

Information on the capture of one of these positions is contained in the citation of Pfc Kenneth W. Grove of Racine, Wis. Grove's platoon from the Squadron Weapons Troop was pinned down by intense enemy fire from a bunker to the immediate front. Grove volunteered to clear the enemy from the position. He cautiously worked his way through the low underbrush to the bank of the bunker, and then charged across the open area in front of the bunker and succeeded in killing the enemy gun crew consisting of four Japs. By his prompt and courageous action, he prevented casualties among his fellow troopers and made a decisive contribution to the successful accomplishment of the mission.

Hill 215 was captured the following day, 22 October, when the 2d Squadron, 7th Cavalry, killed, or found dead, 335 Japanese in that area.

The troops of the 1st Cavalry Brigade, under Brigadier General William C. Chase, were battling it out with both swamps and Japs to the south. In the 5th Cavalry, Pfc Henry L. Catron of Hughes Springs, Texas, a member of the Service Troop, accompanied an officer who was reconnoitering for a better route of advance through the difficult terrain. As they moved through the swamp grass and underbrush, the officer was suddenly confronted by three Japs moving stealthily toward him with fixed bayonets. He attempted to fire on them but his weapon, wet and clogged with mud, failed to function. Quickly sizing up the situation, Catron moved between the officer and the enemy and killed them with his sub-machine gun. His courageous action and fast thinking not only saved the life of his commanding officer, but the sound of his shots warned the leading elements of his squadron that there was an enemy ambush lying across their route of advance.

As the 5th Cavalry wrestled its way through the swamp, the leading platoon of "A" Troop was pinned down by a sudden burst of fire from a well concealed enemy position on a hillside up ahead. Seeing the predicament of his troop, the commanding officer Captain **Charles J. Barrie** of Teaneck, N.J., unhesitatingly moved forward to their position, and while under constant fire, organized and directed the fire of his troop's weapons on the enemy position until he was killed. Captain Barrie's courageous leadership inspired his men enabling them to destroy the enemy and advance to their objective.

The 12th Cavalry ran into an isolated group of 15 Japs and dispersed it. This relatively light opposition supported all previous indications that the Japanese believed the Allied attack would come mainly in the vicinity of Du'ag (where the XXIV Corps landed), and possibly near Palo (in the 24th Division Sector), but not in the Tacloban area.

The 22d of October was occupied with mopping up around Tacloban by the 2d Brigade as the 8th Cavalry was released from Corps Reserve to Division control, while the 1st Brigade drove the enemy from the high ground to the west and southwest of the city. The Division Command Post was set up on the race track in Tacloban.

As the 12th Cavalry pushed its way through the difficult terrain three of its enlisted men performed feats of heroism on this day which resulted in the subsequent award of Silver Star decorations. Pvt Dale R. Simmons, a member of "G" Troop from Rolla, Kans., won an oak-leaf cluster to add to the Silver Star previously awarded him for his courageous work as automatic rifleman in the Admiralty Campaign. When the squad in which Simmons was a BAR-man was held up southwest of Tacloban by heavy rifle and machine gun fire from a well concealed enemy position, he showed outstanding coolness and bravery. The overconfident enemy began a fierce counterattack, but Simmons moved forward, and by his heavy volume of accurate automatic fire, annihilated the attackers and enabled his squad to regain contact with its platoon. Later in the Leyte Campaign, Simmons was mortally wounded, but he will long be remembered by his comrades as a courageous and gallant soldier.

Sergeant R. B. Adams of Georgetown, Texas was a squad leader in "E" Troop. When his squad received a hail of machine gun fire during an assault on strongly defended Japanese pillboxes, he advanced to the front of his squad where he could deliver heavy and devastating fire on the enemy. He remained in this position until his ammunition was expended and he had hurled his last grenade into the enemy strongpoint, but in so doing he was fatally wounded. His determined and gallant action enabled two platoons to advance and seized their objective.

Sergeant John Parker, Jr. of San Francisco, Calif. led a rifle squad from "F" Troop which had the arduous task of acting as a covering detachment for his troop as it made its way through the swamps and dense undergrowth. As his squad reached the center of an open swamp, Parker saw his scout cut down by the withering fire of an enemy machine gun. Unhesitatingly he crawled forward with Jap bullets grazing just above him and rescued his fallen comrade by carrying him back to the safety of a covered position. As he was completing this mission he was mortally wounded by a burst from an enemy machine gun. His heroic and unselfish action, however, saved the life of the wounded scout.

Less than 24 hours after the assault troops had swarmed ashore on Leyte, a vast and new problem