

HEADQUARTERS, RLG 17

April 25, 1943.

TO: Each Officer and Man of RLG 17.

FROM: The Commanding Officer, 17 RLG.

GREETINGS -

One and one half years ago our nation declared war on the Japs. We are now embarked on an important mission in this war.

That the War Department has selected the Seventh Infantry Division for this assignment gives us a pleasing sense of satisfaction. We are justly proud that General Brown has chosen our Regimental Landing Group to lead in the attack.

It will be our honor to be the first American troops to wrest captured American territory from the hands of the enemy. History will record that it was the Seventeenth Infantry that restored the Stars and Stripes to its rightful place over our own country.

The task before us is not easy, but it is well within our powers. We have the great advantage of training and practice. We shall have the support of powerful Naval Gun fire, bombing and strafing by Army and Navy planes and an overpowering force of numbers. We have conditioned our bodies for this effort. We are well equipped and supplied. I rely on the courage of young Americans to meet the shock of combat with calm determination to win through to complete victory.

At the present time our movements are shrouded in secrecy. This is necessary to prevent the enemy from knowing our plans. However, when we strike, our hometown papers will carry the story in extra editions. What we do will be the talk of the country. I mention, this only to let you know that the eyes of your friends, of your parents, your sweethearts, your wives, and your children will be on you. And proudly on you with full confidence in your ability to fight and with faith in your courage to carry the fight to the enemy -- and to destroy him.

As you know the Jap has occupied Kiska and Attu in the Aleutian chain. Attu, the island nearer Japan is our objective. Our capture of this island will prevent the Jap from further advance toward our mainland, and will provide those who follow us with a stepping stone to Tokyo.

This island is important to the Jap. He will not give it up without a fight. We must prepare ourselves for this task. We must prepare ourselves to kill every Jap who opposes us. To kill him relentlessly and with every weapon at our command. We must do this in order to bring this action to a speedy successful conclusion.

I will see you in Attu.



Edward P. Earle,
Colonel, 17th Infantry,
COMMANDING RLG 17