

HEADQUARTERS 104TH (TIMBERWOLF) INFANTRY DIVISION

Office of the Commanding General

APO 104, U. S. Army

23 April 1945

TO ALL TIMBERWOLVES:

This date marks the completion of six months of continuous combat for the Timberwolf Division. You may well be proud of your combat record.

In its initial combat operation, the division fought with the First Canadian Army into Holland from 23 October to 8 November 1944, spearheading the I British Corps in the crossing of the Mark River and the drive to the Maas River. The esteem in which the Timberwolves were held by our British Allies is indicated by the following extract from a commendation received from Lieutenant General G. G. Simonds, commanding the First Canadian Army:

"Once the 'Timberwolves' got their teeth into the Boche, they showed great dash, and British and Canadian troops on their flanks expressed the greatest admiration for their courage and enthusiasm. When they again meet the Boche 'all hell cannot stop the Timberwolves'."

The division then moved immediately to the Aachen Sector in Germany, where it relieved the 1st Infantry Division, in the VII Corps of the First U. S. Army. The Timberwolves jumped off 16 November in the drive to the Roer, as part of the VII Corps, with the veteran 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions and the 3d Armored Division. The true combat effectiveness of the Timberwolves was clearly indicated by the following extract from a commendation from Lieutenant General J. Lawton Collins, commanding the VII Corps:

"The mission of seizing the great industrial area Eschweiler - Weisweiler - Stolberg, which was assigned to the 104th Division in the first phase of our operations, was a difficult nasty task. The division cleared this important area in a much shorter time than I had expected and with the minimum of loss. The speed with which this was accomplished is a tribute to the leadership, dash and sound training of the division.

"The second phase involving the crossing of the Inde River and the advance to the Roer was even more difficult, but with characteristic skill and dash, in a series of brilliant night attacks, the 104th Division forced a crossing of the Inde and in a few days had cleared its entire sector to the Roer River. I regard the operation which involved the seizure of Lamersdorf - Inden - Lucherberg as one of the finest single pieces of work accomplished by any unit of the VII Corps since D-Day."

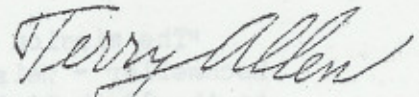
The division, then operating under the XIX Corps of the Ninth Army, occupied a defensive sector on the Roer, opposite Duren, during the trying days from 16 December 1944 until 23 February 1945. An aggressive defense was maintained to block the critical German route of advance to Aachen. Timberwolf patrols completely dominated the Roer.

The division again operated with the VII Corps of the First Army, in the drive to Cologne, which started 23 February with the crossing of the Roer and the seizure of Duren and Huchem-Stammeln, and culminated in the capture of Cologne, 7 March 1945. This drive was characterized by constant day and night pressure, sharply executed night attacks and skillful use of supporting fires.

The division crossed the Rhine at Honnef in the Remagen bridgehead on 22 March. Continuing to operate with the VII Corps, a rapid advance of 193 miles in 9 days was made eastward and north to Paderborn. Initial enemy resistance was overcome in a series of night attacks. Thereafter the division followed in close support of the 3d Armored Division and was particularly effective in aggressively protecting the west flank of the VII Corps. After reaching the Paderborn area, the drive was resumed to the east, in an uninterrupted advance of 175 miles in 15 days. It included the crossing of the Weser and Saale Rivers and the capture of Halle, Bitterfeld and Delitzsch, and culminated in the seizure of assigned objectives on the Mulde River. Contact is now momentarily expected with our Russian Allies approaching from the east.

Battle accomplishments of the Timberwolf Division have been characterized by the tenacity, skill, teamwork and devotion to duty of all combat and service elements, and by the efficient functioning of all staff sections. The 750th Tank Battalion, 817th TD Battalion and the 555th AAA Battalion rendered effective support at all times.

I am proud indeed to have commanded the Timberwolf Division through its final year of training and during six months of arduous combat. You have lived up to your battle slogan, "NOTHING IN HELL MUST STOP THE TIMBERWOLVES." My sincere thanks go to you all for your unfailing loyal support.


TERRY ALLEN.