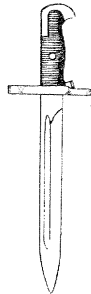


REGIMENT
OF THE
CENTURY



REGIMENT OF THE CENTURY

THE STORY OF THE 397TH
INFANTRY REGIMENT



WRITTEN AND DESIGNED IN STUTTGART
GERMANY

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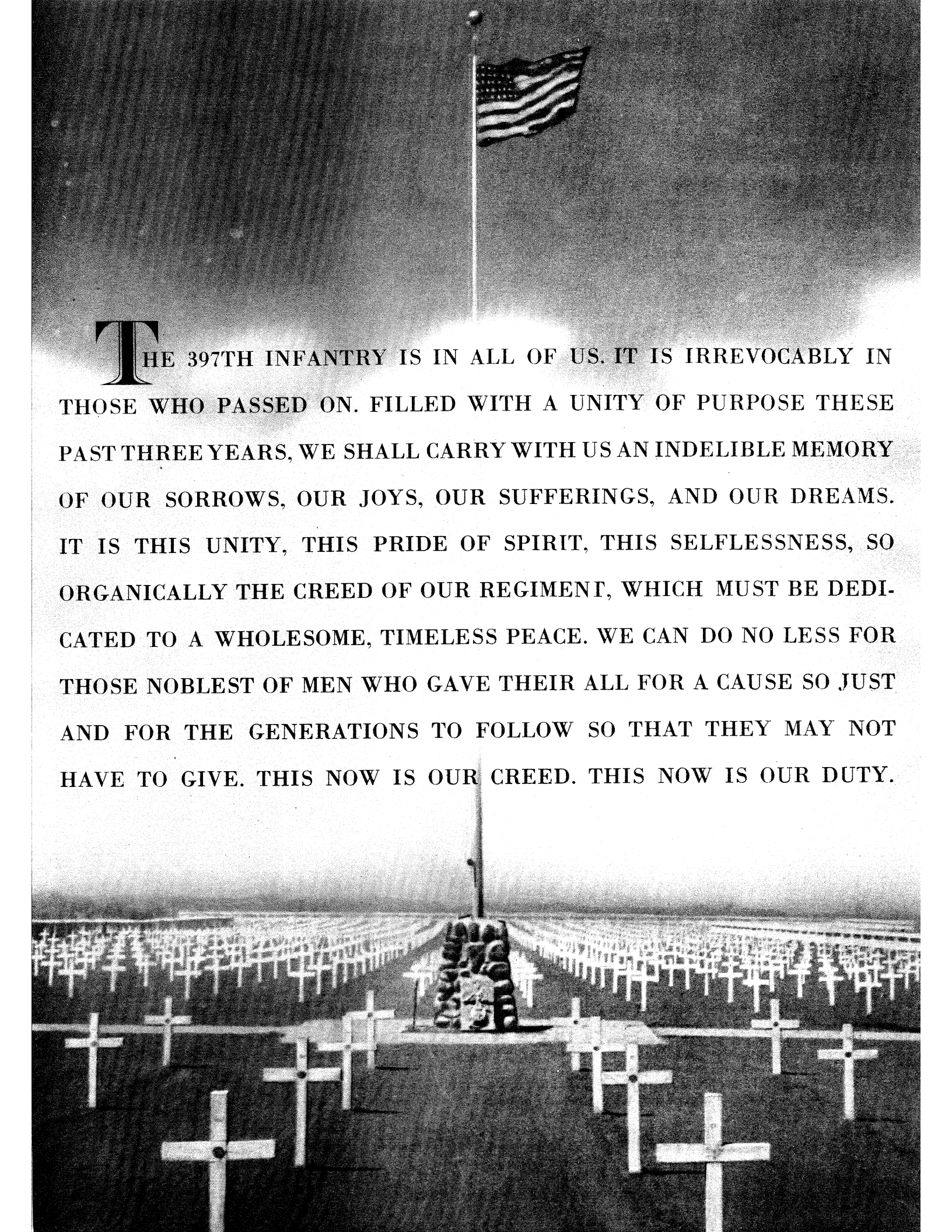
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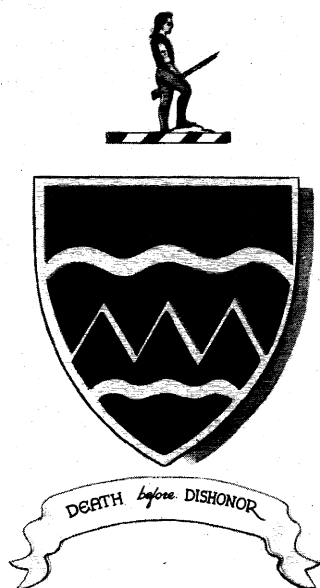
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THE 397TH INFANTRY IS IN ALL OF US. IT IS IRREVOCABLY IN THOSE WHO PASSED ON. FILLED WITH A UNITY OF PURPOSE THESE PAST THREE YEARS, WE SHALL CARRY WITH US AN INDELIBLE MEMORY OF OUR SORROWS, OUR JOYS, OUR SUFFERINGS, AND OUR DREAMS. IT IS THIS UNITY, THIS PRIDE OF SPIRIT, THIS SELFLESSNESS, SO ORGANICALLY THE CREED OF OUR REGIMENT, WHICH MUST BE DEDICATED TO A WHOLESOME, TIMELESS PEACE. WE CAN DO NO LESS FOR THOSE NOBLEST OF MEN WHO GAVE THEIR ALL FOR A CAUSE SO JUST AND FOR THE GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW SO THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE TO GIVE. THIS NOW IS OUR CREED. THIS NOW IS OUR DUTY.





INTRODUCTION

This is the story of the 397th Infantry Regiment, a part of, indeed an integral part of the 100th Infantry Division and thus "Regiment of the Century."

It is not a twice-told tale for you who were in it and carry with you painful yet thrilling, glorious memories. It was rather because of your thorough personal involvement that you could not see the forest for the trees and had the total design thereby obscured.

This story had to be told. A battalion never captured a city. A company never captured a town. A platoon or a squad never captured a village or a hill. That was merely the easier method of cold factual reporting. You and your buddy, wherever you were functioning in your jobs during those crucial times, saved our lines and broke the enemy's. It was you and your comrade-in-arms, working in perfect coordination, that caused us to achieve the ultimate in success. You have furnished the pieces with your blood, with your sweat, with your tears, and those very pieces are now being put together so that you may see the resultant pattern to be one of action. This will make for a better understanding of just how the Regiment worked as an individual unit.

We start with our activation on November 15, 1942 and carry through to August 15, 1945 when the Japs, who made the 7th day of December 1941 "live in infamy," sued for peace and got it upon an unconditional surrender.

