

# Occupation

The 100th Infantry Division was officially placed in Seventh Army reserve on 25 April 1945, after 175 consecutive days on the line. For the next ten days, they patrolled the area around Stuttgart, and actually moved elements of the 397th Infantry Regiment into the city itself. French colonial troops had been rampaging throughout parts of this historic capital of the German state of Württemberg, and it was up to elements of the 100th to restore order in the areas in which they "relieved" these Allied units. As a result, the subsequent occupation by the Division in the Stuttgart area was often greeted by the German civilians there with a mixture of apprehension -- at the presence of Allied troops -- and relief, at not being occupied by French colonials.

Two days after Germany's unconditional surrender on 8 May, the Division was ordered to occupy an area including about 2,400 square miles of southwestern Germany, from Heilbronn to Ulm. The missions undertaken during the spring and summer of 1945 were manifold and difficult.

First, all Division cantonments, command posts, and other positions had to be secured. There were also about 280 former enemy installations in the Division's zone, from barracks to supply dumps to power stations, that had to be guarded. In addition to the dangers of looting and other crime, there was the threat of the "Werwolf," a German resistance network that was supposed to conduct terrorist operations against the occupying Americans, even after the capitulation. Conceived and nominally coordinated by the SS, this movement was to have begun as early as late 1944, when the first sizable sections of German territory were seized by Allied units in the west. In reality, the German nation was so thoroughly defeated, and the vast majority of German civilians so destitute, that very little came of this brainchild of Heinrich Himmler. Nevertheless, like the threat of the Alpine Redoubt -- another Nazi pipe dream that very deeply concerned the Allied high command at the end of the war in Europe -- measures had to be taken to prevent the realization of this continued belligerence. About 3,000 Centurymen were committed 'round the clock to the tasks of patrolling and guarding these sites.



Guard detail of the 397th Infantry marches to duty, summer, 1945.



Three suspected "Werwölfe" captured by the 398th Infantry in Winnenden.

Next, there were thousands of Germans who had to be processed as prisoners of war. Additionally, because the Division's zone included several important industrial centers, there were thousands of non-German laborers -- including former slave laborers -- who had to be identified, housed, and turned over to the proper authorities for transportation home or other disposition. These "displaced persons," or DPs, had to be carefully screened to ensure they were properly classified and supported, and to also make sure that no German ex-soldiers, Nazi Party officials, criminals, or other "wanted" personnel were able to escape by blending in with the masses of humanity that flowed over post-war Europe. The 100th Infantry Division's Counter Intelligence Detachment was augmented by teams of German speaking Centurymen who screened thousands of suspects caught in the net of checkpoints and patrols within the Division zone of occupation.

Finally, military discipline and unit combat readiness had to be maintained; the war was not over in the Pacific Theater, and the impact of the plans for the invasion of Japan had not been announced. Individual weapons proficiency kept basic marksmanship skills honed, and drill aided unit cohesion. An extensive sports program was instituted, which included not only intramurals, but also inter-unit competition. The Division softball team won the Seventh Army championship, but lost to the 3d Army's champion 10th Armored Division nine in three straight (in a best of five series).



Liberated Polish DPs cheer Centurymen along a roadway near Backnang.



German officers line up for processing as prisoners of war.

The "No Fraternization" policy provided some challenges to the maintenance of discipline, as did the black market that sprang up in the absence of a functioning civilian economy. Of the former situation, the *Story of the Century* explains it best,

There isn't much use in explaining to a man who has not spoken to a woman in a year that some gorgeous blond was his enemy or that "the female of the species is deadlier than the male." [As some Army instructional material put it.]

In such circumstances a man can reason rather circuitously. The particular light of his life was not a Nazi. She was merely dragged along with the Hitler "putsch." She loved Americans, hated the French, despised the Russians. Besides the war was over and it was up to us to educate the Germans as to the benefits of democracy. Anyway, who was interested in her politics? All the dame wanted was a bar of chocolate or a pack of butts. That was pretty reasonable for a fraulein [sic] who was as frustrated as we were. So we fraternized and dreamed of home.

That "pack of butts" was a part of the other problem, namely black marketeering. With the German economy smashed, even though the Allies were printing German money, it was all but worthless; the currency of the day was cigarettes and other "luxury" items. The bartering of individual soldiers was relatively inconsequential, but the mass theft and illicit sale of huge quantities of PX items was something that kept the already over-burdened MPs watchful all the time.



With the German economy in ruins Centurymen patronized Army recreation and dining facilities, like this one in Stuttgart.



The devastation evident in Stuttgart provided an indication of the extent to which Germany had been utterly defeated and economically destroyed.

Eventually, the non-fraternization rule was lifted, and that particular problem was solved. At the beginning of the second week of July, the Division was displaced to a new zone of occupation, further to the west. Still, there were 133 former enemy installations to be secured, and large cities to be patrolled, including Stuttgart (Location of Division Headquarters) and Pforzheim.



Red Cross "Doughnut Dollies" provided one alternative to the local *genera femina*.



Occasional passes to the recreation centers in France -- like this one in Nancy -- provided opportunities to fraternize with *les mademoiselles françaises*, who had never been "off limits."

In late July, the 100th Infantry Division participated in the Seventh Army's Operation TALLY-HO, a meticulous sweep of the entire zone of occupation in southwest Germany designed to discover contraband and root out wanted war criminals and German ex-soldiers still at large.

Individual rotations home after V-E Day were governed by a points system. Each soldier was awarded points based on total time in service, time overseas, decorations and badges, etc., all of which counted for a fixed number of points by Army policy. Soldiers with particularly high point totals began being rotated stateside throughout the summer, but the vast majority of Centurymen were far from the totals required for rotation when the tempo of tactical training increased in early August in anticipation of action in the Pacific.

On 10 August -- the day after the US Army Air Force detonated the second atomic bomb, in this case, over Nagasaki -- the Division was officially alerted for redeployment to the Pacific Theater of Operations. Ostensibly for commitment as a follow-on force for Operation CORONET, the invasion of the Japanese main island of Honshu in March, 1946, the exact employment of the Division fortunately never known, thanks to the decision of the Japanese emperor to surrender. On 18 August, the Division was officially stood down from its redeployment alert.



Company M, 397th Infantry receives the "Combat Infantry Company" streamer. Unit and individual awards were presented as they were approved throughout the spring and summer, but the personnel composition of the units continued to change.



Operation TALLY-HO netted contraband weapons, black market goods, and Nazi propaganda.

Most units within the Division began vocational courses to assist in the upcoming transition of practically all Centurymen to civilian life. Fortunately, as former enemy installations were closed out, security force requirements could be reduced to about 750 men, total; this enabled virtually all who wanted to participate in course work to do so. A few officers and enlisted men were even able to study at universities in France and England.

From shortly after V-E Day on, Hollywood entertainers showed their appreciation for the Division's efforts through their shows and autograph sessions. Among those to perform for the men of the 100th were Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Ingrid Bergman, and Marlene Dietrich. General Eisenhower was honored with a review, and remained afterward to shake the hands of thousands of his men. Inter- and intra-unit sports programs continued as well. Many soldiers received the opportunity to take passes to Paris, Switzerland, and even the Riviera. In Paris and Nice, deluxe

hotels had been commandeered by the US Army, and soldiers stayed in places like the George V (Paris) and the Negresco (Nice) for three dollars a day -- including meals prepared in their world-class kitchens, by Army cooks.

A darker side of the post-war sightseeing regiment also included trips to Dachau concentration camp for some units. Few of the Centurymen who visited the camp will ever forget the pure horror of the experience, or the perspective it afforded. It certainly helped all understand what it was they had been fighting against. . .



USO shows were gratifying and entertaining, and helped pass the time until Century soldiers could finally go home.

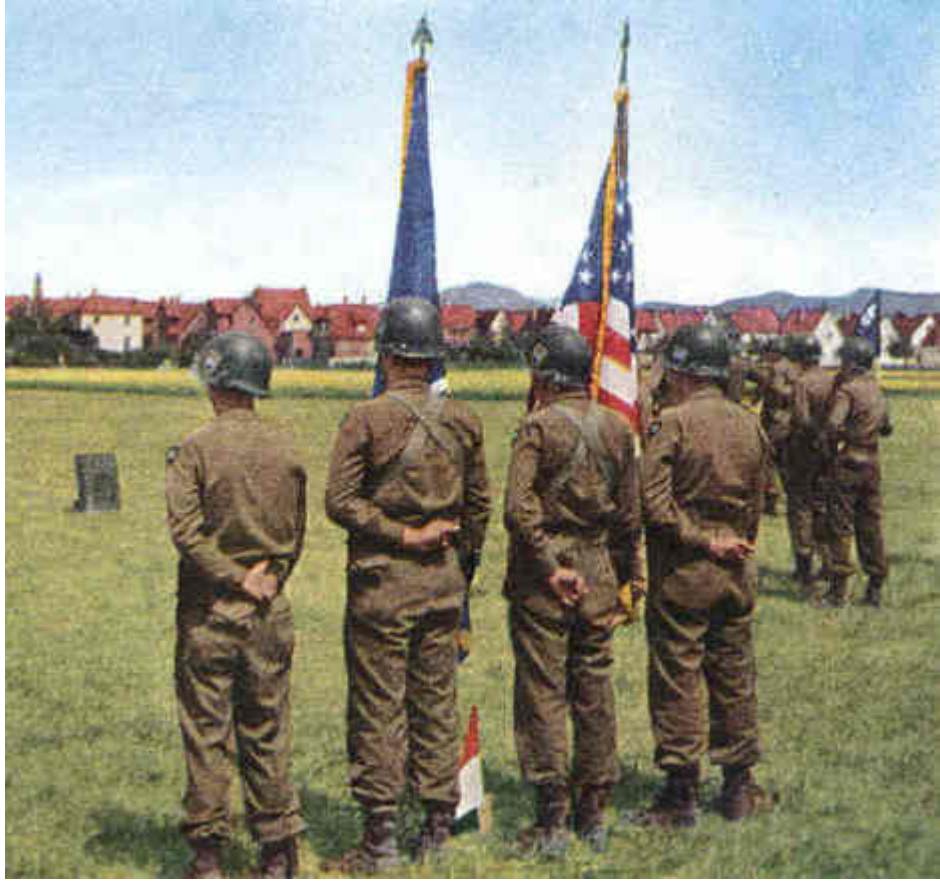
Later in the summer, the Division began to break up. Over 800 "high pointers" were transferred to an antiaircraft unit that was bound for the States, and over 2,300 "low pointers" from the 63d Infantry Division were assigned to the 100th. By the end of September, 4,000 more Centurymen had been transferred to other units.

Brigadier General John Murphy, DIVARTY commander since just before Tennessee Maneuvers, left the Division in September, the first of the Division's three general officers to depart. On 22 September, Major General Burrell relinquished command to Brigadier General Tyghsen, former commander of the 399th Infantry Regiment during the Division's early combat days, and Assistant Division Commander since December 1944. General Burrell had commanded the 100th since its activation in November, 1942, and was one of only 11 division commanders in the US Army to stay with his division from activation through the end of the war. After leaving the Division, General Burrell went on to command VI Corps.



As the summer wore on, more and more men were transferred out, some to go home . . . . . and others to simply be assigned to other units still in Europe.

General Tychsen remained in command of the Division to the end. Although it was now filled mostly with men who had been transferred in from other units since V-E Day, the Division moved to Marseilles by road and rail between 10 and 18 December. Elements of the Division displaced in serials to the States aboard troopships from 31 December until February, 1946. Nevertheless, the Division was officially inactivated on 10 January 1946, at Camp Patrick Henry, near Newport News, Virginia.



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