

# FINALE

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After nine days of heavy fighting in HEILBRONN, the 100th pushed quickly out of HEILBRONN to the east and south to deny a disorganized enemy time for regrouping and reorganization. This operation was to be the Finale for the 100th Division in the European Theater of Operations.

A trap was forming 30 miles to the south as the II French Corps of the First French Army battled its way into STUTT GART from the west and the south. Meeting disorganized resistance, the 103rd Division on the left sped down to the FILS RIVER, east of STUTT GART in the vicinity of GOPPINGEN. Starting 13 April, the Division swung its weight to the left of the sector and drove day and night through the most difficult terrain to reach the FILS RIVER east of STUTT GART and to close the trap on thousands of disorganized German soldiers. In the twelve day fireball campaign, 5,648 prisoners were captured.

Placed in Army reserve on 25 April, the Division minus CT 398 occupied STUTT GART on 26 April and prepared to receive French units there. On 30 April the Division moved from STUTT GART and assembled in the EISLINGEN - WAIBLINGEN - KIRCHHEIM area, in Seventh Army reserve.



HEADQUARTERS  
SEVENTH ARMY GROUP  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 447  
13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.  
TO : Commanding General, Headquarters 100th Infantry Division, APO 447.  
FROM : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758.

1. The 100th Infantry Division has played a commendable part in the advance of the 100th Infantry Division by superior and repeated attempts to penetrate your lines to attack the enemy's flank. In the face of the enemy's great losses and the prompt and effective extension of your lines to block his advance was a splendid example of the maneuver. I heartily commend all members of this division for their outstanding achievements.

Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS  
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 436, U.S. Army  
24 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.  
TO : Commanding General, 100th Infantry Division.  
FROM : Commanding General, XV Corps, United States Army.

1. During the advance of the XV Corps beginning on 15 March, the 100th Infantry Division by its aggressive fighting spirit played an important role in the destruction of the major part of two German armies.

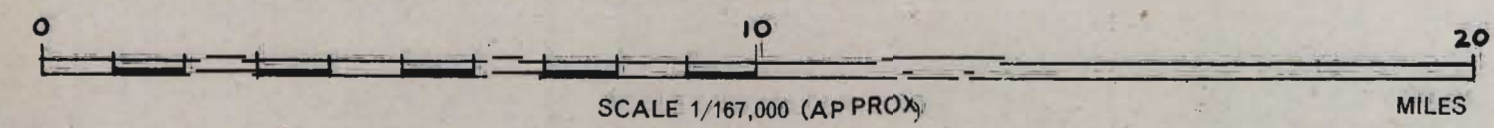
2. On 19 March you attacked to the east against enemy artillery and mortar fire, courageous action and leadership. You captured EPPENBERG, KIRCHHEIM, JOHANNES, SCHWENGER and REITERSLEIN, REITERSLEIN and HORNBERG, and the HORNBERG forts of REITERSLEIN, REITERSLEIN and SCHWENGER.

3. Continuing the attack against strong resistance, you captured the fortress town of BIRCH, including the Citadel, which had never been captured before in military history, a major obstacle to the advance of the XV Corps, together with CAMP de BIRCH and the HORNBERG line positions of FORTE UTENBERG, FORTE UTENBERG, GRAND UTENBERG and HORNBERG. After relief by the 71st Infantry Division in the BIRCH - CAMP de BIRCH area, you attacked to the north and, making steady progress, accomplished your objective on 17 March of seizing the high ground on a general line: KOPFBERG, KOPFBERG, WAIHINGEN, BIRCH, and also captured the towns of HORNBERG, HORNBERG, HORNBERG, WAIHINGEN, HORNBERG and JOHANNES.

4. You maintained contact with the 34 Infantry Division on the left and protected the Corps right (east) flank north of the line CAMP de BIRCH - BIRCH, and on 18 March consolidated and advanced your positions and captured aggressively. On 21 March you passed to the control of the XII Corps in position.

5. During the period 15 to 21 March you advanced a distance of twenty-three kilometers, capturing BIRCH, reducing the remaining HORNBERG positions in XV Corps Zone and clearing the approaches to the HORNBERG line in the right portion of the Corps Zone. The splendid record of the 100th Infantry Division reflects the brilliant leadership and aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men of the division. I am proud of your accomplishments and desire to thank every member of your command for a job well done.

Walter H. Hensley  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding



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