

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General

APO 312, U.S. Army
13 October 1944

Major General Horace L. McBride
Commanding, 80th Infantry Division
APO 80, U. S. Army

Dear General McBride:

The fighting of the last few weeks has punched home to us one point so obvious and so clean cut, that I want every soldier and every officer in the Corps to realize its full significance.

That point is this: The Germans, even the best and most experienced of them, are visibly frightened of us. They are frightened by your superior equipment, frightened by your more skillful tactics, and above all, frightened by your magnificent courage and will to win.

Since the 19th of August, the 80th Infantry Division has smashed the enemy back and back in one successful operation after another. It seized Chalons Sur Marne and Bar le Duc. It routed the Boche from his strongholds West and North of the Moselle from Toul to Pont a Mousson, and then crossed and established a vital bridgehead over the Moselle which it has secured, defended, and enlarged against vigorous enemy counter-attacks. All members of the division have conducted themselves in a manner of which they may well be proud.

We are now between rounds of a fight to the knockout. The last round saw you stagger the German back into his corner. While we are now gathering our strength for the kill, he is hanging on the ropes. He cannot last another -- he is bound to go down. I am confident when the next round comes up, that the 80th Division will continue to show him the same courage, the same skill, and the same driving determination that have won for it its successes to date.

I congratulate the 80th Division on its past -- I wish it Godspeed and early victory in its future.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. EDDY
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding