

HEADQUARTERS 97TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

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File
Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.
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SUBJECT: Anniversary of Division's Activation.

TO : All Officers and Men.

A year ago today, on 25 February 1943, the 97th Infantry Division was activated at Camp Swift, Texas. The Division has come a long way since then.

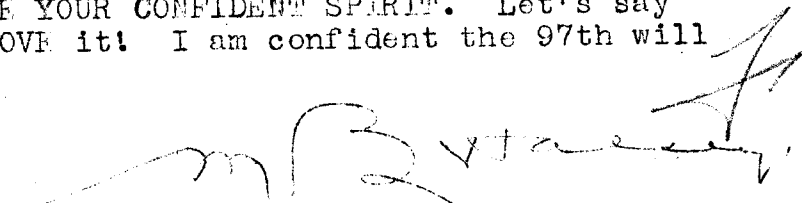
This time LAST YEAR our brothers-in-arms were fighting the crucial battle of Kasserine Pass, fighting desperately and winning or dying in other far-flung areas -- The war may have seemed rather distant AT THAT TIME - something that WE regarded in an abstract, impersonal, sort of way. We knew THEN we must wait our turn - take our training - before we could qualify as a Division to carry our share of the load ... and that training was just beginning.

And, we should have been thankful then for the time that could be allowed us ... For willing though we may have been we must have known that the Division was untrained. That was February, 1943.

Let's review the past year ... and look at the picture TODAY. The Division has spent long days on the drill field and on the ranges - pounded out grueling miles on road-marches - undergone arduous maneuvers. And, for good purpose! ... But who thinks for one minute that we are veterans or finished soldiers? Only a fool would think that!

What then IS our viewpoint TODAY? We, all of us, certainly feel MUCH CLOSER to this - our - War. There is still much to be done in preparation for life-or-death BATTLE. We can thank God we are STILL MAKING PROGRESS! We should be grateful for the smaller measure of time that can still be allowed us to perfect our training and, being grateful, MAKE THE MOST OF THAT TIME.

The 97th Infantry Division is going ahead with one definite purpose in view - COMBAT. We will prepare to do our share in achieving VICTORY. I am proud of being your Commanding General and I congratulate the Division on the job done so far. I LIKE YOUR CONFIDENT SPIRIT. Let's say 1944 is OUR YEAR and PROVE it! I am confident the 97th will meet the challenge.


H. E. HALSEY
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding.