

THE
HISTORY OF THE
170TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



To the Officers and Enlisted Men of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion:—

I wish to offer my personal congratulations to the members of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion. Few Military Organizations have ever been called upon to perform so many various duties. You have triumphed over severe tests, and they stand as tributes to your untiring devotion and qualities of leadership. They have earned you high esteem.

To you all my deepest thanks for your devotion and accomplishments during World War II. May your feelings be of satisfaction for duty well done.

My own humble appreciation for so fine a command.

ANDREW R. LOLLI

Lt. Col. F. A.

Commanding.

you have been with the battalion will last forever no matter how separated we may be after discharge, for we have learned through years of close association that man cannot exist alone without the support of his comrades.

These years in the service have been anything but fruitless, as the future will prove even to the greatest cynic. The wealth of experience and education that we have gained through our travels would never have been available to most of us had it not been required by our service to our Nation during World War II. We have had the opportunity to observe and live among other people, who populate not only other parts of our own vast country, but other nations of this world. The battalion has traveled as a unit through thirty-three states of this country; and without a doubt many of the men have visited most of the remaining fifteen while on leave or furlough. We have also traveled in Scotland, England, Wales, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg; and some have visited Austria, Czechoslovakia and Holland. What we have learned about these countries, their peoples, and their standards of living, should make us forever proud that we are Americans and able to enjoy the American Way of Life. This war has proved to many that our way of living is worth while; is worth fighting for; and is worthy of our every effort to maintain forever. In the years to come this problem will forever face us, and now that we have fought for our way, it will always be our duty to see that it is ours to enjoy.

Many of us have learned much that will be of great use to us in the future. Some have increased their education; others have learned new trades that they plan to follow upon discharge. But all of us have learned something from these years of service that will make these years of value.

The spirit of co-operation of all men within the battalion to do "the job" in a superior manner has always been high in training as well

as in combat. Sometimes we have been given what was believed to be an impossible task or an unobtainable goal to accomplish. But never have we failed, for our heart and body was united one with another to make the 170th Field Artillery Battalion the finest in the army. In this we have not failed, as our record proved. It shall be the same in the civilian world that we are about to enter once again. But as we pass through the years of the future, let us never forget the motto of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion, "Onward Forever"; and we shall never fail to do the task before us, and do it well.

The Editor wishes to extend his thanks to those that have offered their help to make this history possible. To Captain F. R. McEnany and Captain C. F. Liebrecht for the historical information. To Mr. A. M. Stillwell for collecting the records and material. To Lieutenant Philip Young for his assistance in compiling this volume.

Harry D. Greenwood
Editor.

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE 170TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

On April 23, 1660, Peter S. Stuyvesant, Governor of the colony of New Amsterdam, appointed Thomas Chambers to the command of Captain of the incipient militia, then known as "The Train Band of Wildwijk and Esopus". By this act the earliest predecessor of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion was established in historical records, and made possible the tracing of the unit's history from that day until the present. There is evidence available to show that the unit was active prior to this date, but the earliest documentary proof is the appointment of this commander. It is through this that this battalion, with the 156th Field Artillery Battalion, can lay claim to being the oldest military organizations in America still in existence today.

The parent organization was primarily Dutch in background; and the first rosters were studded with such names as Van Renselaer, Dederick, Ousterhous and Hollenbeck. These early Dutch soldiers were a hardy lot; and were mainly interested in protecting the homes that they had established in this new land. During the Indian Wars of 1660, the militia, or the "Burger Guards" as they were called, saw a great deal of service warding off the attacks of the savages, who resented the encroachment of the white men into their lands. By 1693 the militia of Ulster and Dutchess Counties had grown to four companies of foot soldiers and one troop of Dragoons, all under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Beckman. When not posted on the northern frontier of the settlement, they were always on the alert for any eventuality.

Down through the years, these predecessors of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion were constantly in action against the Indians. During the French and Indian War, the unit was in the thick of the fighting at Montreal, Quebec, Crown Point and Fort Edward under the British colors.

When this country was fighting against the British for our independence, the parent unit served with the First Regular New York Militia; and participated in most of the engagements against the British by the Colonial Army in New York State.

Again American troops were fighting against the British in the War of 1812. During this war the parent organization was active in the defense of New York City, being assigned to the Second Brigade. After the war the major portion of the organization was demobilized until in 1846 only one company was in existence. This company drilled at Goshen, N. Y.

On November 22, 1855, the "Washington Continental Guard" was organized from this existing company, which was later designated as Company "D" of the 19th Regiment. During the next three years the organization was expanded with the formation of "E", "F", "L",

and "I" Companies of the 19th Regiment. On June 21, 1860, "L" Company was detached from the 19th Regiment and attached to the 71st Militia as Company "I". This unit served with the 71st Militia as a howitzer company for a period of three months, during which they fought in the first Battle of Bull Run. In the spring of 1862, they were again assigned to the 71st Militia for another three month period, and were present at the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, (April 15 to May 4, 1862), and the skirmish of Stafford Courthouse, Virginia, (April 6, 1862). Upon their return they formed the nucleus of the 124th Regiment, also known as the "American Guards" and the "Orange Blossoms". The regiment was mustered in again for three years service on Sept. 5, 1862. Until they were mustered out on June 3, 1865, the unit saw action in many of the major battles of the Civil War. The unit was demobilized leaving only Company "C" of the 19th Regiment; which was later redesignated as the 5th and 10th Separate Companies.

The history of batteries now comprising the 170th Field Artillery Battalion can be traced, without loss of specific identity, to the formation of the 1st Infantry, New York National Guard, in May of 1898. The 1st Infantry was formed from various separate companies of which the original parent unit was a part. Upon formation of the 1st Infantry, the unit was sent to Camp Black, Hempstead, for field training, on May 20, 1898. The unit left the United States on August 5, 1898, for duty in the Hawaiian Islands during the Spanish-American War. The 1st Infantry returned to the United States on December 6, 1898; and was mustered out on February 20-26, 1899, returning to its state status as the 1st Infantry.

In 1905, the 1st Infantry was reorganized; and six of the units of the former regiments were redesignated to comprise the reorganized regiment. These units were the 5th, 10th, 24th, 3rd, 20th, and 33rd Separate Companies; which became Companies "L", "E", "I", "G", "H", and "F", respectively, of that regiment.

When the war clouds were piling up heavy over Europe during the early part of World War I, the 1st Infantry was called into service in June of 1917 by order of the Governor of New York State, and Companies "L", "E", and "I" went into field training for Mexican Border Service. When war was declared upon Germany these Companies were in service; and on August 5, 1917, the 1st Infantry was called into Federal Service. In October of 1917 part of the personnel of the 1st Infantry was transferred to the 107th Regiment of the 27th Division. This regiment arrived in France on May 25, 1918; and took part in several engagements of that war, including the cracking of the famed Hindenburg Line.

The remaining personnel of the 1st Infantry were reorganized on January 4, 1918, to form the 1st Pioneer Infantry. This unit left the United States on board the S. S. "Orizaba" on July 7, 1918, for France; and participated in the Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, and Meuse-Argonne

operations, and in the Army of the Occupation. The Unit returned to the United States on board the S. S. "Ancon" on July 7, 1919, and was disbanded on July 31, 1919.

After the war, many of the men re-enlisted in their old companies of the 1st New York Infantry. From this unit was formed the 132nd Ammunition Train, a Corps Artillery Unit of the New York National Guard. In April 1924 the 132nd Ammunition Train was ordered to re-organize into a 75mm gun field artillery regiment. This new unit was designated the 156th Field Artillery, and was assigned to the 69th Field Artillery Brigade of the 44th Infantry Division. Companies "L", "E", and "I" of the 1st Infantry being designated as Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, 2nd Battalion, and Batteries "E" and "D", respectively, 156th Field Artillery. Companies "H", "M", and "K", 10th Infantry, of the 51st Pioneer Infantry during World War I, were reassigned to the 156th Field Artillery. These units were designated as Batteries "F", "A", and "C", respectively, in the new field artillery regiment. During the following years the regiment served with the New York State National Guard.

The Regiment was inducted into Federal Services on September 16, 1940, by Presidential Order No. 8530. On February 1, 1941, the 1st and 2nd Battalion Service Batteries, 156th Field Artillery, were organized in accordance with Tables of Organization 6-22, War Department, dated October 30, 1940.

After the various batteries of the 156th Field Artillery were assembled at their respective home armories, the regiment moved to Fort Dix, New Jersey; where the 44th Infantry Division was assembling for training. This was the first permanent station for the unit. At the time that the unit was called into Federal Service, the length of the training period had been designated as one year, the major portion of the first year to be spent in Individual and Unit Training. During June, July and August of 1941, the regiment made several road marches to A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia, for maneuvers and field training. During the months of September, October, November and December of 1941, the regiment, as part of the 44th Division, took part in the Carolina Maneuvers.

Upon the return of the Division from the Carolina Maneuvers to Fort Dix, the period of active duty was extended for the duration plus six months as a result of the declaration of war by the United States on Germany and Japan. In January of 1942, the 44th Division undertook the longest motor march on record to date by a unit of division size, by moving from Fort Dix to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, a distance of approximately 1,700 miles. While at Camp Claiborne, orders were received from the War Department that the 44th Division would be reorganized as a triangular division on February 16, 1942.

The triangularization of the division changed the Tables of Organization of the division artillery from a brigade of three regiments to a

Division Artillery Headquarters and four field artillery battalions. This change resulted in the formation of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion and the 156th Field Artillery Battalion from the 156th Field Artillery Regiment. This was the beginning of the 170th Field Artillery Battalion as a separate unit as it exists today. Lt. Col. George W. Williams was assigned as the Battalion Commander of the new unit. Col. Williams had commanded the unit while it was the Second Battalion of the 156th Field Artillery Regiment, and carried his command through to the new unit.

Shortly after this reorganization, the 44th Division was ordered to move to Ft. Lewis, Washington; and upon arrival was assigned to the Northwest Sector of the Western Defense Command. During a period of nearly a year, the battalion constructed and manned beach defense positions at various critical positions along the coast of Washington and Oregon. This tactical mission was interspersed with field problems and Army Ground Force Firing Tests at the Yakima Firing Range, Yakima, Washington. During this year the battalion headquarters was based at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and Camp Adair, Oregon.

During December, 1943, the battalion received orders detaching it from the 44th Division and the Northwest Sector Defense, and assigning the unit to the Southern California Sector of the Western Defense Command as a part of the 174th Infantry Combat Team. This mission charged the Combat Team with the defense of the coast line from Los Angeles to Serf, California. During this time Lt. Col. Williams left the battalion to assume a responsible position on the staff of a higher headquarters, and Lt. Col. Charles R. Murray took command temporarily. On December 18, 1943, Lt. Col. Andrew R. Lolli took command, which he has held through combat and training until the present day.

The battalion moved by rail from Ft. Lewis, Washington to Santa Barbara, California, on January 1, 1944. Upon arrival in Santa Barbara, the unit took temporary quarters at the Fleischman Polo Grounds in Montecito, California; and later moved to Jefferson Barracks in the heart of Santa Barbara. During the period of January to September 1943, the battalion manned beach defense positions guarding important installations at the Port Hueneme Naval Station, Santa Barbara Naval Station, Marine Air Base at Goleta, and Radar Installations on Santa Cruz Island, 25 miles off the coast of California. In April, 1943, the Battalion Headquarters was moved from Jefferson Barracks, Santa Barbara, to the Ojai Country Club, Ojai, Calif. Here the men not manning the beach positions underwent a period of intensive training, including field firing at Dry Canyon Firing Range in the desert area beyond the coastal mountain range. In August, the battalion was ordered to move to Los Angeles, California, on a secret mission. The unit set up camp on the grounds of the Rancho Golf Course, Pico Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California.

In September, 1943, the defense of the coast was turned over to the Coast Artillery; and the battalion, relieved from assignment to the

Western Defense Command, moved to Camp Cooke, California, for assignment to the Second Armored Corps. During the following four months the battalion was attached to the Second Armored Corps, Third Corps, Fourth Army, and the Eighteenth Corps. In February of 1944, the battalion was relieved from assignment to the Eighteenth Corps, and ordered to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

As School Troops attached to the Field Artillery School at Ft. Sill, the battalion established high records in the performance of their duties that have not been equaled before or since. In gunnery, the battalion established the record of making no gunnery errors during a period of six months. In addition the battalion received several commendations from the Field Artillery School for their superior attention to carrying out school requirements. In October, 1944, the battalion was relieved from assignment to the Field Artillery School and ordered to move to Camp Polk, Louisiana, for training prior to being assigned to an overseas theater.

At Camp Polk, the battalion was assigned to the 14th Headquarters of Fourth Army; and spent a period of about two months in preparation for overseas movement. On December 6, 1944, the battalion moved by rail from Camp Polk to the Staging Area at Camp Shanks, New York. On December 16, 1944, the battalion boarded the HMS "Queen Elizabeth" at Pier 90, New York Port of Embarkation; and set sail for the European Theater of Operations. The HMS "Queen Elizabeth" arrived off Greenock, Scotland, on December 21, 1944. The trip was made without incident, although it was reported that the ship was being followed by enemy submarines during the last day of the voyage. At Greenock, the troops disembarked on lighters, and boarded trains at Greenock for Liverpool, England. At the Lime Street Station in Liverpool, busses were waiting to carry the personnel to Wallasey, Cheshire, England, where billets for the battalion had been obtained by the members of the advanced detail, who had crossed before the main body on board the "Ile de France." At this location, the battalion spent approximately two months assembling and conditioning the necessary equipment for combat service. On March 1, 1945, the battalion traveled by motor convoy to the Weymouth Port of Embarkation at Piddletrenthide; and then to Portland, England, for loading and shipment to the continent. The crossing was made in LST's for the trucks, guns, and equipment; and LCI'S for the additional personnel.

The LST's beached at the port of Le Havre, France; and the battalion moved by truck to a temporary bivouac on the much fought over German Air Fields at Dieppe, France. Having received assignment to the First Army, the battalion left Dieppe on March 14, 1945 for the zone of action of the First Army. This move took the unit through northern France to the general area of Liege, Belgium. A temporary bivouac was established at Aubel, Belgium, on March 15th, prior to moving into the line. Upon receiving orders that the 170th Field Artillery would support the troops establishing the Remagen Bridgehead, the advance parties went forward on March 18, 1945, and selected

battery positions in the vicinity of Neiderbreisig, Germany. On March 19, 1945, the battalion moved forward and occupied the assigned positions. The Second Section of Battery "C" fired the first round of the battalion in combat. The initial assignment of the battalion in combat was to the 408th Field Artillery Group, assigned to the III Corps Artillery, First Army. After the Remagen Bridgehead was established, the battalion was detached from the 408th Field Artillery Group; and attached to the 99th Division Artillery on a reinforcing mission. Upon receipt of these orders, the battalion crossed the Rhine and took up positions in the vicinity of Hargarten, Germany.

As a result of the aggressive action of the division and its supporting arms, the unit moved forward against spasmodic resistance of the enemy onto the open plain extending east from Wetzlar. Here the zone of action was turned to the north in an attempt to encircle, trap, and destroy a major portion of the German Army in the Ruhr River Valley. The 99th Division was selected to spearhead the attack in a cross country drive across the mountains towards the heart of the Ruhr. The encirclement was successfully accomplished by the combined action of the First and Ninth Armies, and 99th Division continued the spearhead attack in an attempt to divide the forces already surrounded. By April 15th, the main supply dumps of the enemy had been captured and the forces disorganized. On April 16th, the resistance in the Ruhr Pocket ceased with the surrender of 317,000 enemy soldiers. Battery "B" fired the last official round of the Battle of the Ruhr. This decisive victory was accomplished through the aggressive action of the spearhead troops of the 99th Infantry Division, and attached units including the 170th Field Artillery Battalion, who constantly pursued the enemy over a cross country route through dense forests, rivers, and mountainous areas. The battalion remained well forward at all times in order to give the greatest support to the infantry. The hardships of constant movement over almost impassable terrain and the preparation and occupation of positions sometimes several times in a single day did not weaken the spirit or efficiency of the organization, and helped to bring the Battle of the Ruhr to a successful and speedy conclusion.

After the fall of the Ruhr Pocket, the battalion was detached from the 99th Infantry Division, and assigned to the 8th Tank Destroyer Group. This assignment made necessary a shift from the zone of action of the First Army to that of the Third Army in Central Germany. The battalion moved into the Nurnberg area on May 22, 1945, and set up headquarters in Furth, Germany. The mission of the battalion under the 8th Tank Destroyer Group was to clear and consolidate the territory by-passed by the fast moving front line elements of the Third Army. As the leading elements of the army moved towards the Austrian border, the battalion followed closely, disarming and controlling the areas in the vicinity of Ingolstadt, Abendsberg and Landshut. The battalion was in the general area of Landshut, east of the Danube and north of Munich, at the time of the unconditional surrender of the German Army on May 8, 1945.

After V-E day, the Third Army was spread throughout southeastern Germany to occupy and control the areas of Frankonia and Bavaria. The 170th Field Artillery Battalion was assigned the area in the vicinity of Hersbrook, Germany, to the Northeast of Nurnberg. The batteries of the battalion were assigned sections of the battalion area as follows:—Headquarters and Headquarters Battery—Kirchensittenbach, Battery "A"—Reichenwand, Battery "B"—Velma, Battery "C"—Alfalter, and Service Battery—Hersbrook. After a period of approximately forty-five days of occupying this area, the battalion received orders alerting the unit for redeployment to the Pacific Theater through the United States. The batteries immediately began preparing their equipment for shipment direct and turned it in to supply dumps. On June 25, 1945, the battalion left the Hersbrook area for the Le Harve Port of Embarkation. The route of march took the battalion through Aschaffenberg, Trier, Luxembourg, Soissons, and St. Vallery, France. The Battalion was staged at Camp Lucky Strike for the return voyage.

The Advance Detail for the Battalion left for the states on board the U. S. S. "Hawaiian Shipper" on July 1, 1945; and the main body left the Port of Le Havre on board the U. S. S. "Marine Angel" on July 11, 1945. The Advance Detail arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, on July 10, 1945. The Battalion arrived at Hampton Roads on July 19, 1945, and disembarked at Newport News, Virginia for Camp Patrick Henry. Here the personnel of the battalion were broken up into small groups according to the nearest reception center to their home, from which they would start their thirty day recuperation leaves and furloughs.

While the personnel of the battalion were on leave, the unconditional surrender of Japan brought World War II to a close. When the men reassembled at Camp Hood, Texas, they awaited disposition of the unit in accordance with revised redeployment plans. Because of the high point average of the battalion as a whole, orders were received from the War Department that the unit would not be sent to the Pacific Theater. Therefore the discharging of the personnel has been started and will continue until the unit is inactivated.

And now after five years of Federal Service during World War II, the personnel of this battalion are leaving the army for the far flung reaches of the country, and into every state. The future status of the unit is at present unknown, but it is the hope of every man who has served with the battalion that the 170th Field Artillery Battalion will never lose its identity and fade from the Military History of the United States of America.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA FOR THE 170TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The following distinctive insignia for the 170th Field Artillery Battalion has been authorized and approved by the War Department.

SHIELD

Per bend, azure and gules a bend wavy argent, to chief a tara leaf and fleur-de-lis in bend, or: on a canton of the last a cross of the second surmounted by a saltire of the first; within a bordure compony of the second and the fourth.

MOTTO

"Onward Forever"

CREST

That for the regiments of the New York National Guard:
On a wreath of the colors the fullrigged ship "Half Moon"
all proper.

The Shield and Crest of this battalion indicate in brief its history. The red upright cross in the upper left hand corner of the shield indicates service during the American Revolution; while the blue saltire cross oversetting the red cross represents service in the Civil War. The tara leaf and the fleur-de-lis in the blue field of the shield denote service as an infantry unit during the Spanish American War and the World War I, respectively. The wavy diagonal band is indicative of the Hudson River Valley, from which the unit originated. The red field represents service as an artillery unit. The shield is completely surrounded by a border of red and yellow squares, which indicates descent as a field artillery unit from a parent unit, the 156th Field Artillery Regiment.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE 170TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Sept. 16, 1940—Inducted into Federal Service as the 2nd Battalion of the 156th Field Artillery in accordance with Presidential Order 8530. Points of assembly were:—

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery—Newburgh, New York
Battery "D"—Middletown, New York
Battery "E"—Newburgh, New York
Battery "F"—Mount Vernon, New York

Sept. 16-22—Recruiting activity and preparation for movement to training camp.

Sept. 23, 1940—Left induction points for Ft. Dix, N. J.; first permanent station.

Dec. 4, 1940—First Selective Service recruits assigned to battalion.

Jan. 10, 1941—Regiment makes blackout motor march to Trenton, N. J.

Jan. 30, 1941—First Service Practice, vicinity of Taylor Mountain, Fort Dix.

Feb. 1, 1941—Service Battery, 2nd Bn., 156th F. A. activated as of this date.

Mar. 17, 1941—Battalion assists in the construction of a corduroy road and a log cabin under the supervision of Lt. R. J. Cole.

Mar. 28, 1941—Battalion moves from tent area into permanent wooden barracks.

Apr. 1, 1941—PFC Parkins, Btry "E", dies at Ft. Dix Station Hospital.

Apr. 5, 1941—Regiment takes part in Army Day Parade, New York City.

Apr. 20-22—Troops of the 44th Division assist in putting the New Jersey Forest Fire under control.

May 3, 1941—Division Parade for Secretary of Navy Knox.

May 19-23—Division Field Problem:—Resisting an enemy landing along the New Jersey Coast in the vicinity of Atlantic City, N. J.

June 4-10—Unit Maneuvers at A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Va.

June 14, 1941—Major Vincent J. Coffey dies at Ft. Dix Station Hospital.

July 8-14—Regimental Field Problem at Tobyhana, Penn.

July 17-Aug. 5—Division Maneuvers at A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia.

Sept. 26-Dec. 15—Division takes part in the Carolina Maneuvers of the First Army.

Oct. 28, 1941—PFC Francis J. Curtis, Btry. "E", killed in Line of Duty.

Dec. 7, 1941—Japs attack Pearl Harbor. Battalion in bivouac at Warrentonville, Va.

Jan. 7-16—Division moved by motor convoy from Ft. Dix, N. J., to Camp Claiborne, La. A permanent change of station.

Jan. 16, 1942—Cpl. Di Benedetto, Hq. Btry., dies at Fort Brancaus Hospital as result of an auto accident at Crestview, Fla., Jan. 13, 1942.

Jan. 20, 1942—Pvt. Schwers, Btry "F", dies at Baltimore, Md., as result of an auto accident at Baltimore, Md., Jan. 8, 1942.

Feb. 16, 1942—44th Division reorganized from a square to a triangular division. 2nd. Bn, 156th F. A. redesignated as the 170th F. A.-Bn; Batteries "D", "E", and "F" become Batteries "A", "B", and "C" respectively.

Feb. 28, 1942—Movement of the 44th Division by rail from Camp Claiborne, La., to Fort Lewis, Wash.; for assignment to the Northwest Sector, Western Defense Command.

Mar. 4, 1942—Battalion, less Service Battery, left Ft. Lewis to relieve units on beach defense within sector. New assignments were:—
Headquarters and "C" Batteries—Quilcene, Wash.
"A" Battery—Sequim, Wash.
"B" Battery—Aberdeen, Wash.

Apr. 10, 1942—Battalion reassembled at Ft. Lewis, having been relieved from beach defense by the 156th F. A.-Bn.

Apr. 11-May 3—Field problem and Army Ground Force Firing Test at Yakima Firing Range, Yakima, Wash., under the direction of the IX Corps.

May 4, 1942—Battery "C" departed from Ft. Lewis for Sequim, Wash.

May 5, 1942—Personnel from "Hq", "A" and "B" Batteries detailed for special duty to evacuate Japanese to relocation points in California, Washington, and Oregon.

May 20, 1942—Battery "B" left Ft. Lewis enroute to North Cove, Wash.

June 6, 1942—Battery "A" left Ft. Lewis enroute to Aberdeen, Wash.

June 23, 1942—Detail from Headquarters Battery left Ft. Lewis enroute to beach positions near Richmond Beach, Wash.

July 3, 1942—Detail from Battery "C" attached on special duty to the Port Angeles Naval Station, Port Angeles, Wash., to man guns defending the station.

July 13, 1942—Battery "A" moved from Aberdeen, Wash., to North Cove, Wash. Battery "B" moved from North Cove, Wash., to Aberdeen, Wash.

Aug. 14, 1942—Battalion reassembled at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Aug. 28-Sept. 12—Field Exercise and AGF Firing Tests at Yakima, Wash.

Sept. 12, 1942—Battalion left Ft. Lewis enroute to Avery Park, Corvallis, Ore.

Sept. 23, 1942—Battalion stationed along the right of way of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the vicinity of Klamath Falls, Ore., to guard the route of the Presidential Train.

Oct. 8, 1942—Battalion moved from Avery Park to Camp Adair, Ore.

Nov. 22, 1942—Battalion departed from Camp Adair, Ore., for Yakima, Wash., for field exercises and AGF Firing Tests.

Nov. 27, 1942—Lt. Col. George W. Williams relieved of command and transferred to Division Staff of the 6th. Motorized Division. Lt. Col. C. F. Murray assumes temporary command.

Dec. 22, 1942—Left Yakima, Wash., enroute to Ft. Lewis.

Dec. 23, 1942—Lt. Col. Andrew R. Lolli assumes command of the battalion, vice Lt. Col. Murray, relieved.

Jan. 1, 1943—Battalion relieved from assignment with 44th Division, assigned to Southern California Sector, Western Defense Command. Battalion left Ft. Lewis, enroute to Santa Barbara, Calif.

Jan. 3, 1943—Battalion establishes temporary camp at Fleischman Polo Grounds, Monticeto, Calif.

Jan. 7, 1943—Battalion moved from the Polo Grounds to take over beach defense positions. Headquarters and Service Batteries to Jefferson Barracks, Santa Barbara; Battery "A" to Laguna Ball Park, Santa Barbara; Battery "B" to the Surf Club, Carpinteria; and Battery "C" to Cambells Ranch, Goleta.

Feb. 8, 1943—Detail from Headquarters Battery left for U. S. Naval Station, Port Hueneme, Calif., to man gun position.

Mar. 1, 1943—Battery "A" relieves Battery "C" at Cambells Ranch; and Battery "C" moves to Laguna Ball Park.

April 5, 1943—Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters, "C", and Service Batteries move to the Ojai Country Club, Ojai, Calif.

Apr. 6, 1943—Battery "A" takes over all beach positions along coast. Battery "B" moves to Ojai.

May 3, 1943—Battery "C" relieves Battery "A" on beach defense.

May 15, 1943—Battery "B" participates in "I am an American" Demonstration at the Los Angeles Coliseum, Pasadena, Calif.

May 26-28—Service Practice at Dry Canyon Firing Range.

June 14-18—Service Practice at Dry Canyon Firing Range.

July 26, 1943—Battalion moves from Ojai to the El Rancho Golf Course, Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. Provisional Battery takes over gun positions along coast.

Sept. 3, 1943—Battalion relieved from duty with Southern California Sector, WDC; and re-assigned to II Armored Corps. Battalion left Los Angeles enroute to Camp Cooke, California.

Nov. 8-29—Field exercises and AGF Firing Tests at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation under Fourth Army Control.

Dec. 3, 1943—Participated in the 6th Armored Division maneuvers.

Feb. 21, 1943—Left Camp Cooke, Calif., by rail enroute to Fort Sill, Okla. Assigned to the Field Artillery School as School Troops.

Oct. 2, 1944—Departed Ft. Sill, enroute to Camp Polk, La., for final training and preparation for overseas service.

Dec. 7, 1944—Left Camp Polk, La., by rail enroute to Camp Shanks, New York.

Dec. 15, 1944—Departed Camp Shanks, N. Y., enroute to Pier 90, N. Y. Port of Embarkation. Boarded the HMS Queen Elizabeth at 2400.

Dec. 16, 1944—Sailed from the Port of New York for service in the European Theater of Operations.

Dec. 21, 1944—Anchored off Greenock, Scotland, (Port of Glasgow).
 Dec. 23, 1944—Debarked from ship, entrained from Greenock, Scotland.
 Dec. 24, 1944—Arrived at Liverpool, England. Took buses from Lime Street Station to billets in Wallasey, Cheshire, England. Hear first air raid alert during V-Bomb attack.
 Mar. 1, 1945—Departed Wallasey, England, by truck for ETUSA POE, Portland, Eng., for shipment to the continent.
 Mar. 4, 1945—Arrived at Le Havre, France, on board LST's and LCI's. LST's beached along shore and the battalion traveled by truck to the Dieppe Air Strip, Dieppe, France.
 Mar. 11, 1945—Battalion relieved from assignment to Fifteenth U. S. Army, and reassigned to the First U. S. Army.
 Mar. 14, 1945—Departed Dieppe, France, enroute to combat assignment. Bivouaced at Cambrai, France.
 Mar. 15, 1945—Departed Cambrai, France; arrived Aubel, Belgium. Temporary Billets assigned.
 Mar. 18, 1945—Assigned to III Corps Artillery, and further attached to 408th Field Artillery Group. Advance Parties went forward into combat sector to select battery positions in assigned area.
 Mar. 19, 1945—Battalion departed Aubel, Belgium, enroute to battery positions in vicinity of Neiderbreisig, Germany. The Second Section Gun of Battery "C" fired the first round in combat. Battalion fired first mission in support of the troops establishing the Remagen Bridgehead.
 Mar. 21, 1945—PFC Rudolph Burton, Battery "A", and PFC Floyd J. Hoff, Battery "B", killed in action. Battalion detached from 408th F. A. Gp. and attached to the 99th Division Artillery as reinforcing artillery. Departed Neiderbreisig, enroute to Hargarten. Service Battery crossed Rhine enroute to Leubsdorf.
 Mar. 22, 1945—Service Battery departed Leubsdorf, enroute to Linz.
 Mar. 23, 1945—Battalion departed Hargarten, enroute to Reifert.
 Mar. 24, 1945—Battalion departed Reifert, enroute to Ellsback. Service Battery departed Linz, enroute to Reifert.
 Mar. 26, 1945—Battalion departed Ellsback, enroute to Bonefeld; departed Bonefeld, enroute to Maischeid. Service Battery departed Reifert, enroute to Kurtscheid.
 Mar. 27, 1945—Battalion departed Maischeid, enroute to Neiderahr; departed Neiderahr, enroute to Wallmerod. Service Battery departed Kurtscheid, enroute to Meudt.
 Mar. 30, 1945—Battalion departed Wallmerod, enroute to Rodheim. Service Battery departed Meudt, enroute to Fellingshausen.
 Apr. 1, 1945—Battalion departed Rodheim, enroute to Schiffelbach. Service Battery departed Fellingshausen, enroute to Schiffelbach.
 Apr. 4, 1945—Battalion departed Schiffelbach, enroute to Diedenshausen. Service Battery departed Schiffelbach, enroute to Hatzfeld.

Apr. 5, 1945—Battalion departed Diedenshausen, enroute to Wemlighausen. Service Battery departed Hatzfeld, enroute to Diedenshausen.
 Apr. 6, 1945—Battalion departed Wemlighausen, enroute to Schanze. Service Battery departed Diedenshausen, enroute to Wemlighausen.
 Apr. 7, 1945—Battalion departed Schanze, enroute to Fleckenberg.
 Apr. 8, 1945—Service Battery departed Wemlighausen, enroute to Fleckenberg.
 Apr. 9, 1945—Battalion departed Fleckenberg, enroute to Hundesossen.
 Apr. 10, 1945—Battalion departed Hundesossen, enroute to Bracht. Service Battery departed Fleckenberg, enroute to Bracht.
 Apr. 11, 1945—Battalion departed Bracht, enroute to Odingen.
 Apr. 12, 1945—Battalion departed Odingen, enroute to Serkenrode; departed Serkenrode, enroute to Rohrenspring. Service Battery departed Bracht, enroute to Serkenrode.
 Apr. 13, 1945—Battalion departed Rohrenspring, enroute to Garbeck. Service Battery departed Serkenrode, enroute to Garbeck.
 Apr. 15, 1945—Battalion departed Garbeck, enroute to Heppingsen.
 Apr. 16, 1945—Battle of the Ruhr Pocket ended, 0900.
 Apr. 17, 1945—Battalion relieved from attachment to the 99th Division, and attached to the 8th Tank Destroyer Group for Security Guard Duty. The Battalion moved from Heppingsen and Garbeck, enroute to Hallenberg to relieve units on duty there. The batteries were assigned the areas:—Hallenberg-Headquarters Battery, Bromskirchen-Battery "A", Saalhausen-Battery "B", Dodeneau-Battery "C", and Hesborn-Service Battery.
 Apr. 18, 1945—Battalion was relieved from assignment to the First U. S. Army, and reassigned to the Third U. S. Army. The Battalion departed from Hallenberg, enroute to Nurnberg. Bivouaced at Miltenberg. Column strafed by enemy plane, no casualties, little damage.
 Apr. 19, 1945—Battalion departed from Miltenberg, bivouaced at Kornhoefstadt.
 Apr. 22, 1945—Assigned mission in vicinity of Nurnberg. Battalion billeted in Furth.
 Apr. 26, 1945—Battery "B" departed Furth, enroute to Schwaback.
 Apr. 28, 1945—Battalion, less Battery "B", departed Furth, enroute to Pfforing.
 Apr. 29, 1945—Battery "A" departed Pfforing, enroute to Kosching. Battery "C" departed Pfforing, enroute to Eichstadt. Headquarters and Service Batteries, departed Pfforing, enroute to Ingolstadt.
 Apr. 30, 1945—Headquarters and Service Batteries departed Ingolstadt, enroute to Abendsberg.
 May 2, 1945—Headquarters Battery departed Abendsberg, enroute to Landshut. Battery "A" departed Kosching, enroute to Landshut. Battery "B" departed Schwaback, enroute to Landshut.
 May 3, 1945—Battery "C" departed Eichstadt, enroute to Abendsberg.

May 8, 1945—Germany surrendered unconditionally 1300 this date.

May 13, 1945—Battalion relieved from attachment to 8th Tank Destroyer Group, and re-attached to the 408th Field Artillery Group. Given mission to occupy and control area in vicinity of Hersbruck, Germany. The battalion reassembled at Landshut and Ingolstadt; and moved to the Hersbruck area. The Batteries were assigned the following areas:—Headquarters and Headquarters Battery-Kirchensittenbach, Battery "A"-Reichenschwand, Battery "B"-Artelshofen, Battery "C"-Alfalter, and Service Battery-Hersbruck.

May 14, 1945—Battery "B" named the field camp at Artelshofen in honor of PFC Floyd Hoff, killed in action.

May 30, 1945—Battalion placed on 30 day alert to return to United States for redeployment to the Pacific Theater.

June 15, 1945—Details of trucks left the Hersbruck area for ETUSA Supply Depots to turn over all organization equipment for shipment to the Pacific Theater direct.

June 19, 1945—Lt. Col. A. R. Lolli and Cpl. Richard B. Levy, Hq. Btry., were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service in Combat.

June 22, 1945—Advance Detail for the battalion left the Hersbruck area enroute to the Le Havre POE.

June 25, 1945—The battalion left by truck enroute to the Le Havre POE. Bivouaced vicinity of Aschaffenberg.

June 26, 1945—Battalion departed Aschaffenberg enroute to Trier, Germany.

June 27, 1945—Battalion departed Trier, Germany, enroute to Soissons, France.

June 28, 1945—Battalion departed Soissons; arrived at Camp Lucky Strike, St. Vallery, France, Staging area for Le Havre POE.

July 1, 1945—Advanced Detail left Le Havre POE on board the USS "Hawaiin Shipper" for the United States.

July 6, 1945—First Lieutenant Horace G. Cooke awarded the Air Medal for Meritorious Service in over 35 combat missions.

July 10, 1945—Advanced Detail arrived in the United States at Camp Shanks, N. Y.

July 11, 1945—Battalion left Le Harve POE for the United States on board the USS "Marine Angel".

July 19, 1945—USS "Marine Angel" arrived off Hampton Roads; docked at Newport News, Va. Personnel entrained for Camp Patrick Henry, Va.

July 20, 1945—Personnel of the Battalion left Camp Patrick Henry enroute to their homes for 30 day recuperation leaves and furloughs.

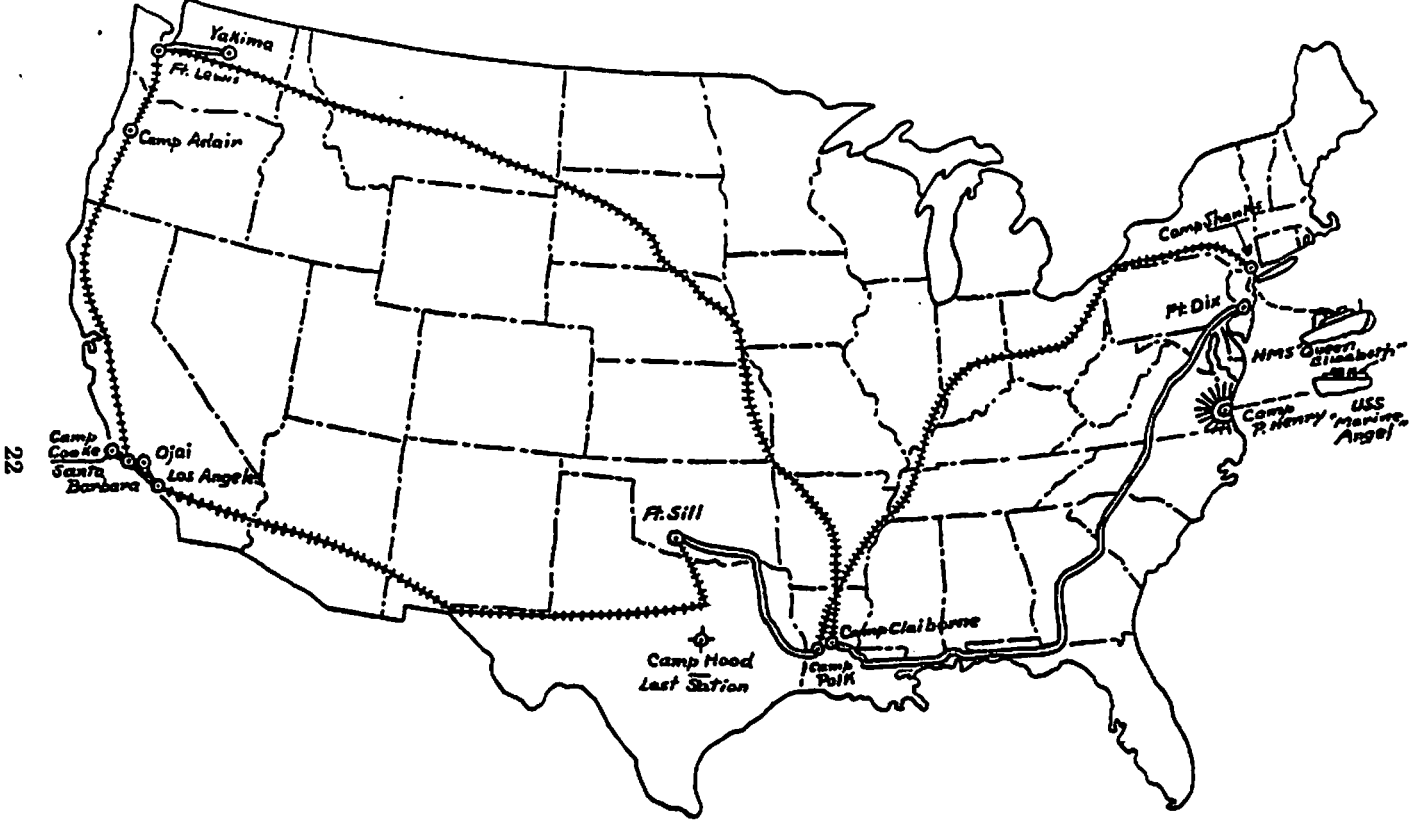
Aug. 27, 1945—First personnel arrived at Camp Hood, Texas, re-assembly point, after completing their leaves and furloughs.

Sept. 1, 1945—Battalion reassembled at Camp Hood, Texas.

Sept. 2, 1945—Japan signs unconditional surrender.

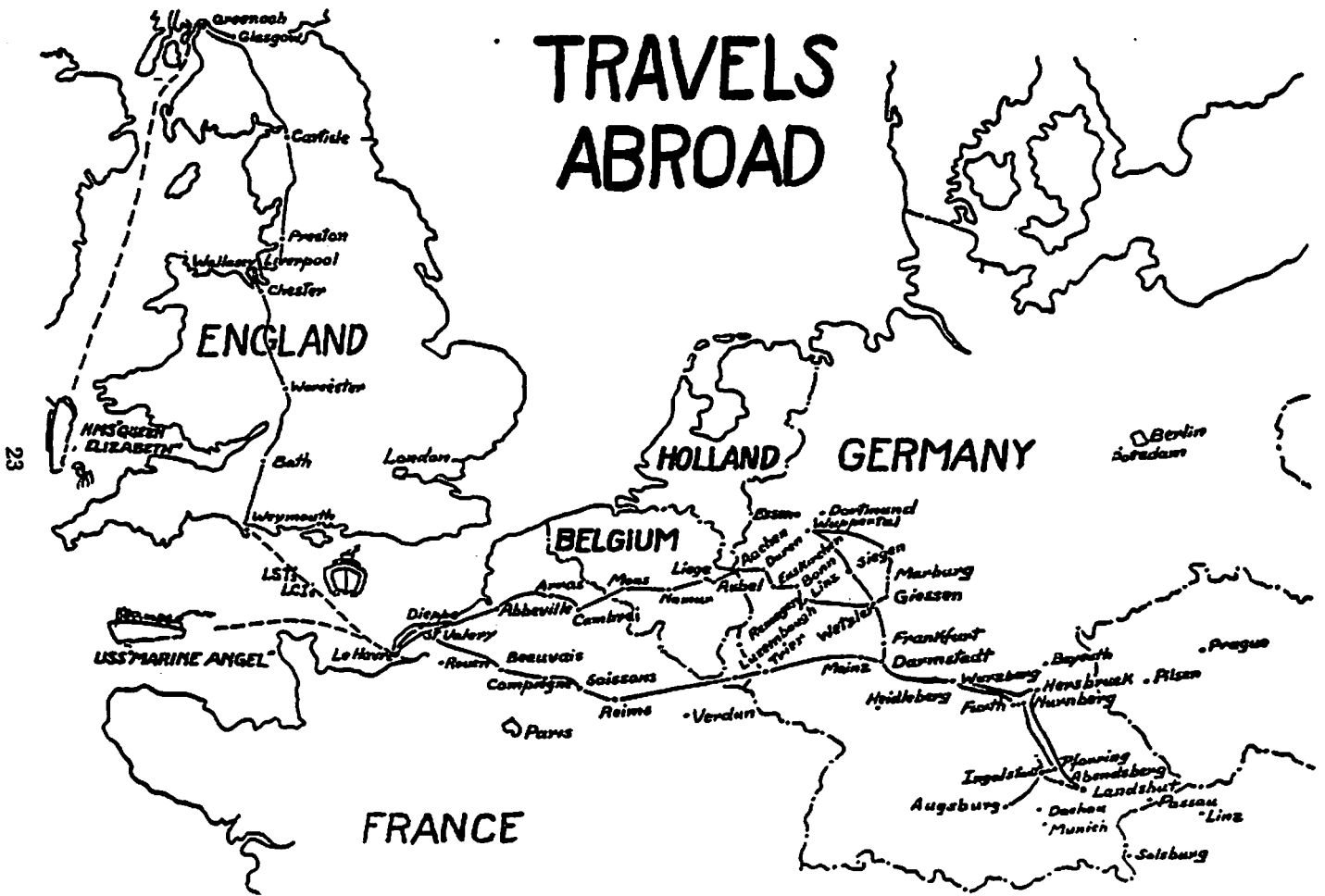
Oct. 1, 1945—Tech. Sgt. Adolph H. Becker awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in combat.

Nov. 1, 1945—Battalion ordered to deactivate on November 12, 1945. High point men discharged; and low point men transferred to other units.



22

OUR TRAVELS AT HOME



23

TRAVELS ABROAD

BATTALION ROSTER

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