

THE
HISTORY OF THE
170TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



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 Tobyhanna, 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.