

8 December 1959

Mr. Jesse A. Remington
Director, Historical Division, OGE
Department of the Army
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore 3, Maryland

Dear Mr. Remington:

Thank you for your letter of 13 November 1959 acknowledging my comments on Chapter XI of the Engineers in the War Against Germany and your remarks concerning my approach.

I am glad to know that your office has available the 36th after-action reports and the unit history accounts. After reading Chapter XI and failing to find mention of the 36th in connection with the planning for and the Salerno operation, I could only conclude that your people who wrote this Chapter either did not have them, or else that they gave such small credence to them that they decided the reports were not worthy of use.

With reference to my comments on the day-to-day operations of the 36th during the Salerno period, they were based on the 36th historical accounts corrected and supplemented in light of my personal experience. I can appreciate your views as a historian on the soundness of recollections after the passage of a number of years. As you may know, I served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1946 until my retirement in 1956 as The Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Army, and I believe our views as lawyers as to the value of such evidence are somewhat similar to yours as historians. However, from the lawyer's viewpoint greater acceptance is given where the recollections are based upon personal participation in unusual events, with consideration also being given to maturity, caliber and position of the person involved. It was from this standpoint that I wrote.

With particular respect to the history of the 36th, it is my understanding that this was written in Germany after V-E Day by an officer who wasn't personally acquainted with the

operations of the regiment at Salerno who pieced it together on the basis of the best information that he could assemble. Under the circumstances, I think that he did a very commendable job, but there are gaps in the history and also some comments that are misleading or even contrary to my personal knowledge as a participant in the events. In writing the detailed comments it was my purpose to present matters of my personal knowledge as a participant so they might be considered by your Division. In this connection I am enclosing a copy of my Comments on Chapter II with marginal notes on pages 3 - 7 indicating matters which are of my personal knowledge.

I am sorry to have taken so long in getting my comments in on all the chapters, but my job as Assistant to the President of Solar Aircraft Company has kept me quite busy. I hope to have a little free time over the Christmas Season, and will try to get on with my review at that time.

Sincerely,

George W. Gardes
Brig. Gen., USA (Ret.)

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Enclosure

