

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE 81ST★★ INFANTRY DIVISION



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15 AUG 1945



15 August 1945

To The Wildcat Division -

The final objective for which we sweated and fought for more than three years has been achieved. The enemy has been thoroughly vanquished and the day for his final retribution is here. Thank God for that.

I congratulate all the members of the Division for your splendid contribution to the great victory. I'm as proud as I know you are to be a part of this grand Division which has fulfilled every demand made on it with an undaunted spirit.

The fervent desire of all is to return to our families and friends as soon as possible. I trust that circumstances will not long delay the granting of your wish. I must remind you, however, that the Division may be required to participate in the occupation and disarming of Japan. In that event we must follow through in the same soldierly fashion that has characterized the Wildcat Division since the day of its organization.

Today is a day for rejoicing. It is a day to give thanks with all reverence to our Maker for His divine guidance in the perilous months through which we have passed. As we bow our heads let us give thought to the memories of our comrades who gave their all to assure this hour of victory for all the world.

Good luck—and carry on.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Paul J. Mueller'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

PAUL J. MUELLER,
Major General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

WILDCAT DIVISION OF WORLD WAR I

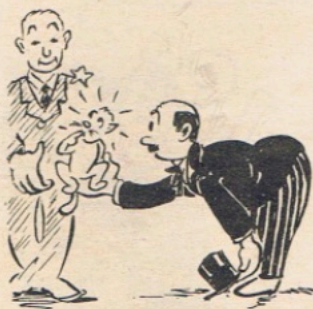
The original 81st Infantry "Wildcat" Division was activated at Camp Jackson, S. C., in August 1917, taking its name from a creek flowing through its area. It attracted attention by being the first Division to adopt a distinguishing shoulder patch -- a black wildcat on an olive drab circle -- which is now worn proudly by the men of World War II. Shoulder patches were a new thing in World War I, and considerable difficulties were encountered until Gen. John J. Pershing approved the wearing of the Wildcat and directed other divisions to adopt similar identifying insignia. Although its time in actual combat was relatively short, the 81st Infantry Division distinguished itself during occupation of the St. Die sector and participation in the Meuse-Argonne drive. Its Commander, Major General Charles J. Bailey, received for the Division the commendation of Gen. Pershing.

Soon after the Division was mustered out in 1919 a Wildcat Veterans' Association was organized, and these veterans have maintained a close relationship with the Wildcats of today. Two joint reunions of the old and young Wildcats were held during the training period in the States. The Veterans presented the Division the National and Division Colors at Lebanon, Tenn., in 1943.

REACTIVATION AND TRAINING

The Wildcat Division was reactivated to play its part in World War II on 15 June 1942 at Camp Rucker, Ala. This time as a triangular division, it contained three of the four original infantry regiments, four artillery battalions and other separate battalions and companies which were assigned to it in the past war. The cadre was composed of experienced regular and reserve officers and non-commissioned officers from divisions already trained. Most of the junior officers reported direct from the officer candidate schools where they had undergone an intensive training and indoctrination period before receiving commissions. These officers and men spent the latter part of May and most of June preparing to receive the trainloads of recruits that began to pour into Camp Rucker from induction centers scattered throughout the country. By the end of June approximately 14,000 selectees had been received, classified, and assigned, and basic training begun under the hot Alabama sun. Camp Rucker, located in the southeastern corner of Alabama, provided 65,000 acres of varied terrain necessary to train the units of a division. There were large ranges for artillerymen to learn to shoot, maneuvering ground for infantry units to learn tactics, ranges for small arms and automatic weapons firing, and a lake for preliminary amphibious training.



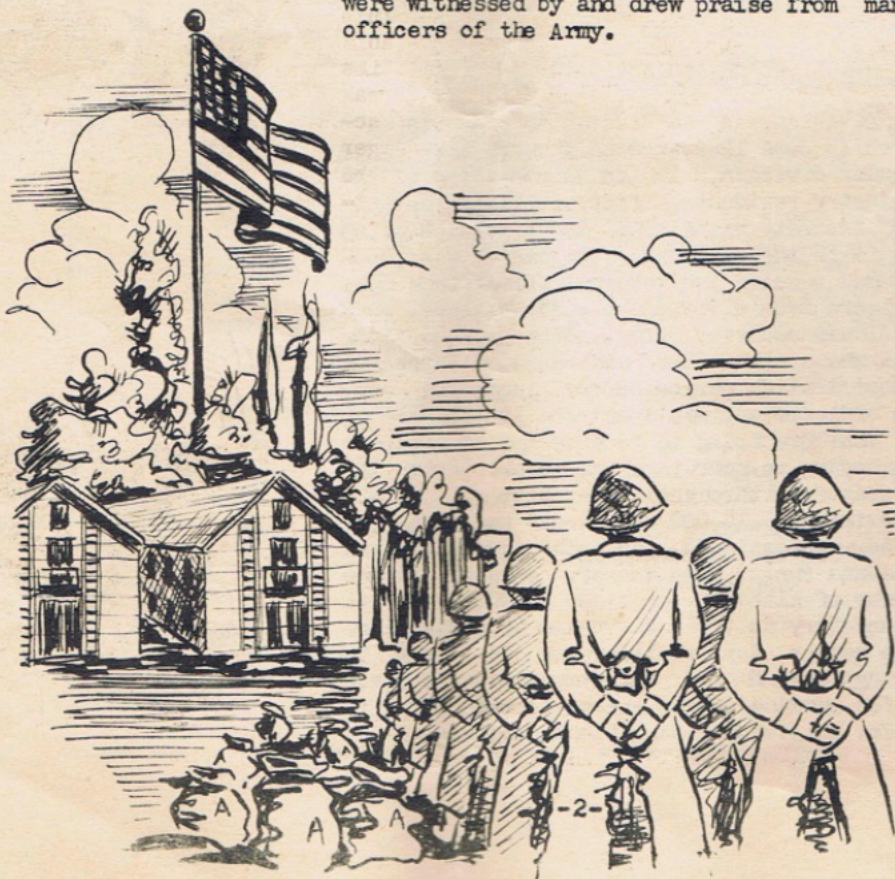


Not long after the arrival of the recruits, "Tuffy", a scrappy Georgia wildcat cub, was presented to the Division by the Governor of Alabama at appropriate ceremonies in Atlanta. "Tuffy" became the Division mascot and since that time has played an important part with the Division, attending reviews and other ceremonies, always of course, in his specially built, jeep-mounted cage. He traveled with the troops from station to station across the United States to California, and thence to Hawaii. During the Division's first combat mission in the Palau Islands, Tuffy remained with the base echelon in Oahu. He rejoined the Division in New Caledonia and resumed his old place -- a symbol of the Wildcats' fighting spirit.



The Wildcats lost their first commander on 15 August 1942 when Maj. Gen. G. H. Franke was obliged to relinquish command because of ill health. He was succeeded immediately by Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, who came to the Division from an assignment as chief of staff of the Second Army. Gen. Mueller commanded the Division through all subsequent phases of its training activities and led it triumphantly through its baptism of fire at Angaur and Peleliu.

The Division continued training at Camp Rucker until March 1943, and during that period was tested and gave several spectacular demonstrations of its prowess as a potential fighting unit. These tests and demonstrations were witnessed by and drew praise from many high ranking officers of the Army.



MANEUVERS

Following a farewell review at Rucker the toughened troops moved into Conecuh National Forest in southern Alabama and northern Florida, where they engaged in their first Division maneuvers. On completing two weeks of these problems the Wildcats moved back to Rucker for a brief shake down period before moving to Tennessee for the Second Army maneuvers. Other troops participating in the Tennessee maneuvers included Headquarters VII Corps and the 79th Infantry and 5th Armored Divisions. The maneuvers extended from mid-April to the end of June, giving the men experience in enduring combat conditions over extended periods of time and under adverse weather conditions.



From Tennessee the Division moved by train into the Arizona desert to Camp Horn, a tent camp built by the 306th Engineer Battalion. Here the Division combined with its training activities an ambitious sports program in which every man took part. In October the Wildcats went into desert maneuvers against their old rival, the 79th Division, and once again acquitted themselves proudly. They emerged from this strenuous desert activity tougher and better-trained soldiers than they had ever been before.

SAN LUIS OBISPO AND AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING

The next move was in November 1943, to Camp San Luis Obispo, near the California coast, where the men were able to combine advanced training activities with facilities for relaxation and recreation that offered a welcome break after eight months of life in the field. A feature of activities at San Luis was the strenuous program of Ranger training given to a carefully selected group of volunteers under the direction of Brig. Gen. Marcus B. Bell, Assistant Division Commander. Here the Division Artillery fired many problems on the Hunter-Liggett ranges and was brought to a new high degree of efficiency by its commander, Brig. Gen. Rex W. Beasley. Men of three infantry regiments took the Expert Infantryman tests and won 2278 Badges which later were presented at a Division Review. This was the largest group ever to receive Expert Infantry Badges in a single ceremony.



At San Luis Obispo the Division spent five months in amphibious training and it was during this period that a program was inaugurated to make every Wildcat a swimmer. Amphibious training culminated with cruises for each of the three Regimental Combat Teams with landing exercises at San Clemente Island and on the southern California coast as well as a one-week problem to exploit a beachhead following an amphibious landing.



OVERSEAS MOVEMENT

At the close of these amphibious problems the Division was again on the move, this time to Camp Beale, Calif., where it remained from early May until mid-June, putting the final polish on its training and preparing for the overseas movement. Shortly after arriving at Beale the Wildcats were honored by a visit from General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, who inspected phases of the training program and addressed the Division's officers and non-commissioned officers.

The Wildcats next moved to a port of embarkation and sailed into the Pacific during the last day of June and early July, 1944. On reaching the island of Oahu, Hawaii, preparations were begun immediately for the Division's first combat mission — the seizure of Angaur Island. All men of the Division went through an intensive period of training in jungle warfare at the Jungle Training Center, followed by a rehearsal for the coming amphibious operation. Embarking early in August, the Wildcats again sailed into the Pacific, pausing at Guadalcanal for a final amphibious rehearsal on the historic shores of Cape Esperance.



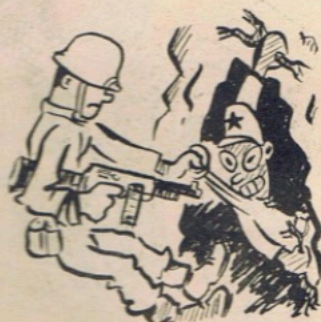
ANGAUR

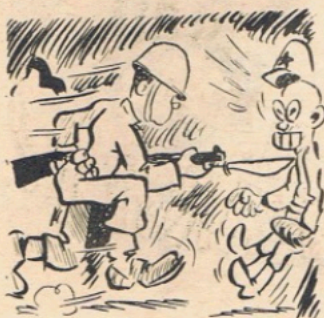
On 17 September 1944, the 81st Infantry "Wildcat" Division stormed ashore on Angaur Island, following an intensive naval and carrier based plane bombardment to execute its first amphibious assault landing. RCTs 321 and 322 landed simultaneously on the east and northeast beaches respectively, while RCT 323 made a demonstration as though to land on the western coast of the island.

The assault landing was favored by a relatively calm sea and weak initial resistance by the enemy. The enemy resistance was not serious because he concentrated his main strength in the vicinity of beaches on the opposite end of the island. He had relied considerably on the narrowness of the beaches which were used for our landing and on the naturally difficult terrain for the defense of the north part of the island.

The original plan of ground maneuvers was for RCTs 321 and 322 to make junction with each other to secure a larger beachhead. This was to be followed by early seizure of the commanding terrain in the northwest part of the island and a subsequent clearing of Saipan Town and the southern half of the island. This idea was abandoned when it was found that the terrain in northwest Angaur was much rougher than conceived during the planning and that the area could not be taken readily. In order to quickly make available a site for an airstrip which had to be constructed in time to support the invasion of the Philippine Islands it was decided to cut the island in two, isolate the enemy, and deal with them deliberately without interfering with the development of the air base. This plan was speedily effected as RCT 322 on the north drove through the Japanese defenses to the western shore, overrunning Saipan Town, cutting the island in two, and driving the enemy inland to the northwest hill mass. RCT 321 on the south drove inland a little more than halfway across the island, wheeled south and destroyed all but a small pocket of the enemy who defended from a number of pillboxes on the southeast coast.

On 20 September, with the enemy divided and incapable of offensive action, Angaur Island was declared secure. But the battle for Angaur was hardly ended. Little difficulty was experienced in annihilating the southern pocket. In the north, however, our troops were faced with the task of destroying one by one the remnants of the Japanese garrison who had fortified themselves for a death stand on the high and easily defended ground in the northwest.





Seldom in the annals of military history have troops been called upon to fight over terrain as rugged as that in which the Japanese had taken refuge. The enemy was determined to defend to the last man while exacting the highest possible toll from our troops. No general "banzai" suicide march was attempted. Enemy resistance remained under centralized control and was well organized practically to the end. His defense included carefully concealed snipers who held camouflaged positions on coral pinnacles, in the jungle growth, and in small caves from which they fired with deadly accuracy at close range. The location of the source of their fire could not be determined readily as the flash was invisible and the snipers well concealed.



RCT 322 was assigned the task of completing the final destruction of the enemy garrison force. As the first step in the reduction of the enemy's fortified area the strong works on Lighthouse (Palomas) Hill were assaulted. Numerous artillery pieces, nearly all emplaced to deliver fire on the southern half of the island, were captured. Many large caves containing personnel and supplies were destroyed in hand to hand action. The enemy, having advantage of concealment in the complex terrain and of the security available in the hundreds of natural and artificial caves, was able to contest strongly the seizure of the area.

North of Lighthouse Hill was a bowl shaped area with high ridges surrounding a lake near the center. These ridges were honeycombed with caves from which mutually supporting fires were delivered on our troops as they attacked in the area. Only one entrance, a narrow defile, was available for vehicles to move into the bowl.

Our troops were forced to attack in full view of the enemy. In spite of heavy losses they pushed doggedly forward attacking strong points with flamethrower, demolitions, artillery and tank fire in addition to the normal weapons of the infantry unit.

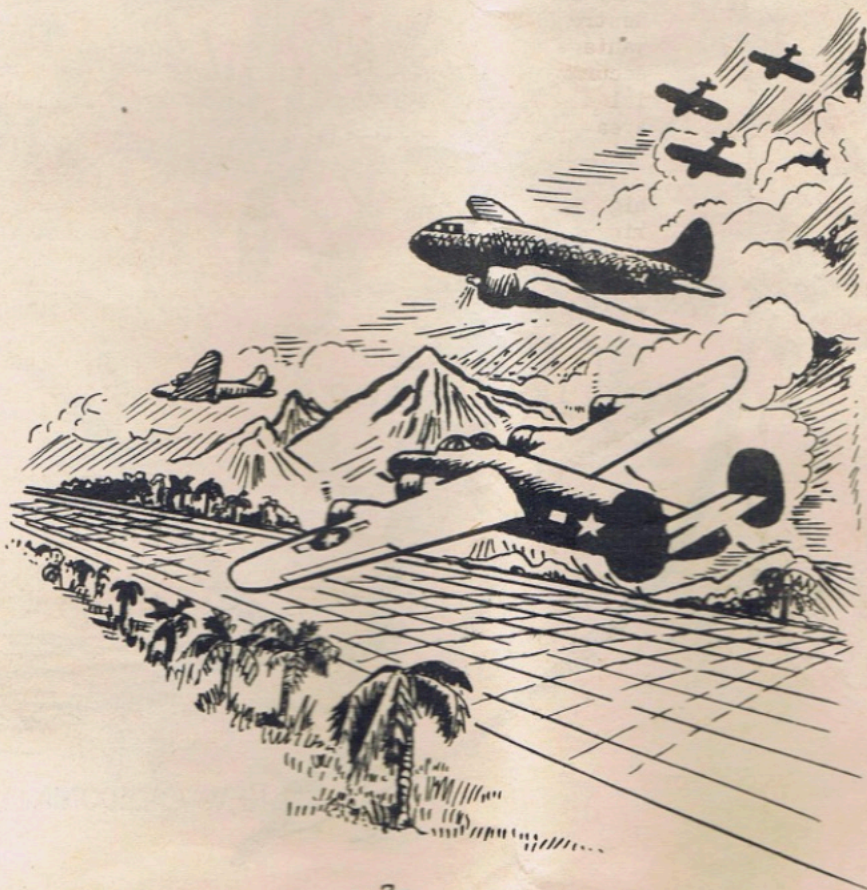


The enemy's surviving force was gradually compressed into a very small area of the roughest terrain of the island, made up of a mass of pinnacles of varying heights in crazy pattern, with vertical walls forming deep crevices, all composed of jagged coral rock with an occasional tree trunk still standing, and debris cluttering up the whole. In the crevices were caves whose entrances could not be effectively reduced by fire of any type except at grenade throwing range. These caves furnished relatively safe retreats for the enemy.

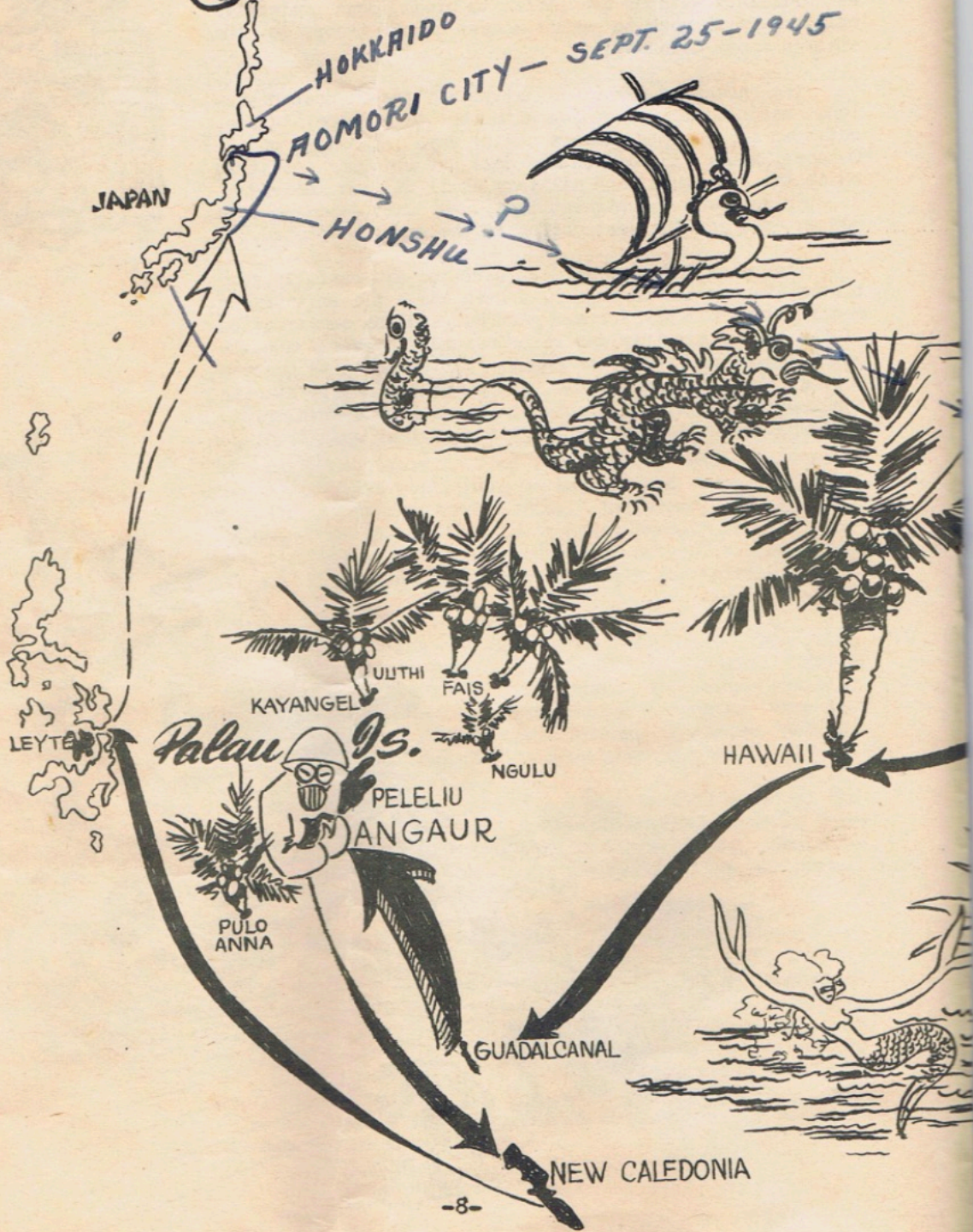
We fired large quantities of mortar and howitzer shells, airplane bombs and napalm; and employed the heaviest artillery weapons available to break down protective walls of coral rock to permit access of our troops to the enemy's inner defenses.

The undaunted Combat Infantrymen of the Wildcat Division, matching their cunning with that of a desperate foe, cut down the enemy's numbers day by day. Finally, on 22 October, after 35 consecutive days of grueling combat in which the fortitude and military skill of each individual soldier received the highest test, the last Japanese cave was entered and the destruction of the enemy completed.

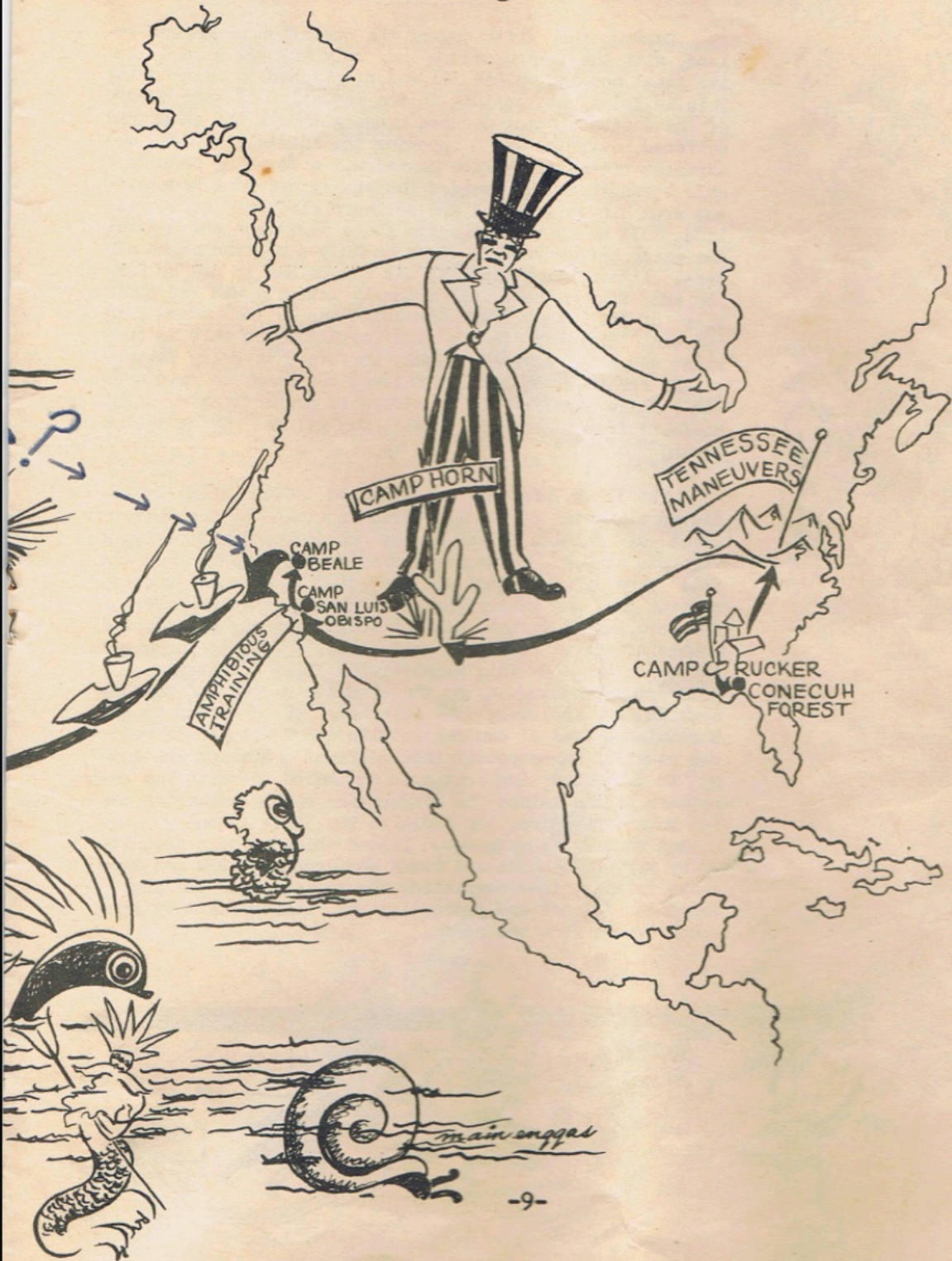
The 81st Infantry Wildcat Division successfully completed its mission on Angaur. Even while the infantryman was fighting his way forward yard by yard, the construction of the Angaur Airstrip was being rushed to completion without interference from the enemy. It served its purpose during the invasion of the Philippine Islands by staging hundreds of combat and transport planes loaded with critical supplies during the early phases of that operation.



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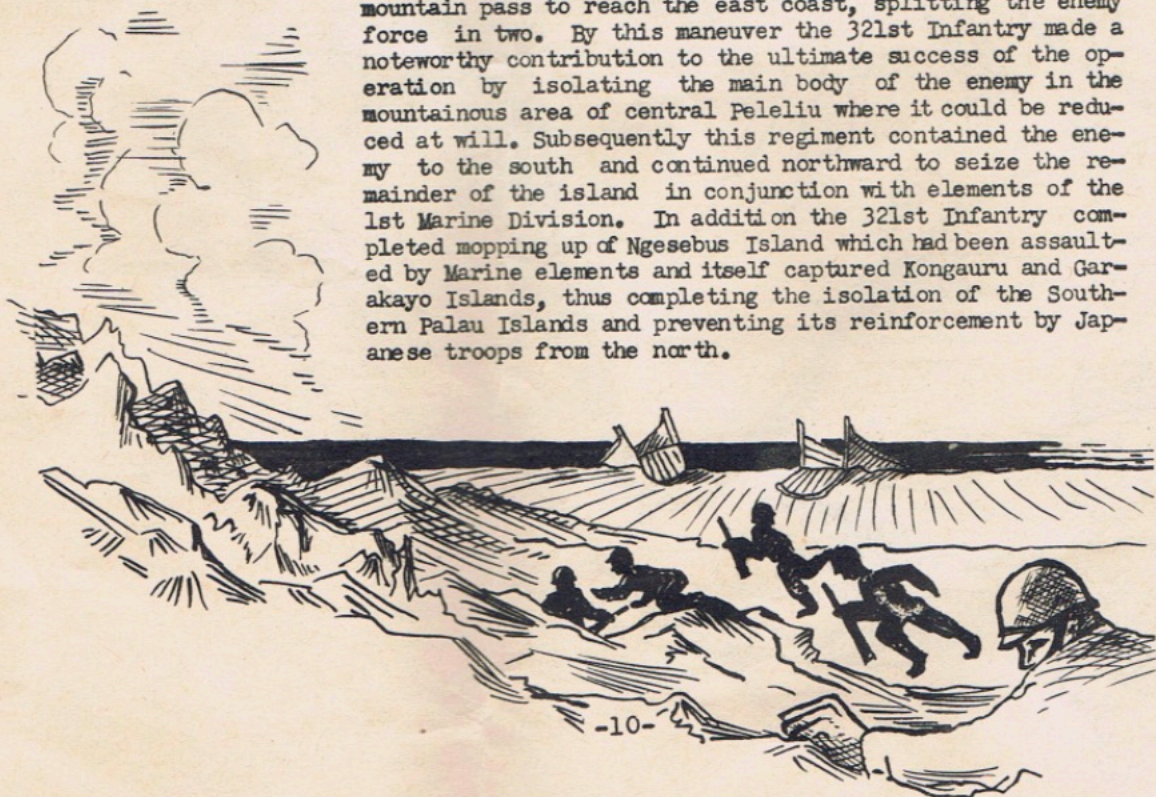
81ST Infantry Division



PELELIU

During the fifth day of the operation on Angaur Island, with the Island secure and only RCT 322 needed for its final mopping up, RCT 321 was dispatched to neighboring Peleliu Island to assist in the reduction of that bastion of the Japanese outer defense ring. Although the enemy had suffered heavy losses in opposing the initial landing and advances of the 1st Marine Division, a force of considerable strength still occupied the easily defended mountainous area in the central and northern portions of the island. It was vital to seize these positions and destroy the enemy before Peleliu could be fully exploited as an air base. Although the airfield was secure and in use by Marine and Navy planes, all friendly activity was in plain view of the enemy from his positions on the commanding terrain. American troops and installations were in constant danger of counterattack. Moreover, to delay seizure of the remainder of Peleliu allowed the enemy to reinforce the Peleliu Garrison to considerable proportions by night movement from Babelthaup, Koror, and Eil Malk lying to the north.

The 321st Infantry and attached troops promptly relieved elements of the 1st Marine Division on the western coast of Peleliu Island and on 23 September initiated a vigorous attack. Advancing along the west coast road in full view of the enemy and subjected to constant mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire, the 321st reached the town of Gorekoru, turned to the east and fought its way through the mountain pass to reach the east coast, splitting the enemy force in two. By this maneuver the 321st Infantry made a noteworthy contribution to the ultimate success of the operation by isolating the main body of the enemy in the mountainous area of central Peleliu where it could be reduced at will. Subsequently this regiment contained the enemy to the south and continued northward to seize the remainder of the island in conjunction with elements of the 1st Marine Division. In addition the 321st Infantry completed mopping up of Ngesebus Island which had been assaulted by Marine elements and itself captured Kongauru and Garakayo Islands, thus completing the isolation of the Southern Palau Islands and preventing its reinforcement by Japanese troops from the north.



On 20 October, Major General Paul J. Mueller, Commanding General of the 81st Infantry Division, assumed command of all ground forces in the Southern Palau Islands and of the responsibility for the destruction of the enemy remaining in the caves and mountain fastnesses of central Peleliu.

For 38 consecutive days troops along the entire perimeter moved inexorably forward, compressing the enemy into an ever shrinking area of resistance. On 26 October the 323rd Infantry and attached troops, recently returned from the occupation of Ulithi Atoll, relieved the 321st Infantry on the perimeter to complete the task of final destruction of the enemy. Employing the LVT flamethrower, tanks, sandbag emplacements, pack howitzers, and supported by planes which attacked enemy positions with napalm fire bombs, troops seized one dominating terrain feature after another. Troops fought and died in places that will always be remembered by the Wildcats of World War II - Boyd Ridge, Five Brothers, Five Sisters, Old Baldy, China Wall, Death Valley, Wildcat Bowl.

As on Angaur, the key to final success on Peleliu was the prowess, skill, and resourcefulness of the individual soldier in the face of fanatical resistance and difficult terrain. The extremes of heat and rain and the ever present enemy could not subdue his courage and indomitable will to win. On 27 November, all resistance was overcome only a few feet from the cave which had served as the last headquarters of the Japanese Defense Force commander. The enemy had fulfilled his determination to fight to the death.

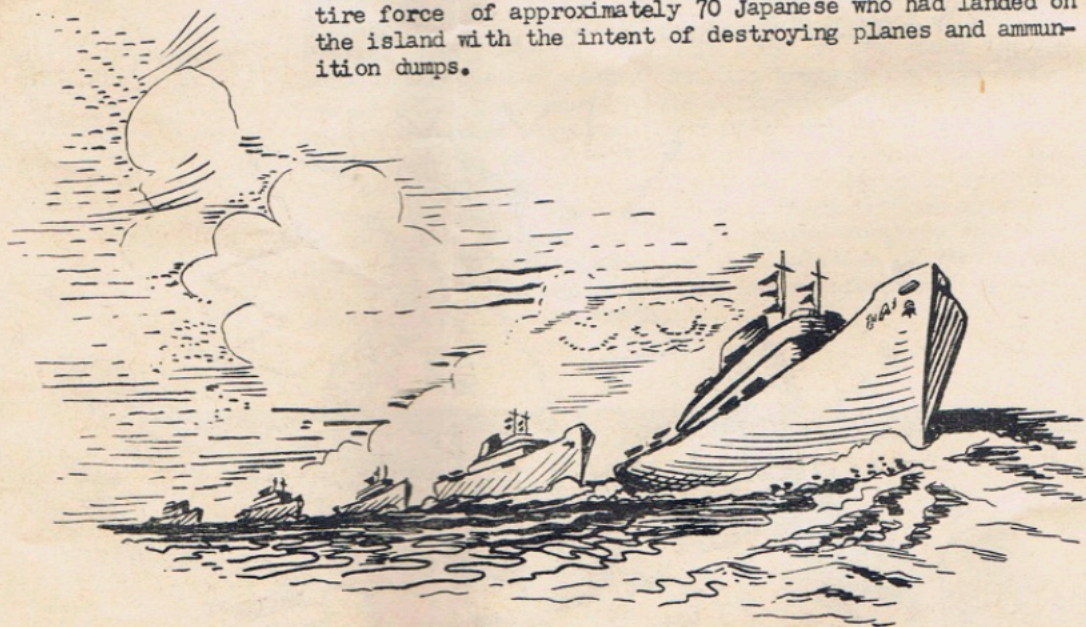


OTHER ISLANDS IN THE WESTERN CAROLINES

Ulithi Atoll was occupied by RCT 323 on 23 September after conducting a prelanding reconnaissance which indicated it to be unoccupied by the enemy. Elements of the Division occupied Ngulu Atoll on 16 October; reconnoitered Pulo Anna Island on 4 November and occupied it on 17 November; occupied Kayangel Atoll on 30 November - 1 December; and captured Fais Island on 1 January 1945.

During operations in the Western Caroline Islands, troops of the 81st Infantry Division (Reinf) effected assault landings on Angaur and 28 other islands, in addition to conducting major attack operations on Peleliu and/or reconnoitering 11 other islands. By these operations the Wildcat Division had made the deepest penetration then effected by United States Army Forces into the great Pacific empire which Japan had carved for itself. In all these operations 5676 Japanese were killed and 344 captured by the Division. Our losses were 398 killed, 145 died of wounds, and 2222 other casualties. This measured in the cost of life was high; but in the light of accomplishments it was a small price to pay for operations which permitted United States forces to come to close grips with those of the enemy and hasten the final surrender of the Japanese Government.

The Division departed from the Western Caroline Islands during December 1944-January 1945. On 17 January RCT 321, which was awaiting shipment to New Caledonia, engaged in final combat on Peleliu and killed or captured the entire force of approximately 70 Japanese who had landed on the island with the intent of destroying planes and ammunition dumps.



NEW CALEDONIA

During January- February 1945 the Division moved into the Quatom-Bouraki area of New Caledonia for a period of rehabilitation, recreation, and intensive training prior to resuming combat operations against the Japanese. At this new station each individual was afforded the opportunity for rest and relaxation at two camps superbly equipped for that purpose. The more important phases of training consisted of a complete integration of the replacements who joined the Division, a thorough jungle training course for all personnel, numerous firing problems, and amphibious exercises.

By April the Wildcats were mentally and physically fit for combat and eager to oppose the best that the Japanese could place in the field. From 1 - 15 April the Division was on an alert status for immediate movement to the Ryukyus Islands to assist in the capture of Okinawa and adjacent islands. However, in view of the favorable progress of operations in that area the services of the 81st Infantry Division were not required. Instead the Division was ordered to Leyte, P. I. where it was to prepare for an amphibious assault on one of the Japanese main islands.

On 3 May the Division departed from New Caledonia. On 6 May the convoy dropped anchor at Manus, Admiralty Islands, and troops were sent ashore for a brief period of relaxation. One week later the Division arrived at Leyte.



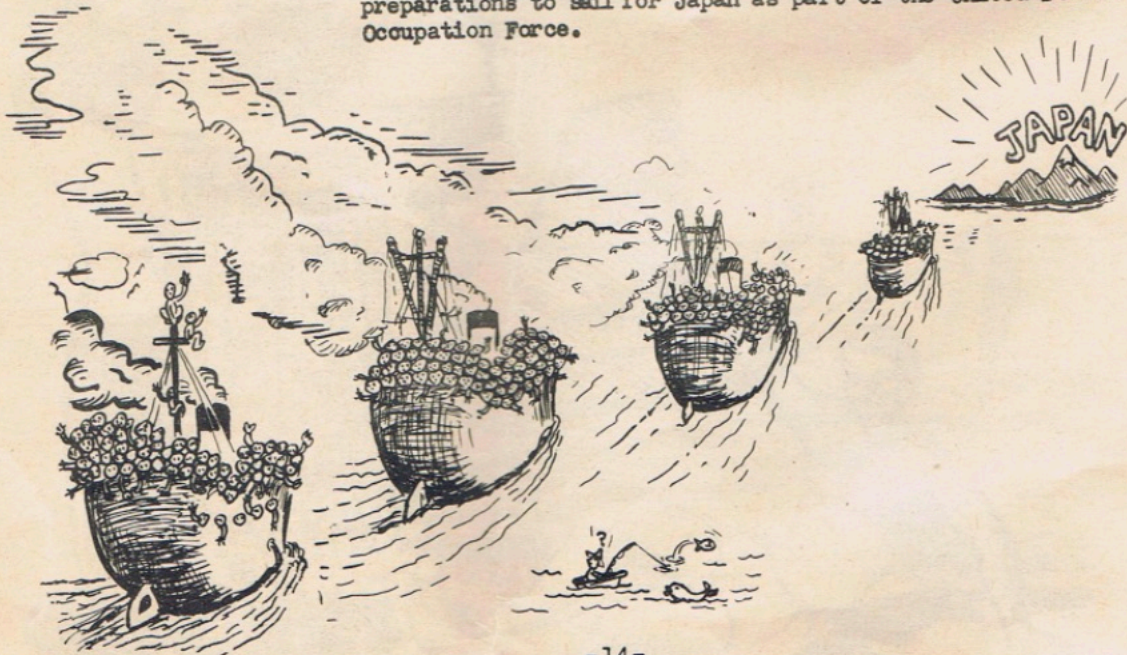
LEYTE

Upon completion of debarkation and up to 1 July, the Division erected a camp which was an outward manifestation of the zeal and thoroughness with which all Wildcats accomplished every task assigned. In addition, over 500 replacements were given sufficient training to enable them to take their places among combat veterans.

On 1 July training for the Division's next operation was begun in earnest. During the period 1 - 23 July regimental combat teams conducted amphibious exercises in the Hinunangan Bay area and made landings on the southeast coast of Leyte. Beginning 16 July elements of the Division moved by echelon to the Valencia area for a five week period of strenuous field training to include mopping up operations against isolated remnants of the Japanese garrison force still remaining in northwest Leyte. Training consisted mainly of squad, platoon, company, and battalion combat exercises, range firing, and service practice.

On 21 July the 321st Infantry sent battalions successively into the Villaba area with the mission of searching out and destroying all Japanese encountered. On 26 July the 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was assigned a similar mission in the Limon area. As the 323rd Infantry was preparing to relieve the 321st Infantry the news of Japan's surrender was received which caused a cessation of combat operations. A sharp curtailment in the field training program was also brought about in order to reassemble the Division for an anticipated early departure from Leyte.

With Japan's surrender the Division began immediate preparations to sail for Japan as part of the United States Occupation Force.



ORCHIDS
to the Wildcat Division
on the
PALAU CAMPAIGN
from the
HIGH COMMAND



ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY, USN
Commander Third Fleet

"The sincere admiration of the entire Third Fleet is yours. It has been a tough job extremely well done."-(9 October 1944).

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT C. RICHARDSON, JR. USA
Commanding General, USAF, Pacific Ocean Areas

"Congratulations, and many of them on the superb and gallant conduct of the 'Wildcats' in the capture of Angaur! I am more than proud of your fine Division."-(19 September 1944).

"Warm congratulations to you and your gallant command. The capture of Angaur was a brilliant operation which showed the results of the training of the Wildcats. We are proud of everything that you have done, which reflects great credit upon and adds to the United States Army traditions."-(30 September 1944).

VICE ADMIRAL T.S. WILKINSON, USN
Commander Third Amphibious Force

"The capture of ANGAUR was but one of several tasks assigned the 81st Division in the PALAU-YAP operations which required a multiplicity of plans and preparations. The successful and rapid conclusion of the ANGAUR capture reflects credit on the Division Commander and all personnel of the 81st Division."-(30 April 1945).

"The performance of the 81st Infantry Division in the capture of ANGAUR was well planned and brilliantly executed. The Expeditionary Force Commander takes pleasure in congratulating Commander ANGAUR Attack Force (Rear Admiral W. H. P. BLANDY), Commanding General, 81st Infantry Division (Major General Paul J. MUELLER) and all members of their respective organization on their splendid accomplishment."-(9 July 1945).

"The brilliant actions fought by the 321st Regimental Combat Team of the 81st Army Division on PELELIU constitute another series of worthy achievements of that already notable body of fighting men."-(9 July 1945).

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM C. FORT, USN
Commander Task Force 32

"Please accept my sincere congratulations on the successful completion of the assault and occupation phase. Convey to Generals Rupertus and Mueller my appreciation and admiration for the gallant conduct of their Divisions in this difficult operation."-(13 October 1944).

MAJOR GENERAL JULIAN C. SMITH, USMC
Commanding General Task Force 36 (Expeditionary Troops)

"A well done to all hands for having successfully carried out the mission and taken the objectives assigned."-(1 October 1944).

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROY S. GEIGER, USMC
Commanding General Third Phib Corps

"The advance of your Division today reflects a commendable aggressive spirit. Well done to all hands."-(19 September 1944).

"The unloading of your assault shipping in seven days and the rapid development of supply roads and dumps exemplifies an efficient organization and a difficult job well done."-(25 September 1944).

"My sincere congratulations to you and your command on the successful completion of the assault and occupation phase despite a stubborn defense by a determined and well emplaced enemy, difficult problems of terrain and supply. Yours has been a tough assignment well executed."-(14 October 1944).

"The 81st Infantry Division had a difficult task in the PALAU Operation. It captured ANGAUR, and provided a RCT for the support of the 1st Marine Division on PELELIU. In executing these tasks the 81st Infantry Division exhibited a high state of training, morale and combat efficiency."-(19 January - 1945).

MAJOR GENERAL W. H. RUPERTUS, USMC
Commanding General 1st Marine Division

"The performance of duty of the officers and men of Regimental Combat Team 321, throughout the assault phase on Peleliu, Ngesebus and the northern outpost islands warrants the highest praise. It was a pleasure to have this unit serve as part of my command during this extremely difficult operation, and I express the sentiments of every officer and man of the First Marine Division in wishing them good luck in future operations against the enemy. In the eyes of the entire First Marine Division they have earned a "Well Done." - (27 January 1945).

REAR ADMIRAL J. W. REEVES, JR. USN
Commander Western Carolines Sub Area

"Please accept my hearty congratulations on successfully and efficiently liquidating organized enemy resistance on Peleliu well ahead of estimated completion date."-(28 November 1944).

"The 323rd Infantry of the 81st Division closed in on remnants of the enemy force on Peleliu; overran the enemy's final stronghold to bring all organized resistance to an end. As previously reported it was stated by two prisoners of war that General Murai and Colonel Nakagawa committed suicide and their bodies were disposed of.

"Clean up of the enemy by the 81st Division on Peleliu began on the 21st of October and was completed, except for searching out stragglers which will continue for some time, on the 27th of November. The successful accomplishment of this task under extremely difficult conditions of terrain and stubborn enemy resistance has been accomplished with a minimum of loss to our own troops and in a relatively short time, over a week ahead of the estimated completion date. For the efficient and workmanlike job of cleaning out enemy resistance as well as in preparing defenses of this island Major General Paul J. Mueller and the personnel under his command deserve hearty commendation and I recommend that the successful completion of their task be mentioned in the communique."-(28 November 1944).

"I express my thanks and appreciation for the good and efficient service which your command has rendered." - (24 December 1944).

SENIOR COMMANDERS AND STAFF

81ST Infantry "Wildcat" Division Overseas

CG 81 Inf Div Maj Gen Paul J Mueller
 CG 81 Div. Arty Brig Gen Rex W Beasley
 Asst Div Comdr Brig Gen Marcus B Bell
 Chief of Staff
 (Until 19 Jan 45) Col James C Short
 (19 Jan-26 Feb 45) (#) . . . Lt Col John J LaPage
 (Since 26 Feb 45) Col Andrew E Forsyth
 AC of S, G-1
 (Until 25 Jun 45) Lt Col John J LaPage
 (Since 25 Jun 45) (#) . . . Maj Walter L Woodfill
 AC of S, G-2 Lt Col Paul D Goddard
 AC of S, G-3
 (Until 25 Jun 45) Col William R Woodward
 (Since 25 Jun 45) Lt Col John J LaPage
 AC of S, G-4 Lt Col Langfitt B Wilby
 Adjutant General Lt Col Wesley U Moran
 Ordnance Officer
 (Until 26 Jun 45) Lt Col Cam Longley
 (Since 26 Jun 45) (#) . . . Maj George C Bergtholdt
 Quartermaster Lt Col William D Smith
 Chaplain Lt Col Percy M Hickcox
 Chemical Officer Lt Col Henry T Galt
 Inspector General Lt Col George W Gibson
 Judge Advocate Lt Col Hilary A Bush
 Signal Officer Lt Col Leo V Merle
 Surgeon Lt Col F Stanley Ewing
 Provost Marshal
 (Until 7 June 45) Maj Rowland McD Ness
 (Since 26 June 45) Maj Clarke E Donnigan

CO 321 Inf Col Robert F Dark
 CO 322 Inf
 (Until 22 Sep 44) Col Benjamin W Venable
 (22 Sep-1 Dec 44) Lt Col Ernest H Wilson
 (1 Dec-19 Jan 45) Lt Col Leonard L Cutshall
 (Since 19 Jan 45) Col James C Short
 CO 323 Inf Col Arthur P Watson
 CO 306 Engr (C) Bn . . . Lt Col Eskil M J Ålenius
 CO 306 Med Bn
 (Until 3 Jun 45) . . . Lt Col Eugene F Melaville
 (Since 3 Jun 45) Maj Frank H Hill
 CO Sp Tr 81 Inf Div
 (7 Feb-17 Jun 44) (*) . . Lt Col R E Quackenbush
 (17 Jun-19 Nov 44) . . . Lt Col R E Quackenbush
 (16 Jul-19 Nov 44) (*) . . Lt Col Newell E Watts
 (19 Nov-21 Jan 45) . . . Lt Col Newell E Watts
 (Since 21 Jan 45) . . . Lt Col Leonard L Cutshall

Major Attached Units

CO 1138 Engr (C) Gp. Col Charles R Daman
 CO 710 Tank Bn Lt Col William R Rodgers
 CO 17 Field Hosp Lt Col Robert H Bell
 CO 41 Port Surg Hosp Maj David S Ascher
 CO 65 Port Surg Hosp Maj Claude Warner
 CO 71 JASCO Maj Richard A Wetzel
 CO 592 JASCO Maj William S Houston
 CO 539 Amph Tractor Bn . . . Maj George W Enrick
 CO 540 Amph Tractor Bn . . Lt Col Waldon G Winston
 CO 726 Amph Tractor Bn . . Lt Col Henry C Switzer

Ex O 321 Inf Lt Col Paul Craig
 CO 1st Bn 321 Inf
 (Until 9 Jan 45) Lt Col Lester J Evans
 (9 Jan-11 Jul 45) Lt Col Frank C Seitz
 (Since 11 Jul 45) Maj Robert G Brugh
 CO 2d Bn 321 Inf
 (Until 5 Apr 45) Lt Col Peter D Clainos
 (5 Apr-26 Jun 45) Maj George C Neal
 (Since 26 Jun 45) Maj James H Wear
 CO 3d Bn 321 Inf
 (Until 16 Jul 44) Lt Col Newell E Watts
 (Since 16 Jul 44) Lt Col Dallas A Pilliod
 Ex O 322 Inf
 (Until 22 Sep 44) Lt Col Ernest H Wilson
 (22 Sep-1 Dec 44) Lt Col Leonard L Cutshall
 (1 Dec-19 Jan 45) Lt Col Bruce D Cloaninger
 (Since 29 Mar 45) Lt Col Newell E Watts
 CO 1st Bn 322 Inf
 (Until 23 Sep 44) Maj William R White
 (23 Sep-17 Oct 44) Maj Louis K Harthrong
 (17 Oct-29 Mar 45) Maj Michael Gussie
 (Since 29 Mar 45) Lt Col Selwyn R Thompson
 CO 2d Bn 322 Inf Lt Col Thomas D McPhail
 CO 3d Bn 322 Inf
 (Until 22 Sep 44) . . . Lt Col Leonard L Cutshall
 (Since 22 Sep 44) . . . Lt Col Manuel M Schechet

Ex O 323 Inf
 (Until 17 Jul 44) Lt Col Benjamin T Harris
 (17 Jul-19 Nov 44) (*) . . Lt Col R E Quackenbush
 (Since 19 Nov 44) Lt Col R E Quackenbush
 CO 1st Bn 323 Inf
 (Until 17 Nov 44) Lt Col Raymond G Gates
 (17 Nov-30 Nov 44) Maj Barte W LaHatte
 (Since 30 Nov 44) Lt Col Benjamin T Harris
 CO 2d Bn 323 Inf Lt Col Hugh K Forsman
 CO 3d Bn 323 Inf
 (Until 30 Mar 45) . . . Lt Col Arthur W Hutchinson
 (Since 30 Mar 45) . . . Lt Col Richard L Pooley

Ex O 81 Div Arty
 (Until 15 Nov 44) Col James T Loomie
 (Since 15 Nov 44) Col Carl Darnell
 CO 316 FA Bn
 (Until 15 Nov 44) Lt Col Carl Darnell
 (Since 15 Nov 44) Lt Col Portus M Wheeler
 CO 317 FA Bn Lt Col Wilson M Riley
 CO 906 FA Bn
 (Until 15 Nov 44) Lt Col John E Barlow
 (Since 15 Nov 44) Lt Col Allen S Hirsch
 CO 318 FA Bn Lt Col Thomas K McClane

(#) Acting
 (*) Special Duty

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

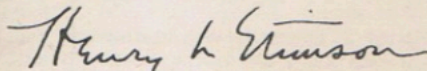
April 15, 1944.

To: The Commanding General, 81st Infantry Division.

Subject: The 81st Division Wildcat.

I am pleased to learn that the 81st Infantry Division is maintaining that fighting spirit which gave to it in World War I the name of "The Wildcat Division".

So that the soldiers may have before them a purposeful reminder and a living symbol of their Division esprit, I direct that the 81st Infantry Division take overseas and retain with it, to include its final return to the continental United States, its live mascot, a wildcat, which is hereby designated as "The 81st Division Wildcat".


Secretary of War.