



Change of Command Ceremony

Hq 1st Infantry Division

and Hq 10th Infantry Division

Emery Barracks, Wuerzburg, Germany

September 27, 1955



HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

TO: Members of the 1st Infantry Division

Today, the Army's new twins, the 1st and 10th Infantry Divisions, exchange missions and station assignments. The tasks which we of the 1st Infantry Division have performed for over ten years since the close of World War II will now be assumed by the 10th Infantry Division.

The mission of the Big Red One in Europe has been of great importance to the people of the free world. In the NATO scheme for a balance of power in Europe, United States Infantry Divisions weigh heavily against the threat of aggression. These Divisions have been made a part of the highly complex, powerful, close-knit organization — the United States Seventh Army — an organization charged with the defense of a great portion of the free world's frontiers. As part of this Field Army the 1st Infantry Division, at its various stations in Western Germany, has trained and waited — always ready. Now the 10th Division takes over.

To the officers and men of the departing 1st Infantry Division, I say "Well done". To those of the 10th Infantry Division, I extend, on behalf of the 1st Infantry Division, our best wishes for your success in the performance of this vital mission.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "O. S. Meloy Jr.".

O. S. MELOY JR.
Major General U. S. A.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

TO: Members of the 10th Infantry Division

Today, we as a Division assume the responsibilities held so long and performed so ably by our Gyroscopic partner. I am certain that you are all fully aware of the great importance of these responsibilities. They will require a high performance of duty by every last man if we are to measure up to the high standards established by the 1st Infantry Division.

Our mission here is twofold. First, as a combat infantry division, we must be ready at all times to accomplish any tasks assigned. We must stand shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers of Germany and our other NATO allies in order that together we may preserve our way of life. This requires that we approach our daily training tasks with full knowledge of the necessity to be ready to meet any contingency.

Secondly, and of almost equal importance, is the obligation placed on all of us as individuals to demonstrate by our everyday relations with our German neighbors, in whose country we are stationed, that we are indeed good neighbors.

I know that all of you join me in expressing our appreciation to General Meloy and the Big Red One, the Northern Area Command, and all others who have done so much to make our movement here such an outstanding accomplishment. The provisions for our comfort and the warm welcome given us could only be done by careful planning, hard work and devotion to duty.

We are proud of the confidence placed in us by this assignment. We are proud of our combat record in the mountains of Italy. We intend to be proud of the record we are going to make here in Germany. I know that each of you will do your part.

George E. Martin

GEORGE E. MARTIN
Major General U. S. A.
Commanding



Not the end, but a beginning

Although stationed some 6,000 miles from each other for the past 10 years, the 1st and 10th Infantry Divisions' paths have crossed once before the change of command ceremony which takes place Sept. 27 at Emery Barracks, Wuerzburg, Germany.

In peacetime, "Operation Gyroscope," the Department of the Army's new unit rotation plan, brought the two Divisions together, and during the war they fought together.

It was during the bitter Italian Campaign of WW II, when troops of the 1st landed in Sicily and fought viciously for a toe-hold to the boot of Italy: the pathway to axis defeat.

Later on, after the 1st had landed in France, the 10th Mountain Division, later designated the 10th Inf Div, a crack unit composed of highly trained, specialized troops, whose forte was mountain fighting, was brought in for the campaign in the north — the conquest of the enemy and the Apennines.

The 1st Division's job was completed in Sicily, after beating off an enemy 100-tank counter attack almost singlehanded and taking 18 towns, and capturing 5,935 German and Italian prisoners. The Big Red One was called to England, for added training:

a move that was to prepare it for the costliest and most significant landing of the War—D-Day and a beach called Omaha. On that grey June 6 morning, when hundreds of landing craft bobbed through the rough water of the English channel, to drive on to the beach, where enemy placements sat poised to spit thousands of rounds of hell at them, the 10th Mountain Division was involved in rigorous training in California for their campaign in Northern Italy.

The 10th Mountain Division saw its first actual combat in Italy, although previously the 87th Regt had participated in the assault landing on Kiska, Aleutian Islands, on Aug. 15, 1943. Elements of the Division began arriving in Italy in late December of 1944 and after a brief training period entered combat on Jan. 8, 1945, near Cutiliano and Orsogna.

Preliminary defensive actions were followed on Feb. 19, 1945—some 3 months before the war ended—by a concerted attack on the Silla—Mt. Belvedere sector and the peak was cleared after several days of heavy fighting.

Early in March the Mountaineers fought their way north of Canolle, taking several positions for the next three weeks. The Division jumped off again in April, capturing Mongierio and entering the Po Valley, seizing strategic Verona on April 25.

The 10th had crossed the Po River, literally running the Nazis from Italian soil. Their resistance almost negligible, the enemy army surrendered Italy May 2 and the division went on to security duty, receiving the surrender of various enemy units and screening areas of occupation.

But for the First, the war went on. With the sea by now having washed the blood of their fallen comrades from the sands at Omaha, the men sped across France, capturing Aachen. On to the Hurtgen Forest they went, through the "green hell", fighting tree-to-tree until they reached the Inde River. After a 10-hour rest, the First was called to the Ardennes and the bitter cold Battle of the Bulge.

After 21 days on line, the Division was sent speeding across the German countryside. March 8 saw the men of the Big Red One fighting in Bonn. Capturing the city, the First helped expand the Remagen bridgehead and crossed the Rhine for the second time in its history. It was the first American unit to cross the Rhine in WW I.

The Red One continued to battle through the Harz Mountains where it captured 30,343 prisoners in 24 days, including 10 generals and its 100,000th prisoner of war. When the

"cease fire" came, the First was in Czechoslovakia, concluding its longest tactical march of 150 miles. It was May 8, 1945, ending 443 combat days for the Division.

Although the two divisions were organized approximately the same time—the 1st in 1917 and the 10th in 1918—the two unit's histories differ greatly. For the 1st—originally part of the First Expeditionary Force, under General Pershing—it has been a bottle-born tale of steeped-in-tradition units (some of which date to the Revolutionary War) molded into a force that has not once laid aside its weapons.

Listed among its ranks are the 18th and 16th Regiments—organized in 1861. The 26th Regt, a comparative youngster, was organized in 1901. Two other Division units carry even heavier traditions. They are the 1st Engineer Regiment, now a battalion and the 5th Field Artillery Regiment, also a battalion now.

Company A of the 1st Engineers was organized 109 years ago at West Point, N. Y., while Battery D of the 5th FA Bn was founded and captained by Alexander Hamilton. Throughout the 179 years, the battery is the only U.S. Army unit to remain on active duty since its beginning.

It was units like these that stayed with the First through WWI, sharpened to combat by earlier campaigns in the Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Spanish-American War and duty along the Mexican border, keeping the marauding Pancho Villa in tow. It

Today's Program

- Formation of Troops at 3 p.m.
- 1st Division Colors Cased
- 10th Division Colors Uncased
- Change of Command 1st Inf Div to 10th Inf Div
- Troops Pass in Review

look the world at war to bring 1st Division units together—they've been inseparable ever since.

The 10th Division was organized in August, 1918, at Camp Funston Ft. Riley, Kans. World War I ended before it could get overseas and the Division was demobilized in Feb. 1919. It was re-activated July, 1943, at Camp Hale, Colo. It then included several units which had trained at Lake Placid, Old Forge and on Mt. Rainier before activation of the Division. At Camp Hale it received training in fighting in snow and mountainous terrain at the Mountain Training Center, set up under the Army Ground Forces. April 1944 the Division took part in maneuvers in California, in preparation for the Italian campaign.

It was during this campaign that the 10th received its first and only Medal of Honor winner.

He was Pfc John D. Magrath, (of Norwalk, Conn.) who was a radio operator with Co G, 85th Regt. Pfc Magrath charged headlong into withering enemy fire during the battle of Castel d'Aiano, and neutralized three enemy machine gun nests. He gave his life in this supreme effort.

The 1st Inf Div boasts of 31 winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor—15 of which were awarded posthumously. The "breakdown" includes eight awarded during the Civil War, one in the Philippine Insurrection, five during World War I and 17 during World War II.

Its campaign streamers read more like a travel guide: World War I—Aisne—Marne, Montdidier—Noyon, St. Mihiel, Meuse—Argonne, Picardy, Lorraine—Canfligny, Soissons and the Ardennes;

World War II—Oran, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe.

The 10th carries campaign streamers from three engagements—The Po Valley, Apennines and Aleutian Islands.

And so, on to the 10th Division passes the role of sentry—a role the First assumed the second the final shot of the war was fired. The 10th now stands where the 1st has stood for the past 10 years, at the outer fring of the Western World, with a rifle in its hands, as an assurance that the Allied world will remain free.