

Anti-Aircraft Crews Praised

Units Display Proper Spirit

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27. (AP)—Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, chief of the western defense command, said today that the manner in which anti-aircraft units responded when unidentified aircraft appeared over the Los Angeles area showed conclusively they are "thoroughly imbued with the responsibilities imposed upon them."

General DeWitt's commendation was made in a letter to Maj. Gen. Fulton Q. C. Gardner, commanding general of the fourth anti-aircraft command.

Similar messages were sent to Brig. Gen. William Ord Ryan of the fourth interceptor command and to Jack H. Helms, director of the regional office of civilian defense.

DeWitt's letter to General Gardner said in part:

"I wish you would inform the commanding general of the anti-aircraft units of my gratification at the readiness of the officers and men of his command to meet possible enemy action, as demonstrated by their alertness and ability to promptly open fire when called upon to do so during the blackout of the Los Angeles area on the morning of February 25.

"Preliminary reports indicate very definitely that the officers and men of the anti-aircraft units were prepared when the test came to meet with fire a hostile attack and thereby fulfill their mission.

"It also conclusively shows that the officers and men of the units are thoroughly imbued with the responsibilities imposed upon them and that enthusiasm, initiative and a high state of morale exist among all ranks.

"It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to commend them for their demonstrated fitness and military conduct."

DeWitt's letter to Helms mentioned particularly the performance of Los Angeles area civilian defense agencies in the "efficient discharge of their duties before and during the blackout."