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THE CAVALRYMAN

On an October morning in 1940, General George Marshall, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, called his personnel officer into his office and gave him a piece of paper with two names on it and said, "I want you to promote these men immediately to brigadier general."

The officer looked at the names on the paper. The first was Colonel George Patton and the second name was Lieutenant Colonel Terry Allen. Then the officer said to Marshall, "Sir, you can't promote a lieutenant colonel to brigadier general."

Marshall did not like being questioned by a subordinate and said, "Promote him!"

Several hours later, the personnel officer returned to Marshall's office and said, "Sir, we have a problem with Lieutenant Colonel Allen."

"What's that?" asked Marshall.

"Sir, Lieutenant Colonel Allen is being court martialed for insubordination."

Marshall quickly replied, "Not anymore he isn't. Promote him to brigadier general."

So who was Terry de la Mesa Allen and what part would he play in the upcoming war?

Terry Allen was as colorful as his name. He was 5'8" tall, weighed 145 pounds. He was profane and when he spoke he frequently butchered the English language. He was a decorated combat veteran from World War I and his men revered him.

Terry Allen was born on April 1, 1888 in Fort Douglas, Utah to Colonel Sam Allen and Consuelo Alvarez de la Mesa. Military tradition was in the Allen family. In addition to his father, Allen's maternal grandfather was Colonel Carlos Alvarez de la Mesa, a Spanish national who fought at Gettysburg for the Union Army.

As the family moved to a series of military bases, Allen developed a passion for riding. By the time he was ten he was an accomplished horseman. Although Allen's father was an officer, Terry spent most of his time with the sons of enlisted

men. There he learned at a young age how to smoke, chew, cuss and fight. He also became aware of how much the soldiers like drinking.

Allen was not a good student but through the intercession of President Theodore Roosevelt, he was admitted to West Point in 1907 to the graduating class of 1912. Along with his weak academic credentials, he stuttered. Soon, it became very apparent that Allen found it difficult to abide by the rules. He was frequently late, did not like discipline and he was academically deficient. In May of 1911, he was dismissed from West Point.

Allen enrolled at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and in 1912 he graduated. Soon thereafter, he took an examination for a commission in the regular Army and was assigned to the 14th Cavalry at Fort Clark, Texas where he patrolled the porous border with Mexico.

In 1916, Allen with the 14th Cavalry became part of Brigadier General John J. Pershing's punitive expedition into Mexico to chase Pancho Villa, the legendary rebel. They never caught him.

Shortly after the United States declared war on Germany, Allen was promoted to captain and was then assigned to the 90th Infantry Division and became responsible for transporting artillery ordnance. Although he was now in the artillery, he much preferred the infantry. But the good news was he was on his way to France.

Allen arrived in France in July of 1918 and was promoted to major in August and given command of an infantry battalion, the 3rd Battalion, 358th Infantry.

Later Allen wrote his parents "Have been assigned a battalion recruited from Texas and Oklahoma. They are a hard boiled lot, cow handlers and range riders, all of them big as a house and sure to give the Boche merry hell. The sheriff of Spofford, an old sidekick of mine, is sergeant in the battalion. My future seems completely tied in with Texas and the border."

In early September, Allen first saw combat when he led several patrols at night through the German lines to gather intelligence.

On the night of 12-13 September, the St. Mihiel offensive started and Allen's unit was one of the assault battalions. Just before zero hour, Allen went out to reconnoiter No Man's Land but he was blown over by an incoming shell, shattering his field glasses and knapsack. He was knocked unconscious and slightly wounded. He was carried to a dressing station but when he regained

consciousness, he left to follow his battalion. Along the way he organized stragglers and led them forward and attacked the enemy machine gun nests, taking them out. The removal of the nests aided in the advance of his battalion. Along the way, Major Allen was shot in the jaw by a machine gun bullet with the loss of several teeth. But this bullet did have one positive effect: Terry Allen would never stutter again.

Major Allen was evacuated to a field hospital. After a few weeks, he was back to his battalion at the beginning of October.

The Americans were now set for the final strike, the Meuse River, Argonne Forest Offensive. Allen and his battalion were moved to the front. On the night of October 25th, Allen personally led a reconnaissance toward Aincreville. It was unusual to have a battalion commander leading a patrol to gather intelligence but it sent a strong message to his men; that he would not ask them to do something that he would not do.

With the intelligence gained from his scouting mission, Allen led a night attack that started at 2:00 am on October 26th. After several hours of fighting they took their position with twenty of his men killed. Allen was a big believer in the night attack: it surprised the enemy and it saved lives.

This would be Terry Allen's last battle in World War I for on the morning of November 11th he received a memo from his regimental commander which said, "Hostilities will cease at 11 o'clock today and no troops will pass beyond the line occupied by them at that hour."

Terry Allen spent the next two years in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star for his bravery. While in Germany he received word that in June he had been approved for a commission as a major in the cavalry; he was now a major in all three branches of the Army – infantry, artillery, and cavalry.

Allen returned to the United States in September 1920 and became a member of the 2nd Division at Camp Travis, Texas.

At the beginning of 1922, Allen was ordered to report to the office of his commanding officer, Colonel Corbusier.

"Major Allen," said the colonel, "The Texas Cattleman's Association has proposed a horse race to determine who is the better horseman: a cavalryman or a cowboy."

“This sounds like a great idea,” replied Allen. “What are the details?”

“It’s going to be a three hundred mile race over a five day period using a single horse. The cavalryman will leave from Dallas and finish in San Antonio. The cowboy will start at Fort Worth and also finish in San Antonio. The finish line will be the Alamo.”

“Who’s the cowboy?” asked Allen.

“His name is Key Dunne. He’s a world champion bronco buster and a wagon boss of a four million acre ranch. He’s quite famous. Have you heard of him?”

“Sure,” replied Allen. “Who’s going to represent the Army?”

“You will,” replied the colonel. “And we expect you to win.”

Allen did not like being put on the spot but he was up to the challenge. He left the colonel’s office and went down to the stables and rode several horses. He picked a big black horse named Coronado, part thoroughbred, part quarter horse.

On January 13, Terry Allen, dressed in his cavalry uniform, rode out of Dallas while a large crowd cheered him on. Key Dunne, in cowboy boots, chaps, and a large cowboy hat left Fort Worth. One reporter said that there was enough money bet on the race to build a battleship. Five days later Allen rode into San Antonio and beat Key Dunne by seven hours. It was an incredible display of horsemanship. So much for the myth of the American cowboy.

In the years between the wars, Allen played polo, attended military schools and got married.

In 1924, he attended the six month advance course at Fort Riley Cavalry School in Kansas. This was followed by the two year session at the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Allen graduated 221st out of 241 in his class. Number 1 in the class was a 1915 West Point graduate who never commanded troops in the field, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After command school, Allen joined the 7th Cavalry, Custer’s old outfit, at Fort Bliss in El Paso Texas. While there, he met and married in 1928 Mary Frances Robinson, the daughter of the former mayor of El Paso. Terry Allen was 40 and Mary Frances 21. A year later their only child was born, Terry Allen Jr.

1931 was the turning point for Allen's career when he enrolled in the Advanced Course of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Assistant Director of the school was Lieutenant Colonel George C. Marshall.

When Allen reported to Marshall, he said to Allen, "Did you come here to work or to play polo?"

Allen gave an unexpected answer.

He said, "Sir, I came here to do both."

Allen greatly impressed Marshall. In Allen's first efficiency report, Marshall personally rated him as "superior" in almost everything. He wrote "excellent" for the category of intelligence. The only less-than-outstanding grade, a "satisfactory" was for military bearing and neatness. Terry Allen's star was rising.

After school in late 1932, Allen was back with the 7th Cavalry at Fort Bliss.

In August 1934, with Marshall's stamp of approval, Allen entered the Army War College in Washington D.C. Two months after graduation on August 1, 1935, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was sent to the Fort Riley Cavalry School in Kansas, where he became an instructor.

On October 1, 1940 while at Fort Bliss, Allen was promoted to brigadier general. There are several important facts about this date.

1. Allen was the first man in the West Point class of 1912, from which he did not graduate, to achieve rank of brigadier general.
2. Omar Bradley would not get his first star until February 1941, 5 months later
3. Dwight D. Eisenhower would not be promoted to that rank until September 1941, 1 year later
4. Allen would be promoted over the heads of 900 colonels.

The enlisted men and junior officers were thrilled at Allen's promotion. Among the congratulatory notes he received, the one he prized the most was scrawled in pencil on rough paper. It read "us guys in the guardhouse want to congratulate you too".

Over the next two years, he assumed command of the 2nd Cavalry Division, the deputy commander of both the 36th and 4th Infantry Divisions. Marshall wanted Allen to have experience leading foot soldiers. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Allen was completing his re-education in the infantry.

On June 19, 1942 Allen was promoted to major general and took command of the Army's most famous division, The 1st Division. His moment had finally arrived. The division was known as the "Big Red One" because of the distinctive red "1" on the shoulder patch. The division's deputy commander was Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. On the surface these two men couldn't have been more unlike. Allen was a military brat and Roosevelt was an American aristocrat. Although their backgrounds were different, they both fought in World War I, were wounded and were highly decorated. Both were devoted to the welfare of their men and less than "squared away in appearance".

In July of 1942, the Big Red One sailed for Scotland. With the 1st Division's hasty departure, many of the men were without the proper uniforms required when off the post. Because of this, the military police picked them up as they were improperly dressed. Roosevelt told the MPs to leave them alone regardless of their dress. Only arrest them if they misbehave. It appeared that the Big Red One was setting a pattern that they were always on the edge of trouble.

On October 27, 1942, the 1st Infantry Division sailed from Scotland. Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, was two weeks away. This operation would include the 9th Infantry Division, the 34th Infantry Division, the 1st Armored Division and the Big Red One coupled with a large British contingent.

Allen's 1st Division landed on November 8 – their objective was the city of Oran, Algeria but the town of St. Cloud stood in its way. It was 15 miles from Oran. One of Allen's regimental commanders wanted to blow the town apart, but Allen decided to go around the town. Allen later said, "I just couldn't do it. There were civilians in the goddam place. I couldn't blast hell outta all of them." By doing this he had made the first tactical decision by an American general in the Mediterranean theater. At noon on Tuesday, November 10, the French surrendered and the battle for Oran was over. The division suffered 418 battle casualties including 94 killed. All French resistance ended by November 17th. With Algeria secured, the next objective was Tunisia.

Command of the Allied ground forces had been turned over to the British general, Kenneth Anderson, who had a low opinion of the Americans as poorly trained, inexperienced, and badly led. The first thing he did was assign Allen's infantry

regiments to different units. This left Allen with nothing to command. This separation of his units left him to say with much anger, "A soldier doesn't fight to save suffering humanity or any other goddam nonsense. He fights to prove that his unit is the best in the Army and that he has as much guts as anybody else in the unit. Break up the unit and incentive is gone".

On February 14, 1943, Rommel and his tanks attacked the Americans and pushed them back to an area known as Kasserine Pass. This desperate situation gave Allen his opportunity. He took command of his division's reserves and on the night of February 19th, he moved his men to an area west of Kasserine Pass. Devastating fire by artillery and mortars halted the advance. By the 23rd, the battle was over. Rommel had pulled back from Kasserine.

Because of the poor performance of the Americans, Eisenhower replaced the II Corps commander, Major General Lloyd Fredendall with the more aggressive, George Patton.

The first thing Patton did in his new role was to enforce the strict observance of spit and polish which was typical of garrison duty but was ridiculous in a combat environment. Soldiers, in their heavy wool uniforms were expected to wear a tie. Patton would say "Discipline consists in obeying orders. If men do not obey orders in small things, they are incapable of being led in battle."

In the military, there is a term for this and it is called "chickenshit". "Chickenshit" refers to behavior that makes military life worse than it need be: petty harassment of the weak by the strong.

Allen did not believe in "chickenshit" and would not tolerate it. This would cause trouble with Patton and Bradley.

Allen and Patton had always had a friendly rivalry but this changed when Patton took command of II Corps.

Shortly after taking command, Patton with Bradley in tow, arrived at the 1st Division CP early in the morning. Allen and Roosevelt were present. There were several slit trenches used for protection from Luftwaffe raids. Patton said, "Terry, which one is yours?"

When Allen pointed out his slit trench, Patton did something so bizarre it defies explanation. Patton walked over, unbuttoned his fly and urinated into the trench.

Then he turned around and said, “Now try to use it.” Patton had in effect labeled Allen a coward in front of his own men.

Patton was not endearing himself to the men of the 1st Division. In Bradley’s memoirs he commented on this incident when he said, “George Patton was always good at commanding men, but he was never very good at commanding himself.”

With Patton in charge, Allen finally had all of his division under his command, and the Americans were on the offensive. Allen’s division attacked the towns of Gafsa and El Guettar on the 21st of March and pushed the Germans back. Bradley would write, “Allen was very well prepared and mauled the Germans and Italians, destroying 32 tanks. This victory was doubly sweet ... It was the first solid, indisputable defeat we inflicted on the German Army in the war. Kasserine Pass had been avenged.”

Ernie Pyle, the famous combat correspondent, wrote the following: “If there was one thing in the world Allen lived and breathed for, it was to fight. He had been all shot up in the last war and he seemed not the least averse to getting shot up again. This was no intellectual war with him. He hated Germans and Italians like vermin and his pattern for victory was simple: just wade in and murder the hell out of the low-down, good-for-nothing so-and-sos.”

Patton’s tour as head of II Corps ended and he left for Morocco to start planning for the invasion of Sicily, Operation Husky. Bradley would succeed Patton as head of II Corps. Patton would command the U.S. 7th Army.

On May 5th, the 1st Division occupied the high ground west of the Tine River. They attacked at 3:00 am in the morning but when daylight came the advance across the Tine began to collapse with a number of units in big trouble. Allen requested permission to withdrawal his men back across the Tine and permission was granted.

This defeat at the Tine River led Bradley to criticize Allen as being too aggressive when he said, “Terry Allen foolishly ordered his division into a completely unauthorized attack and was thrown back with heavy losses. From that point forward, Terry was a marked man in my book. I would not permit him or his division to operate as a separate force, ignoring specific orders from above. Had we not been on the threshold of our first important U.S. victory in Africa, I would have relieved him and Teddy Roosevelt on the spot.”

The war in North Africa had ended for the 1st Division and May 13th the Axis forces surrendered.

With the fighting in North Africa over, there would be more trouble between Terry Allen and his superiors. Men of the 1st Division were given passes to Oran and they were wearing wool uniforms. Rear-echelon supply troops were dressed in cotton khaki uniforms and wearing campaign ribbons. A soldier in the Big Red One would go up to one of these clerks and say, “Were you at El Guettar?”

The clerk would say, “No.”

“Then how about Kasserine Pass?”

Another “No.”

“St. Cloud?”

“No.”

“Then take off those goddamn ribbons” and with that the soldier from the 1st Division would rip the ribbons off the shirt of the supply clerk. Then a big brawl would start and the men from the 1st Division would end up in jail. This would happen over and over again. The 1st also left behind a trail of looted wine shops and bars.

The bad behavior of the soldiers of the 1st Division infuriated Eisenhower and Bradley and they placed the blame on the cavalier attitudes of Allen and Roosevelt. Eisenhower and Bradley wanted Allen and Roosevelt shipped home but Patton valued Allen’s combat leadership and he told Eisenhower, “I want those 1st Division sons of bitches. I won’t go on without them.”

The invasion plans for Husky called for the British 8th Army under Montgomery to land on the southeastern beaches of Sicily and the U.S. 7th Army under Patton would strike along the southern coast. Bradley would command II Corps of which the 1st Division was part.

As D Day approached, Eisenhower again met with Patton and gave him a lecture on the absence of discipline in Allen’s 1st Division troops. Patton told Eisenhower he was “mistaken and besides no one whips a dog just before putting him in a fight.”

Allen’s 1st Division landed at Gela on July 10th and met weak resistance. But the next day the Herman Goering Panzer Division counter attacked across the entire

division front. Allen's infantry was overrun but they did not fall back. Instead, they hunkered down in their foxholes and let the German tanks pass over them. When the tanks stormed by them Allen's men cut down the German soldiers following the tanks. The battle for Gela raged for two days while Allen used bazookas, mortars, antitank guns and the division artillery. This coupled with highly effective naval gunfire knocked out the German tanks.

Bradley, who was clearly no fan of Terry Allen said, "I question whether any other U.S. division could have repelled that charge in time to save the beach from tank penetration. Only the perverse Big Red One with its no less perverse commander was both hard and experienced enough to take that assault in stride. A greener division might easily have panicked and seriously embarrassed the landing."

That same day, there was a serious confrontation between Bradley and Patton: German soldiers had filled a gap between the 1st Division and their adjoining unit. Bradley, as head of II Corps, told Allen to plug the hole but Patton canceled the order. Bradley was furious and when he confronted Patton about this, Patton apologized. George Patton later told Eisenhower that Bradley wasn't aggressive enough. Eisenhower passed these comments onto Bradley who regarded this as an unforgivable slur.

The Germans had focused their main effort against the 1st Infantry Division, in the Gela area but they never recovered from the beating they received.

Now firmly entrenched on Sicily, the Allies picked up momentum as they moved forward. The Brits took Syracuse and Augusta on the east coast and Montgomery's 8th Army advanced toward their ultimate objective, the city of Messina. Patton's 7th Army pushed up the middle of the island. Along the way, George Patton managed to infuriate the men of the 1st Division, many of whom already resented him for his strict enforcement of the dress code. Patton had found a man in the 1st Division who was not wearing his leggings and he fined him \$50. When it was explained to Patton that this man's ankles were so badly swollen that he couldn't fasten his leggings, Patton refused to rescind the fine. By sundown the whole 1st Division hated the enforcement of these unnecessary policies.

As the battle for Sicily continued Patton had become an anathema to Bradley. He did not like Patton's vulgar language or the publicity he was receiving. Patton's flamboyance annoyed Bradley. But what really disturbed Bradley was when Patton told him, "I want you to get to Messina just as fast as you can. I don't want you to waste time on these maneuvers, even if you've got to spend men to do it. I want you to beat Monty into Messina."

Meanwhile the 1st Division's next objective was Troina, Sicily's most elevated city. To get to Messina, you had to pass through Troina. The battle for Troina began on July 31st. Intelligence had indicated that the city was lightly defended. As Allen discovered later the town was occupied by a reinforced battle group with orders to hold Troiana at all costs. The battle for Troiana raged on for a week with casualties high on both sides. During the evening of August 5th, the Germans slipped away from the hilltop city.

With Patton occupied with the German evacuation from Messina and responding to official inquiries concerning his slapping of two enlisted soldiers, Bradley used this opportunity to ask Eisenhower to relieve both Allen and Roosevelt. They were relieved on August 7th and on August 9th in a bittersweet day, Allen's picture appeared on the cover of Time magazine. The article was a glowing report of Allen and the 1st Division: "Yet upon Terry Allen and his 1st Infantry Division, as upon no other commander or unit in Sicily, there had fallen a special mark of war and history". Allen was told to report to Eisenhower in Algiers for future assignment. Eisenhower awarded Allen the Distinguished Service Medal.

So why was Allen relieved? Bradley and Eisenhower did not think he was a "team player". Also drinking could have played a part in this because Terry Allen loved his bourbon. Allen was officially relieved for "weariness" but he thought it had to do with not being a member of the Club – in other words, he was not a West Point graduate. He also felt it was because of prejudice against Roman Catholics. There also could have been other reasons: certainly, many officers who were colonels at the time and West Point graduates must have resented Marshall's promotion of Allen from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general. These men may have had some influence in this matter. And maybe Eisenhower and Bradley couldn't forget the fact that Allen had been promoted to general before they had. Or they were jealous of Allen's combat record. Maybe they resented Allen's close ties with his men.

But regardless of why he was relieved, Terry Allen was going home.

Meanwhile, Eisenhower ordered Patton to apologize to both the men he slapped and their divisions. One of those men was from the 1st Division. On August 27th Patton spoke to the men of the 1st Division for twenty minutes. His speech was meant to fire up the troops and he ended it with "your fame shall never die". Fifteen thousand men stood in rebellious silence. Not a man applauded, much to the embarrassment of Patton. They despised him.

General George C. Marshall had a policy concerning officers who had been relieved: in most cases, if they had not been relieved for cowardice or for incompetence, they were given a second chance. So when Allen returned to the United States he was given command of the 104th division which was nicknamed the Timberwolves.

Allen spent a year in the States training the 104th. His division was green and needed a lot of work. Allen pushed his young soldiers hard and his focus was on night training. Allen told his troops that success in the night attack required well-disciplined troops, map reading proficiency, orientation to night movement and patrolling.

Omar Bradley, who led the American ground force in Europe and was Allen's biggest detractor, said "He brought the only division I know of that was prepared for night combat".

The Allies invaded France on June 6, 1944 and Allen's former division, the 1st, landed on Omaha Beach.

Patton took command of the 3rd Army on August 1st and broke through Saint-Lo and tore through the French countryside. As casualties piled up, only a large infusion of fresh troops could maintain this pace. At the end of August, the Timberwolves sailed for France. Terry Allen was back in the hunt.

The 104th became the 1st American division to sail from New York directly to France landing at the liberated port of Cherbourg in the beginning of September.

Soon after arriving Allen went to the cemetery at Saint-Mere-Eglise to pay a visit to his old friend and comrade Ted Roosevelt Jr. After the two of them were relieved at Troina, Roosevelt got a second chance as assistant division commander with the 4th Infantry Division, the unit that landed on Utah Beach on D-Day. He landed with the first wave and his meritorious service at Utah Beach and subsequent actions in the Normandy campaign convinced Eisenhower that he deserved his own division. On July 12, 1944 the night before he was to take command of the 90th Infantry Division, Roosevelt died of a heart attack.

At the end of October, the Timberwolves traveled from France to Belgium. They were attached to the First Canadian Army fighting to take control of the approaches to the Belgian port of Antwerp. The 104th pushed the Germans back across the Mark River and then to the banks of the Maas River.

But the 104th would not be part of the final push to take Antwerp because on November 5th, the U.S. First Army ordered the division to move as soon as possible to Aachen, inside Germany.

General Hodges who commanded the American First Army ran in to the West Wall or Siegfried line - a deep, two layered series of huge cement bunkers and tank defenses. Hodges had already tried twice to penetrate the West Wall through the thick Hurtgen Forest. The stalemate in the forest would savage six American divisions and would eliminate any hope of reaching the Rhine before winter.

The Timberwolves attacked on November 16 and their objective was Stolberg, a small industrial city. The battle for Stolberg demolished the city. Stolberg fell after three days of brutal combat. Next they attacked the town of Eschweiler on the banks of the Inde River. Then came the village of Lucherberg across the Inde River. Allen's Timberwolves took one town after another in late November and early December and ended up on the banks of the Roer River.

Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant General J. Lawton Collins, commander of VII Corps sent Allen a letter. "The second phase involving the crossing of the Inde River and the advance to the Roer was even more difficult, but with characteristic skill and dash, in a series of brilliant night attacks, the 104th Division forced a crossing of the Inde and in a few days had cleared the entire sector to the Roer River. I regard the operation which involved the seizure of Lamersdorf – Inde – Lucherberg as one of the finest pieces of work accomplished by any unit of the VII Corps since D-Day".

But the Allied offense would soon grind to a halt. In one of the biggest intelligence failures of World War II, the Allies missed the German buildup of tanks and soldiers. On December 16th, the German army stormed out of the Ardennes Forest and drove 60 miles into the U.S. 12th Army Group commanded by Lieutenant General Omar Bradley. The Battle of the Bulge had started; when the battle ended 40 days later on January 25, 1945, the Americans had suffered 108,000 casualties: 19,000 killed, 62,000 wounded and 27,000 captured or missing. It was the costliest battle in terms of casualties for the United States.

The 104th Division wasn't going anywhere. All American units north and south of the bulge went on the defense.

On the night of February 23rd, the Timberwolves attacked and crossed the Roer River at Duren and advanced beyond the Erft Canal to attack Cologne on the Rhine River.

Before the battle started, Bradley showed up at Allen's headquarters and said, "Terry, I just wanted to tell you, this 104th Infantry Division of yours, they're ranked with the 1st and 9th Divisions as the finest combat divisions in the European theatre." But instead of replying, "Thank you General", Allen said "Brad, the 1st and the 9th are in damn fast company".

By March 4th, Terry Allen's division had advanced into the heart of Cologne. After Cologne, the Timberwolves captured Paderborn, crossed the Weser River and liberated the concentration camp at Nordhausen. After capturing Halle, the division met the Soviet armies at Torgau as the war ended.

On May 7th, Allen was informed that a representative of the German high command had signed the unconditional surrender of all the German troops in Europe. The next day was the official VE Day.

On May 12, Allen was told by the VII Corps that the 104th would be one of the first divisions to be redeployed to the Pacific to fight the Japanese.

On July 3rd, Allen's division returned to the United States and his troops were given 30 days leave. But as their leave ended, the atom bomb exploded over Hiroshima and then Nagasaki and the Japanese surrendered.

With the war over, the Timberwolves were disbanded on December 20, 1945. Allen retired from the Army on August 31, 1946 after 33 years of active service. His list of awards included 2 Distinguished Service Medals, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, 2 Purple Hearts as well as several foreign decorations. He retired to El Paso where for a number of years, he served as a representative for several insurance companies. He was also active in civic affairs and veteran organizations.

With a military career behind him, Terry Allen focused his time on his son, Terry Jr. It soon became apparent that the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Terry Jr. did not do well academically and although his grades were not those normally acceptable for nomination to the U.S. Military Academy, he was accepted in March of 1948 to the class of 1952. Four years later, Terry Jr. graduated from West Point. He was dead last in his class.

Over the following 15 years, Allen Jr. rose through the ranks taking leadership roles in different units. By this time he was a major and it became obvious that if he wanted to advance further in the ranks, he needed a tour in Vietnam.

In February 1967, Major Terry Allen Jr. arrived in Vietnam and became intelligence officer of the 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. The 1st Division was the division his father had commanded in the Mediterranean theater.

In August of 1967, Allen Jr. was promoted to lieutenant colonel and took command of the 2nd Battalion 28th Infantry.

On the 8th of October, Allen's battalion was airlifted into the jungle to an area known as Chon Thanh to conduct a search and destroy mission. On October 17th, the battalion ran into a hornets' nest. After 2 hours of savage fighting, Allen, his command sergeant major and 56 of his men were killed and 61 more wounded. Allen would be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism.

Terry Allen's health declined rapidly after the death of his son and on September 12, 1969 Terry Allen died of natural causes and was buried along with his son in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

History has largely forgotten Terry de la Mesa Allen but 3 things can be said about him with absolute certainty: he led from the front, he loved to fight, and his men came first.

What more could you say about a soldier.

Nick Ragland

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