



For Release Immediately
-Last Shot Memorial Dedication-
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The 97th Infantry Division was credited with firing the last official shot in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. This shot was fired by Pfc. Domenic Mozzetta, Company B, 387th Regiment on the night of May 7, 1945 near Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, ending that phase of the greatest war ever fought by mankind. On July 18, 2000 a monument was placed in the Memorial Park, Fort Benning, Georgia which will commemorate the firing of the "Last Shot" but also help to preserve the memory of this small slice of history for future generations. The monument will be officially dedicated on October 12, 2000 by 400 - 500 former members of the Division that expect to be in attendance.

The memorial is of black granite, with a bas-relief of an M-1 rifle in a prone position, symbolic of laying down of arms and the end of the war. Appropriate inscriptions are shown on the monument's sides honoring all units of the military services that served in the European Theatre and contributed in bringing these hostilities to an end.

Speakers at the dedication will be World War II veterans involved in the military action that led to the historic last shot: MG LeMoyne, Ft. Benning Commander, and Mike Dinkins, special assistant to Senator Max Cleland.

Approval to place the monument on government-owned land was provided by the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Louis Caldera.

Funds for construction of this memorial were from generous donations by surviving members of the Division.

The news media and general public are invited to attend the dedication ceremony at 2:00 p.m., October 12, 2000 at Memorial Park, Fort Benning, Georgia.