

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIV 1 ON  
APO 83, U. S. Army

201.22

23 January 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation from Commanding General, VII Corps.

TO : All Officers and Enlisted Men, 83d Infantry Division and Attached Units.

1. I am happy to transmit to you the following extract of a letter from the Commanding General, VII Corps.

"As the 83d Infantry Division comes out of line after three weeks of continuous offensive operations in the Ardennes, I wish to express to you and to the officers and men of your division my appreciation of the job the 83d Division has accomplished during this period.

Fighting under the most severe weather conditions yet encountered on the Western Front, with little or no shelter from driving snow and freezing cold, the division advanced almost twenty thousand yards in the First United States Army's drive against the north shoulder of the German salient. In the critical stage of the attack to break across the Langlir - Ronce River and through the heavy woods to the south, the 83d Division made two consecutive night attacks and fought continuously without let-up for three days in order to open the way for the final drive of the 3d Armored Division to cut the vital Houffalize - St. Vith road which spelled disaster for the entire German position north of the Ourthe River. The officers and men bore the fury of the elements as well as the vicious fire of the enemy's defense and overcame them both.

The 83d Division can well be proud of its record in the Ardennes counter-offensive which may prove to be the decisive battle on the Western Front. Please convey to your officers and men my hearty congratulations and best wishes for your future success.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins  
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding."

3. It is desired that this be read to all officers and enlisted men at first formation following receipt.

/s/ Robt. C. Macon  
/t/ ROBT. C. MACON  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding.