

THE HISTORY OF THE 149th





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C R E D I T S

Our thanks to the Medical Depot for reproduction of the photographs contained in this History.

Our thanks to the many officers and men of the 149th who, because of their efforts, this history was made possible.

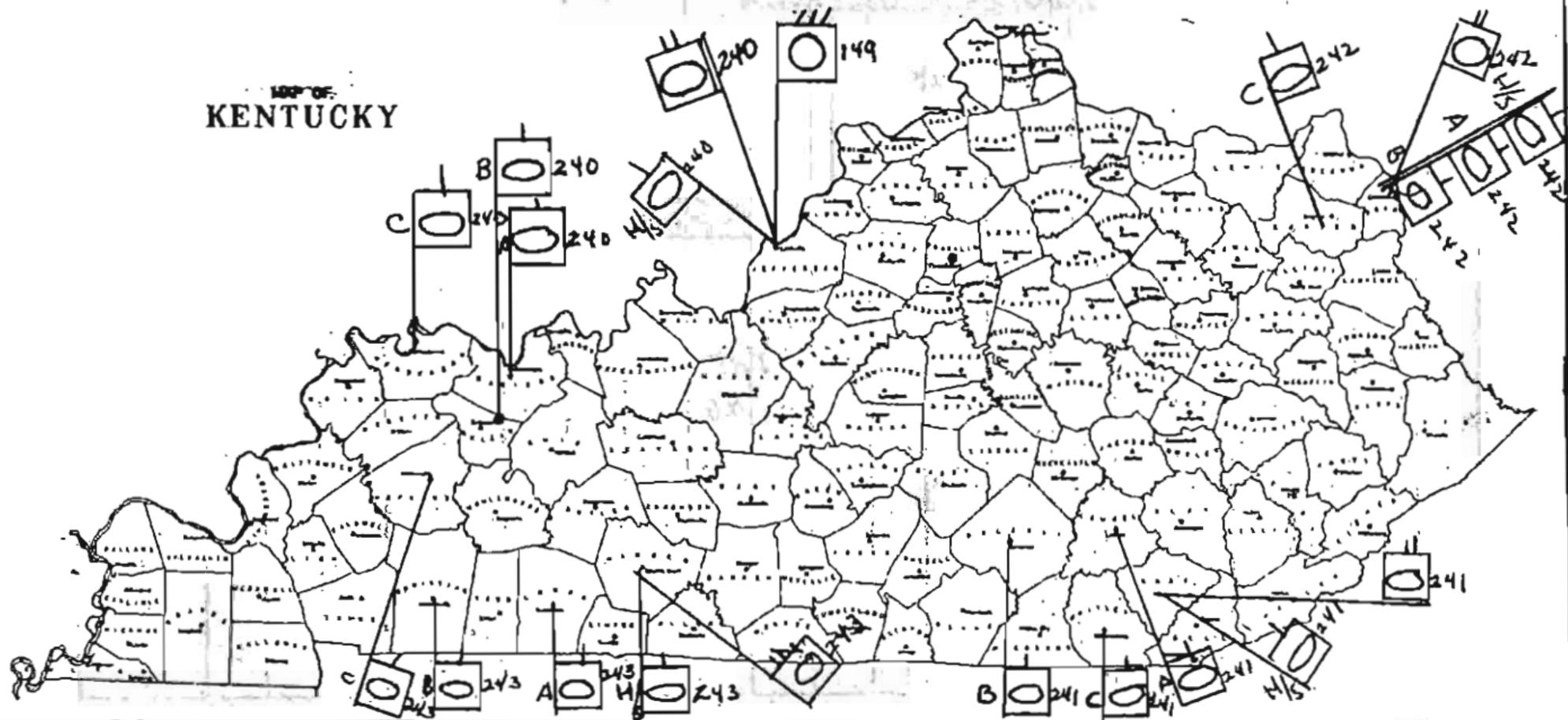
FOREWORD

A history of a organization, long and honorable though it may be, is never complete. New chapters must be written when in times of stress stalwart men take over the colors.

Now, as in past years, the 149th has its role to play, and that role will add a stirring chapter to its history. New acts of daring, tenacity and courage will be recorded. In some not too distant date, another new chapter will be written, and the historian, I know will find that the 149th has been true to its traditions.

August, 1959

MAP OF
KENTUCKY



THE HISTORY OF THE 149th

Few, if any, military units are richer in history than the 149th Armor Group. Men mustered under its colors have every reason to "step it off" with pride in their hearts. Cast your eye on the top of its color mast and you will see the streamers marked: Buena Vista, Chickamauga, West Virginia, Shiloh, and Mufreesborough. World War I and in World War II, Leyte, Bataan, Luzon each one telling a story of heroic devotion to the safeguarding of the American Way of Life, conceived and fostered by the Fathers of this country. Since the days of its first Commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Boone, no major threat to national integrity has arisen but what the strong arm of the 149th has not been raised in its defense.

Its designation as the 149th Armor Group, goes back only to 1955, prior to this it proudly bore the name 149th Infantry ROT from 1946 to Sept 1955. Even before that it was known as the 149th Infantry Regiment, 38th Division from April 28, 1917 until Jan 1946. It fought as such during both World Wars. But for more than a century prior to these dates it existed under the title of the Second Regiment, Kentucky Militia.

In 1812, when this young nations life was threatened by British attacks, the Second Regiment Kentucky Militia formed part of a hastily organized United States Army. Under the generalship of Andrew Jackson, in the battle of New Orleans, it fought valiantly. Taking their cue from the words of "Old Hickory" himself, "I will smash them, so help me God", the Kentuckians crushed the enemy's every attempt to advance against their position. It was in this battle that the Kentucky soldier's reputation for unerring marksmanship was born.



WAR OF 1812

In this battle the Kentuckians, under General Andrew Jackson, crushed the enemy's efforts to advance against New Orleans.

Years later in the Mexican War, 1846 the Second Regiment was enrolled and mustered into Federal service. It served with General Winfield Scott and made the epoch-making march from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. Scott culminated this campaign with storming the heights of Chapultepec. Here too, the ancestors of the 149th Armor the thick of the ing themselves tion. Again at Feb 23, 1847 when of General Taylor's ended, the battle " Hold 'em, They held and was won. They were service at New 9, 1847.

Came the War States; Kentucky its sympathies. On Second Regiment tears was mustered Camp Clay, Ohio. H. Woodruff was its The following troops left for ing Virginia. They at Guyandotte. They Ganley Bridge, Va. they marched to where they marked victory over the under General the bluff, they Camp Poco, Va. Creek at which Woodruff, Lt. Col. Hurd and Austin by the enemy.

ment then Floyd's command forces. From there

ed to Charleston, Va. to go into winter quarters. In Jan 1862, it was ordered to Kentucky and reached Bardstov on Feb 5th leaving there it marched to Pittsburg landing arriving on April 6, 1862. During the sweltering summer of 1862 the regiment busied itself with guarding the army's long line of communications against the enemy attack. It was in the thick of the fight against the forces of General Bragg when the latter invaded Kentucky and Tennessee. It participated in the siege of Corinth, Miss. after which it moved to Athens Ala. From there it moved to Murfreesborough Tenn. to guard the railroad between that point and Nashville. Companies E and G were captured by Forests Cavalry in July 1862. From Murfreesborough, it moved south to Chatanooga and fought at Chickamauga. In May it moved to Kingston Ga, thence to Resaca Ga, where it remained doing garrison duty until Jun 1864 when it went to Covington Ky where it was mustered out of the service Jun 19, 1864.



MEXICAN WAR

In the battle of Buena Vista the cry went up: " Hold 'em, Kentuckians." They held and another victory was won.

Group were in fight, cover- with distinc- Buena Vista the right wing army was threat- cry went up; Kentuckians." another victory mustered out of Orleans La, Jun

between the was divided in Jun 13, 1861 the Kentucky Volun- into service at A Colonel William commanding officer. month he and his the front, invad- forced a landing fought too, at And from there Barboursville, a hard won enemy forces Jenkins, From marched to near Scury place Colonel Neff and Capt. were captured

The regi- engaged of the rebel it was orden-



CIVIL WAR.

In the war between the states the ancestors of the 149th were in the thick of the fight against forces of General Bragg when the latter invaded Kentucky and Tennessee.

It was then commanded by Col. Allen W Gullion. Mobilized at Ft. Thomas Ky. and moving to Camp Owen Berne, Ft Bliss Texas, the Kentuckians became a part of the Tenth Provisional US Division in Texas, under the command of Brigadier General Charles E Morton. The Regiment was assigned a defensive sector along the north bank of the Rio Grande River, from El Paso to Fort Hancock. At the termination of its border duty the Regiment was ordered home and mustered out of Federal service at Fort Thomas, Feb 15, 1917.

But with the World War and its consequent threat to this country the Regiment's leave from Federal service was short-lived. In the latter part of March 1917, the Governor of Kentucky called the Regiment into State service to protect vital transportation lines and industrial points. One month later President Wilson ordered it into Federal Service. Assembled at Camp Stanley, near Lexington, the Regiment moved to Camp Shelby, Miss. It was here that it was designated the 149th Infantry Regiment Seventy-fifth Brigade, Thirty-eighth, "Cyclone", Division.

Early in 1918, after undergoing a period of training at Camp Shelby, the majority of the Regiment's personnel was sent to France as replacements for other units. A skeletonized 149th was left at Hattiesburg, Miss. However, new flesh and blood was soon supplied. Soldiers from Kentucky, Arkansas, and Illinois were moved in to fill its required complement. But again in the spring of '18 the Regiment was called upon to furnish replacements for depleted units abroad.

Besides the many skirmishes and minor engagements, it participated in the following battles, in which loss was sustained: Barbourville and Gauley Ridge, Va; Corinth, Miss; Stone River, Tenn; Chickamauga, Ga; Charleston W. Va.; Scary Creek, Va and Cripple Creek Tenn.

Immediately after the declaration of War with Spain by the United States on April 22, 1898, the Second Infantry, Kentucky State Guard was mobilized at Lexington, Ky and was mustered into the service of the United States with the designation of Second Kentucky Infantry U.S. Volunteers. Again the regiment had moved to the defense of its country. It took up training quarters at Chickamauga. Though in this short conflict it did not experience actual combat, its casualty list was very large. Sanitary conditions at the camp were so deplorable that a typhoid fever epidemic broke out, claiming many lives. The regiment was mustered out of Federal service Oct 31, 1898.

Following the Spanish War, the regiment was reorganized by the late Brigadier General Roger D Williams, afterwards commander of the First Kentucky Brigade. The regiment remained in State service, participating in annual encampments and important State duties. The Mexican Border disturbances necessitated its being called into Federal

Late in 1918 the Regiment moved as a unit to France. On arrival overseas it trained for a short period at Nantes, and lastly at LeMans. But it did not engage in combat as a unit. It was broken up into replacements, both officers, and enlisted men, for front-line duty. In this wise it fought under the regimental colors of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Forty-second Divisions.

Following the World War, and pursuant to the National Defense Act of 1920, the Regiment was reorganized and redesignated the 149th Infantry, a part of the Seventy-fifth Brigade and the Thirty-eighth Division. It is noted that the Thirty-eighth Division was the first National Guard Division in the United States, following the World War, to train annually in the field as a completely organized Division. Each year it met at Fort Knox, Kentucky for its training.

With the advent of the second World War and the unchecked conquest of Europe by Hitler's forces it was apparent that this nation was in dire threat of attack. The 149th Infantry Regiment was then composed of units scattered throughout the State of Kentucky. On January 17, 1941, President Roosevelt ordered the Regiment's induction into the Federal service. From near and far Kentuckians poured in to take up arms against the great menace to their democratic way of life. They were united under the command of Colonel Roy W. Easley, later retired with rank of Brigadier General.

On Feb 28, 1941, the Regiment arrived at Camp Shelby, Miss. there to begin a period of intensive training. Schooling in the art of battle reached its peak in the Louisiana maneuvers. The maneuvers lasted from Aug 5, to Oct 1, 1941. And during this period the 149th was seldom found in a capacity other than forming the spearhead of attack for the 38th Division.

When General Easley moved up to Division, Colonel "Wild Bill" Taylor took over the reins of the Regiment.

Under his direction the Regiment proved itself able to walk more miles, sleep less and fight harder than any other Regiment in the Third Army. For those with a bent for statistics it is interesting to note that in 1941 maneuvers; The Regiment advanced 173 miles against stiff opposition, at no times losing ground; it traveled 92 miles on foot; it captured 32 officers and 1583 enlisted men, while losing only 15; that it moved its command post 33 times for a total of 247 miles; that finally in its capture of Manfred field it made the first and only penetration of the Second Army line of defense during the whole maneuver.

Back at Shelby after maneuvers, the Regiment again took up training. During the months that followed it established what is believed to be an all time high average in rifle marksmanship; 99.25% of the entire command qualified. Shades of yesteryear, when the Kentuckians with General Jackson were noted for their deadliness of aim.



SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

A typhoid fever epidemic claimed many lives in the 149th during its training at Chickamauga.



MEXICAN BORDER DISTURBANCES

In the Mexican Border Disturbances the 149th was assigned a defensive sector along the north bank of the Rio Grande.

Because of its excellent training record the 149th was a logical choice to supply the growing Army's demand for officers and officer candidates. Hundreds of its men were transferred to infuse experience and skill into newly activated units. Approximately two hundred officers left the Regiment to assist in the direction of other units, while close to three hundred enlisted men were sent to Officer's Candidate School. It is safe to say that in practically every theatre of operations men of the 149th covered themselves with honors as they defended their country in the best traditions of the Regiment.

The 149th no longer though, was exclusively a Kentucky organization. For many men from every state in the Union particularly New York and "Joisey", Pennsylvania and Ga. soon became fillers in the Regiment. Only the states of Delaware and Nevada were not represented in the Regiment. With the exodus of old troops and the arrival of new ones there began a mingling of Yankee and Southern blood. Many nights were spent jovially re-fighting the battle between the states, but there was a solid unity on the field to mold themselves into troops that never knew the word defeat.

Late in the spring of 1942, a new Division Commander was at the helm of the 38th, Major General H L C Jones.

In Sept of 1942 the 149th left Camp Shelby to participate once again in the Louisiana Maneuvers. This time under General Jones with marked success. Of particular note were the crossings of the Sabine River. Twice on the offensive the opposing forces were unable to hold the Regiment from crossing; while on the defensive the opposing forces were unable to cross with any appreciable strength. In every effort of the 38th "Cyclone" Division, the 149th Infantry was much the spearhead of attack.

From maneuver area the 149th moved to Camp Carabelle, Fla now known as Camp Gordon Johnson. Here emphasis was placed upon amphibious training.

In Jan 1943, the Regiment moved to Camp Livingston Louisiana. Florida may be the Mecca of vacationists, but to the 149th, Florida was a litany of soggy days and damp, cold nights. Sand, sand, and more sand. There was a great shout of "hurrah" when the train carried off the last contingent of men.

In Livingston, the 149th engaged in additional training. The old phases were repeated and a few new ones were added. Of particular interest was the training in coordination between air and ground forces and the attacks upon fortified positions.

Time and time again Old Man Rumor wandered through the areas, sometimes whispering, sometimes shouting: "Leaving for foreign duty". With his every appearance the men grew warm with enthusiasm... only to cool off with further delays.

When the summons came to embark, it fell on welcome ears. To a man the men of the Regiment were itching to grapple with something other than a 'dry run' enemy. The order finally came and it found them eager to put into effect the thorough schooling received in the previous months. From Boone to Japan, or Boone to Berlin the 149th was ready and eager to show its "wares"..

Side lights

On the frontpiece of this history is the insignia of the 149th. The shield of blue is for the Infantry. The Civil War service is represented by the white saltire cross voided blue from the flag of the Confederacy. The Mexican War service is represented by the cactus and snake from the Mexican Flag. The World War I service is represented by the ermine chief from the arms of both Brittany and Nantes. The motto of the old Regiment is "Esto perpetua" meaning, "May it live forever".

History records that Colonel John Todd and Lt Colonel Daniel Boone were the first commanders of the military organization from which the 149th stems. Their immediate successors are unknown. Colonel William E Woodruff commanded during the Civil War and the known subsequent commanders are; Colonels Thomas Jefferson Smith, Roger D Williams, J Embury Allen, Allen W Gullion George T Smith, Henry H Denhardt, Jackson Morris, Frank D Rash, Roy W Hasley, William S Taylor, Winfred G Skelton, Arthur C Bonnycastle.

Officers inducted into Federal Service in Jan 1941, still serving with the Guard in some capacity are; Brigadier General Jesse S Lindsay, Colonel Arthur C Bonnycastle, Samuel P Martin, Ferrall J Lewis, Calvert P Small, Nelson A Meredith, Theodore B Lowman, Luther M Greer.

During the Civil War between the States, there was two regiments bearing the title of the Second Kentucky Infantry, one served with the Union forces, and one in the Army of the Confederacy.



WORLD WAR ONE

The 149th sailed for France in 1918 completing its training at Nantes and LeMans, in Brittany, whence the fleur de Lis on the insignia.

Subsequent to the Civil War the Regiment was maintained during various periods as a part of the Kentucky State Guard; the history is meagre and is mostly tradition. The same is true of the 3rd Kentucky Infantry which later became a part of the 149th Infantry during WW I.

In early 1942, two combat teams from the old Regiment, "pulled" duty at New Orleans and Texas City, Texas, with the mission of repelling any attempted attacks upon the Gulf shore within their designated boundaries..

First casualty of the 149th was Cpl Guyle O Brown of Co L 149th who drowned on Oct 22, 1942 while crossing the Sabine River about two and one-half miles below Burr Ferry Bridge. This soldier was acting as a scout for a patrol which was making a feint river crossing to attract the opposing forces while the rest of the company crossed the river 800 yards north of this point. Cpl Brown was posthumously awarded the Soldiers Medal.

Other highlights of the Guard has been, functioning in such capacities as guarding prisoners in transit from jail to trial, acting as guards during trials, serving at various conventions, assuring the right of free suffrage on two occasions in Harlan County, maintaining law and order at Churchill Downs for the running of the Derby. One of its greatest services to the state was rendered during the 1937 flood in Louisville, when a radio station was established at Frankfort and a state wide net was operated; also detailed police duty was done during the high water and after the flood waters had receded.



MANUEVERS 1942

One of the 149th's outstanding successes in the 1942 maneuvers was the crossing of the Sabine River

In the museum of Kentucky State Historical Society there are many war relics and Militia accoutrements on display among which are: A brass cannon captured by General Gates at Saratoga Oct 17, 1777, re-captured by Kentucky troops at the Battle of the Thames Oct 5, 1813; Street Sweeper and old machine gun with twenty-five barrels; Spanish-American field artillery piece; Guns from WW I; Flags and banners depicting many units and various national colors. In the Gun Room, various old Kentucky rifles are on display including the famous Kentucky rifle; pioneer shotguns called the "Folkstalks"; arms of the Militia from 1812-1860; principal arms of the civil war; arms of the militia from 1864-1906; principal arms of World War I 1914-1918; World War Accoutrements 1914-1918; pistols and revolvers from 1700-1900; firearms of unusual classifications such as the Harpoon gun, Sassafras, Pottsdam rifle, etc; also in the museum is the Lynn Turner collection of various firearms; and in the House of Representatives, the famous Daniel Boone gun and that of Isaac Shelby.

The hectic years of W.W.II.

One of Louisiana's Northerns was whistling through the slash pines and the Regiment was still training. There were ten and twenty-five mile speed marches, physical fitness tests, AGF tests and baptisms of fire.

Finally orders came for the movement to Hawaii, through New Orleans and the Panama and on 4 Jan 1944 the Regiment departed from the Port of New Orleans.

It was in the Yucatan straits that the Regiment felt the tension of War. A Nazi Wolfpack lurked along the course. B 26's got two of them and the convoy moved on unmolested.

At Panama, the sister Regiment the 150th, was greeted and joined the convoy.

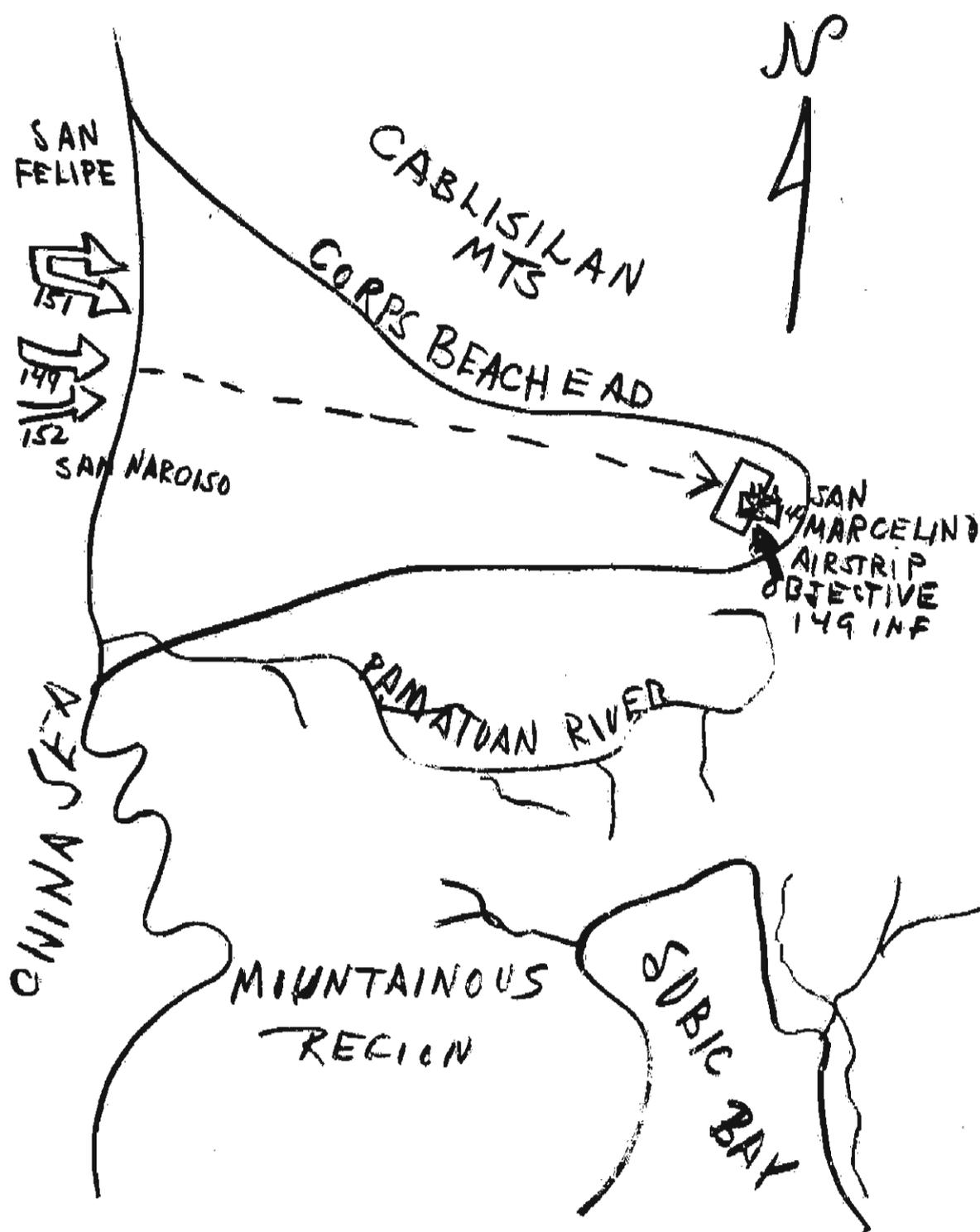
Diamond Head slipped by off the starboard and with the strains of Aloha to greet the Regiment, it landed in Hawaii on 25 Jan 1944.

Beaches were protected and the men began extensive training in Jungle warfare and landings.

On 10 July 1944, the Regiment left Hawaii and was well on its way across the equator and the International Dateline before New Guinea was confirmed as the next stopping place.

Keeping the jungle away from Ora Bay was a part of the conditioning. Athletics in the afternoon and movies at night made life endurable. At Thanksgiving the outfit moved north for War had returned to the Phillipines.





INITIAL LANDING AREA

291800I JAN 45

the old "Second Kentucky Infantry", once commanded by Daniel Boone, was the epic march along mountain trails in Luzon made by the 149th Infantry Regiment.... A tortuous route believed never before to have been trod by a white man was followed to seal off retreat of the Japs into Bataan at ZigZag Pass, where the 38th Division won the title "Avengers of Bataan".

The 149th completed its march on 5 Feb 1945, linking up with the XIV Corps elements. While the third battalion moved down the east coast of Bataan, the remainder of the Regiment drove back through ZigZag Pass. It was tough, dirty fighting.

The bloody fighting lasted for endless hours, yard by yard they moved forward. Bringing tanks into action the Nips temporarily halted the advance. On 7 Feb the 149th again attacked and was stopped. On 11 Feb another attack was launched from both the east and west and on 12 Feb patrols from the 149th and the 152nd contacted each other and on 14 Feb the two Regiments linked up in strength and the last strongpoints reduced. The 149th then drove back thru Dinalupiban and down Bataan peninsula to link up with its third battalion.

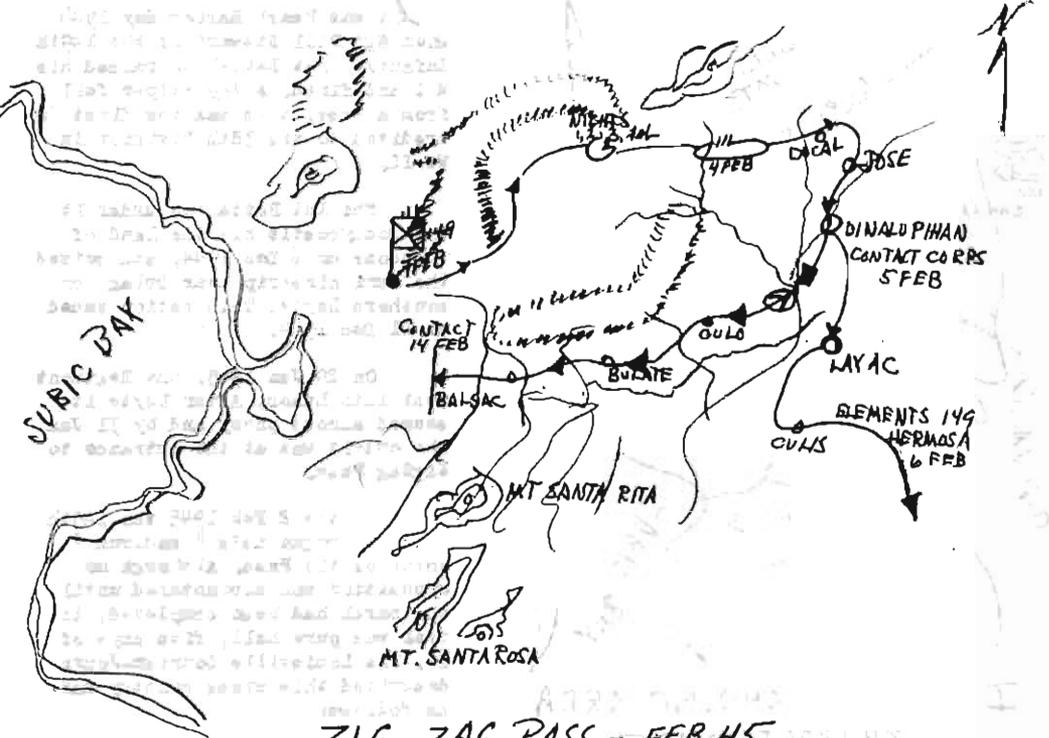
It was Pearl Harbor day 1944 when Sgt Bill Stewart of the 149th Infantry, 1st Battalion raised his M1 and fired. A Jap sniper fell from a tree, this was the first Jap credited to the 38th Division in WW II.

The 1st Battalion under Lt Col Bonnycastle hit the land of typhoons on 6 Dec 1944, and seized the Buri airstrip near Dulag on southern Leyte. This action ended on 11 Dec 1944.

On 29 Jan 1945, the Regiment went into Luzon. After Leyte it seemed almost phony and by 31 Jan the outfit was at the entrance to ZigZag Pass.

On the 2 Feb 1945 the 149th Infantry began its "end-run" north of the Pass. Although no opposition was encountered until the march had been completed, the trek was pure hell, five days of it. The Louisville Courier-Journal described this cross country march as follows:

"Reminiscent of the days of



ZIG-ZAG PASS - FEB 45

ZigZag Pass was open. Bataan was denied to the Japs as an escape heaven and the battle of Luzon was appreciably shortened.

On 18 Feb the 149th attacked along the Bagao-Pilar road, Highway 111, and on 21 Feb, a link up was made with the 151st. Control was established over the two main roads of Bataan. Eighteen days after the battle of ZigZag Pass had begun Bataan was in the hands of the US Army.

From 7 March to 30 April, the elimination of enemy resistance took place in the vicinity of Clark Field and Ft Stotsenburg. While this was an unspectacular operation, nearly 8,000 Japs were killed and 75 captured. This "mopping up" was to become one of the most difficult series of engagements in the long Luzon campaign.

On 30 April the "mopping up" operation was moved to Sierra Madre mountains. To narrate the action is difficult as responsibility for sectors changed too rapidly as weary groups were withdrawn for short periods of rest in rear

area. But the 149th in a brilliantly executed and courageous assault took most of the positions on Mt Pacawagan greatly aiding this campaign.

By 27 May, Wawa Dam was seized undamaged to secure the last of Manila's three reservoirs and crack the last fixed Jap strongpoint east of the Capital.



On 18 June, the 149th moved on to secure Mt Domire and clean out the Montalban River Valley. From 23-30 June all units moved to vicinity of the town Bayanbayan and continued aggressive patrolling and offensive action in the area east of My Arayat and Laguna de Bay to the Philippine Sea.

During the month of July and until the Jap capitulation in August the bulk of the fighting was confined to the Infanta area bordering the Philippine Sea. On 11 Aug a simple "Flash message" announced the "negotiation for peace".

The Division began preparations to return to the States at the end of Sept. but outposts were maintained in the hills until relief by another Division on 5 October. In 217 consecutive days of combat on Luzon the 38th had opposed more than 80,000 Jap troops and had killed 26,732.

On 5 October all units were officially relieved of all combat responsibilities and by the end of the month were bound for Los Angeles.



The word rotation was forgotten, in its place and in the minds of everyone was the word "points".

Fortunately for the men of the 38th during this trying time of demobilization, most base camp installations were completed by V-J day. There were Red Cross canteens, a large central installation called Cyclone Center where the men could read, write or relax. Movie theaters were built in all areas, many with cover to keep off

the rainy season's downpours. Stage shows, boxing and even an airstrip was converted into tennis and basketball courts. Bowling halls, driving ranges for the golfers, pool tables, barber shops, a cock fighting pit, souvenir shop, and the greatest of all - ice cold bottle cokes, stateside hamburgers and doughnuts.

While all this was provided for recreation, the Division operated a full scale college for those who wished to study any of a hundred of courses.

The end of October found the Division on its way to the United States.

The morning was foggy. Catalina was a barely visible blot on the horizon as they moved eastward. A Navy anti-submarine blimp with gay colors a big welcome home sign, and a loud speaker which Dinah Shore sang over hung overhead.

Soon the breakwater appeared and the Los Angeles port's greeter boat, The Snafu Maru, hove to. A band played "My Old Kentucky Home", and many soldiers swallowed hard and had moist eyes.

The last beachhead was made, this one standing up to be greeted by "White girls" and friendly natives.



HEADQUARTERS XI CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 471

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Relief of 38th Infantry Division from Assignment XI Corps.

TO: Commanding General, 38th Infantry Division, APO #38.

1. As of this date, by orders over which I have no control, the 38th Infantry Division is being relieved from assignment to XI Corps.

2. The 38th Infantry Division landed with the XI Corps on 29 January 1945. Since that date it has been continuously in this command. It has fought in Zambales, Bataan, Corregidor, Caballo Island, Carabao Island, west of Fort Stotsenburg and for the last several weeks in the Marakina area east and northeast of Manila. The tasks given the division have been difficult. It has covered a lot of area, fought many good fights and always performed any assigned duty with great credit to itself and to the Army. It has never asked odds of anyone, never cried about an assignment, and always accepted a difficult task without complaint.

3. I regret very much having the division pass from my control. I would welcome it in any fight which may fall to the lot of XI Corps. It has done a very fine job under most difficult conditions and one for which it may well feel proud.

4. I hope you will convey to all ranks in your command my sincere appreciation for the wholehearted cooperation and fine fighting qualities which enabled your division, "The Avengers of Bataan," to accomplish its mission in every instance. I sincerely regret that the division is no longer a part of the XI Corps.

C.P. HALL
Lieutenant General, USA,
Commanding

1st Ind.

201.22

HEADQUARTERS, 38th Infantry Division, APO #38, 3 July 1945.

TO: All Units, 38th Infantry Division.

1. I, as Division Commander, am very proud to pass on to you, the commendation of our Corps Commander.

2. A copy of this communication will be posted on all bulletin boards.

Wm C Chase
WILLIAM C. CHASE
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 38th INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 38

12 October 1945

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 38th DIVISION

Upon the eve of the departure of this division for the United States for demobilization, I wish to express my appreciation for the fine spirit and efficiency displayed by all units and individuals in carrying out their mission in spite of difficult conditions. All are to be congratulated on a job well done. The division has made an enviable record of which all may be proud.

You will return to civilian life with experience which will stand you in good stead in facing the great responsibilities you will encounter.

I wish you all godspeed and a quick and safe journey home.



FREDERICK A. IRVING
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

The rest took so little time. By train to Camp Anza... Los Angeles headlines.. " AVENGERS OF BATAAN RETURN..... FIRST HOME FROM PACIFIC WAR ". that inevitable medical exam.... that wonderful steak dinner.... sleep in bed with sheets... new clothes... a telephone call home..... Ice Cream and milkshakes... a train trip to the separation center near home... twenty-four to forty-eight hours and home.....HOME.

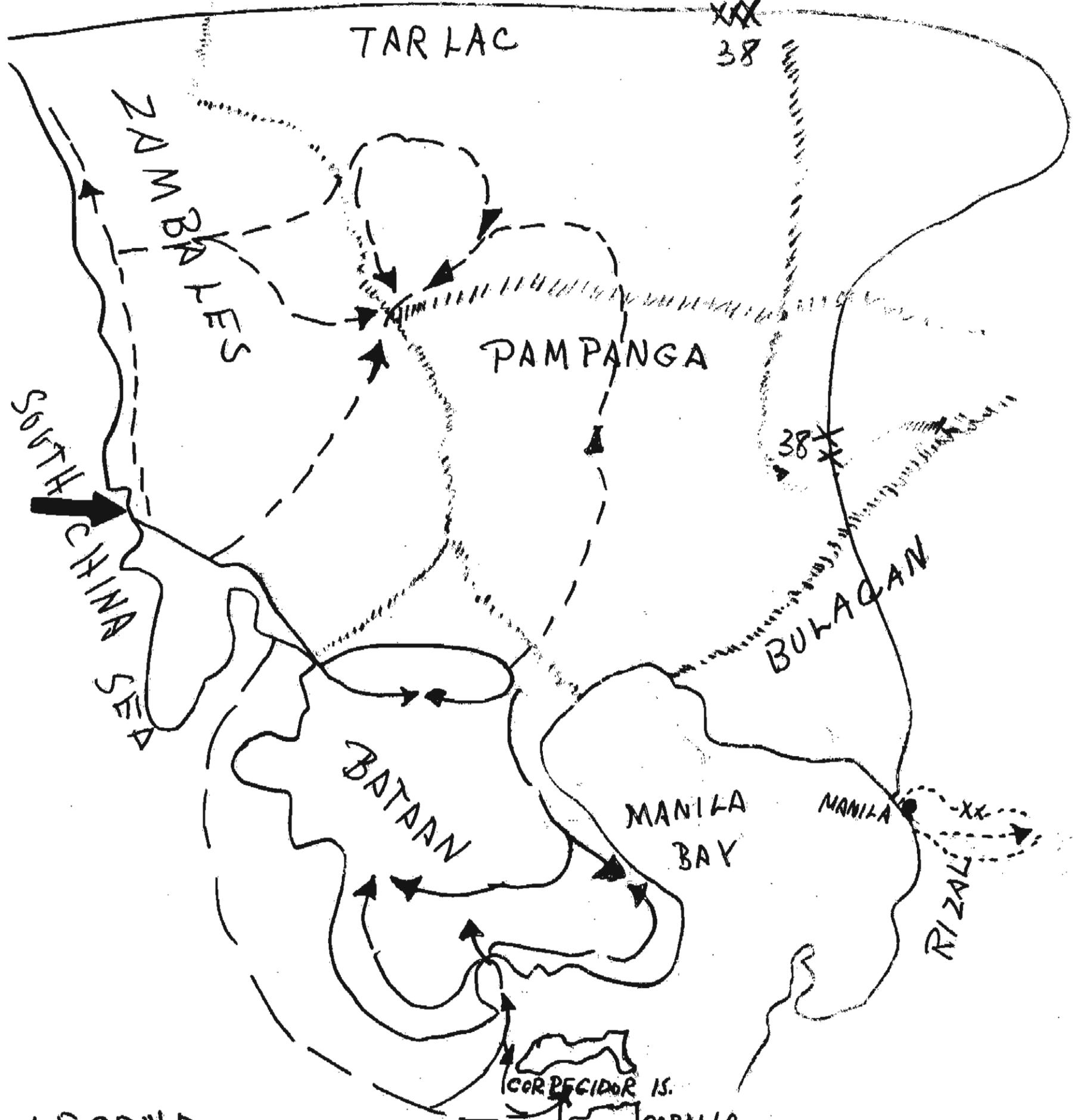
The muffled clanking of tire chains left no doubt that the afternoon snow was slick and deep. The soothing crackle of the logs in the open fireplace left no doubt that home was the most wonderful place in the world. The soft, unhurried sentences spoken in the family gathering left no doubt that an important mission was just ahead. It was Thanksgiving Day 1945. The mission, LIFE as CIVILIANS.....

LUZON, P.I

FC IJA

TARLAC

XXX
38



LEGEND

- INITIAL LANDING-ZIG-ZAG
- BATAAN-ADJACENT ISLANDS
- STOTSENBURG AREA
- OPERATION EAST OF MANILA

WORLD WAR II
BATTLE GROUND

Highlights



"SPEAKS" ?

..... At a crossroads in Bataan there now stands a monument. It commemorates the part that the men of the 38th, living and dead, played in the liberation of the Philippines..... The memorial stands at the junction of Bataan and Dinalupihan Highways, at the entrance of ZigZag Pass. It is a simple shaft bearing the plaque as shown, next page..... Using only the language of stone and metal it was hard to say " Do you remember ? We do. " But as a symbol of the job done, it will stand for years to come, baked by sun and washed with the rains of a land that few will ever see again... A land that is free now, like ours.....

Sgt Bill Stewart of the 149th Infantry Regiment shot a Jap sniper " deader'n hell" as the first Jap credited to the 38th Division in WW II.

The 38th Division killed 26,469 Japs in the Luzon campaign and captured 1,421.

The last aerial bombardment was conducted by Lt Wachtal with cigarettes, candy bars and chewing gum. To assist in the surrender of "Nips".



" SUPPLY "

Bataan	Caballo
Papanga	Wawa Dam
Zambales	Fort Drum
Zigzag Pass	Sierra Madre Mts

38th INFANTRY DIVISION

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
(Originally National Guard of Ky. Ind.)

IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES

LIVING AND DEAD AND THE 38th TANK
COMPANY OF HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY
WHO DEFENDED THIS GROUND FROM
DECEMBER, 1941 TO FEBRUARY, 1942 -
AND TO ALL GALLANT MEN WHO RESTORED
TO THESE PROVINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF
FREE PEOPLE.

January 19, 1945 to August 16, 1945

149th INFANTRY
151st INFANTRY
152nd INFANTRY
138th Field Artillery Battalion
139th Field Artillery Battalion
163rd Field Artillery Battalion
150th Field Artillery Battalion
113th Engineer Combat Battalion
38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
113th Medical Battalion
38th Special Troops

*

38th Tank Company
(Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion)

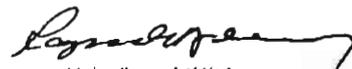


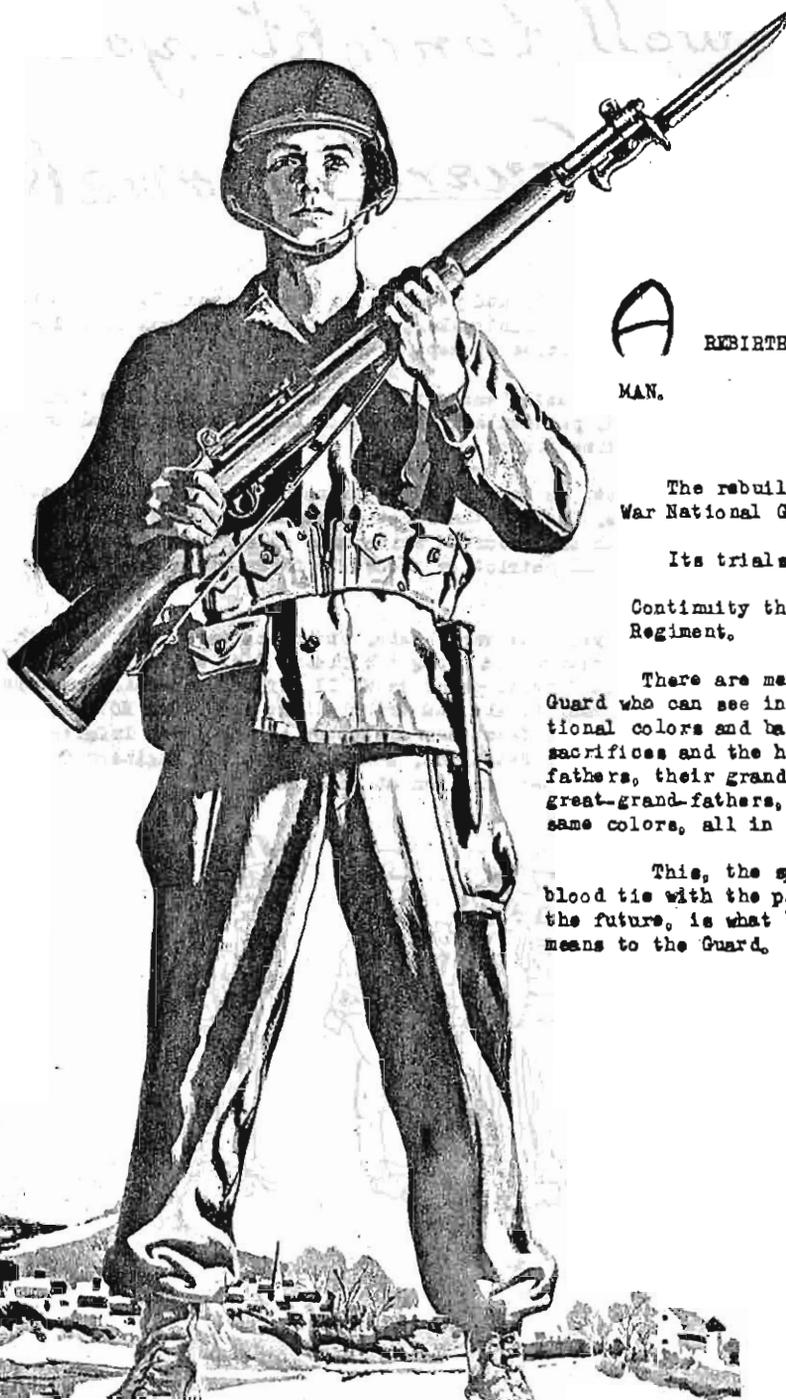
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
National Guard Bureau

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
149th Infantry

*having conformed to the requirements prescribed by National
Guard Regulations, and in accordance with the provisions of
Section 60, National Defense Act, approved, June 3, 1916, as
amended, is extended federal recognition.*

Effective: 25 September 1946
Station: Saint Matthews, Ky.


Major General, U.S.A.
Chief, National Guard Bureau



A

REBIRTH OF THE MINUTE

MAN.

The rebuilding of the Post-War National Guard.

Its trials and tribulations.

Continuity through the Regiment.

There are men in the National Guard who can see in their organizational colors and battle streamers the sacrifices and the heroism of their fathers, their grandfathers and their great-grand-fathers, all under the same colors, all in the same unit.

This, the spiritual and blood tie with the past, and with the future, is what "Continuity" means to the Guard.

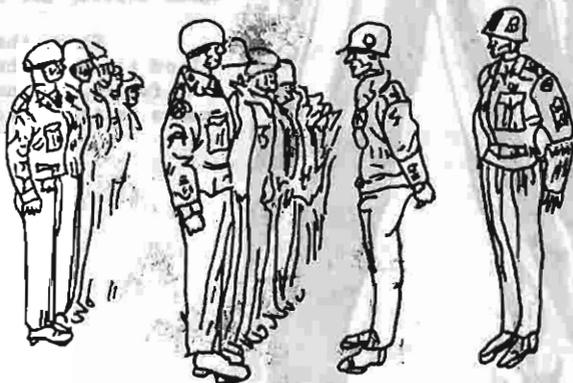
Sleep well tonight..your National Guard is awake!

Following World War II, and pursuant to the National Defense act, 3 Jun 1916, as amended, the 149th Infantry Regimental Combat Team was formed and extended Federal recognition effective 25 Sept 1946.

Colonel Arthur C Bomycastle was given command and it fell his task to re-organize the National Guard, particularly the 149th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, into a well-knit peace time force.

Organization was slow, as many WW II veterans had had all they wanted of uniforms and military units. In 1947 the first encampment after WW II was made at Fort Knox Kentucky with skeletonized units made up of those persons still endowed with the spirit and patriotism needed to formulate a National Guard organization.

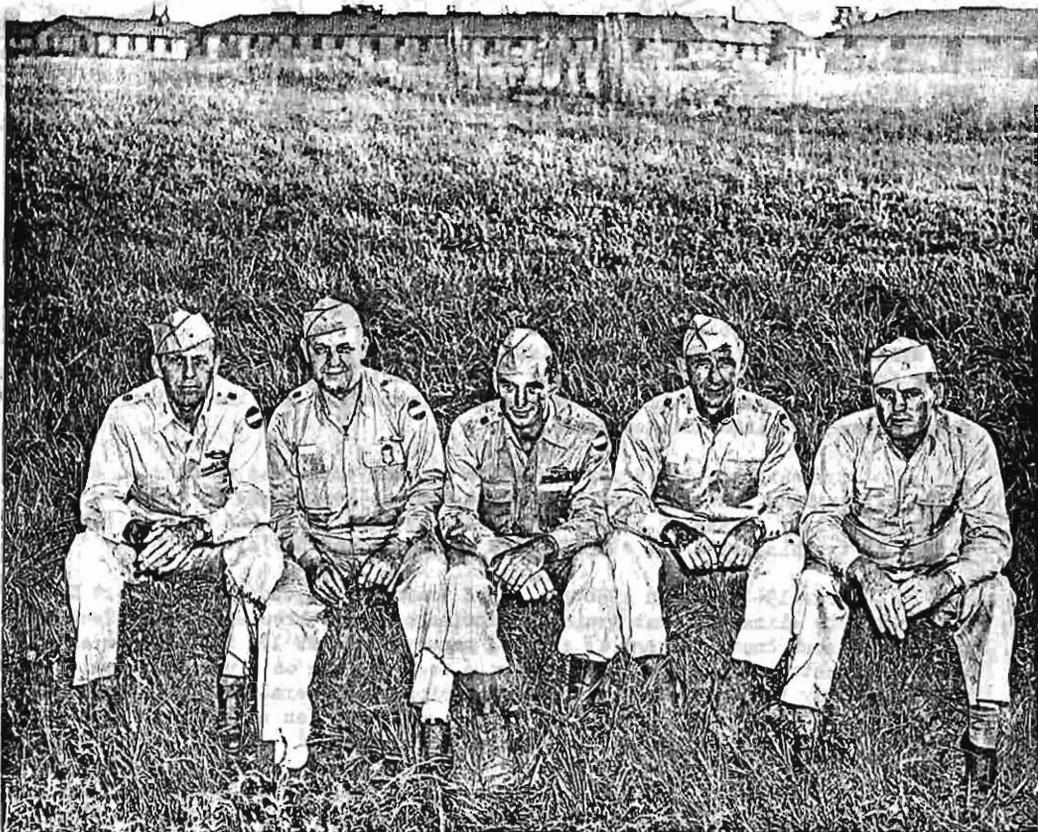
Training this first year was very basic, but plans were laid, even then, for extensive training in the future and a big "build-up" of all units. Many towns that had had National Guard units prior to WW II refused to assist because of various reasons, but after many trials and tribulations the 149th ROT was successfully organized. The combat Team then consisted of the 149th Infantry Regiment, the 441st Field Artillery Battalion, and the 149th (C) Engineer Company. It totaled approximately 1500 officers and men at this time.



Below are shown the officers in the " Key positions " upon reorganization of the 149th, following WW II.

These officers had all had " Combat experience " during the late War and were fully qualified to take command of their respective battalions.

All of these officers had at one time or another served with the 149th during the war years, and made excellent showings with other units in addition, to their terms of service with the 149th. They were all dedicated to the unit and to the National Guard as a whole, as evident by their devotion to duty and untiring efforts in the dark days of reorganization.



Colonel Arthur C Bomycastle, Comdg; Lt Col Wilmer Meredith, Ex O; Lt Col Norvel Moore, C.O. 3rd Bn; Lt Col Thomas Jones, C.O. 2nd Bn; Lt Col C O Burch, C.O. 1st Bn

uring the period 1947-
to 1950 through untiring
efforts of the various com-
manders, their staffs and
the " new " full time army
(ARNG) technicians the
organizations grew into
well trained outfits
with good equipment
and a substantial
increase of strength.

Also during
this period a new
Army Board was
created and by
its efforts
many new
Armories were
started, and a
few completed.

The Korean con-
flict again caused
the National Guard to
come to the aid of its country.
The 149th was placed upon a stand-by
alert and many of the Artillery units of
the State, started processing immediately for
entry into the Federal Service. Along with the artillery, many of the " spare parts " ,
such as the Engineer Battalion, the Ordnance Companies, and the Medical Ambulance,
Company was sent into this conflict..

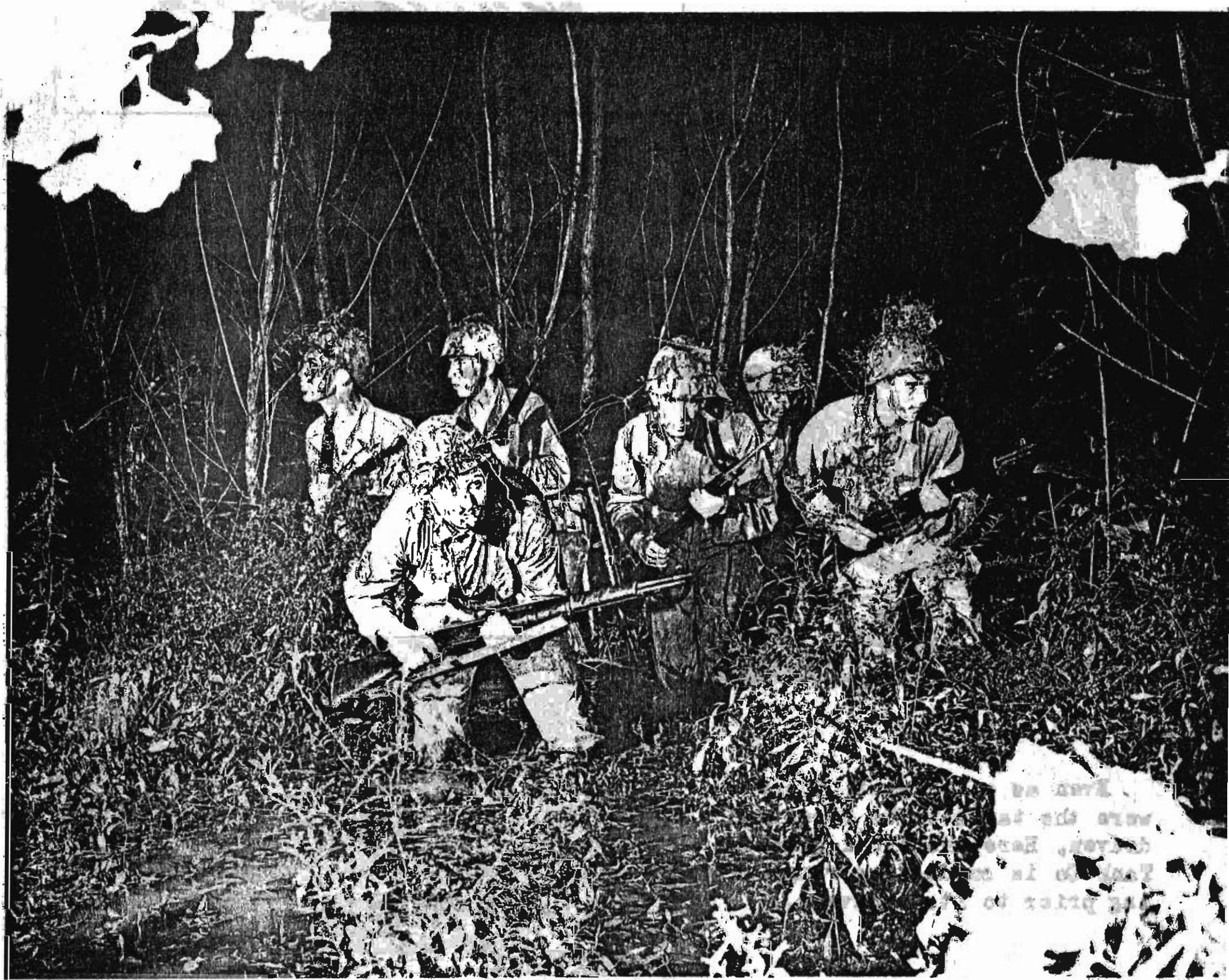
Training continued for the 149th and the units had reached an excellent
state of training, such an excellent state, that no longer was it required to ask
the Regular Army to assist in this training, but the 149th was able to conduct all
phases of training with its own officers and qualified NCO's.

From 1947 through 1952 all field training was conducted at Fort Knox
Kentucky, the climax of that training culminated in a three day Combat Team
problem of such capacity that it rivaled maneuvers of WW II. The problem ended
with a demonstration of the "combined arms team" attack on a prepared position
utilizing only National Guard troops and equipment. General Collier, Post
Commandant at that time, stated " As fine a demonstration as has ever been put
on with Army troops in their final stages of training."

In the years 1953-1954, field training was held at Fort Campbell,
Kentucky. The ROT had reached a strength of approximately 3500 officers and
men and attained a fine state of readiness unsurpassed by any National Guard
unit. During this same period the 149th assisted in the re-organization of
those units returning to state duty from the Korean conflict, and was instru-
mental in the drive for increased strengths state wide.

Training in the post War years was anything but basic. As shown in the picture below. The units took a " post graduate course " in all phases of tactics to include, scouting and patrolling, and the new " aggressor type " training.

The interest shown by the men is evident in the picture, no half-way measures were satisfactory, but rather an all " out effort " was made for realism and sincere effort by all, both officers and men,



Firing of weapons too, was a facet of the re-education and indoctrination of the new men.

Here, the men are firing the qualification course for the Heavy Machine Gun Cal.30 water cooled, during field training at Ft Knox Ky in the early stages of re-organization.



Firing of crew served weapons was the normal procedure each year of field training, prior to the rough and ready tactical training given each year.

Here a crew is getting ready to fire the 81 MM Mortar in a firing test.

Even as a Regiment, there were the tanks to be fired and driven. Here the old Regimental Tank Co is conducting range firing prior to its maneuvers.





At the end of field training 1954, rumors began of a reorganization of all National Guard units to fit the new troop lists set up by the Department of Army. This was to be nation wide and would "do-away" with all Regimental Combat Teams. The rumor was partially true, certain Combat

Teams were to be retained, but the 149th was one of those slated for a new designation.

Early in 1955, word came that the 149th was to reorganize into an Armor Group following field training that year. The Armor Group would consist of the Hqs and Hqs Co 149th Armor Group, and four attached tank battalions.

As this redesignation was not to be completed until the end of Sept 1955, the ROT made its final encampment, as such, at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky in August that year. Although the new organization was known, the efforts and energy of all the officers and men was directed in completing a field training period to surpass all previous periods in excellent manner. This was accomplished as the records show, that this field training stamped the organization as one of the outstanding National Guard units nation-wide. The training was rugged, long and tedious, and ended in a "blaze of glory" both literally, and figuratively, as a night long "Night-illumination" problem was fired by the ROT. Not only did the entire National Guard of Kentucky witness this demonstration, but the 83rd Division of Ohio, and many visiting dignitaries were present. The many comments and commendations resulting from this demonstration again attested to the fine state of training and the terrific spirit of the 149th ROT. This was also reflected in the annual reports of the inspecting officers of the Army, and the glowing reports made by the visiting Army "Brass".

On 25 Sept 1955, the ROT, was redesignated as the 149th Armor Group, with effective date retroactive to 25 Sept 1946. Here ended an illustrious history as an Infantry unit and began an entirely new facet of training, that of Armor, "The Arm of Decision".



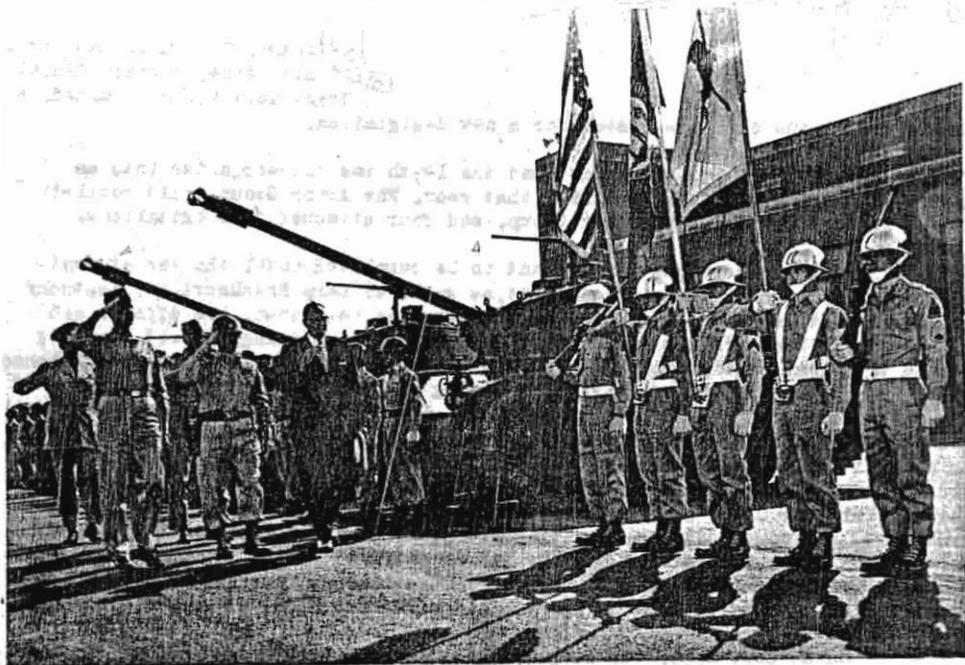
"Gravel Agitator"



"Tank Jockey"

Here, the first year at Ft Knox as the 149th Armor Group, the Honor Guard in all its splendor, is meeting Lt Governor Harry Lee Waterfield, who represented the Governor at the annual Governor's Day Review.

The personnel and equipment in the picture is that of the Guard, and was taken at the Lt Governors, landing at Godman Field just prior to the Review. Following the Review, there was a luncheon given for him, his staff and the many other visiting dignitaries at a regular " G.I. " mess hall.



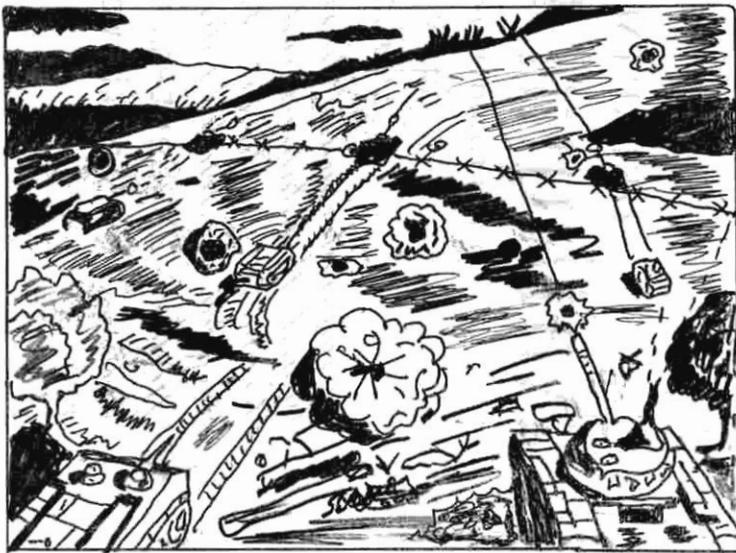
Extreme left is General "Jack" Ryan, Commander of Ft Knox, in civilian attire is Lt Governor Harry Lee Waterfield.

The wheels of progress had ground-out the " Gravel Agitators " and had planted them inside a Tank to become suddenly a new breed known as " Tank Jockies". Many old time " dyed-in-the-wool" infantrymen, were bitter, remorseful and disillusioned, and a tremendous task of conversion faced all concerned. Not only in an entirely different phase of training, but also in acclimating "old soldiers" to a modern, fast driving, hard hitting, mud -slinging unit known as Armor, the spearhead of the modern Army.

So, on this date, 25 Sept 1955, began a new and different way of life for many of the personnel of the 149th. Fortunately, many of the officers and men had had Armor background prior to serving with the ROT, and with these as a nucleus, and the old Regimental Tank Company assisting, training was begun in this new branch.

The 149th Armor Group now consisted of the Hqs and Hqs Co 149th Armor Group, the 240th, 241st, 242nd, and the 243rd Tank Battalions, formed from elements of the old regiment. In the conversion, the 441st FA Battalion, the Mortar Company, and Companies A and H were lost to other organizations. The strength at this time was approximately 1750 officers and men.

By the summer of 1956, sufficient equipment had arrived at home stations and training had reached a state, that the first field training period was a success from all view points. The reports, while not outstanding, were very gratifying and showed the Armor Group was making excellent progress in the right direction. Field training that year, was conducted at Fort Knox Kentucky, the " Home of Armor". During this fitful year many senior and junior officers went to Fort Knox to either become versed in the " ways of Armor" or to be refreshed and brought up to date in the many facets of this new branch.





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
National Guard Bureau

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Hq & Hq Company,
149th Armor Group

having conformed to the requirements prescribed by National Guard Regulations, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 60, National Defense Act, approved June 3, 1916, as amended, is extended federal recognition.

Effective: 25 September 1946

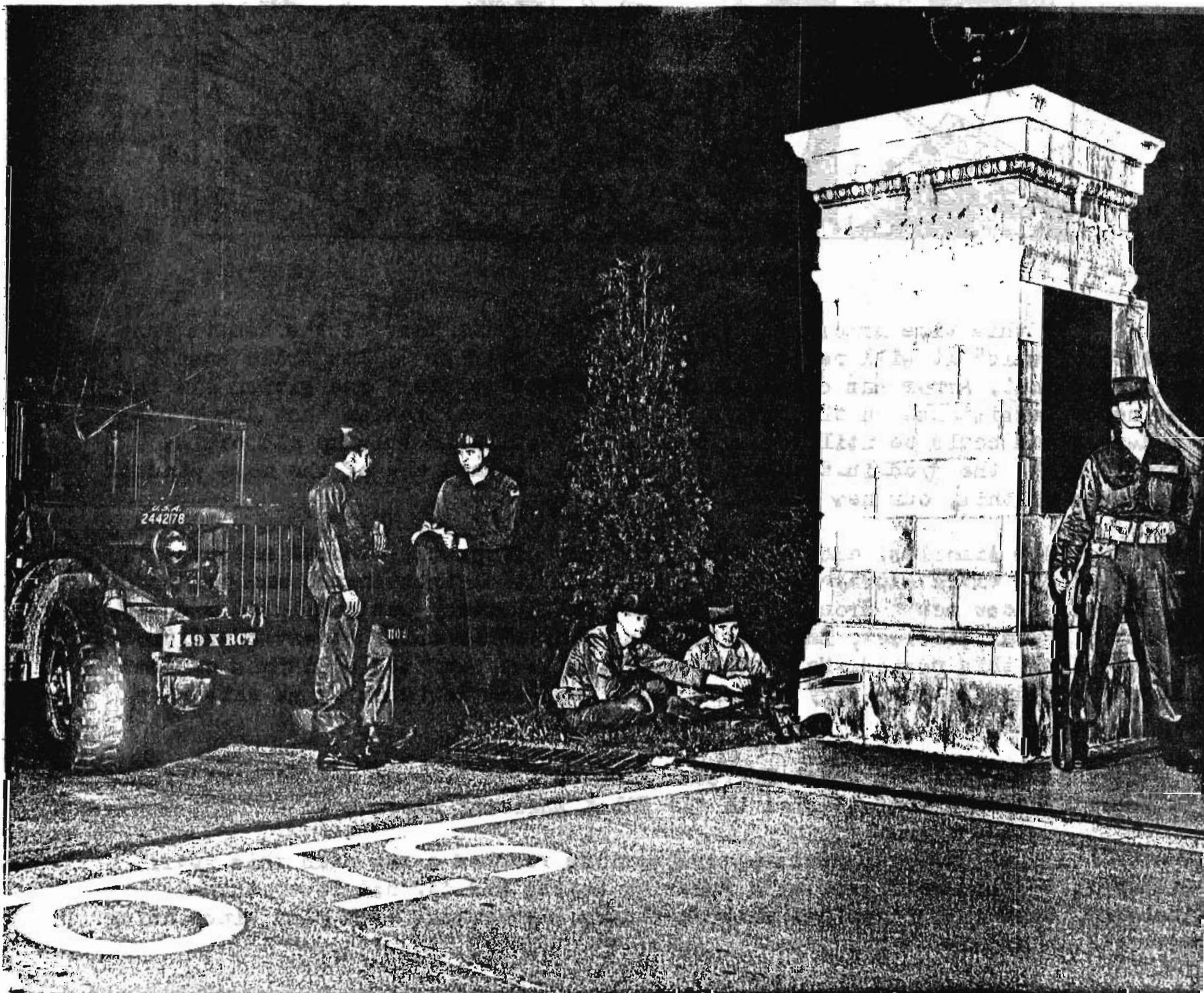
Station: St Matthews, Kentucky

Elmer C. Jackson

Major General, U.S.A.
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Every hour was not spent in "classroom" training, nor was the only "tactics" practiced at field training. During the years, the units had many practice alerts some local, a few nation wide.

Below is shown the Hqs and Service Co of the 240th Tank Battalion, of St. Matthews Ky, guarding the entrance to the Louisville Water Company, one of their primary duties during times of alert. This picture was taken during the national alert in 1957. The alert was a complete success not only from the stand-point of the entire Group, but nationwide. The alert was also tied in with the Civilian Defense Corps and covered all phases of both civilian and military responsibilities.



Left to right, Unidentified driver, Lt Kessler, Sgts, Hulsey, Melone and Golden.

uring the year, 1956-1957, tremendous progress was made and the field training period at Fort Knox Kentucky, was one of complete satisfaction. Great strides toward accomplishing the training goal, that of "Trained Units," not individuals, was also made this same year.



By this time Armor had replaced, Infantry in many of the hearts that heretofore, said "It will never replace the foot soldier". But Armor wasn't trying for that. Armor was complimenting the "foot soldier" and giving him the long needed assistance on the battle field. By the realization that Armor was "modern," and could be utilized so much more readily in this up and coming "Atomic Age", the dyed-in-the-wool infantryman, became one of the most staunch supporters of this, our new branch.

New Armories, and remodeling of many of the old, became necessary, because of the extra storage problems, the additional maintenance and the safe guarding of those new "Iron Monsters". Livermore Armory was completed and dedicated this year, Somerset, Barbourville and many other units received additions or remodeling this period. Many other Armories were promised additions or some changes, but due to budgetary reasons these were not forthcoming at this time.

This year, the 149th Engineer Float Bridge Company was detached from the Armor Group and was assigned to the 201st Engineer Battalion.

Annual Inspector General inspections reached a new high this year, with many of the units getting a Superior Rating and few had lower than Excellent. This inspection has shown a steady improvement each year since being converted, to Armor.

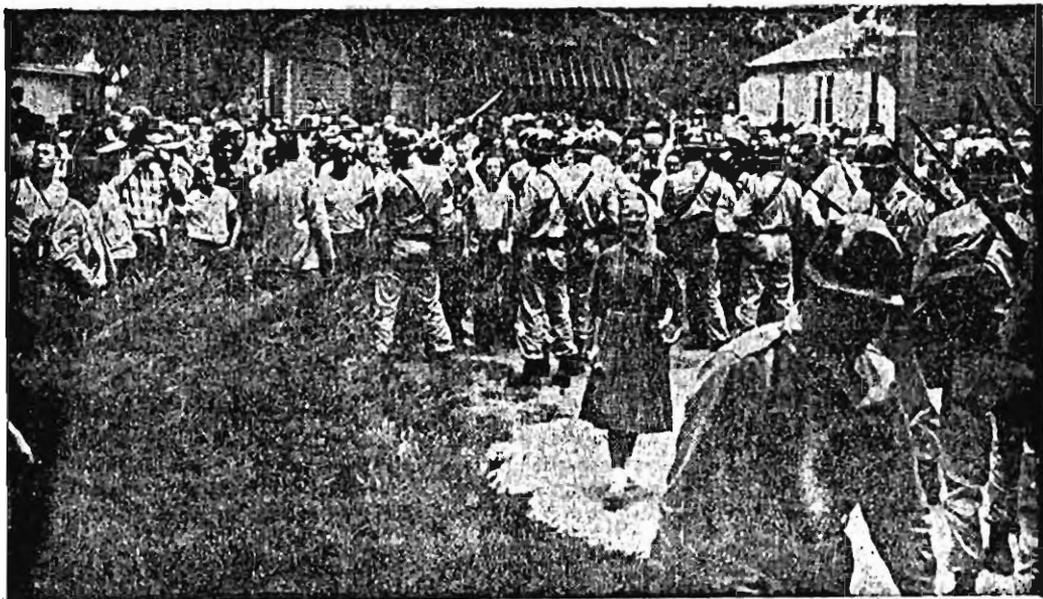
Through a larger allotment of school funds, the 149th Armor Group, was able to send many officers and "key NCO's" to the Armor School there by increasing the efficiency of the entire Group.

September 4, 1957 began "The Halting and Fitful Battle for Integration"

Governor A. B. Chandler alerted the Kentucky National Guard this date. The Guard was to preserve law and order where pro-segregationists were trying to keep Negro students out of a previously white High School.

As the Governor issued his alert at Frankfort, a jeering, unruly crowd of coal miners and farmers collected at Sturgis to keep eight Negro youths from entering classes. Major General J. B. Williams, State AG; Don Sturgill, Safety Commissioner; and Col Paul Smith of the State Police, flew to Sturgis where they were joined by Major (now Lt Col) William Hall of the 240th Tank Battalion.

Four units of the 240th Tank Battalion, supported by tanks, moved into Sturgis that night, prepared to stay until the racial tension had ended.



"Students who wished to attend class at Sturgis High School were allowed through the lines of troops, holding back a jeering crowd of non-segregationists."

On 6 Sept, an angry yelling mob of 400 to 500 persons staged a near-riot, as armed National Guard troops escorted the Negro youths into the school. After a five-minute struggle, the troops were able to get the students through a fist-swinging crowd. The troops sealed off both ends of the street and the crowd subsided to milling groups of ten to twelve persons.

On 7 Sept, racial tension in Western Kentucky spread to the small community of Clay in Webster County. More than 100 residents gathered in front of the elementary school where two Negro children attempted to enroll.

This period of bitterness, and unrest lasted for nineteen days, and only through legal procedure was it finally settled and the troops were withdrawn.



"Jeering crowd is held back in the street in front of Sturgis High School by Kentucky National Guard - equipped with rifles, bayonets gas guns and masks - were from the Louisville, Owensboro, Henderson and Livermore units of the 240th Tank Battalion. Later State police and troops escorted the Negroes away."

In addition to the 240th Tank Battalion, the 241st and the 243rd Tank Battalions were called into this strife, on a rotation basis and as a build up at one time to give sufficient strength to assist the State Troopers in the preservation of law and order over a wide area.

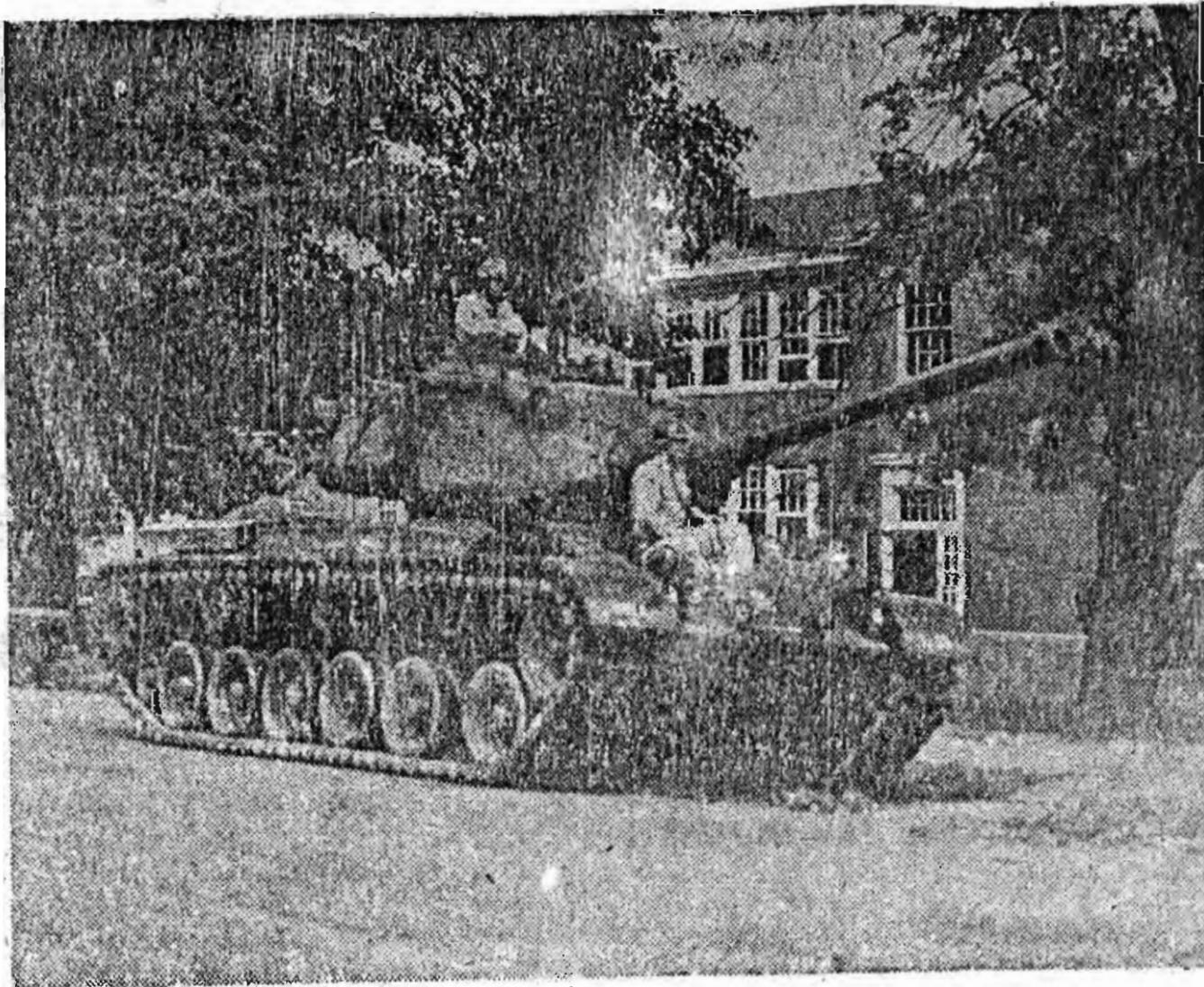
On 23 Sept, the Guard was finally relieved and life returned to normal in the two small towns concerned.

Strife and Struggle 1957



Their "Boycott" over, white students re-enter the school at Clay, watched by Guardsmen, who had stayed on duty. After the Negroes left, the mayor of Clay said, "There will be no integration here this year, next year, or ever."

Kentucky National Guard, members of the 240th Tank Bn, man a menacing looking M 47 tank outside Sturgis High School, where enrollment of Negroes brought strife.



In the fall and winter of 1957, disaster, in the form of floods and flash floods, hit eastern Kentucky. Here again the Guard, mainly the 241st and the 242nd Tank Battalions, showed their worth by greatly assisting the local and state authorities in aiding the homeless, the needy and assisting in control in the disaster areas. Units from Louisville area assisted by hauling clothing, food and bedding to the stricken in the flood areas.

During this fall, The National Convention of the National Guard Association of America, was held in Louisville. It fell to the lot of the local Guard units to furnish many details which included, drivers for sedan, Honor Guards for visiting dignitaries, clerk typists for the many committees, guides, and just plain "labor details". Again the 149th troops associated with the convention "did themselves proud" and handled their many assignments in the manner in which they are accustomed to doing, that of the highest standards.

Truly, 1957, was a year that many of the 149th Armor Group officers and men will have a hard time forgetting, and very few of these will want to forget this year.

1958 brought further acclaim to the 149th Armor Group through ratings both by the Inspector General and those received at annual active duty field training.

During this year elements of the 149th Armor Group were again called to State duty to assist in flood disasters. Again they proved their worth and received accolades from local, state and Federal officials and agencies.

Also in this year came unrest and insecurity through "reductions in strengths" forced by economic pressure by those "higher-ups" and the effect was one of consternation as to the limits that would be established. The strengths of the units were so drastically cut as to effect the efficiency of their operations. But with even this adversity, esprit, morals and training continued to move always "upward".

This same year the Guard, "went in to" the new Army Greens. Officers were instructed to be ready in October to be completely in "uniform." Unfortunately this was not to be true for the enlisted personnel at this time.



"I'm not complaining, Sarge..... but I sure wish the Captain would settle his feud with the USP&FO!"

1959, a year of heart breaking efforts, an up and down battle for strengths, rumors of "rumors" of reorganization again, strike duty, and out of it all a continued increase in efficiency and the attitude that, progress we must, regardless of any and all adversities. Progress has been made in spite of all hindrances.

In the spring of '59 the dreaded "strike duty" of the thirties, was again forced upon the Guard, and in May the 242nd and the 241st Tank battalions, along with artillery units, moved into the coal fields near Hazard, to assist again in preserving law and order. Many incidents of dynamiting and shooting occurred, fortunately no National Guardsmen were injured and after two weeks of duty the Guard was relieved and returned to their home stations. While on duty the Guard was formed into two Task Forces one under the command of Lt Col C "Ossie" Burch of the 241st Tank battalion and the other under the command of Lt Col "Jim" Stocker of the 441st PA battalion to which the 242nd tank battalion was attached.



Prior to field training 1959, rumors became rampant as to complete reorganization of the entire Kentucky National Guard. The Department of Army through the National Guard Bureau, had "come out" with a

new required troop list to meet the present day requirements of the modern day army. While it was expected that such rumors would adversely hinder the training, the year 1959 proved to be the most satisfactory "camp" ever conducted by the 149th Armor Group. The training records are a matter of record and they established such a high standard, that regardless of any contemplated reorganization, they will be difficult to surpass.

No doubt the "new reorganization" will be known in the very new future, and when Old Man Rumor has subsided and the various rumors become known facts, to a man the men of the 149th Armor Group will grapple with any new problem. When the order is finally published, it will find them eager to put into effect the thorough schooling they have received these past many months.

When the present era is recorded for posterity, the 149th will be remembered for its glorious devotion to the American Way of Life.



Some
bare
facts...

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF LINEAGE AND BATTLE HONORS	Status	ACTIVE
Designation HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 149th ARMOR GROUP (SECOND KENTUCKY)	Component	NG (Ky)

Lineage

Parent unit constituted and organized 23 May 1846 as 2d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, composed of volunteers from the enrolled militia of Kentucky

Mustered into Federal service 9 June 1846 at Louisville; mustered out 9 June 1847 at New Orleans, La., and continued in State service as companies of Volunteer Militia

Reorganized 5 March 1860 as the Kentucky State Guard, commanded by Maj Gen Simon Bolivar Buckner; organized into separate battalions of the State Guard during 7 May - 7 November 1860

Separate battalions broken up during 1861 as follows:

Elements with Union sympathy reorganized in Indiana and Ohio as Union regiments, including the 2d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment;

Elements with Confederate sympathy reorganized in July 1861 at Camp Boone, Tenn., principally as the 1st Kentucky Brigade (Orphan Brigade)

2d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Union) organized at Pendleton, Ohio, near Cincinnati, and mustered into Federal service 13 June 1861; mustered out 19 June 1864

Reorganized in 1882 as 3d Battalion of Infantry, Kentucky State Guard, with Headquarters at Lexington

Expanded in 1884 and redesignated 2d Regiment of Infantry, comprised of companies in the eastern portion of the State

Mustered into Federal service 14-25 May 1898 at Lexington as 2d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 31 October 1898 at Lexington and resumed State status (did not serve outside continental United States)

(Kentucky State Guard redesignated Kentucky National Guard, 19 March 1912)

Mustered into Federal service 18 June 1916 for Mexican Border service; mustered out 15 February 1917

Called into Federal service 12 April 1917; drafted 5 August 1917

Consolidated with 3d Regiment of Infantry, less 3d Battalion, K.N.G. (See ANNEX), and redesignated 149th Infantry Regiment, 38th Division, 1 October 1917

Skeletonized in France in November 1918 and used as replacements; records cadre demobilized in January 1919 at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.

Designation HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,
149th ARMOR GROUP (SECOND KENTUCKY (CONT'D))

Component

Lineage

Reorganized 9 December 1920 as a Statewide regiment designated 1st Kentucky Infantry Regiment (Elements in Lexington, Frankfort, and central portion of the State withdrawn and reorganized in 1921 as 53d and 54th Machine Gun Squadrons (See separate lineage, 441st Field Artillery Battalion))

Redesignated 149th Infantry Regiment, 38th Division, 1 July 1921

Inducted into Federal service 17 January 1941 at Louisville

Inactivated 9 November 1945 at Camp Anza, California

Relieved from assignment to 38th Infantry Division, 13 May 1946

Reorganized with Headquarters Federally recognized 25 September 1946 at St. Matthews, Kentucky

(Assigned as the infantry regiment of 149th Regimental Combat Team, 1 May 1949 to 1 September 1955)

149th Infantry Regiment broken up 1 September 1955 with elements converted and redesignated as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 149th Armor Group

(1st Battalion (less Co A) as 241st Tank Battalion (separate lineage);

2d Battalion (less Co H) as 242d Tank Battalion (separate lineage);

3d Battalion (less Co I, K, and L) and Service and Tank Companies as 243d Tank Battalion (separate lineage);

Medical Company and Companies I, K, and L as 240th Tank Battalion (separate lineage);

Company A as 917th Medical Company (separate lineage);

Company H as Battery B, 441st Field Artillery Battalion (See Battalion Lineage);

Heavy Mortar Company as Battery A, 242d Field Artillery Battalion (See Battalion Lineage))

* * * * *

Designation

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,
149th ARMOR GROUP (SECOND KENTUCKY) (CONT'D)

Component

Lineage

ANNEX:

3d Regiment of Infantry (1917) organized in 1882 as 4th Battalion of Infantry, Kentucky State Guard, with Headquarters at Bowling Green

Expanded in 1884 and redesignated 3d Regiment of Infantry, comprising companies in the western portion of the State

Mustered into Federal service 21-31 May 1898 at Lexington as 3d Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 16 May 1899 at Savannah, Ga., and resumed State status

Mustered into Federal service 6 July 1916 for Mexican Border service; mustered out 12-15 March 1917

Called into Federal service 12 April 1917 and drafted 5 August 1917

Broken up and consolidated, less 3d Battalion and other elements, with 2d Regiment of Infantry to form the 149th Infantry Regiment, 38th Division, 1 October 1917

* * * * *

HOME AREA:

State at large

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS:

Mexican War

Buena Vista

World War I

Without inscription

Civil War

West Virginia 1861

Shiloh

Mississippi 1862

Murfreesboro

Chickamauga

World War II

New Guinea

Leyte

Luson

DECORATIONS:

Philippine Presidential Unit Streamer embroidered "17 OCTOBER 1944 to 4 JULY 1945"

Since reorganization in 1946, of the Kentucky National Guard, the 149th has served under the following Adjutants General, Gustavas H May; Roscoe L Murray; Jesse S Lindsay; and J J B Williams.

Since 1946, over 5,000 Guardsman have served at one time or another with the 149th. Many of these are still with the Armor Group after 12 years. Considerable number of ex 149th people are presently serving with the regular Army either as Officers or NCO's.

During 1959, the Armor Group on Annual IG inspection, had numerous Superiors, a few Excellents and only one unit rated as low as Very Satisfactory. In ANACDUTRA, all units were rated far above last years ratings, with a generous amount of Superiors, Excellents and few very satisfactorie..

In addition to the periods of Federal duty, the 149th has served its State in many ways during peace time. These include, flood duty, rescue work, riot duty, preservation of peace and law and order. Further the Louisville units have donated large quantities of blood on various occasions to the Red Cross and received commendations from the Red Cross for so doing.

Officers presently assigned to the units of the 149th Armor Group, are listed in the following pages. Those officers that were in the unit prior to WW II are shown by an asterisk.

No history is ever complete, and usually omits some item of interest to certain individuals. If this be the case with this history, any individuals wishing to have certain highlights or events pointed up should submit them to this Hqs. In event some future historian re-writes the present history, those events could be included in the later addition.

If this history brings any pleasure to the officers and men of the 149th Armor Group, the author will be amply rewarded for his efforts with that knowledge.

The spirit that has prompted the 149th in all its efforts, both in War and in peace, is that same spirit which inspired its predecessors during the years when our citizens were carving out of the wilderness a great state and a greater nation....

EPILOGUE

The National Guard is timeless, having had its roots in the tradition that an American citizen should be ready at any time to bear arms for the common good. Many undying chapters have been written in history of the Guards many and varied accomplishments.

The unique quality of the National Guard lies in its civilian character and in the geographic unity of its component parts. Men who serve in the Guard go on working or studying in the normal way of civilian life while getting their training. The National Guardsman follows a particularly American pattern.....
" Civilian in peace, soldier in war."...

And so it is with those members of the 149th Armor Group. On the printed page it is impossible to transmit the morale, that heroism, the valor and glory that belongs not only to the 149th but to all Kentucky soldiers. From the time when the first Governor, Isaac Shelby, issued his order organizing a State Militia, down to our present time, men of the 149th have in performing their duty, be it to the State or with our Nation, been unselfish and loyal to all.

It is hoped that the past deeds of, and examples of unselfishness and loyalty of those who have past before us will continue to be a guiding light to which the officers and men of the 149th will always look.

It is hoped that this record will become an example to future generations and will inspire them to continue and perpetuate the great tradition of SERVICE as told herein. The National Guard of the future must carry on in the same manner as have Kentucky soldiers in the past.

It is the sincere hope that these printed pages, now, and maybe in years to come will bring joy, pleasure and satisfaction to those who have helped in making the 149th the organization it has become. It maybe that it will renew within some hearts the fire of patriotism and love of SERVICE, which only a true soldier knows.


ROBERT L. HILL
Lt Col Armor Ky ARNG

Headquarters 149th
Armor Group

Arthur C Bonnycastle *
Louis Y Langford *
Lester L Rownd

Robert L Bell
Thomas H Luke *
Robert A Clifton
Herbert B Williams

Robert G Cochran *
Edward F Owens
John A Keefe

240th Tank Battalion

William E Hall
Jack A Gianlombardo
James C Miles
John K Tully
Roger W Montgomery
Douglas L Gipe
Ellis A Price
Lester D Willis
John F Moore

Gerald F Price
Billy M Hedges
Bill V Seiller
Louis G Dawers Jr
Robert M Fiorella
Wayland J Nalley
Albert G Humphrey
Thomas E Lett Jr

Horace H Catinna IV
William L Bird
Richard S Small
Edmund H Taylor
William B Bickwermet
Lee J Poston
Albert G Sutherlin
Robert C Dalton

241st Tank Battalion

Clarence O Burch *
Jack H Ballard
Langdon T Dyer
Donald C Treadway
Ulmont R Taylor
Edward C McFadden
James W Kriner
Theodore Brassfield Jr
Everret C Dick
Archie B Hill

Charles D Black
Oklyn R Carty *
John O Merchant
Maxwell C Williamson
John P Jones
James E Moore
Edward C Bennett
Leo M Henderson
Robert L Reynolds
James D Barton

William E Nau
James W Thurman
Ben L Kinningham
Chester Woolum Jr
James H Williams
Frederick L Dixon
Thomas E Ledridge
Harold J Wilson
Horace G Wilson
Harold L Gant

242nd Tank Battalion

Thomas W Jones*
Glen L Nunley
Enoch L Raybourn Jr
Thearon H Parsons
Richard L Caniff
William J Baker
William H Baldwin
Leonard J Clemons
Edward G Gee
Edwin F Mundy

Theodore B Lowman *
Wayne P Conley
Hobart H Hines
John T McCollum Jr
Carl L Fout
Robert L Dezarn
Edward L Gill
Robert E Pritchard
Arthur B Emmons

Reinhold C Bendl
William B Keeton
Gary L Arthur
Billy G Wellman
Carl D Sparks
John R Anson
Edward H Ratcliff
Gary Robinette
James Esham

243rd Tank Battalion

Nelson A Meredith*
Robert O Pemberton Jr
Thomas J Murphy
Charles A Paul
Robert B Siddens
Lonnie R Taylor Jr
Grover F Van Fleet
Donald L Porter
Herbert L Segler
Warren D Cornell
Garland W Pence

Luther M Greer*
William H Hightower
Harold D Jagers
Charles R Cossy *
William F Ennis III
Claudy C Gregory
Glen N Gill
Thomas C Wilkins
Robert T Kelly
Bennie L Hester
Charles E Coburn

Garland B Reynolds
Ray N Cossy*
Herschel B Stephens
John A Costanzo
James A Wheat
Harlan L Smith
Daniel E Bentley
Charles W Hedges
Richard C Brasher
Rudolph J Farmer
Bobbie G Pedigo

