916TH MEDICAL AMBULANCE COMPANY
KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD
MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY

BY ROBERT E. ROBERTS
INTRODUCTION

Movies and books have often glorified the exploits of large military units such as General George S. Patton Jr.’s Third Army or the Big Red One. More people can tell you what division Audie Murphy served in than can tell you in what company he served.

Often overshadowed are the true service achievements of company-size units in the American military. The real service stories—of soldiers’ dedication, fellowship, anxiety, stress, boredom, excitement, risk, and sacrifice—often remain in the hearts and minds of those who served in these small units.

One such unit was the 916th Medical Ambulance Company, based in Middlesboro, Kentucky, which operated within the National Guard system from 1947 to 1959.

The real story remains in the hearts and minds of those who served in these small units. I found it impossible to compile a complete roster of the company. The best I could do at this late date is this brief description of the 916th, Middlesboro, Kentucky’s first experience with a National Guard unit.

Someone once said “The strongest and the most lasting friendships are those formed in the first season of our lives when we are more susceptible to warm and affectionate impressions.” This was a recurring thought as I assembled this material.

The story of the 916th was gathered largely from documented sources. I did not rely on memory because of the long span of time since the 916th came into existence. That was sixty years ago. I would like to express my thanks to the following individuals that have worked with me to bring this history together. Mr. Thomas Stephens of the Kentucky Historical Society for his editorial assistance with this manuscript. Mr. Jason LeMay of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs for his efforts in getting this history published. The staff at Military Records and Research Branch, Kentucky Department of Military Affairs for assistance over the past few years in researching information and records of the 916th. Finally, Mr. John M. Trowbridge, Command Historian of the Kentucky National Guard for his efforts over the past couple years in researching, and assistance putting together this history of the 916th.

If it is true that we are what we read, I encourage you go back sixty years. Imagine what a small Kentucky town was like and spend a few minutes with the 916th Medical Ambulance Company … when we were young.

SFC Robert E. Roberts,
U.S. Army, retired
September 18, 2007
The photograph on the previous page depicts a view of Middlesboro as it looked in the 1940s, about the time the 916th Medical Ambulance Company was founded. The various businesses are listed below looking east on Cumberland Avenue, starting at 21st Street and ending at 19th Street. According to the 1951 city directory, the following businesses operated on the block:

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<tr>
<th>NORTH SIDE</th>
<th>SOUTH SIDE</th>
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<td>Manring Barber Shop</td>
<td>A.D. Campbell</td>
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<td>Manring Theater</td>
<td>Service Food Market</td>
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<td>Schneider's Grocer</td>
<td>A.B. Snyder &amp; Son Dairy</td>
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<td>Ader's Men Shop</td>
<td>Modern Shoe Rebuilders</td>
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<td>Middlesboro Hospital</td>
<td>Reams Hardware</td>
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<td>Coronet Studio, Photography</td>
<td>Sport Center</td>
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<td>Middlesboro Fed. Savings &amp; Loan</td>
<td>Singer Sewing Machine Company</td>
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<td>Anderson Hardware</td>
<td>Kentucky Utilities</td>
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<td>Middlesboro Ice Cream</td>
<td>Verran's</td>
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<td>Kroger</td>
<td>Morton's Women's Wear</td>
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<td>Scott Stores</td>
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<td>T.H. Campbell</td>
<td>F.W. Woolworth</td>
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<td>Montgomery Ward</td>
<td>Croley Drug Store</td>
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<td>National Bank of Middlesboro</td>
<td>Watson General Merchandise</td>
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<td>Commercial Bank</td>
<td>The Coffee Pot</td>
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<td>Peoples Building</td>
<td>J.C. Penney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee's Drug Store</td>
<td>Yoakum Drug Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Restaurant</td>
<td>A &amp; P Food Store(vacant)</td>
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<td>Dixie Furniture Company</td>
<td>Motch Motor Company</td>
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<td>Hub Bar &amp; Grill</td>
<td>Gibson Music Company</td>
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<td>Brownie Theater</td>
<td>Greer Fruit Company</td>
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<td>George's Tap Room</td>
<td>Courtesy Café</td>
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<td>The Fair Store</td>
<td>Lee Tailoring Company</td>
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<td>The Jewel Box</td>
<td>Latiff Grocer</td>
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<td>Kidd Brothers Grocer</td>
<td>Sterchi Furniture Company</td>
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<td>Mannahaten Bar &amp; Grill</td>
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<td>Middlesboro Hardware</td>
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<td>Colonel's Grill</td>
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The Army National Guard is the oldest component of the United States armed forces and has participated in every war or conflict this nation has fought. Militia companies began with the first English settlements at Jamestown in 1607. As the nation grew, units were formed in towns and cities, large and small. Familiar sites in these communities are the National Guard Armories where members of these units train.

One such unit, the 916th Medical Ambulance Company, came into existence at Middlesboro, Kentucky, in 1947. This is the story of that unit and the men who were part of it. Contrary to the boom times of the post-World War II era in the United States, the growth of Middlesboro was slow. Between 1940 and 1950, the city’s population grew only by 2,705 people, from 11,777 to 14,482.

Citizens were adjusting to a peacetime environment, as items rationed during the war slowly became available. Almost everyone had a friend, neighbor or relative who worked in the coal industry. Other went to northern cities, primarily Detroit, to work in the automobile factories that were working overtime to produce cars to supply the ever-increasing post-war demand.

It was a time of sidewalks and front porches—both of which were used—a time when you knew who your neighbors were. There were no gated communities. If your child got into trouble, chances are you knew about it before he arrived home.

Television had yet to come to the average home, but radios were very popular. Harry S. Truman was president, gas was 15 to 23 cents per gallon and the life expectancy was about 63 years.

People in Middlesboro were talking about ways to improve the community. By late 1945 or early 1946, Lion’s Club members Roy E. Moore and Roy Caywood were discussing the possibility of bringing a National Guard unit to the city, an idea that may have originated with them or, perhaps with a local government official.

At any rate, the Middlesboro Lion’s Club began lobbying Kentucky Adjutant General Gustavus H. May for the construction of a National Guard armory. They were advised that without an activated military unit Middlesboro wasn’t eligible for an armory.

Bringing their political influence to bear, Roy Moore and his friends enlisted state Senator Roy B. Moss and Representative Jack Bingham into the effort. Moore—who had served as an officer during the war and was a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve—agreed to assume command if a unit could be formed.

Before long, the appropriate paperwork began working its way through the state capitol and on to the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., then the entity within the War Department that activated units. And on 6 May 1946, a letter was sent to Kentucky Governor Simeon S. Willis, notifying him that the bureau had constituted a unit as the 916th Motor Ambulance Company and allotted it to the Kentucky National Guard.

Four months later, on 5 September 1946, the
following article appeared in Middlesboro *Three States* newspaper:

Now that the unit was constituted on paper at the state level it had to be established locally. To do this, Captain Moore and his associates—such as Austin Redmon and James Wood—had to find volunteers to be charter members.

Friends, coaches, teachers, media, and civic leaders spread the word. Joining offered several advantages, from receiving a full-day’s pay for a two-hour drill period each week and a two-week summer training encampment with full pay according to rank. Perhaps the biggest incentive was exemption from the military draft, especially for the younger prospective volunteers. Of course there were other reasons to join, such as patriotism, being a part of something big, learning about the military without leaving home, and even just having something to do in a small town.

As in other military units, young men would be needed for their strength, stamina, and versatility. They would form the bulk of the organization. Veterans would be recruited for their experience and to provide stability and cohesion. Their leadership qualities would be expressed as commissioned and noncommissioned officers. This recruiting/organization period continued for 18 months. Initial meetings took place at the Coal House, then located next to the Cumberland Hotel.

Subsequent meetings were held at the old Harlan Fruit Co. building on Ashbury Avenue. According to city records, a meeting was called on 31 October 1947 to purchase the Harlan Fruit building from Fred J. Silhanek. It was being used as a National Guard Armory and would continue to be so after the sale. It provided a location to hold meetings and, in the future, to house vehicles and equipment.

Twelve days later, on 12 November 1947, Colonel A.D. Fisken, representing the War Department and National Guard Bureau, inspected the 916th Motor Ambulance Company at the Middlesboro armory. His report would determine whether the unit would become a part of the National Guard within the meaning of the National Defense Act. Copies of the report would be sent to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Army commander, the Kentucky adjutant general, and the 916th’s commander.

Two years had passed since the birth of the idea to have a
National Guard unit in Middlesboro, and a lot of hard work and coordinated effort had gone into this endeavor. Those who had worked so hard on this project undoubtedly felt that the fulfillment of their work was near. This inspection represented the culmination of the struggle to organize a unit from scratch and be accepted by the National Guard Bureau.

Six of those standing inspection had prior service: Paul H. Ayers, George L. Brady, Austin Redmon, Ronald E. Rowland, William C. West, and James R. Wood. Their experience would be valuable in the training of others. The other six were Lester C. Goins, James H. Jackson, Roy H. Kimsey, Elmer L. Maxwell, Ogle Oxford, and William B. Rains. By example, they would encourage others to join. Many would be needed to bring the unit up to full strength.

Now that the unit was federally recognized, two full-time caretakers would be needed to handle the day-to-day activities. One would perform the duties of first sergeant, taking care of the administrative and communicative duties. James R. Wood accepted the position. He had prior military service and had been instrumental in organizing the unit. The other would carry out the duties of supply sergeant, maintaining the supplies and equipment, including vehicles. Donald W. Peck was chosen for this position. He too had prior military service and experience as an automobile mechanic.

These two men would be invaluable to the success of the organization. Each week members were required to train for two hours. They were also to attend a two-week summer training encampment. These activities required much planning in the form of schedules, instruction, reports, uniforms, training aids, equipment, vehicles, etc. The expertise of First Sergeant Wood and Supply Sergeant Peck contributed greatly to the unit’s success.

Since the Harlan Fruit Company building provided a temporary armory for the 916th, the National Guard Bureau issued vehicles, supplies, and equipment. The vehicles (a two and one-half ton truck, two ambulances, and a jeep) would on occasion be seen about town. Perhaps the more familiar sight was the men in uniform going to and from weekly meetings. This was good public relations for the organization. The word “motor” was dropped from the unit’s designation about this time. It became simply the 916th Medical Ambulance Company.
Nineteen forty-eight was a year to become better organized, train, and grow in numbers. Although the organization would lose some members, it would gain more. There were many reasons for the losses. Moving out of the area, attending night school, transferring to another unit, or going on active duty, were among them. The gains were the result of a continuing recruitment program and members encouraging their friends to join.

The Ambulance Company’s mission was to transport casualties from the front lines, usually a battalion aid station, back to a larger medical treatment facility. This was accomplished by a “shuttle system,” making use of relay stations along the evacuation route. Therefore, almost all members had to qualify as drivers. Most of the men could drive before enlisting. It was a matter of becoming familiar with the different types of military vehicles and being trained in night driving using blackout lights. It was essential that all members be well trained in map reading, driver training, and the “shuttle system.”

Roy Moore was not only the first commanding officer of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company, but a prime mover in organizing and founding the unit he returned to active duty with in 1950. After serving during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, he retired from the US Army after twenty-four years of service as a Major to El Paso, Texas. He passed away there on Monday, 21 May 2001 at the age of eighty-three. He was buried with military honors at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

From Left to right: Austin Redmon (initially the unit First Sergeant, commissioned 18 Jul 48), Bill Ed Vanbeber (local service station operator, Commissioned 18 Jul 48) and Carl Ruark (student, Union College, Commissioned 9 Feb 49). Along with Captain Moore these three Second Lieutenants brought the unit to full officer strength.
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

Nineteen forty-eight was the year President Harry S. Truman ended racial segregation in the United States military, and the first full year of the 916th.

On 8 August of that year, the unit went to Fort Knox for its first two-week summer training camp. The following forty-one members attended:

- Jesse S. Alexander
- Paul H. Ayers
- R.M. Bain
- Alva F. Ball
- Melvin L. Billingsley
- Bobby D. Boggs
- James E. Colson
- Carl C. Dunn
- William T. Emmett
- Gillis H. Flannery
- James V. Gent
- Lester Goin
- Perry L. Good
- Matthew Hall
- Herman Hamlett
- Dave Harris
- David M. Harris
- Woodrow B. Harvey
- Alvin J. Harville
- Aaron Heck
- Ted C. Hill
- Charles R. Idol
- James H. Jackson
- Robert P. Jackson
- William L. Johnson
- Floyd F. Lawless
- Samuel A. Mars Jr.
- Elmer L. Maxwell
- Edward Miracle
- Eugene Miracle
- Roy Moore
- Ogle Oxford
- Austin Redmon
- John D. Rhodes Jr.
- James T. Robertson
- Charles Simpson
- Claude Teague
- Jay R. Turner
- Bill Ed VanBeber
- Silas Widner
- James Wood

For many of the younger members, the convoy to Fort Knox and the two weeks on a military installation were new experiences. For those with prior service, it must have brought back many memories. This period provided the unit the opportunity to practice at length the subjects discussed during the two-hour weekly meetings in the armory. This combination of descriptive information and experience in the field produced the best training.

While at Fort Knox on this encampment, the unit won the Officer’s Field Day Trophy for competition in sports with the units of the 149th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT). Upon its return to Middlesboro on 22 August 1948 the 916th continued to meet weekly for a two-hour training period and plan for the return trip to Fort Knox the following year.

Other events that took place in 1948 included “The Foreign Assistance Act”. It was passed by Congress in April and would become better known as “The Marshall Plan”. The “Berlin Airlift” took place due to USSR’s Joseph Stalin setting up blockades on all road and rail approaches to the noncommunist areas of Berlin, Germany. Columbia Records introduced the 33 1/3 rpm “Long Playing” record. This was also the year that Kentucky won the NCAA basketball championship.

By the summer of 1949 the unit was prepared for another two-week training camp at Fort Knox.

On the 14th of August the group had an early morning 5:30 a.m., breakfast at Georgia’s Tea Room at 2207 Cumberland Avenue and departed Middlesboro in a seven-vehicle convoy. At this time the unit strength stood at forty-six and all but six would make the trip. Once again the unit won a trophy in competition with the 149th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT), this one for best vehicle inspection. The return trip home took place on 28 August 1949.

On 31 January 1949 the city of Middlesboro granted a ninety-nine year lease to the state of Kentucky for land on 30th Street for a building site. Six months later, on 13 June, the granted lease was approved by the Kentucky Military Department. This would become the location of Middlesboro’s first National Guard Armory.
Other events that took place in 1949 included the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 4 April. It was formed to deter the Soviet Union from further aggression. America’s monopoly on atomic weapons ended when President Truman announced on 23 September that the Soviets had successfully detonated an atomic bomb. As a result, the nuclear arms race, that would last until 1990, was born. On 20 January of this year Alben William Barkley, born in Lowes, Kentucky, in 1877, was sworn in as vice president of the United States. He was the first VP to earn a salary of $30,000 per year. Barkley would serve four years and then be re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954.

It was a good year. Once again Kentucky won the NCAA basketball championship.

Nineteen fifty would be a landmark year for the 916th. The unit had only been in existence for a little more than two and one-half years. It had been a peaceful time of training and experience at summer camps at Fort Knox. The first half of the year was spent with routine weekly meetings at the armory in preparation for the return trip to Fort Knox later in the year.

Suddenly, in June, the Korean War began with an attack made by North Korean forces across the 38th parallel, dividing North and South Korea. The attack came as a complete surprise, there was even talk this might be the start of a third world war. President Truman announced a national emergency to respond to the strain on economic and military resources caused by the Korean War.

To anyone in uniform a national emergency or war causes great concern about the future. This weighed on the minds of the members of the 916th as they prepared for summer encampment. The trip to Fort Knox took place on 6 August. It had been only six weeks since the Korean War started. While at this encampment one big question was answered: “Would the 916th be called to active duty?” The unit was officially alerted about half way through the training period on 11 August. Lieutenant Austin Redmon was commanding the company in the absence of Captain Moore, who was in Florida on business. The unit would complete the scheduled training period and return to Middlesboro on Sunday, 20 August.

Now that the unit had been alerted for the call to active duty, all thoughts turned to that endeavor.

The looming questions were where and when. There was also the military and personal side of the issue. The where was Camp Pickett, Virginia. The when would vary in that all members would not be activated on the same day. The military aspect would involve the usual logistics: transporting, feeding, lodging, communications, and overall control of the movement of troops, vehicles, and equipment. On the personnel side of the issue each would deal with it in his own way. The concerns were separation of family, strained personal relationships, income status, an uncertain future, plus a certain amount of risk that could change at any moment.

Some proved to be too young and were discharged. Others desired another branch of service and enlisted just prior to being activated with the 916th.

The first National Guard Armory for Middlesboro was completed on the land on Thirtieth Street that the city leased to the state on 13 June 1949. This new facility provided a more secure space for vehicles and equipment plus more room for indoor training.
The unit began a series of physical examinations on the evening of Monday, 28 August 1950 at the National Guard Armory. The examinations and X-rays continued on Tuesday at the Evans Hospital under supervision of medical doctors and National Guard officers. This preparation for mobilization was required prior to departure.

Captain Roy Moore returned from Florida to take command of the unit from Lieutenant Redmon as noted in the following article that appeared in a local newspaper in late August:

Several dates for induction into Federal Service were mentioned in the local media. Some were target dates to be ready and were somewhat flexible. Actual dates would come later in September. Six would be inducted on 11 September to help ready vehicles and equipment. They were Lieutenant Redmon, Sergeant William C. West, Corporals James H. Jackson, Floyd F. Lawless, Eugene Miracle, and Robert E. Roberts.

Capt. Roy Moore Takes Command of Guard Unit

Capt. Roy Moore arrived this week to resume command of the local 916th Ambulance unit which expects to receive orders to report for active duty at any time. The guard unit was alerted two weeks ago while taking training at Ft. Knox.

Capt. Moore and family have been in Florida for the past year where he has been in business. He helped organize the unit here.

Members of the guard have been taking physical examinations for the past two days.

Anyone wishing to join the local guard can do so up until 24 hours before its departure. Volunteers report to Sgt. Wood at the armory at east end of the airport.
CUMBERLAND HOTEL

The Lions Club honored members of the National Guard here 14 September 1950
The Middlesboro Lions Club honored the 916th with a dinner Thursday 14 September 1950 at the Cumberland Hotel. The Reverend J.M. Gilbert Jr., and Joe Hickman gave talks. Each member of the National Guard was presented a New Testament. Roy Allison was president of the club.

The remainder of the unit was ordered to active duty on Thursday, 21 September. By now the unit strength was four officers and 54 enlisted men. Only five days later Captain Moore received mobilization orders and the first five members departed Middlesboro at 0500 hours on Tuesday, 26 September (by private automobiles) for Camp Pickett, Virginia, as an advanced detail. They were to set up a company headquarters and make preparations for the arrival of the unit at a later date. The detail consisted of: Lieutenant Redman, Sergeant First Class William C. West, Sergeant Otis Turner, Corporals Melvin L. Billingsley, and Claude Teague.

A second group of men would take all company vehicles and equipment to Avon Signal Depot, near Lexington, Kentucky. The convoy departed Middlesboro at 1900 hours on Tuesday, 26 September. The mission of this group was to load vehicles on railroad flat cars to be transported to Camp Pickett. The men were billeted at the National Guard Armory and were interviewed by J.T. Vaughn of the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper. Pictures were taken and some accepted an invitation to attend harness horse racing at a local track. Lieutenant Ruark told the reporter that the men started a day’s work and finished it up in three hours, allowing time for such activities. The men in this group were: Lieutenant Carl Ruark, Corporal Roy Robertson, Sergeant First Class Robert Lambdin, Corporal Melvin Simpson, Sergeant First Class Edward Sandifer, Private First Class Nealus Estus, Sergeant Donald Webb, Private First Class Charles Gordon, Corporal Thomas Carter, Private First Class Jerry Johnston, Corporal James Faulkner, Private First Class Jackie Miracle, Corporal James Jackson, Private William Johnson, Corporal Floyd Lawless, Private Alvis Wilson, Corporal Eugene Miracle, Recruit Roland Jones, Corporal Robert Roberts, Recruit Edward Smith.

On 5 October 1950 the Lexington Herald-Leader published the results of the interview along with pictures of some of the men loading a simulated patient in an ambulance and some checking their gear in the armory. The interviewer heard no gripes and Lieutenant Ruark noted the morale of the men was excellent.
The third and final group departed Middlesboro the morning of Thursday 28 September by bus. They would join the second group at the Avon Signal Depot, and both groups were transported to Camp Pickett by troop train. The men in this group were: Captain Roy Moore, Corporal James Robertson, Lieutenant Bill Ed VanBeber, Private First Class Herbert Givens, Master Sergeant James Wood, Private First Class Kenneth Hill, Sergeant First Class Lester Goins, Private First Class Thomas Massengill, Sergeant Walden Frye, Private First Class William McDonald, Sergeant Charles Greene, Private First Class William Moore, Sergeant Donald Peck, Private First Class Kenneth Wood, Corporal Jesse Alexander, Private First Class Jack Yeary, Corporal Shirley Alston, Private Billy Ayers, Corporal James Atkins, Private Jerry Ellison, Corporal Howard Gent, Private Samuel McCracken, Corporal James Gent, Recruit Francis Fallon, Corporal Everett Hatfield, Recruit Hollis Harrell, Corporal Robert Jackson, Recruit Edward Rowland, Corporal Ben Johns, Recruit Vernon Thacker, Corporal James Rains, and Recruit James Turner.

The long train ride from Lexington to Camp Pickett gave the men time to think and discuss their situation. Fort Knox was the only military installation most of them had ever been on. This would not be a summer training camp where one could go home in two weeks. The nation was at war, the separations would be longer and the risks greater.

Still, it was a new and exciting experience for many of the young men who would gain more personal freedom than they had ever known. That freedom would be limited by the responsibility that came with the oath and donning of the uniform. Needless to say it would take some adjustment. Each individual would handle this differently. Some would adapt well to the training, discipline, group living, and enjoy being a part of something big. Others felt military life was too restrictive and wished to return to civilian life as soon as they could. All this and more were talked about and ran through the minds of the men as the train carried them eastward through the night.

In spite of all these thoughts the men were determined to fulfill their military obligation. After that some would return home and follow other paths, some would remain in uniform for a military career. At the end of this train journey, a new experience awaited all.

Camp Pickett was originally a Civilian Conservation Corps site. It was an active U.S. Army training facility in World War II. It consists of almost 46,000 acres of land in Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, and Brunswick counties. The post had two rail spurs and a four-runway airfield and enough resources needed to simultaneously train more than one infantry division.

In September 1950 units from the 43rd “Winged Victory” Infantry Division arrived for training. Composed of National Guard units from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont, the division was commanded by Major General Kenneth Crammer, who had just resigned as chief of the National Guard Bureau. General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Mark Clark reviewed the division there in December 1951.

The same year the post hospital complex was revamped and again served to treat sick and wounded soldiers as it had during WWII. Private Red Skelton, the actor/comedian who had taken ill in June 1945 while serving in Italy as a member of an Army entertainment unit, was among the patients treated here.

For recreation, there were movie theaters, field house with gym, and PX facilities. Separate clubs for officers, NCOs, and lower-rank enlisted men were built where soldiers could listen to music, drink a cold beer, and find something to eat. There were two lakes on the post. Birchin Lake was a good location for outdoor parties, sunning, and swimming. Tommeheton Lake had no
facilities, but was a good fishing spot. Quiet time could be spent at the post library or at one of the many chapels conveniently located throughout the base.

Camp Pickett was located in southeast Virginia a little more than 400 miles from Middlesboro. Much of the trip between these locations was on two lane roads. Passes for short trips off the base were for excursions to Blackstone, Petersburg, or Richmond. Other points of interest, albeit a greater distance, were Virginia Beach and Washington.

A few members of the 916th had personal automobiles that were frequently used for carpooling to Middlesboro. Bus and train travel were both available.

This would be the new home for the 916th for the foreseeable future. It would be a different experience for all with new things to do, places to see, and people to meet.

The sign pictured was located at the entrance to the Orderly Room. This was the nerve center, where the commanding officer and the first sergeant were responsible for all administrative and communicative duties. The remainder of the building contained the supply room for storage of military material. In another building, there was the day room, where off-duty members could relax, play games, and write letters, etc. This room could also be used for meetings and classes.

Another important building was the mess hall, where the unit cooks prepared all the meals. It was big enough to contain the kitchen and a large dining room. These buildings plus the barracks, where the troops
were billeted, made up the company area. The vehicles for the company were kept in a motor pool at another location, where the unit mechanics worked. This was a new environment for men used to living at home, attending weekly drills at the armory, and going to summer training camp for two weeks each year. It was an adjustment each had to make.

The 916th Medical Ambulance Company (Separate) arrived at Camp Pickett on 29 September 1950. The word “separate” merely meant the unit was not an organizational part of a battalion or larger unit. Filler personnel were assigned to bring the company to full authorized strength. It was also issued the necessary number of vehicles the Table of Organization & Equipment (TO&E) called for. This gave each platoon 10 ambulances and one quarter-ton vehicle (jeep) with trailer.

Next was an intensive training program of several weeks duration. Subjects learned would be reviewed and expanded. New material not covered at the armory or the two weeks at Fort Knox were covered in depth. These included arms instruction, infiltration course, gas chamber exercises, and more physical training. The aim of this training was to bring the 916th to a combat-ready status and was supervised by the 213th Medical Battalion.

Often the company was called on to provide ambulance support for different functions and many of the men were placed on special duty with the U. S. Army Hospital at Camp Pickett. Various duties kept the men busy, yet many made it home for Christmas on their first year of active duty.

Beginning in 1951, some of the men from Middlesboro would be going overseas. Except for a couple of volunteers, the unit would be levied for so many and of such rank as requested. Usually only one at a time would be called, but never more than a few. The draftees trained by the 916th would ship out upon completion of their training. The company would be brought up to strength again and the training would repeat with the new group.

According to Special Order #62 from the 213th Medical Battalion dated 11 May 1951 four men of the 916th were placed on temporary duty to furnish ambulance and medical service for the 432nd Engineer Construction Battalion en route to Fort Miles, Delaware. The four were Private First Class Jack Yeary, Private First Class William L. Johnson, Private First Class Roland D. Jones, and Private First Class Vernon W. Thacker. On the same order, another group of six members performed the same duty for the same engineer battalion en route to Fort Meade, Maryland. The six were Corporal James Faulkner, Corporal Floyd F. Lawless, Corporal Robert E. Roberts, Private First Class Hollis F. Harrell, Private First Class Edward A. Smith, and Private J. C. Mosier.

Training was suspended during the summer of 1951. One platoon was placed on temporary duty at A. P. Hill Military Reservation near Fredricksburg, Virginia. The post was approximately 120 miles from Camp Pickett. This platoon provided ambulance support for the 43rd Infantry Division and other support units on maneuvers and travel by convoy.

One platoon and company headquarters remained at Camp Pickett to provide support for National Guard and Reserve units during their summer training.

The other platoon was sent to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The 916th members supported the cadets in their summer training from 1 July to 1 September. The trip was approximately 450 miles and was made by convoy. According to Special Order #149, paragraph 23, Headquarters Camp Pickett, Virginia, dated 26 June 51, the following men made the trip: Officer in Charge – Austin Redmon, First Lieutenant, MSC — Sergeant First Class Edward S. Sandifer, Sergeant Otis Turner, Corporal James M. Faulkner, Corporal James H. Jackson, Corporal Floyd F. Lawless, Corporal Eugene Miracle, Corporal Robert E. Roberts, Corporal James T. Robertson, Corporal Melvin D. Simpson, Corporal Edward A. Smith, Corporal Vernon W.

In September 1951 the platoons at West Point, New York, and Fredericksburg, Virginia, were relieved of their temporary duty status and returned to Camp Pickett, where the unit resumed its training schedule through the fall and winter. This seemed to be the pattern of activities for the unit. They would train new men to be shipped to other units as replacements (including Korea and Japan) and furnish ambulance and medical support for various units. Original members of the 916th were still being levied for overseas and continued to leave in small groups or individually. These activities continued for the rest of the year and the foreseeable future.

The ambulance drivers of the 916th were awarded the military occupation specialty (MOS) of a light truck driver. This MOS was later change to that of a medical specialist.

At 0600 hours on 20 February 1952 the 916th pulled away from the main gate of Camp Pickett to embark on a 1,600-mile convoy trip to Fort Hood, Texas. The purpose of the trip was to participate in “Exercise Longhorn,” the largest practice maneuver since World War II.

It consisted of 115,000 Army and Air Force personnel. The 916th, as a neutral participant, provided ambulance service for both the allied and aggressor armies. The following information was reported from Camp Pickett:

It took a long time to move the vast number of troops that participated in “Operation Longhorn”. Although the 916th departed their home base 20 February, the maneuver did not actually start until midnight 24 March. Some of the other units were flown in with full battle equipment and ready to operate upon landing. As the operation started three thousand paratroopers hit the silk within a space of ten minutes. In this jump one man was killed and thirty-nine were injured.
More details were published in a Fort Hood article:

"Spies" Scout Texas City for Attack in War Games

FT. HOOD, Tex., Mar. 3—(UP)—"Enemy" spies quietly compiled information on a major Texas city today, laying the ground work for its seizure by an "invader" to start the biggest Army-Air Force maneuver in the nation's history.

In "Operation Long Horn," the city will be taken by political coup and a "foreign" military force. Two air forces and between 115,000 and 120,000 soldiers will try to stem the attack and retake the city.

The Defense Department hopes the mammoth maneuver will show definitely whether troops can be air-lifted halfway across the nation to beat back an enemy assault. It begins Mar. 30. The city will not be named in advance.

The invading forces, wearing special uniforms and dubbed the "Centralist Party," will seize the city at night. The city's mayor and councilmen will be imprisoned, homes raided and churches closed. Newspapers and radio stations will be taken over for propaganda purposes.

The invaders will use a sultry-voiced girl disc jockey to make morale-damaging broadcasts to the defending troops, Col. John J. Kelly of Ft. Hood disclosed.

Spies already are in the city pinpointing targets for the invader and preparing to take over the city government. The defenders have counter-intelligence agents hunting the spies.

The key lesson, however, is to be learned from a 1100-mile air lift, according to Kelly. Between 6000 and 7000 men of the 31st Dixie Division and Camp Jackson, S. C., will be flown to the maneuver area. They'll land with full battle equipment, ready to fight.

The Air Force hopes to transport the men in five days, beginning Mar. 22. Planes which can carry as many as 200 men per trip will be used, including C-47s and C-46s. They are to arrive at 10-minute intervals.

A parachute outfit, with jeeps and artillery, will be dropped to strengthen the defending force after the 31st has entered the line and is ready to begin an assault to drive out the invader.

The defenders will get support from fighters and fighter-bombers of the Ninth Tactical Air Force. Kelly identified the famed 82d Airborne Division as the make-believe aggressor.

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1952

Brief ---

FORT HOOD, Tex., (AP)—A 17-day "war" will break out in Central Texas at midnight tonight when Army and Air Force commanders order 115,000 men into "Exercise Longhorn," the biggest practice maneuver in the nation's history.
The 916th returned to Camp Pickett in late April. The remainder of 1952 found the unit doing much the same as in previous years. That involved more training and sending a platoon each to West Point and Fredericksburg. Some of the members were once more on special duty with the post hospital.

An interesting event took place at Camp Pickett during that summer. MGM arrived at Camp Pickett to make a movie about a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). The working title for the picture was “MASH 66.” It was in production from 21 July to 9 September.

The 403rd Evacuation Hospital, an active duty unit, provided men and equipment for the filming. In the story, the unit was Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) 8666. The 916th furnished some men and equipment, in addition to the driver for the film’s technical advisor, Lieutenant Colonel K.E. VanBuskirk.

The movie, directed by Richard Brooks, starred Humphrey Bogart and June Allyson. The cast included:

Humphrey Bogart – Maj. Jed Webbe, chief surgeon
June Allyson – Lt. Ruth McCara – nurse
Keenan Wynn – 1st Sgt. Orvil Statt
Robert Keith – Lt. Col. – commanding officer
William Campbell – Capt. John Rustford – helicopter pilot

The setting was war-torn South Korea. The story depicts a doctor fighting for his life and his relationship with a younger nurse who transferred in from Tokyo. The struggle of a unit in combat trying to accomplish its mission and what effect these events have on the lives of individual relationships are evident.

Many of the 58 original members of the 916th that were placed on active duty with the unit were gone by now. They were called to active service for 24 months, which was up in September, but some got out as early as 21 months.

The few remaining and the other members of the unit remember the filming of this movie. Although making of this film took place in the summer of 1952, it would not be released until 6 March 1953. The picture was shown at Camp Pickett post theaters on or near the release date. The title was changed to “Battle Circus.” The movie poster and some snapshots follow:
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company
On the next page the top photograph is Humphrey Bogart and Keenan Wynn. The bottom photograph is a movie scene as it was being shot (Bogart treating a patient).
The 916th continued to assist the post hospital and give medical support to National Guard and other units engaged in summer training. The unit was then transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland. Named for a Union Army Civil War general, the fort was only five miles from Laurel, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. After the unit arrived at Fort Meade, it confined its activities mainly to training. With combat readiness an objective, the training program was aimed toward the relearning and application of basic principles as well as the entering into of more detailed and complex works. At this time First Lieutenant George F. Cronin commanded the unit.

Very little information could be found concerning the activities of the 916th for 1954. A document dated 23 November of that year mentioned Captain Moore, Lieutenant George F. Cronin, Lieutenant James D. Cox, Lieutenant Armand G. Auger, Lieutenant George J. Commins, and Captain Austin Redmon had commanded the unit. On 9 February 1955, the 916th was deactivated and federal recognition was withdrawn.

The unit was reactivated on 10 February 1955 in Middlesboro. The picture on the following page shows the unit at summer training camp at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky.
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

916th Medical Ambulance Company at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky 1955
The 916th Medical Ambulance Company had been on active duty for four years, four months, and eighteen days. Now that the unit was back in Middlesboro, it returned to the practice of two-hour drill periods each week. It was also required to attend a two-week summer camp as before, but would go to Camp Breckinridge instead of Fort Knox. This was the schedule the company adhered to in 1956.

The unit was ordered to active state service at 1900 hours on 31 January 1957 for the purpose of assisting the mayor and people of Hazard in dealing with a flood.

Within two hours of the alert, Captain Austin Redmon, commanding officer, assembled 28 enlisted men and two officers. Only one hour later, the men departed Middlesboro on the approximately 100-mile trip. A convoy consisting of a 2 ½-ton truck, a ¾-ton ambulance, a ¼ -quarter ton front line ambulance, and a ¼-ton jeep made the movement. The unit arrived in Hazard at 0230 hours on 1 February 1957.

Captain Redmon reported to the mayor and established a headquarters in the old Herald Building. Details and duties were assigned and operated on a 24-hour basis. The men controlled traffic, cleared roads, hauled food, water, and medical supplies. They transported state board of health personnel to various isolated communities. The kitchen was set up and operated, citizens needing food. Roving patrols were set up to prevent looting and theft.

The unit was relieved from flood duty at 1200 hours on 10 February, and arrived in Middlesboro at 1600 hours. The troops were dismissed at 1700 hours. The company returned to the usual training schedule and attended summer training camp at Camp Breckinridge in 1957, 1958, and 1959.

The 916th Medical Ambulance Company was reorganized and re-designated as Company D, 1st Medium Tank Battalion on 1 October 1959. After 11 years, 10 months, and 18 days, the 916th became a part of history.

Since 1987 surviving members of the unit hold a reunion every October at the National Guard Armory in Middlesboro. A monument was erected in Centennial Park honoring the 58 original members who were called to active duty in 1950, in addition to the veterans of all wars.
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

916th Monument in Centennial Park Middlesboro, Kentucky
They Served Proudly

The men of the 916th served in the U.S. Army and were stationed at many posts in the United States, including:

Camp Picket, Virginia
Fort Hood, Texas
Camp A.P. Hill, Va.
Fort Knox, Kentucky
West Point, New York

Several men served with the United Nations Forces in Korea and in Japan with combat units. Some were wounded in action, many obtained higher rank and were awarded decorations.

The unit was brought up to strength with men from the draft after the 916th was activated in 1950. These men served with honor and became as our brothers.
BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF War

916th Motor Ambulance Company

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: 12 November 1947
Station: Middlesboro, Kentucky
Letter of allotment: 7 May 1946

For the Chief, National Guard Bureau:

L. B. Weeks
Colonel, HGS
Assistant.
### Initial Roster

**Report of National Guard Duty Performed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of duty or events</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Kentucky</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 Nov 47</td>
<td>Federal Recognition Inspection</td>
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<td></td>
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**Regular drill night**

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roy E. Moore</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>1947</td>
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**Praties Grade VII**

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<td>Ayers, Paul H.</td>
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<td>Dunaway, Charles</td>
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<td>Goin, Lester C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson, James H.</td>
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<td>Pvt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimsey, Roy H.</td>
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<td>Maxwell, Elmer L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford, Ogles</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 yrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redmon, Austin</td>
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<td>Pvt</td>
<td>3 yrs.</td>
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<td>Rowland, Ronald E.</td>
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<td>1 yrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West, William C.</td>
<td>35 681 442</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>3 yrs.</td>
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</table>

**End of Roster**

I certify that every person inspected as present, or carried as absent on this roster is a bona fide member of this unit, and that all data furnished to the Inspecting Officer in connection with this roster are correct.

Roy E. Moore
Captain MAC
Commanding
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

To be issued automatically.

9. WHAT ARE DIMENSIONS OF THE DRILL FLOORS
   62' x 30'

10. IS LIGHTING ADEQUATE FOR EFFICIENT INSTRUCTION IN THE
    FOLLOWING AREAS:
        ARMY "X"  YES  NO
        GARAGES  YES  NO
        DRILL FIELD "X"  YES  NO

11. WHAT FACILITIES EXIST FOR MOTOR INSTRUCTION:
        ARMY floor /gresse racks & wash racks
        to be built outside
        ARE THEY SATISFACTORY  "X"  NO

12. IS THE ARMORY ADEQUATE FOR INSTALLING FIRE CONTROL
    EQUIPMENT AND A PLANTING ROOM  "X"  NO
    (For Coast Artillery Harbor Defense units only)

13. IF ARMY DO NOT HAVE SUITABLE TRAINING FACILITIES,
    IS THERE A LIGHTED OUTDOOR DRILL GROUND AVAILABLE
    "X"  NO

14. IS THE ARMORY ADEQUATE FOR DRILLING THE FIRING BATTERY
    WITH AT LEAST ONE OWN SECTION  "X"  NO
    (For Coast Artillery AA units only)

15. ARE THE ENLISTMENT RECORDS (W/ PHOTO FORM 221) OF ALL
    MEN COMPLETE  "X"  NO

16. DO ALL ENLISTED MEN OF THE UNIT LIVE WITHIN SUCH
    DISTANCE OF THE HOME STATION OF THEIR UNIT THAT THEY
    CAN PROPERLY PERFORM THEIR MILITARY DUTIES  "X"  NO

17. THE NUMBER OF ENLISTED MEN PRESENT WAS 12

18. DO ALL ENLISTED MEN APPEAR TO MEET THE PHYSICAL
    STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN NGR 20  "X"  NO

19. ARE ALL MILITARY MEN IN THE APPROPRIATE AGE  "X"  NO

20. DOES THE ENLISTMENT OATH BEEN ADMINISTERED  "X"  NO

21. NO ALL OFFICERS LIVE IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOME STATION OF THEIR UNIT  "X"  NO

22. THE MEMBERS OF THIS UNIT LISTED BELOW ARE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED OFFICERS OR WARRANT OFFICERS (Give rank and name of each)

   none

23. THE COMMISSIONED, AND WARRANT OFFICERS LISTED BELOW WHO WERE NOT FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED WERE:

   Capt Roy E. Moore, (1) (3) (5)

REMARKS

1. No equipment should be issued until storage facilities properly completed.

2. Reference paragraph 5, no separate garage. Vehicles may be stored on armory floor (concrete) and moved to lot adjoining when necessary.

3. Reference paragraph 6, two concrete storage rooms with no windows. No doors. When suitable doors are installed, rooms will be satisfactory.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INSPECTING OFFICER

Based on the facts contained in this report, I recommend that this unit be FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED.

DAF

HEADQUARTERS

1ST INSTRUCTION

TO THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

36
### Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

#### Roster of Officers

**INSTRUCTIONS**

See all Bldg 569.

**916th Med Amb Co (Sep)**

Middlesboro, Kentucky

21 September 1950

This roster of officers contains the names of all officers, including those attached, of this organization.

**Reason for submission**

Ordered into active military service of the United States by direction of the President at Middlesboro, Ky on 21 Sep 50 pursuant to order No. 8 Eq Ky Mil Dist, Louisville, Ky on 16 Sep 50.

**Capt. WES NGUS 916th Med Amb Co. (Sep)**

**Roy E. Moore**

(Signature - Name Hyposthen)

**Serial No.**
**Last name—First name—Middle Initial**
**Grade**
**Serial No.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Last name—First name—Middle Initial</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>0 1015667</td>
<td>Moore, Roy E.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 962020</td>
<td>Redmond, Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 962063</td>
<td>VanBebber, Bill Ed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 976028</td>
<td>Brink, Carl D.</td>
<td>1Lt.</td>
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</table>

**Note:**

"*" indicates the names of all personnel who reported for duty prior to the date the unit was called to active duty.

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*Line cut work not applicable.*

*This specification social security number of enlisted men's ages, grades, race, enlisted military occupational specialty, and sex of officers. Initials of officers follow line.*
### Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

#### Roster of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

This roster contains the names of all enlisted men, including those attached, of this organization. Ordered into active service of the United States by direction of the President at Middlesboro, Ky., on 21 Sep 50 pursuant to order No 8 Hq Ky Mbl Dist, Louisville, Ky., 13 Sep 50.

#### Personnel Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Last name—First name—Middle initial (List alphabetically by grade)</th>
<th>Arm or service</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date of current commission or enlistment (Day—month—year)</th>
<th>Type of enlistment</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Principal duty (officer)</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>035457806</td>
<td>&quot;MASTER SERGEANT&quot;</td>
<td>Wood, James E. d/b 1917</td>
<td>NOUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>0345 First Sgt</td>
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<td>012319007</td>
<td>&quot;SERGEANT FIRST CLASS&quot;</td>
<td>Gains, Lester C. d/b 1917</td>
<td>NOUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>0343 Pt Sgt</td>
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<tr>
<td>035957197</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lambdin, Robert J. d/b 1926</td>
<td>NOUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>0324 Mrs Stewart</td>
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<td>035781140</td>
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<td>Sandifer, Edward E. d/b 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>035681142</td>
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<td>West, William C. d/b 1924</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>0345 Pt Sgt</td>
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<td>Frye, Walden E. d/b 1926</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>0060 First Cook</td>
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<td>035800595</td>
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<td>Greens, Charles R. d/b 1924</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>035765786</td>
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<td>Peck, Donald W. d/b 1922</td>
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<td>0345 Supply Sgt</td>
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<td>035325139</td>
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<td>Turner, Olie d/b 1923</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>Hagg, Donald E. d/b 1920</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>0080 First Cook</td>
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</table>

**WD AGO FORM**

**NOV 1941 109**

*This sheet was not applicable. Further, no further data were obtained from the line and military occupational category column of this sheet. Initials of officers are not indicated.*
**Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company**

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Arm of Service</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Date of Report</th>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Present Duty or Position</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>021390830</td>
<td>Alexander, James E.</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>MGUS</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td>Medic, 2nd</td>
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<td>CPL</td>
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<td>Driver, amb.</td>
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**Note:** The table above contains the roster of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company, listing the names, grades, arm of service, and other details of its members. The company was ordered into active duty under the direction of the President of the United States on September 12, 1950, in Middlebury, Ky.
# Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

**Roster of Troops**

**INCHOL\* SPECIAL\* FINIAL\* ROST**

916th Med Amb Co (Sep)  
Middlesboro, Kentucky  
21 September 1950

This roster of 5 sheets contains the names and addresses of all enlisted men, including those attached, of this organization.

Reason for shipment: Ordered into active duty by the United States by direction of the President at Middlesboro, Ky., on 21 Sep 50 pursuant to order No. 8 by Ky VIII Dist, Louisville, Ky., dated 13 Sep 50.

Signed: Roy E. Moore  
(Signature—Name Typewritten)


capt, us ex us 916th med amb co (sep)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Last name—First name—Middle initial</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Arm or service</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date of current appointment or last furnishment</th>
<th>Type of service</th>
<th>Principal duty (duties)</th>
<th>Status</th>
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**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**

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<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Last name—First name—Middle initial</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Arm or service</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date of current appointment or last furnishment</th>
<th>Type of service</th>
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</table>

*Notes and remarks are suppressed.*

*Entered in service as indicated.*

*Listed service men and their address is given in the order as shown in the above list. The only men included in this roll are those men who were stationed there and are members of the Medical Ambulance Corps.
### Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

#### Middletown, Kentucky - 21 September 1950

This roster is current as of 21 September 1950 and contains the names of all officers and enlisted men. It's prepared by the Adjutant General's Office, Middletown, Kentucky.

#### Table of Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Middle initial</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Service Code</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
<th>Date of rank</th>
<th>Type of rank</th>
<th>Placed in rank</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Smith</td>
<td>Jerry</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>MCUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>12/6/1932</td>
<td>6/1950</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
<td>Placed in rank</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>023190869</td>
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<td>MGUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>White</td>
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<td>Driver, med</td>
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<td>Active</td>
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<td>Kenneth</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>MGUS</td>
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<td>White</td>
<td>12/6/1932</td>
<td>6/1950</td>
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<td>Placed in rank</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<td>Jack</td>
<td>S</td>
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<td>White</td>
<td>12/6/1932</td>
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<td>Driver, med</td>
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<td>Active</td>
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<td>MCUS</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>12/6/1932</td>
<td>6/1950</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
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<tr>
<td>023190856</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>MCUS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>12/6/1932</td>
<td>6/1950</td>
<td>Driver, med</td>
<td>Placed in rank</td>
<td>Active</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

#### Roster of Troops

**216th Med Amb Co (Sep)**

**Middlesboro, Kentucky**

21 September 1950

This roster of 59 sheets contains the names of all enlisted men, including those attached, of this organization.

Reason for organization:

*Ordered into active duty of the United States by direction of the President at Middlesboro, Ky on 21 Sep 50 pursuant to order No 8 Eq Ky MIL Dist, Louisville, Ky and 6th Dist.*

Capt. MSC NGS 916th Med Amb Co (Sep)

(Orders and organization)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>Last name, First name, Middle Initial, Rank (first alphabet by grade)</th>
<th>Service Component</th>
<th>Date of current commission or appointment (day/month/year)</th>
<th>Type of commission</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Principal duty (officer)</th>
<th>Date and place of birth, rank, (if warrant officer)</th>
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<td>Harris, Hallie F.</td>
<td>MGUS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Except as otherwise indicated after their names all individuals whose names appear on this roster reported at Middlesboro, Ky, on 21 Sep 50 are present for duty and claim the city of Middlesboro, Ky, or the vicinity of their place of residence.*

*Asterisk (*) indicates the names of all personnel who reported for duty prior to the date unit was called to active duty.*

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*This chart was adapted to apply only to those personnel whose names appear on this roster. The chart is not applicable to those personnel whose names do not appear on this roster.*

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*Note: All personnel are entitled to the same rank and pay as enlisted men in the Army National Guard of the United States.*
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

1. Unit organized off 21 Sep 52 per General Order No. 20, Commonwealth of Ky., Military Dept., dated 9 Sep 52, and Ltr., NGB, ADPO-325, L-Ky. (23 July 52), Subj: Auth. to organize NG Unit under PL 461, 82d Congress, std 13 Aug 52, to AG, Ky.

2. In records of officer and enlisted men, DD Form 230 is used in lieu of NGB 21, and SF 89 is used in lieu of NGB 21. This is not a bar to Federal recognition inasmuch as all EM are returnees from active service with a remaining obligation to serve in NG. Office qualifies under provisions of par 27a (4), NGB Circular #7, std 1951.

3. Security of Armory is in accordance with NGB 3.

4. Fire extinguishers are on requisition. Building is of fire proof construction.

5. There is space available for motor vehicle instruction, but no vehicles are available as yet.
916TH MOTOR AMBULANCE COMPANY
916TH MEDICAL AMBULANCE COMPANY

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED – 12 Nov 1947 per S.O. 251, AGO Ky. 19 Dec 1947

ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY – 21 Sep 1950 per G.O. 31, AGO Ky. 1 Nov 1950

WILL BE ORGANIZED – 21 Sep 1952 per G.O. 20, AGO Ky 9 Sep 1952 (NGUS)

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED – 21 Sep 1952 per NG-AROTO 325.4-Ky 17 Oct 1952 (NGUS)

DEACTIVATED & FEDERAL RECOGNITION WITHDRAWN – 9 Feb 1955 per G.O. 3, AGO Ky, 17 Jan 1955 (NGUS)

REACTIVATED – 10 Feb 1955 with Federal Recognition Date as 12 Nov 1947 per G.O. 3, AGO Ky, 17 Jan 1955

GOD AND THE SOLDIER, WE ADORE,

IN TIME OF DANGER, NOT BEFORE.

THE DANGER PASSED AND ALL THINGS RIGHTED.

GOD IS FORGOTTEN AND THE SOLDIER SLIGHTED.

UNKNOWN
Brief History of the 916th Medical Ambulance Company

Images from 1950 Kentucky National Guard Yearbook