

The HISTORY of the 149th INFANTRY





WAR OF 1812

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



FOREWORD

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

H. L. C. JONES
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding
38th Division

November, 1943





MEXICAN WAR

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

The HISTORY of The 149th INFANTRY

by HAROLD P. O'GARA, Captain, Ch. C.

FEW, if any, military units are richer in history than the 149th Infantry Regiment. Men mustered under its colors have great reason to "step it off" with pride in their hearts. Run your eye up to the top of its color mast and you will see the streamers marked: Buena Vista, Chickamauga, West Virginia, Shiloh, Murfreesborough, and World War One. Each one tells 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 this Regiment has not been raised in its defense.

Its designation as the 149th Infantry Regiment, 38th Division, goes back to April 28, 1917. But for more than a century prior to that date it existed under the title of the Second Regiment, Kentucky Militia.

In 1812, when this young nation's 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.

Years later in the Mexican War history records the epoch-making march of General Winfield Scott from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. Scott culminated this campaign with the storming of the heights of Chapultepec. Here, too, the ancestors of the 149th Infantry Regiment were in the thick of the fight, covering themselves with distinction.

Again at Buena Vista, when the right wing of General Taylor's army was threatened, the battle cry went up: "Hold 'em, Kentuckians". They held; and another victory was won.

Came the War between the States: Kentucky was divided in its sympathies. On June 13, 1861, the Second Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers was mustered into service at Camp Clay, Ohio. A Colonel William E. Woodruff was its commanding officer. The following month he and his troops left for the front, invading Virginia. They forced a landing at Guyandotte. They fought, too, at Gauley Bridge, Virginia. And from there they marched to Barboursville, where they marked a hard won victory over the enemy forces under General Jenkins.

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 took part in the fighting at Stone River, Tennessee; at Chickamauga, Charleston; Bridge Creek, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee; Scurry Creek, Virginia; and also at Cripple Creek, Tennessee. At the close of the war the Regiment was with General Sherman, defending his important base at Resaca, Georgia.

When in 1898 war was declared against Spain, the Regiment once more 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.

Following the Spanish War, the Regiment was reorganized by the late Brigadier General Roger D. Williams,

CIVIL WAR

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



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 service in June, 1916. It was then commanded by Col. Allen W. Gullion, now U. S. Army Provost Marshal General, with the rank of Major General. Mobilized at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and moving to Camp Owen Berne, Fort Bliss, Texas, the Kentuckians became part of the Tenth Provisional U. S. 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 was mustered out of Federal service at Fort Thomas, February 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, Kentucky's Governor called the Regiment into State service to protect vital transportation lines and industrial points. One month later President Woodrow Wilson ordered it into Federal Service. Assembled at Camp Stanley, near Lexington, the Regiment moved to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. 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, Mississippi. 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 1918 the Regiment was called upon to furnish replacements for depleted units abroad.

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 Le Mans. 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 to be 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 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, who is now Assistant Division Commander, with the rank of Brigadier General.

On February 28, 1941, the Regiment arrived with Colonel Easley at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, 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 August 5th to October 1st, 1941. And during this period the 149th was seldom found in a capacity other than forming the spearhead of attack for the 38th Division.



SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

A typhoid fever epidemic claimed many lives in this regiment during its training at Chickamauga. With the advance of medical science few, if any, soldiers are stricken with this disease today.

When General Easley moved on up to Division, Colonel William S. Taylor, the present Commanding Officer, took over the reins of the Regiment on June 13, 1941. 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 might be well to record that in this 1941 maneuver: the Regiment advanced 173 miles against the most stiff opposition, at no time losing ground; that it travelled 92 miles on foot; that 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 Mansfield it made the first and only penetration of the Second Army line of defense during that whole maneuver.

Back at Shelby, following the Maneuvers, the Regiment took up again the training outlined by the War Department. 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.

Because of the excellency of its training record the 149th Regiment 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 today men from the 149th Infantry are covering themselves with honor as they defend their country in the best traditions of this Regiment.

The 149th may no longer be thought of as an exclusively Kentucky organization. For numbered in its ranks today are men from every State in the Union, particularly New York and "Joisey", Pennsylvania and Georgia. Only the

states Delaware and Nevada are not represented in the Regiment. With the exodus of old troops and the arrival of new ones we find a great mingling of Yankee and Southern blood. And while in the canteens and barracks the lads are jovially re-fighting the battle between the States they are solidly united on the field to mold themselves into troops that will never know the word defeat.

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

In September of 1942 the 149th Infantry left Camp Shelby to participate once again in the Louisiana Maneuvers. This time under the able leadership of General Jones the activities of the Regiment were again marked with 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 twice 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 the Maneuver area it moved to Camp Carrabelle, Florida, now known as Camp Gordon Johnson. Here emphasis was placed upon amphibious training.

In January of 1943 the War Department issued orders for the transfer of the Thirty-eighth Division from Camp Carrabelle to its present site, Camp Livingston, Louisiana. Florida might have been the Mecca of vacationists in the balmy days of peace; but to the One Hundred and Fortyniners Carrabelle, 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.

Here in Livingston, the 149th has been engaged in another thorough course of training. The old phases were repeated and a few new ones added. Of particular interest

to the men was the training in coordination between air and ground forces and the attacks upon fortified positions. The regiment continues with an enviable record in rifle marksmanship. Of its present 3354 officers and men 99.7% are qualified marksmen.

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

But when the summons does come to embark, it will fall on the most welcome ears. To a man the men of this Regiment are itching to grapple with something other than a 'dry run' enemy. When the order does come, it will find them eager to put into effect the thorough schooling received these many past months. Be it from Boone to Japan, or be it from Boone to Berlin when the present era is recorded for posterity the 149th Infantry Regiment will be remembered for its glorious devotion to The American Way of Life.



MEXICAN BORDER DISTURBANCES

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



SIDELIGHTS on THE 149th INFANTRY REGIMENT

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



On the frontpiece of this booklet is the insignia of the 149th. Of interest is the history behind it. The shield is blue 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 (Buena Vista) is represented by the cactus and snake from the Mexican Flag. The World War service is represented by the ermine chief from the arms of both Brittany and Nantes. The motto of the Regiment is "Esto perpetua", meaning, "May it live forever".



The 38th (Cyclone) Division, of which the 149th is a part, was organized in 1917. Major General Robert M. Howze, on assuming command of the 38th Division in 1918, having recently returned from the European theatre of operations, stated that all of the divisions overseas had been given appropriate names; and thought it only fitting that the hard-

hitting 38th Division should be given a name commensurate with its power. "Therefore", he said, "I name this division the Cyclone Division".



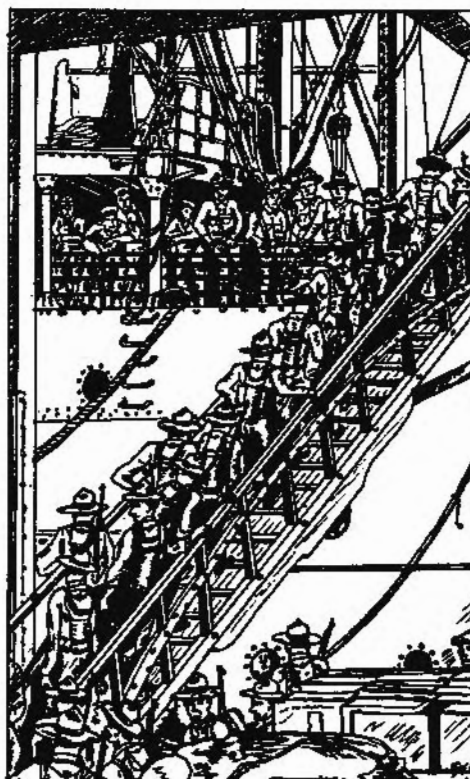
Since its organization the 38th Division has had the following commanders: Major General Sage, Brigadier General Harvey, Brigadier General Caldwell, Major General Robert M. Howze, Major General Robert H. Tindell, Major General Dan I. Sultan and Major General H. L. C. Jones.



In the Regiment today are men from every State in the Union, save Delaware and Nevada. But Kentucky is still the Regiment's chief source of man power. Men in Regimental Headquarters are mostly from Louisville. Those in the Band, Medical Detachment and Service Company hail from Bowling Green. Anti-tank Company and Headquarters Company are from St. Matthews. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the First Battalion are from Lexington. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the Second Battalion are from

WORLD WAR ONE

The 149th sailed for France in 1918, completing its training at Nantes and Le Mans, in the province of Brittany, whence the fleur de lis on the regiment's insignia.



Maysville. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the Third Battalion are from Madisonville. Among the other Companies we find: "A" from Harlan; "B" from Somerset; "C" from Barbourville; "D" from Williamsburg; "E" from Olive Hill; "F" from Boonville; "G" from Ashland; "H" from Ravenna; "I" from Marion; "K" from Livermore; "L" from Maryfield; and "M" from Russellville.



When the Regiment was inducted into Federal Service on January 17, 1941, the following list of officers formed its staff: Commanding Officer: Colonel Roy W. Easley; Executive Officer: Lt. Colonel William S. Taylor. The other Lt. Colonels were: Jesse S. Lindsay, Oren Coin, and Frederick W. Staples. The majors were: Joseph W. Seemes, Earl B. Williams and George M. Wells.

The Captains: Arthur C. Bonnycastle, Dallas C. Keller, Ben C. Herndon, Elbert T. Mackey, William D. Foster, Daniel W. Barrett, Gustavus H. May, Brutus C. McGuire, James R. Johnson, Cameron A. Brown, Joe Leech, Kenneth House, Jasper L. Cummings, Frank B. Thompson, Henry J. Potter, William F. Lamb, Bassett W. Neely, August H. Knipping, Carol C. Hart and James A. Kehoe.

The First Lieutenants were: Urey E. Chandler, Wilmer H. Meredith, Samuel P. Martin, Otto B. Schneider, Jehu C. Walker, George W. Adams, Fletcher W. Vowell, William J. Barnes, Silas B. Dishman, Fred Kerr, Clifford McDowell, Tinsley Bowman, Thomas W. Jones, Ferrell J. Lewis, Calvert P. Small, Brodie L. Payne, William P. Bowden, Otis R. Ogles and Delbert C. Partin.

The Second Lieutenants were: Thomas W. O'Leary, William J. Gathof, Jr., George R. McKee, Raymond E. Dishion,

Nelson A. Meredith, James C. Givens, Henry F. Wagner, Bernard J. Maloney, William B. Mackay, Ross E. Lishen, Frank T. Logdon, Denham Short, Edwin R. Lewis, Luther H. Garrison, James E. Jones, Ollie J. Wilson, Gus E. Hauser, Clifford M. Sharpe, Glenn W. Sharp, Lee LeForce, Everett Longworth, Ward W. Walker, Ambrose C. Arthur, Percy L. Austin, Jr., Robert F. Miller, Everett T. Phillips, Bert Parsons, Arch Turner, Isaac H. Wilder, Jr., Theodore B. Lowman, Jouett T. Dailey, Jr., Cecil D. Butler, Arbie W. Allen, Martin F. Tier, Owen R. Durham, Thomas B. Kidwell, Ernest R. Dalton, Lee B. Hawkins, Earl P. Tucker, Norvell H. Moore, Randall V. Woodall, Oris R. Minner, Burnie H. Hillyard, Ewel E. Eubank, Lawrence D. Robertson, Ernest E. Price, Hunter M. Hancock, Allen D. Stanley, William W. Roberts, Earl V. Davis, Warren W. Walton, Cecil E. Cornelius, Luther M. Greer, William J. Hite, Herbert L. Tandy, Charles H. Cornelius and Evan I. Clay. Also Warrant Officer J. H. Rust.



The drawings in this booklet were made by Corporal Stephen Sofranko, Company "E" of the 149th.



The list of officers now with the Regiment is shown on the pages following:

MANEUVERS, 1942

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



REGIMENTAL COMMANDER AND STAFF

Colonel William S. Taylor, Commanding Officer
Lt. Colonel Elbert T. Mackey, Regimental Executive
Major Wilmer H. Meredith, Supply Officer
Major William W. Greathouse, Plans and Training Officer
Major John N. DeHoff, Regimental Surgeon
Major Owen R. Durham, Intelligence Officer
Captain Bernard J. Maloney, Adjutant
1st Lt. Timothy D. Donovan, Liaison Officer
1st Lt. Charles W. Springer, Liaison Officer
1st Lt. Francis C. Roe, Liaison Officer
Captain Delbert C. Partin, Chaplain
Captain Daniel H. Fredrick, Chaplain
Captain Harold P. O'Gara, Chaplain

SPECIAL UNITS

1st LIEUTENANTS

Utho T. Barnes
Robert M. Ely
John H. Hruska
Arlen L. McCrillis
Robert D. J. Murphy
Melvin E. Myers
James E. Smith
Edward E. Starosta
Jerome L. Stotsky
Richard P. Turner

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Marshall C. Anderson
Robert D. Beattie
Jack G. Douglass
Donald C. Palmatier
Lloyd G. Sowers
Ray E. Stewart
Fred J. Szczepanski

WARRANT OFFICERS

Frank H. Becker
Joe H. Rust
Horace E. Hodges
John A. Jackson
Harry S. Newell
Howard T. Turner

CAPTAINS

Jay D. Andrews
Percy L. Austin, Jr.
Stamfill W. Bailey
Paul A. Bowers
Sylvan Caplan
William J. Gathof, Jr.
Philip S. Gorlin
Nelson A. Meredith
Clarence R. Messer
Bassett W. Neely
Guy R. O'Kelly
Thomas W. O'Leary
Paul J. Patchen
Theodore D. Sawyer
Otto B. Schneider
John W. Saunders

1st BATTALION

LT. COLONEL

Arthur C. Bonnycastle

2nd BATTALION

LT. COLONEL

Silas B. Dishman

3rd BATTALION

LT. COLONEL

Frank B. Thompson

MAJOR

Clifford McDowell

CAPTAINS

Milton J. Bublitz
 Luther H. Garrison
 Martin C. Grigg
 Delbert D. Hemphill
 Norman H. Nuttall
 Chester L. Pearson

1st LIEUTENANTS

Arthur Brinson
 Alan Bryen
 Raymond E. Burgamy
 Frank B. Clements
 Elmer V. DeAugustinis
 Vernon Grissom
 Garland L. Gwin
 Leroy J. Korschgen
 William J. Luke, Jr.
 Wilbert J. Saurer
 Joseph C. Schwartz
 Harold G. Steinmetz, Jr.
 Robert L. Stevenson
 J. C. Sutton
 Stephen D. Thomas

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Paul R. Bartholome
 Jerome E. Domengeaux
 George R. Fallat
 James A. Gibson, Jr.
 Eugene M. Hardy
 Glenn A. Hewitt
 Burton L. Kieffer
 Hamilton Macauley
 John L. McClay
 Albert R. Newberry
 Milton W. Pearce
 Arlington H. Tucker

MAJOR

Ferrell J. Lewis

CAPTAINS

Arbie W. Allen
 Kenneth A. Downing
 Edwin H. Ekru
 Thomas W. Jones
 George S. Patterson
 Byrd Sergeant

1st LIEUTENANTS

Lee H. Blackwell
 Joseph F. Brown
 Robert L. Cowden
 William D. Dome
 Darwin C. Ebinger
 Claude H. Faulkner
 Daniel W. Jones
 Eugene L. Kersting
 Theodore A. Lekon
 Marion N. Morgan
 Leo H. Reed
 Bert D. Selman
 George E. Shirley
 August W. Wehring

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Olin B. Boyd, Jr.
 Bertil G. Carlson
 Robert T. Gaffaney
 Jerome H. Hugger
 Henry Kiely
 Walter J. Masters
 Harry D. Merritt
 William E. Murphy, Jr.
 Lester A. Porter
 Lionel E. Regnier
 Michael D. Sfisko
 William F. Strand
 Lester N. Wells

MAJOR

John P. Henahan

CAPTAINS

Lavon C. Blanke
 Donald H. Harms
 Edwin A. Oehrle
 Otis R. Ogles
 Fred B. Tuggle
 Warren W. Walton

1st LIEUTENANTS

John C. A. Alderete
 James R. Beauchamp
 William D. Coughlin
 Jackson B. Fox
 Edward P. Heller, Jr.
 Sidney Kisner
 Earle L. Lancaster
 James D. Meador
 Malcolm M. McIsaac
 Artie J. Roper
 Carl W. Rose
 Cyril W. Sonken
 Claude L. Tobias
 Richard E. Womer, Jr.
 Charles R. Zuk

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Charles S. Arienta
 Harris J. Champagne
 Harold I. Fischer
 Robert W. Flannigan
 Francis J. Gagnon
 Regis L. Gray
 Jacob Kotsch, Jr.
 Lewis H. Miller
 Alan M. Ridgeway
 Leo J. Riggs
 Edmund M. Sadlock
 Thomas M. Walsh

The following is a letter of Commendation from Major General Sultan, former Commanding General of the 38th Division.

HEADQUARTERS 38TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

210.22

March 19, 1942

SUBJECT: Commendation on Rifle Marksmanship Training
TO Commanding Officer, 149th Infantry

1. Reference your Report of Range Firing, dated March 17, 1942. I have noted that 2,133 men of your regiment fired the prescribed special rifle marksmanship course and that 2,116 or 99.25 percent of those firing qualified. I observed throughout your preliminary training and range practice that your rifle marksmanship training was organized and conducted in an efficient and expeditious manner.

2. I desire to express to you and through you to the officers and enlisted men of your regiment my appreciation of the fine work of the 149th Infantry in this important training activity.

/s/Dan I. Sultan
DAN I. SULTAN,
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

