

COMPANY "L", 337TH INFANTRY

1, August, 1944

SUBJECT: PROMOTION OF OFFICER

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 337TH INFANTRY

1. The promotion of Second Lieutenant TOM F. SNEARY, O-1305494, is recommended.
2. The above recommendation is based on the outstanding qualities of leadership and aggressiveness displayed by Lt. Sneary throughout the Campaign for Rome, in the specific instances cited below.
3. Near Mount Campese, Italy, 16 May 1944, the second platoon of Company L was on the right and the first platoon on the left. The Company advanced until they were three hundred yards from the base of Mt. Campese. The terrain was flat and very open, and the enemy's observation posts on the mountain could see every movement of every individual. The enemy opened up with everything they had: six machine guns, many rifles, mortars and 88's firing directly at our troops. A great number of the first platoon and the third platoon and part to the Company on our left began to withdraw. Lt. Sneary, having complete control of his platoon (Second Platoon), kept every man in position, and, during the heavy firing, maneuvered his support squad into the line on the left to help fill in the gap. Under the guidance of Lt. Sneary, his platoon guide moved forward in front of the platoon for one hundred and fifty yards under constant enemy fire. By using anti-tank grenades and an M-1 rifle, enemy machine guns were routed. Lt. Sneary exploited this advantage immediately, and continued to attack. During one entire action, only three men were wounded and no men killed. This is attributed directly to the consummate skill, coolness under fire, and initiative of Lt. Sneary.
4. Near Lariano, Italy and one thousand yards south of hill 891, on 31 May 1944 the second platoon of Company L was on the right and the first platoon on the left advancing through open and flat country in the face of constant sniper fire. At a highway crossing which was unusually exposed, Lt. Sneary succeeded getting every one of his men safely across by running them over singly and in pairs. The platoon began advancing up a steep hill about fifty yards beyond the road. Here, very stiff resistance was encountered from an enemy who was well dug in and armed with machine guns and mortars. It was estimated the the enemy's strength was between thirty and forty. The terrain was heavily wooded and heavy underbrush. No supporting weapons could be used, and Lt. Sneary was forced to rely solely upon the weapons of his platoon. He placed his anti-tank men on the dug-outs, and maneuvered his support squad around to the right under cover and thereby outflanking the enemy. By the quick decisions and action of Lt. Sneary, the enemy was forced to withdraw. The result was three enemy killed, five captured, and one whom was wounded, and three machine guns, several rifles, and much ammunition seized. Loss to the platoon was two killed and one wounded. This action contributed materially to the advance of the Company.



VICTOR R. SAVACOOOL
Capt. 337th Infantry
Commanding Company L.