



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-0001

4 August 1990

TO THE MEN OF THE 612TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

I want to deliver a message to you on behalf of the men and women of your Armed Forces. We want our message to add to your sense of pride and accomplishment for the incredible battlefield performance of your unit. We know quite well that little we can say can augment the courage and skill you displayed against the Nazis as you raced relentlessly across central France in 1944. Yet we are aware of the debt we owe you and want to try to pay a piece of it.

What we want you to know -- beyond a shadow of a doubt -- is that every one of us in today's Armed Forces knows what you did. We all know about your heroism from the beaches at Normandy, through the hedgerows, along the narrow roads and through the historic French cities and towns, to the German border, and on to Pilsen. We make it a point to study these incredible feats of American arms. In today's military, we make it a point to study your heroism, your actions, and that headlong rush of armies across the length and breadth of France to liberate Europe from a tyranny unmatched in the annals of history. So we all understand your contribution and we are all very grateful to you.

We know that today's great promise of peace in the world began with your courage on the beaches and in the fields of France. Democracy's spread across the globe began with your footsteps in Normandy; freedom's greater sway on this earth began with the blood of your fallen comrades; and history's recording of the final end of tyranny in Europe began its first act with your indomitable courage in the bleak, cold December days of the Bulge.

You are not forgotten by your Armed Forces. Nor will you ever be. You are fixed firmly in our thoughts: an eternal monument to the noble side of man.

I wish you the very happiest reunion.

Sincerely,

COLIN L. POWELL

Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff