual combat as follows:

Platoon Sergeant	Company F 120th Inf	18 Aug 44 to 8 Oct 44	Superior BPP
(Duty Assignment)	(Unit)	(Period)	(Manner of Performance)
Platoon Sergeant	Company F 120th Inf	2 Jan 45 to 20 Feb 45	Superior BPP
(Duty Assignment)	(Unit)	(Period)	(Manner of Performance)

Narrative of performance in actual combat: Technical Sergeant Elmer (NMI) Kitchell has served as platoon sergeant in a rifle company in this regiment during the periods 18 August 1944 to 8 October 1944, and from 2 January 1945 to 20 February 1945. During these periods that Sergeant Kitchell was in actual combat with the enemy, his performance has always remained above and beyond the usual. Though seriously wounded in action 9 October 1944, Sergeant Kitchell returned to duty 2 January 1945 and has continued to display outstanding performance. On 19 January 1945, the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry, of which Sergeant Kitchell is a member, was committed in a highly important attack. The Battalion's objective was the high ground at 81.4-93.0, and the small town at 81.1-93.0. The attack plan called for Company E on the left, Company F on the right, with Company G in reserve. The Battalion left the line of departure at approximately 1330 hours. Company F, which company Sergeant Kitchell is a member, moved in a column of platoons along the northwestern ridge on the high ground, moving in a southwestern direction. When the company got approximately on the western top of the high ground (81.5-93.3), the enemy was discovered to be entrenched to their immediate left on the remaining high ground. The company commander, realizing that this enemy would harass the advance of the company on his left flank, ordered the enemy to be neutralized. One platoon was sent out to cover the right flank of Company F which held a position at approximately 81.4-93.4. Another platoon was sent forward to neutralize the enemy resistance. Up to this point the enemy was unaware

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of the presence of the American forces. As the attacking platoon moved forward to neutralize the enemy who were well dug in and entrenched, the enemy opened fire upon them with small arms and automatic weapons fire. The attacking platoon was momentarily halted in the exchange of small arms fire. Sergeant Kitchell, who at this time was acting in the capacity of platoon leader, was in command of the attacking platoon. The enemy small arms and automatic fire increased in intensity and the platoon's attack threatened to bog down and stop altogether. Sergeant Kitchell, realizing the seriousness of the situation, acted quickly, taking the necessary quick and aggressive action. Making his way to the head of the platoon, he began to urge the men forward. Disregarding his own personal safety and unmindful of the fact that the enemy lead was falling all about him, remained in an exposed position as he exhorted the troops to further efforts. The demonstration of aggressiveness and bravery on the part of their platoon sergeant gave the men heart. Following the example of their platoon sergeant, they moved forward in the continuance of the attack and regained the drive's momentum. The platoon closed with the enemy and succeeded in neutralizing and wiping out the resistance. Ten prisoners were taken in the action, and approximately five enemy killed. But for the aggressive action of Sergeant Kitchell, the attack and advance of his company may not only have failed, but the friendly unit advancing on his company's left would also have been held up and harassed due to location of the enemy positions.

3. A position vacancy does exist.

4. The individual recommended has not been sentenced to confinement in a penitentiary, or convicted in civil or military court for an offense denounced by any federal law. He is a citizen of the United States.

5. Upon appointment it is recommended this individual be assigned to:

120th Infantry, as Platoon Leader.

B. P. PURDUE
Colonel - 120th Infantry
Commanding

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