

HEADQUARTERS 104TH (TIMBERWOLF) INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

1 June 1945

TO ALL TIMBERWOLVES:

The letter quoted below has been received from the Commanding General,
VII Corps:

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General

30 May 1945

Major General Terry Allen
Commanding, 104th Infantry Division
APO #104, United States Army

Dear General Allen:

Anticipating the departure of the 104th Infantry Division in the near future, I wish to express to you and to all of the officers and men of the Timberwolf Division my deep appreciation for the outstanding work performed by your division since it joined the VII Corps in November, 1944.

The 104th Infantry Division was one of the mainstays in the VII Corps during the severe fighting that carried us from the Aachen--Stolberg area to the Roer River and from the Roer to the Rhine, culminating in the capture of Cologne. Teamed with the 3d Armored Division, the Timberwolves stormed over the Vorgebirge hills guarding Cologne and seized the southern half of that key city on 7 March 1945. It was during this campaign across the Inde, the Roer and the Erft in February--March, 1945, that the 104th Division perfected its technique of night operations which has made it one of the outstanding night-fighting divisions in the army.

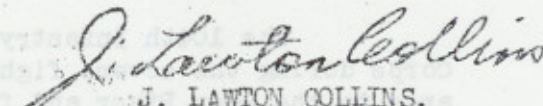
On 22 March, the division crossed the Rhine at Honnef, and the following night attacked to the east from the Remagen Bridgehead. Mopping up scattered points of resistance and consolidating gains in close support of the 3d Armored Division, the 104th Infantry Division played an important role in the great encircling maneuver which trapped over 335,000 enemy troops in the Ruhr pocket and cut off that vital industrial area from the rest of Germany. With great skill and boldness the 104th Division, though stretched at times over a depth of forty miles, held off the enemy's vicious counter attacks aimed at cutting the VII Corps' line of communication from Marburg to Paderborn. The great advance of the 3d Armored Division to Paderborn was thus made possible largely through the splendid blocking and mopping operations of the Timberwolves.

With the Ruhr pocket securely contained, the 104th Division was relieved by elements of the III Corps and assembled in the Borgentreich -- Leibnau area. Again in close support of the 3d Armored Division, the division renewed its advance to the east on 7 April 1945. By 14 April, the 104th Division had crossed the Weser River, blocked the southern exits from the Harz Mountains area, and advanced 140 miles in one week to the outskirts of Halle.

With the relief of elements of the division along the south side of the Harz Mountains pocket by the 9th Infantry Division, the Timberwolves crossed the Saale River on 15 April 1945 and attacked Halle from the north. Halle, Delitzsch, and Bitterfeld were captured in rapid succession, and by 21 April, the division had cleared its entire sector to the Mulde River. While waiting for the Soviet forces to close along the division front, your vigorous patrolling east of the Mulde River resulted in the capture of 20,375 prisoners of war. The division established contact with the Soviets at Pretzsch on 26 April 1945.

Every officer and man in the Timberwolf Division may well take great pride in your splendid organization. The great achievements of the 104th Infantry Division have demonstrated the highest order of leadership, tactical skill and fine fighting spirit throughout the division. With its first engagement in the Eschweiler--Weisweiler area last November, the 104th Division quickly took its place as one of the finest assault divisions that has been with the VII Corps. The entire Corps staff joins me in the hope that our association is only temporarily interrupted, and that we will be together when the last shot is fired in World War II. Meanwhile, we all wish to every Timberwolf the best of luck and continued success.

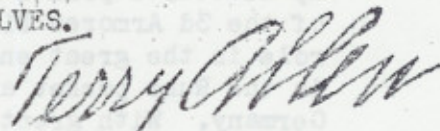
Sincerely,


J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

This latest commendation, summarizing your combat operations with the VII Corps, is a deserving tribute to the battle accomplishments of our Timberwolf Division.

Again, my sincere thanks to you all for your continuing loyal support.

NOTHING IN HELL MUST STOP THE TIMBERWOLVES.


TERRY ALLEN.