

*Capt McDonald*

HEADQUARTERS 31ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Division Commander

APO 31,  
23 September 1944.

To the members of the 31st Infantry Division:

I have been relieved of the command of the 31st Infantry Division, and will shortly leave this station.

For three years and ten months I have commanded this organization in training and in battle. I have seen it progress from a raw untrained group to the efficient, smoothly functioning unit it now is. I believe this fighting combat division to be the equal or superior of any soldiers in the world.

You have been called on by me to do things in training and in battle far beyond that ordinarily expected. You have never failed me or your country. I am and shall be eternally grateful to each of you for the personal loyalty and devotion to duty you have exhibited while under my command. The training and leading of this division overseas in battle is the greatest honor that has ever come to me.

I ask that you give my successor the same loyalty you have shown me. I shall watch your progress proudly and have no fear but that you will continue to distinguish yourselves in battle.

I feel a deep sense of friendship and obligation to every soldier in the 31st Division. I wish each of you all the luck in the world. Goodbye and God bless all of you.

*John C. Persons*

JOHN C. PERSONS,  
Major General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.