

The Final Salute and Farewell to Arms
GENERAL'S STATEMENTS

GENERAL OMAR N. BRADLEY

General of the Army, Army Group Commander (Twelfth Army WWII)
First Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

“Major Audie Leon Murphy, who received his Battlefield Commission in combat, was the most highly decorated soldier of the second world War, and was one in a million men of the Twelfth Army Group who will always be remembered not only as a born leader and a brave soldier, but perhaps as one of the greatest fighting men that this Nation has ever known. . . It was through the gallant efforts of the American Soldier, like Audie Murphy, who was wounded three times, that eventually through great sacrifices that was to ultimately defeat the Axis Powers in World War II . . .”

(General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley, during World War II, commanded the largest Fighting Force ever amassed in Battle under the American Flag.)

GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND

United States Army, Chief of Staff

“With the death of Audie Murphy, the Army and our nation lost one of the most courageous men ever to wear the military uniform of the United States in defense of freedom. A man of humble origin, he overcame many obstacles to win a battlefield commission and became a national hero, a recipient of 24 awards for combat action in North Africa and Europe. Audie Murphy was small in stature, but his courageous deeds were larger than life-size.

His example to fellow Americans served as an inspiration to all persons during World War II - Americans and allies alike, in or out of uniform, at home and overseas. Today, also, his example should be an inspiration to all Americans - in our out of uniform - who serve in support the policies of our country.”

LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN W. (IRON MIKE) O'DANIEL

Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II

“Audie Murphy was the greatest combat soldier I have ever known. He even outshone the host of Medal of Honor heroes produced by the immortal 3rd Infantry Division in World War II - a division that traveled farther and fought harder than any other American Division.

Audie Murphy led that breed of gallant men who gave the Marne Division its spirit, heart and success. All members of the Division and fighting men everywhere pay tribute to Audie Murphy and salute him from Casablanca to Berchtesgaden.”

MAJOR GENERAL KEITH L. WARE¹

“Audie Murphy was beyond a doubt the finest soldier I have ever seen in my entire career. He had the distinct disadvantage in being only 18 years old (when he entered the army); and he looked even younger than that. But because of his outstanding leadership ability, even the old pros followed his commands. The movie and the book “To Hell And Back” were true accounts, and he earned every decoration he received. (General Ware made the above statement in 1964. Himself a Medal of Honor winner, he was a commanding officer of the battalion in which Audie Murphy served in World War II.”

BRIGADIER GENERAL HALLETT D. EDSON

“Audie was one of this dedicated breed of young Americans, - but, one through his inherent ability, his gallantry and his faith in his fellow man that place him well above his peers. As an individual, his exploits were far “above and beyond the call of duty”, but, his faculty to lead men in battle and inspire them to perform magnificently was his greatest attribute. He will always be remembered by those who served with him as the man to call upon when the task was great, and he will be remembered as the man who performed his task with outstanding success and dedication to his fellowman and to his country.”

“Challenge and Response . . . That’s what this great nation is all about” - ALM

¹ General Ware, a career soldier, was killed in combat in the Viet Nam War.