

HEADQUARTERS
324TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 83, U. S. Army

1 June 1945

To the Members of the 324th Field Artillery Battalion:

You are now completing the last month of a year on the continent. In many respects the year has been difficult and unpleasant. However, you have taken these conditions in stride, including the uneasiness of initial contact in Normandy; the uncertainty of extensive minefields at St Malo, Dinard, and Cezenbre; shelling, infiltrating patrols, and mud in Luxembourg; personnel mines, worse mud, and the German air offensive in the Hurtgen forest; night moves, icy roads, and snow blizzards in the Ardennes; the suspense of waiting and lack of defilade before the Roer River; the first experience with German civilians around Neuss; the perpetual cycle of occupations of position and rapid "march orders" from the Rhine to the Elbe; and the final withstanding of counterattacks by air, ground, and water on the Elbe bridgehead. At all times our efficiency of performance, in support of the infantry and reinforcing the firing of the light artillery, was of such high calibre that our battalion repeatedly was requested by name.

In the final month you handled in a superior manner a mission for which you had no prior training; namely, the governing not only of a large German civilian population over an extensive area, but also a mixture of many different nationalities of freed slave laborers and prisoners of war. This latter mission included monotonous long hours of guard on important intelligence targets, roadblocks, and patrols.

Higher headquarters have complimented you for a job well done. I wish to add my respects and hope that our future success measures up to the standards that we have set in the past.

A. Sgt Carl M. Fisher

George W. Irvine
GEORGE W. IRVINE
Lt Col, FA
Commanding