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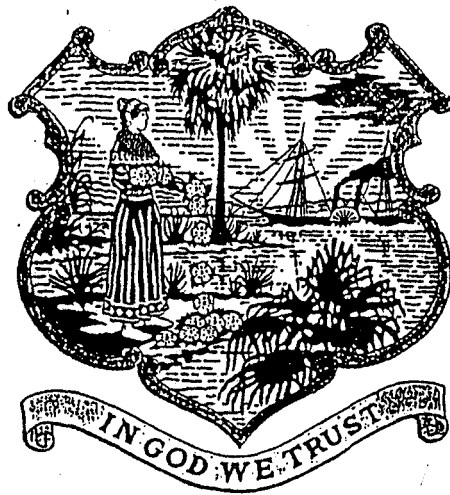
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FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS



**Special Archives Publication
Number**

133

**SUMMARY HISTORIES:
WORLD WAR II
REGULAR ARMY INFANTRY AND
CAVALRY DIVISIONS**

*State Arsenal
St. Francis Barracks
St. Augustine, Florida*

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Robert Hawk
Director

INTRODUCTION

The information in all the Summary Unit Histories was compiled by Jack L. Picken of Waterloo, Iowa. He is an amateur historian who has made the research and study of American combat units in the wars of the twentieth century his life's work. These summaries were sent to us as part of his contribution to the establishment of the Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park of the Second World War.

Some of the material was extracted from the standard works on US units listed below. But there is considerable information contained in these pages that is the result of dogged research in original records, especially the detailed information concerning unit casualties and decorations awarded. The statistics on day to day casualties Mr. Picken has researched for most combat units is absolutely unique and available in this form in no other source. (His statistics on casualties are more accurate than those available from normal official sources!)

There are some gaps in the information available and some "fine tuning" yet to be accomplished but eventually we hope to put this material on a computer and publish it in a more complete and professional manner. Until then these photocopied compilations will meet the immediate needs of all those interested in the incredible history of America's soldiers, airmen and marines during the Second World War.

Robert Hawk
Department of Military
Affairs
St. Augustine, Florida
1991

RESOURCES

Army Almanac (1950)
Committee on Veterans Affairs; Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1978
Fighting Divisions; Kahn, Ely J. and McLemore, Henry
Library, US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
University of Iowa; Army Divisional Combat Narratives, World War II (Archives)
Other public and private standard informational sources and institutions were consulted as necessary

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Documents - John Pace Library
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1ST INFANTRY DIVISION "The Big Red One"

Regular Army

Activated—8 June 1917

Battle Credits, World War II: Algeria Tunisia Sicily Normandy
Northern France-Belgium Siegfried Line Ardennes
Days In Combat—443 Rhineland Ruhr Pocket Central Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Terry M. Allen	August 1942—July 1943
Maj-Gen Clarence R. Huebner	July 1943—December 1944
Maj-Gen Clift Andrus	December 1944—August 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 1st Infantry Division, also known as the "Fighting First", has an outstanding record not only in World War I, when it was the first American division to fire upon the enemy and to also launch a major attack, but also, in World War II, when it was one of the first U.S. divisions to do battle with the enemy in North Africa.

The Fighting First got off to an early start when, after amphibious training in the United States and England, the division stormed ashore in Algeria, North Africa, on 8 November 1942. The 16th and 18th Infantry Regiments went ashore east of Oran, while the 26th Infantry Regiment landed at Les Andalouses. Oran was entered on 10 November. The French offered some fierce resistance, until a cease-fire was reached on the 11th.

In Tunisia, the 18th Infantry went into action with the British at Djebel-el-Ahmera, while the 26th Infantry cleared the Ouseltia Valley by 25 January 1943. The Americans then sustained heavy losses at Kasserine Pass, 14-21 February 1943, before the Germans were finally forced to withdraw.

The 1st attacked as a concentrated whole division for the first time on 16 March 1943, east of El Guettar, and took Gafsa in a driving rainstorm. Two strong German counter-attacks were contained on 23 March. The 1st then took Sakket, 3 April 1943, but further offensive movement down the Gabes road was stopped, 5 April 1943.

The 1st relieved the British 4th Infantry Division near Beja, 16 April, and attacked on 22 April 1943, along the Medjez-el-Bab-Tunis highway. Bitter and heavy fighting ensued as the 18th Infantry took Hill 407, and the 26th Infantry Regiment cleared Hill 575. The 26th Infantry next reached Djebel-el-Anz against strong German resistance on 28 April. These attacks were in conjunction with the 34th Infantry Division's assault on the key enemy bastion of Hill 609. On 29 April 1943, the 1st began its attack on Hill 523. As enemy defenses began to crumble, the 1st advanced toward Mateur, and took it on 9 May 1943. By the 13th, the war was over for the Germans and Italians in North Africa, and many thousands of prisoners were taken. The 1st lost 794 men in North Africa.

The 1st's second amphibious assault of the war was at Gela, Sicily, on 10 July 1943. The Hermann GÖring Panzer and Italian Livorno Infantry Divisions launched strong attacks, trying to push the Americans back into the sea. However, the 1st was aided by two Ranger battalions, by some tanks from the 2nd Armored Division which had managed to reach shore, and by naval gunfire against the advancing enemy, who was beaten back with heavy losses.

In 37 days, the Big Red One took 18 cities and towns, inching its way up cliffs and along torturous mountain trails. The 1st seized the Salso River crossings, east of Caltanissetta, and repelled a German counterattack at Gangi, on 25 July 1943.

The 1st's toughest battle on Sicily occurred at Troina, on the more northern part of the island. It took the 1st Division and two regiments of the 9th Infantry Division, plus artillery bombardments and air strikes, before the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division finally withdrew during the night of 6 August 1943. The Sicilian campaign ended on 17 August 1943. It took the Allies just 38 days to conquer the large island. It cost the lives of 264 men in the 1st Infantry Division.

The 1st never got to Italy because General Eisenhower wanted it to spearhead the vital invasion of Normandy. And so, the 1st sailed back to England for more training and long waiting, and the men of the First had plenty of time to get to know many of the English girls.

Then, finally, on 6 June 1944, the 1st, along with the 29th Infantry Division, struggled ashore on bloody Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, in its finest hour. Some companies suffered 30 per cent casualties in the first bloody hour of the landing, as the Germans had every foot of the beachhead zeroed-in by artillery, mortar, machinegun, and small-arms fire. But the Americans grimly hung on, and forced their way inland by sheer courage, coupled with desperation. In the process, the Big Red One badly mauled an entire German division that stood in the way. There were many acts of individual heroism on this fateful day, including that by 1st Lieutenant Jim Monteith of the 16th Infantry Regiment.

Lt Monteith landed with the initial assault wave under heavy enemy fire. He led an assault over a narrow, protective ledge and across the flat, exposed terrain to the comparative safety of a cliff. Completely exposed to intense fire, the lieutenant led two tanks through a minefield and, under his direction, several German positions were put out of action.

He then supervised his men in the defense of a key position on a hill, as they beat back repeated vicious counterattacks. When the Germans succeeded in surrounding his platoon, he was killed while leading his men out of this situation, a lasting inspiration to his men. Lt Monteith posthumously won the Medal of Honor.

The whole traumatic experience of the invasion prompted famed war correspondent, Ernie Pyle, to later write, "Now that it's over, it seems a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all." Perhaps it was a miracle.

Altogether, on this historic day on the beaches of Normandy, the Allies had some 2,500 men killed or die of wounds, with around 1,000 being on bloody Omaha Beach. Yes, it was plenty bad enough—but it could have been a great deal worse!

Soon, the 1st entered the fighting in the hedgerows, in the Caumont sector. But then, after awhile, the 1st was given a break. On 13 July 1944, the 1st was relieved by the 5th Infantry Division, and withdrew to Colmbières.

Then, on 26 July 1944, after a highly risky saturation bombing behind the German lines, the Americans succeeded in achieving a major breakthrough just west of St. Lô. On the right of the breakout, the 1st swung west, took Marigny, and trapped 30,000 Germans, including much of the 2nd SS "Das Reich" Panzer Division, near Coutances. Some of these enemy troops broke out of this trap in furious fighting, but many more were captured.

The 1st then helped stop a dangerous enemy counterthrust in the vicinity of Mortain by mid-August, and then raced 300 miles in a week to take Soissons, where the division had suffered 9,000 casualties in 4 days in World War I!

Continuing on in through Belgium against ineffectual opposition, the 1st then ran up against the Siegfried Line (West Wall) at the city of Aachen—and into some of the most bitter fighting on the Western Front. Defending Aachen was the German 246th Infantry Division, veteran of the Russian Front, and it contested every yard of ground.

The battle began with an attack by the 1st on the city's municipal forest on 12 September 1944. As the 1st tried to encircle Aachen, the 16th Infantry Regiment was stopped at the Siegfried Line, 15 September 1944.

On 8 October 1944, the Big Red One renewed its assault on Aachen. The 18th Infantry

Regiment advanced through Verlautenheide, the 26th Infantry Regiment attacked through the heart of Aachen, while the 16th Infantry Regiment held defensive positions near Eilendorf. It was on 8 October 1944, that one of the war's most outstanding soldiers won another Medal of Honor for the Fighting First.

Captain Bobbie E. Brown, Company C, 18th Infantry Regiment, rough-featured, looked like and was a soldier in the best sense of the word. Highly respected by his men, he had already done a number of very daring exploits on the battlefield. But his big day came on 8 October 1944.

Captain Brown commanded Company C, as it attacked Crucifix Hill, a key bastion in the German defense of Aachen. Soon, an intense artillery barrage fell upon his men, and they were pinned down in an exposed position. Casualties quickly mounted.

Seeing that a number of pillboxes must be neutralized to prevent the slaughter of his men, Captain Brown obtained a pole charge and started forward alone toward the first pillbox about 100 yards away. Hugging the ground while bullets whipped around him, he crawled and then ran toward the fortification, and rammed his explosive inside, jumping back as the pillbox and its occupants were blown up.

The captain rejoined the assault platoon, secured another pole charge, and led the way toward the next pillbox under continuous fire from all types of weapons. He succeeded in eliminating the second pillbox in the same manner. Fire from a third pillbox then pinned down his company again. In knocking out this third emplacement, he was wounded by a mortar burst but refused medical aid.

While blowing up these installations, the captain also shot several snipers who attempted to pick him off. Every one of them was drilled through the head—except for one who was hit in the stomach. This shot later puzzled the captain, since he was normally a crack shot. He couldn't figure how the one shot he had made was so low.

Later, realizing the need for information of enemy activity beyond the hill, Captain Brown went out alone to reconnoiter. Twice more, on his self-imposed mission, he was wounded. Nevertheless, he was able to secure information which led to the destruction of several enemy guns, and enabled his company to throw back two powerful counterattacks with heavy losses to the Germans. Only when his company's position was completely secure did he permit treatment of his three wounds.

By his indomitable courage, fearless leadership, and outstanding skill as a soldier, Captain Brown contributed in great measure to the capture of Crucifix Hill. And he survived the war to receive his award.

By 12 October 1944, the 26th Infantry Regiment had gained most of the factory district between Aachen and Haaren, and began an all-out central attack the next day. After severe fighting this regiment gained most of Observatory Hill, but German counterattacks forced all further advances to a halt on 15 October. The 16th Infantry Regiment was forced to defend its area against strong German assaults, as well.

On 18 October 1944, the 1st was reinforced for still another attack on Aachen. Observatory Hill finally fell, and on 21 October 1944, the city was taken by direct assault. Aachen was the first city inside Germany to fall to American troops.

After a rest, the 1st was elected to help make the southern part of the assault to the Roer River, beginning 16 November 1944. On this day, 4,500 U.S. and British planes dumped thousands of tons of bombs and rockets in front of the 1st Division's zone of attack. Then the 1st advanced.

What followed still sends shivers down the spines of the veterans of the dreaded Hurtgen Forest. This forest may well have been the most devilish military trap ever devised by man. Enemy shell-proof bunkers, yet invisible, spat death in every direction, and artillery and mortar bursts shredded men by the score. The ground was nothing but mud, for it rained almost continually. The nights were freezing. But the worst thing of all were the mines—mines in the ground and in low-hanging trees. Some could not even be detected with mine detectors. Yet, heroism was never lacking.

On 16 November 1944, near Hamich, Germany, Technical Sergeant Jake W. Lindsey, 16th Infantry, knocked out two machinegun nests, put two German tanks to flight and, though wounded, still managed to kill three Germans and captured 8 others.

Three days later, 19 November 1944, the Germans threw a savage attack at Company H,

26th Infantry Regiment, and the company was wiped out. But Pfc Francis X. McGraw remained at his machinegun. When the area this enemy attack had overrun was later retaken, Pfc McGraw was found dead beside his gun. Over 50 German corpses littered the nearby area. Both Sgt Lindsey and Pfc McGraw were awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Germans continued to fight tenaciously, and on 29 November 1944, the 26th Infantry Regiment was again hit very hard by another German attack, near Merode, which decimated two more companies of the 26th. But then, replacements, fighting from deep foxholes, avenged their fallen comrades by killing over 1,200 Germans in three days.

On 5 December 1944, the Red One was relieved by the 9th Infantry Division, and went to a rest area in the Luchem-Langerwehe-Juengersdorf-Merode region (less the 16th Infantry, attached to the V Corps). By Hürtgen Forest standards the 1st had done quite well. In 2½ weeks of fighting in the Hürtgenwald, the 1st had inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy and advanced 4 miles—while suffering 4,000 casualties! The 26th Infantry Regiment, alone, sustained 1,479 casualties.

After this extremely costly and bitter experience, the 1st got exactly 12 days of rest, while receiving many replacements. And then, the Germans struck their all-out counterblow in the Ardennes.

And so, the handful of "old men" and the fresh, green replacements were rushed forward to help stop the German onslaught. They did a superb job. The Fighting 1st, into combat on the northern side of the German salient (the "Bulge"), held off an entire German corps near Bütgenbach, fighting in the bitter cold. The 1st's lines were pierced, 22 December 1944, but quickly restored. The ground was frozen so hard that foxholes had to be blasted with explosives instead of dug. Men urinated on their weapons to keep them from jamming, and white bedsheets and pillowcases were thrown over uniforms to blend in with the snow. Newspaper was stuffed into boots for warmth. Wounds healed slowly in the cold, and gangrene could set-in easier. Corpses froze solid, and after a few days, burst and splintered like glass.

In January 1945, the 1st went over to the attack and took Steinbach on the 15th. This opened a passage for the 7th Armored Division's drive on St. Vith.

The 1st next ran into stiff opposition northeast of Schoppen, as the 16th Infantry cleared the Bambusch Woods.

The division next advanced on the Siegfried Line, 28 January 1945, and attacked into and through the Buchholz Forest. It was relieved by the 99th Infantry Division on 5 February 1945, and moved to an assembly area at Aywaille, Belgium.

The 1st next attacked across the Roer River, at Kreuznau, on 25 February 1945, against moderate to heavy resistance. This was part of an all-out U.S. 1st Army drive to the Rhine. Reaching that fabled river, 7 March 1945, at Bonn, the 1st then advanced into the Remagen bridgehead, crossing the Rhine, 15-16 March 1945.

Fighting out of the bridgehead against desperate, but somewhat disorganized resistance, the 1st headed north along the east bank of the Rhine to the Sieg River, running up against fierce resistance. On 30 March 1945, the 1st attacked with all three regiments in line to gain the heights dominating the sizeable town of Siegen. On 1 April, the 1st was relieved by the 8th Infantry Division in this region, and trucked to blocking positions southwest of Paderborn to help seal the Ruhr Pocket. The Americans, aided by fighter-bombers, were too strong to be held back for very long. Numerous other U.S. divisions fought into the Ruhr Pocket and, by mid-April 1945, well over 300,000 Germans had surrendered—as many as at Stalingrad.

After this big battle, the Big Red One advanced across the Weser River, and deep into central Germany, heading toward the Harz Mountains. This was a sizeable region of very high, steep, wooded hills, where some 70,000 German troops were holding out, including the crack 5th Parachute Division. Several other U.S. divisions, including the 9th, 35th, and 83rd Infantry and 8th Armored, converged upon this region, as well. The Germans used the terrain to their advantage, but again, the Americans were too strong and well-organized with lavish air support. On 14 April 1945, troops of the 1st and 83rd Divisions linked-up in the Harz interior, thus cutting the German pocket in two. The 1st's haul of

prisoners ran from 200-1,000 daily in the area, and on 23 April 1945, the Germans in the Harz surrendered.

Finally, the 1st was shifted way to the south to take part in Patton's 3rd Army attack into western Czechoslovakia, in the last several days of the war. With Combat Command A of the 9th Armored Division attached, the 1st helped deliver the final blow on 5 May 1945.

Attacking on a line directly west of Prague, the 1st met mostly moderate resistance. The Germans defended road junctions and village strongpoints bitterly, making good use of small-arms and automatic weapons fire. Artillery fire was light, scattered, and confined to the southern part of the 1st's zone of attack.

At Drenice, the Germans held out in positions on a hill just north of the town, and the area was not cleared until late in the day of 5 May, when division tanks were able to move in and clear up the situation.

The advance continued on 6 May 1945, against lighter and more scattered opposition. The 1st pushed on 10-20 kilometers in the northern and southern sectors of the attack. In the center, however, the Germans fought stubbornly. Along the main road from Cheb to Falkenov, 88mm guns, being used as anti-tank weapons, were deployed in depth, and each one had to be destroyed by the infantry before the tanks could budge. In the vicinity of Eubabrunn the Germans put up a tough fight, but the small towns of Klinghart, Plesna, Sneky, Mnichov, Sangerberg, and Kynsperk were all cleared by the end of 6 May. Those troops who advanced beyond the largely pro-German Sudetenland, and into the land of the Czechs, were treated to tumultuous and heart-warming receptions by this long-oppressed people.

V-E Day finally came on 8 May 1945.

Few, if any, other outfits had been through as many tough battles as the great Fighting First, and the men who wore the Big Red One shoulder patch had good cause for thinking that the 1st was, indeed, number 1.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—16
Distinguished Unit Citations—20 *
Distinguished Service Crosses—161
Silver Stars—6,116

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—4,365
Killed In Action—3,616
Wounded—15,208
Missing—499
Captured—1,336
Total Casualties—20,659

* Two to entire regiments—the 16th and 18th Infantry—
D-Day, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France

The 1st Infantry Division later served in the Vietnam War. As of this writing, the 1st is stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas (with large elements in Germany). (7 July 1990)

Other 1st Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II. Killed in action *
(Includes all of those men not mentioned in this article)

Pvt Carlton W. Barrett, 18th Inf Rgt, 6 June 1944, Normandy beachhead
S/Sgt Arthur F. DeFranzo, * 10 June 1944, near Vaubadon, Normandy, France
S/Sgt Walter D. Ehlers, 18th Inf Rgt, 9-10 June 1944, near Goville, Normandy, France
Pvt Robert T. Henry, * 16th Inf Rgt, 3 December 1944, Luchem, Germany
Pfc Gino J. Merli, 18th Inf Rgt, 4-5 September 1944, near Sars-la-Bruyère, Belgium
S/Sgt George Peterson, * 18th Inf Rgt, 30 March 1945, near Eisern, Germany
T/5 Grade John J. Pinder, Jr., * 16th Inf Rgt, 6 June 1944, Normandy beachhead
Pvt James W. Reese, * 26th Inf Rgt, 5 August 1943, Monte Vassillio, Sicily
S/Sgt Joseph E. Schaefer, 18th Inf Rgt, 24 September 1944, near Stolberg, Germany
Sgt Max Thompson, 18th Inf Rgt, 18 October 1944, near Haaren, Germany
Cpl Henry F. Warner, * 26th Inf Rgt, 20-21 December 1944, near Bütgenbach, Belgium
1st Lt Walter J. Will, * 18th Inf Rgt, 30 March 1945, near Eisern, Germany

An update. The 1st Infantry Division served in the Persian Gulf (war with Iraq), late-February-early-March 1991.



2ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Indianhead"

Regular Army

Activated—26 October 1917

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy Brittany Siegfried Line Ardennes
 Rhineland Central Europe

Days In Combat—303

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Walter M. Robertson

May 1942—June 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 2nd Infantry Division, like the "Fighting First", had an outstanding record in World War I. It became the only division all of whose units were authorized to wear the fourragère of the Croix de Guerre. The 2nd made history at Belleau Wood and at Château-Thierry. It was the only division composed of one infantry and one marine brigade. A since-forgotten truck driver painstakingly adorned the side of his vehicle with a painted Indianhead—the idea stuck—and it later became the division insignia.

The 2nd didn't have a back seat in World War II, either. After training in Northern Ireland and Wales from October 1943 to early-June 1944, it landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on D-plus 1, 7 June 1944. German shells were still pouring into the thinly held beachhead.

An attack was commenced on 9 June. The men of the 2nd received their baptism of fire without their heavy weapons. Starting with only rifles and carbines for firepower, the combat teams jumped-off. Machineguns and other automatic weapons were brought up as soon as they could be unloaded from the landing barges. Stiff resistance was immediately met around Trevières. The attack went slowly at first, due to the absence of heavy weapons.

The German units in the area were the 716th Infantry and elements of the 352nd Infantry Divisions and the 30th "Schnelle" Brigade, a mobile unit.

The attack was resumed, 10 June, and the Germans fought with great tenacity, doggedly defending Trevières house-by-house. Many had to be literally dug-up from their cellars before the town was taken.

After this battle, the 38th Infantry Regiment made rapid progress along the west side of the Cerisy Forest. Elements pushed on through an arm of the forest to the road junction Haute Litteé, on the St. Lô-Bayeux Highway. Here was met strong German resistance. A heavy division artillery barrage then scattered the Germans, and the infantry seized the road junction.

On 12 June, the 2nd made its first contact with the formidable German 3rd Parachute Division, recently rushed from Brittany. Heavy and bitter fighting soon occurred in the vicinity of St. Germain d'Elle. The 9th Infantry Regiment was strafed by two enemy planes and one of them was shot down.

By 17-18 June, the 2nd had consolidated its gains made in the previous several days.

The 2nd had come to grips with the most hardened, seasoned, highly-trained soldiers of the Third Reich, and had held their own.

The 2nd next prepared to attack Hill 192, on the road to St. Lô. The base of this hill was zeroed in by the Germans at every gap in the hedgerows, and the hedges, themselves, provided an excellent natural advantage for them. They also employed deadly anti-personnel mines against the 2nd. Snipers were found everywhere, even in the trees which grew as high as 20 feet above the hedgerows.

Despite all this, on 11 July, striking in a magnificently planned attack, the 2nd accomplished the reduction of Hill 192. Greatly aiding the 2nd was a terrific artillery bombardment of the hill prior to the attack. The capture of Hill 192 gave the Allied forces the key for communications which they needed for the planned breakout offensive. The 2nd went on the defensive until 26 July 1944.

Then came the major breakthrough near St. Lô. In extremely heavy fighting, exploiting the breakthrough, the 2nd advanced over the Vire to take Tinchebray on 15 August. It was the toughest kind of combat for the infantrymen, but the 2nd performed valiantly, and no ground gained was ever given up. In this fighting, 376 prisoners were taken from 3 different German divisions.

The Indianhead Division next turned west, 200 miles into the western tip of Brittany, besieging the heavily defended port of Brest. There were 40,000 Germans in and around the city including the 266th and 343rd Infantry Divisions and the élite 2nd Parachute Division. These troops put up fanatical resistance.

Attacking with the 8th, 29th, and 2nd Infantry Divisions, 2 Ranger battalions, and elements of the FFI (French Forces of the Interior), the two Allies had to exert great efforts to destroy one strongpoint after another in hard, tedious house-to-house, block-by-block fighting. The troops were greatly aided by U.S. naval bombardments and by air strikes, but the soldiers sometimes had to charge the German positions again and again. As the fighting was too close-in for the extensive use of machineguns, the infantry often charged with grenades, and the Germans reciprocated in kind. Even under the fiercest hand-to-hand assaults the German paratroopers clung to their prepared positions and refused to be routed. Three times men of the 2nd charged Hill 105, and three times were hurled back with heavy losses to both sides. A fourth attack succeeded in breaking through.

On 30 August, the 23rd Infantry Regiment waged a hand-to-hand and hedgerow to hedgerow fight to gain some 800 yards, and repulsed several counterattacks.

With the fall of Bourg-Neuf on 1 September, the defenses of Brest began to crack. But the bitter, bloody fighting continued until 17 September 1944. It took the Americans 39 days to reduce Brest, although military "experts" had predicted a 90-day campaign. Some 35,000 Germans surrendered—11,000 of them to the 2nd Infantry Division.

After this exhausting battle, the 2nd rested in the open fields of Brittany from 19-26 September 1944.

Then, the division was sent by rail clear across France, through Belgium, and to near the German frontier. Here, it took up defensive positions near St. Vith, in the Siegfried Line area. Facing the 2nd was the German 91st Infantry Division which had been badly battered in Normandy. Action consisted mainly of patrol activities and skirmishes.

On 13 December 1944, the 2nd, as part of the 5th Corps, U.S. 1st Army, started an attack toward the Roer River Dams, and was on the move and ready for anything. It was a good thing that it was, because on 16 December 1944, it ran smack into the extreme northern flank of the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes.

Heavily outnumbered, the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions, in very furious fighting, fell back in reasonably good order to some high ground known as Elsenborn Ridge. Cooks, clerks, and MPs were thrown into the line in a desperate attempt to stop the Germans. It was during this fighting that the 2nd produced one of its 6 Medal of Honor winners of the war, Pfc Richard E. Cowan, Company M, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 17 December 1944.

Pfc Cowan was a heavy machinegunner in a company which was attacked by a numerically superior force of German tanks and infantry. The first 6 waves of enemy infantry were repulsed with heavy casualties, but a seventh assault with tanks killed or wounded all but three of his section, leaving him to man his gun, supported by only 15 to 20 riflemen. Pfc Cowan maintained his position, holding off the Germans until the rest of his men had set-up a new defense line along a firebreak.

Then a Royal Tiger tank began approaching with about 80 infantrymen. At a distance of about 150 yards he opened fire, killing or wounding about half the infantrymen. The tank fired, rocking his position with an 88mm shell, but he stuck to his gun, and poured deadly fire into the Germans when they again advanced. Machinegun and small-arms fire struck all around him. An enemy rocket shook him badly, but he still remained at his gun.

By this time, enemy infiltration had made his position untenable. Pfc Cowan was the last man to leave, covering the withdrawal of his comrades. His heroic action was entirely responsible for allowing the remaining men in his platoon to successfully retire further back to a safer position.

The Germans hurled four of their best formations at the Americans on Elsenborn Ridge—the 3rd Parachute, 12th SS Panzer, and 12th and 277th Volksgrenadier Divisions. Braving point-blank tank fire which blasted men from their foxholes, the men of the 2nd held their positions cutting down wave after wave of the Germans. There was hand-to-hand combat, and many of the enemy were slashed or stabbed with bayonets or clubbed with rifles, as many men sacrificed themselves to hold off the German onslaught. For 56 hours, the 12th SS Panzer Division, of murderous inclinations, assaulted the positions of the 2nd head-on, accompanied by the faithful 277th Volksgrenadiers.

Although in a very precarious position, the 2nd and 99th Divisions held off repeated enemy assaults in some of the most ferocious fighting of the war. Though the Americans sustained very heavy casualties, the German losses were staggering. This heroic stand was one of the most crucial of the entire Bulge battle, and gained valuable time for other U.S. outfits to move into position and help further strengthen the northern shoulder of the Bulge salient. This proved to be fatal to the German effort.

After the German offensive was eventually forced back in the most bitter, strenuous combat, after receiving rest and replacements, the 2nd began rolling again. It slashed through the Siegfried Line, and spilled out into the Rhineland in February 1945, taking Monschau, Ahrweiler, and other smaller towns against desperate, but somewhat disorganized resistance. The 2nd moved too fast for the enemy to make a co-ordinated stand in its sector of front.

Continuing the advance, the Indianhead seized Gemünd on 4 March, and reached the Rhine on the 9th. The 2nd then advanced southeast to take Breisig, and guarded the Remagen bridge from 12-20 March 1945.

Crossing the Rhine on the 21st, the 2nd advanced deep into central Germany. After reaching Hadamar and Limburg, it headed further east in the wake of the 9th Armored Division. In this advance, spotty resistance was met in some areas, and fierce fighting in others.

The 2nd crossed the Weser River, 6-7 April, captured the university city of Göttingen on the 8th, and then met increasingly fierce opposition. A dazzling battle of German anti-aircraft guns against American artillery occurred until hundreds of the German guns were knocked out, the U.S. artillery firing with amazing accuracy. The great synthetic rubber plant at Schkopau fell on 11 April.

Between 13-19 April 1945, the 2nd captured or destroyed 505 heavy anti-aircraft artillery, as well as capturing 9,111 POWs, including some battalions of German women trained as gunners. Numerous small towns on the approaches to the city of Leipzig, including Grossgrafendorf, Bad Lauchstädt, Dorstewitz, Milzau, and Bendra were all cleared in the face of fierce resistance.

Around sizeable Merseburg, the 2nd met considerable small-arms and direct 105mm fire from anti-aircraft artillery. East of Merseburg there was encountered sustained rifle and machine-gun fire from German troops dug-in along the levee on the east side of the Saale Canal. The town of Kayna was then cleared against the same kind of obdurate opposition. Leuna, the chief manufacturing source of synthetic gasoline for the Reich, as Merseburg was of synthetic rubber, both fell on 15 April 1945. Casualties were moderate. The big city of Leipzig was, for the most part, left for the 69th Infantry Division and part of the 9th Armored Division to deal with. Elements of the 2nd occupied only a small portion of the city.

On 20 April, the 2nd began relieving elements of the 9th Armored Division along the Mulde River. Mostly patrol activity occurred along the Mulde, but a German counterattack drove some troops off of Hill 194 on 22 April. But a counterattack soon restored the situation.

Then, after being relieved at the Mulde, the 2nd was sent 200 miles to the south to take part in Patton's 3rd Army attack into western Czechoslovakia. After going through the Sudetenland, which was pro-German, the 2nd was received by the cheering, deliriously happy

Czech people who gave the GIs wine, beer, cheeses, cakes, and other pastries, flowers—and many kisses from pretty Czech girls.

There were no major battles inside Czechoslovakia for the 2nd, but the Germans committed a number of acts of sabotage and pulled off a few ambushes. Domažlice, Klatovy, Slovice, Dobrzany, and other smaller Czech towns and villages were liberated. Then the famous beer city of Pilsen (Plzeň) was entered on 7 May, behind the 16th Armored Division which had gotten to the city a day earlier. Patrols of the 2nd had ventured as far north and east of Pilsen as Manetin and Kralovice, when the war in Europe finally ended on 8 May 1945.

The 2nd Infantry Division had a splendid record to show that it was, indeed, second to none.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—6	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—3,512
Distinguished Unit Citations—16	Killed In Action—3,031
Distinguished Service Crosses—34	Wounded—12,785
Silver Stars—741	Missing—193
	Captured—786
	Total Casualties—16,795

Other 2nd Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

S/Sgt Alvin P. Carey, * 38th Inf Rgt, 23 August 1944, near Plougastel, Brittany, France

T/4 Grade Truman Kimbro, * 2nd Engineer Bn, 19 December 1944, near Rocherath, Belgium

Sgt Jose M. Lopez, 23rd Inf Rgt, 17 December 1944, near Krinkelt, Belgium

Sgt John J. McVeigh, * 23rd Inf Rgt, 29 August 1944, near Brest, Brittany, France

Pfc William A. Soderman, 9th Inf Rgt, 17 December 1944, near Rocherath, Belgium

The 2nd Infantry Division later saw very extensive service in the Korean War. Since then, the 2nd has been stationed in South Korea for many years, and still is, as of this writing. (21 November 1985)

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Indianhead"

JUNE 1944

6 June 1111111 8
 7 June 11
 8 June 1111111
 9 June 111111111111111 16
 10 June 1111
 11 June 11111
 12 June 111111111111111111111 25
 13 June 111111111111111111111111111 36
 14 June 111
 15 June 111111111111 15
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 22 June 111111111111111 19
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 25 June 11111111 11
 26 June 1
 27 June 11111
 28 June 1
 29 June 111
 30 June 1111
 319

JULY 1944

1 July 111
 2 July 11
 3 July 111111111111 13
 4 July 11
 5 July 111
 6 July 1
 8 July 1
 9 July 1
 11 July 111 50
 12 July 11111111111111111111111111111111 34
 13 July 111111111111111111 21
 14 July 111111111111111111 21
 15 July 11111111 11
 16 July 1111
 17 July 11
 18 July 1
 19 July 111
 20 July 1
 22 July 1
 23 July 111
 25 July 111
 26 July 111 52
 27 July 111
 11111111 70* approx. 130* men
 28 July 111 59
 29 July 111111 8
 30 July 11111111111 14
 31 July 11111111111 13
 397

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Indianhead"

AUGUST 1944

1 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111111 26
 2 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111111 14
 3 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111111 50
 4 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111111 38
 5 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111111 14
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 7 Aug 1111
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445

SEPTEMBER 1944

1 Sept 11111111111111111111111111111111111 10
 2 Sept 11111111111111111111111111111111111 44
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 18 Sept 11
 19 Sept 1
 28 Sept 1

130

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Indianhead"

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 11
 3 Jan 11
 4 Jan 1
 9 Jan 11
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 13 Jan 1
 14 Jan 1
 15 Jan 111
 16 Jan 1
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 19 Jan 1111
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 22 Jan 11
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 26 Jan 1
 28 Jan 1
 30 Jan 11111111111111 15
 31 Jan 1111111111 11

86

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 11111
 2 Feb 11
 3 Feb 1111111111111111 18
 4 Feb 1111
 5 Feb 11111111 9
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 10 Feb 11
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 24 Feb 1
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74

MARCH 1945

3 Mar 11
 4 Mar 11111111111111 13
 5 Mar 1111111
 6 Mar 1
 7 Mar 11
 8 Mar 111111
 9 Mar 1
 10 Mar 11
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 24 Mar 1
 25 Mar 1111111
 26 Mar 11
 27 Mar 1
 28 Mar 1111111
 29 Mar 1
 30 Mar 1

72

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Indianhead"

APRIL 1945

2 Apr 1111111
 5 Apr 111
 6 Apr 111
 7 Apr 1
 8 Apr 1111
 9 Apr 1
 11 Apr 11
 12 Apr 1111
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 14 Apr 1111111111 10
 15 Apr 11111111111111 15
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 20 Apr 1
 21 Apr 1
 23 Apr 11
 26 Apr 1

93

MAY 1945

1 May 11
 5 May 1
 6 May 1
 4

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day-----27 July 1944
 bloodiest month-----August 1944
 2nd bloodiest day-----18 December 1944
 3rd " " "-----28 July 1944
 4th " " "-----26 July 1944
 5th " " "-----11 July and 3 August 1944

Total battle deaths-----3,272
 1,841 are listed=56.2% KIA—2,833



3RD INFANTRY DIVISION "The Fighting Third"

Regular Army

Activated—12 November 1917

Battle Credits, World War II:	Morocco	Sicily	Southern Italy	Anzio
	Southern France		Vosges Mountains	Alsace
Days In Combat—433	Siegfried Line		Rhineland	Central Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Jonathan W. Anderson	March 1942—March 1943
Maj-Gen Lucian K. Truscott	March 1943—February 1944
Maj-Gen John W. O'Daniel	February 1944—December 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 3rd Infantry Division has a superlative record, not only in World War II, but in World War I, when it earned the nickname "Rock of the Marne" because of its monumental stand against the Germans' last great offensive in that war. Its participation in 3 major battles in 1918 is symbolized by the 3 white diagonal stripes of its shoulder patch. They also represent the division's numerical designation. The blue stripes stand for loyalty and devotion to the principles of right and justice.

In the Mediterranean-European Theater of Operations in World War II, the 3rd is the only American division which fought the enemy on every major front—North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. It had more casualties, nearly 26,000, than any other U.S. division, and it holds the record for high combat citations, no fewer than 36 of its officers and enlisted men having won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 3rd had been undergoing amphibious training at San Diego, a month prior to the Pearl Harbor attack. In April 1942, the 3rd moved to Ft. Ord, California, for more amphibious training. In September, the 3rd was sent to Camp Pickett, Virginia, for preparation for going overseas.

The invasion of North Africa began on 8 November 1942, the 3rd landing in Morocco. Fort Blondin, key to the enemy defense at Fedala, fell to the 30th Infantry Regiment. Then the 3rd moved into position for an attack on Casablanca, when the French agreed to cease-firing. The main trouble with the French in North Africa was that they were under the overall command of Admiral Darlan, a notorious Nazi sympathizer, who was eventually assassinated.

The 3rd was later moved by truck clear across Algeria during the final phase of the Tunisian campaign, and was just about to go into action, when the German-Italian Army surrendered in Tunisia on 13 May 1943. North Africa was mild, the 3rd losing around 70 men.

The first major battle for the 3rd was on Sicily, with landings taking place on 10 July 1943. After seizing the port of Licata, the 3rd was ordered to take the city of Palermo. Against scattered resistance by, mostly, Italian troops, the men of the 3rd covered almost 100 miles in 3 days, a magnificent feat of arms.

Then, the 3rd, alternating with the 45th "Thunderbird" Infantry Division, advanced along the northern coast. Besides the terrific heat, which topped 100 degrees, the German 29th Panzer Grenadier Division offered very stubborn resistance, and the 3rd had to fight hard to crack the San Fratello Line in a bloody 5-day battle.

This phase of the fighting on Sicily was marked by one of the most noteworthy engineering feats of the war. The Germans, falling back, blew a stretch of highway off the face of a cliff over the Tyrrhenian Sea. In 18 feverish hours, men of the 10th Engineers had literally "hung a bridge in the sky," as Ernie Pyle described in his book, "Brave Men."

The advance continued, and with the capture of Messina by the 3rd on 17 August 1943, the campaign came to an end. It took the Allies just 38 days to conquer Sicily. 381 men in the 3rd made the supreme sacrifice.

Next, came the bitter Italian campaign, with the 3rd landing in southern Italy 9 days after the initial assault landings at the Salerno beachhead. Three days later, 20 September 1943, the division contacted German troops, and for the next two months was in constant contact with the enemy in southern Italy.

The first serious engagement for the 3rd in Italy was at Acerno. The brunt of the battle fell on the 30th Infantry Regiment which took the town in 2 days of severe fighting after a heavy artillery bombardment.

Advancing to the Volturno River against skillful delaying actions, the 3rd forced this river barrier in intensive combat and took Triflisco Ridge, the key to the enemy defense in this region. Continuing northward into the mountains, the 15th Infantry Regiment cleared Roccaromano and Della Costa Ridge. These actions took place in October.

By early-November 1943, the 3rd had advanced into the jaws of the western part of the strong German Winter Line, slightly south of Cassino. The Marnemen then fought a series of tough, exhausting battles on Monte Camino, a particular grueling action, as well as on Monte Cesima, Monte Lungo, and Monte Rotundo. Tanks were all but useless in this rugged terrain, and supplies had to be brought forward by pack-mule. And the nights were bitter cold. It was some of the 3rd's hardest combat of the war.

After forcing the Mignano Gap, just south of Cassino, the 3rd was relieved on 16-17 November 1943, by the 36th "Texas" Infantry Division, and pulled back to San Felice. The 3rd's losses in southern Italy were substantial—683 men killed, 2,412 wounded, and 170 missing.

The 3rd received one full month of rest and recuperation, and then came more amphibious training for the Anzio beachhead landing. This occurred on 22 January 1944, with the 3rd being in on the initial assault. Hardly any resistance was met at the beach, since the Germans had been caught off guard. But they quickly recovered.

For the next four months, opposed by some of the best units in the German Army, including the Hermann Göring Panzer Division, the 3rd, along with several other American and British formations, clung tenaciously to the precarious beachhead.

The British 1st Infantry Division on the left, and the 3rd on the right first made strong probing attacks toward Campoleone and Cisterna, respectively. But the British were stopped by the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division and the 3rd by the Hermann Göring Division.

At the end of January, two élite U.S. Ranger battalions, the 1st and 3rd, were assigned the mission of taking Cisterna. They had almost made it, wading through a half-dry irrigation ditch when, at the last minute, they were detected. The Rangers then attempted to charge over the last few remaining hundred yards to Cisterna, but were caught out in the open under withering enemy fire. Many were killed or wounded as the remaining men threw themselves into ditches. Then the Germans moved toward them with tanks and captured over 500 men. Out of 767 men, only 6 returned safely back to American lines.

Meanwhile, the 3rd had been battling desperately to save these élite fighters. It fought on, along a main road, past Isola Bella, to within 1,000 yards of Cisterna. But the casualties were just too heavy, and on the following day the division had to pull back to a defensive position near Isola Bella. This was in the more eastern part of the beachhead. The loss of the two Ranger battalions was a heartbreaking blow to their commander, Colonel William O. Darby, who had trained them since the days in Northern Ireland.

Shortly after, on 3 February, the Germans opened a furious attack in the British sector at Aprilia, and at a group of buildings called the factory, and heavy fighting ensued.

Then, on 16 February 1944, the Germans launched a major offensive to eliminate the Allied toehold—"the abscess at Anzio" as Hitler put it. They came very dangerously close to succeeding, but were thrown back after some of the most violent and desperate combat of the war, 16-19 February 1944. The entire Allied Air Force in Italy was thrown into the struggle, such was the seriousness of the situation, and German losses were terrific. And on 28-29 February, the 3rd fought off an attack by three German divisions.

Soon after this, there occurred a stalemate at the beachhead, with highly dangerous patrol actions and trench warfare reminiscent of the First World War.

In late-March, the 3rd was relieved by the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division which had fought so valiantly at Cassino, and which had recently arrived in the beachhead. However, the entire beachhead was subject to fire from long range German artillery, plus sorties by

the Luftwaffe, and so there was no such thing as a really safe rear area at Anzio.

In mid-April, the 3rd went back up front and relieved the 45th Infantry Division until 1 May, when the 45th went back up to relieve the 3rd.

Finally, on 23 May 1944, the Americans and British opened an all-out offensive to bust out of the beachhead area. The 3rd saw extremely heavy and costly fighting as it and the 1st "Old Ironsides" Armored Division broke open a huge hole in the German defenses. The 3rd succeeded in capturing Cisterna and almost destroyed the German 362nd Infantry Division. It was some of the most furious and intensive fighting of the entire war, and the 3rd lost many men as it fought to Rome. In fact, the 3rd set another record for most casualties suffered by any one American division in a single day—950 on 23 May 1944.

Many of the 3rd's Medal of Honor winners emerged from this furious fighting—men such as Pfc Patrick J. Kessler, 30th Infantry Regiment, 23 May 1944, near Ponte Rotto, who destroyed several enemy strongpoints in the face of murderous small-arms fire and captured a number of prisoners—he was killed three days later in a subsequent action; Sgt Sylvester Antolak, Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, near Cisterna on 24 May, who charged 200 yards over flat, coverless terrain to destroy an enemy machinegun nest, although badly wounded—he was killed in this action—(Audie Murphy witnessed this act of heroism); Pfc Henry Schauer, near Cisterna, 23-24 May, who destroyed several German machinegun nests and their crews, plus a number of snipers with his almost unbelievable long-range accuracy with his Browning Automatic Rifle—he was luckier than many for he lived to receive his award. Needless to say, there were many other acts of individual heroism, and it really does seem unfair to single any one man out. Actually, 7 men from the 3rd won this nation's highest award during the breakout from the Anzio beachhead and the battle to Rome, and 5 more at some time or other during the entire struggle at the beachhead. 1,585 men in the 3rd were killed at Anzio.

Rome finally fell on 4 June 1944—2 days before the Allied invasion of Normandy. After a week in the "eternal city", the Third prepared for another amphibious invasion.

On 15 August 1944, the 3rd, 36th, and 45th Infantry Divisions, plus a few French units, landed on the southern coast of France, west of Nice. Against moderate resistance, the 3rd advanced rapidly inland, taking Avignon, and then became involved in a raging battle at Montélimar in the Rhône River Valley. The German 19th Army was badly shot-up as it retreated to the north. This phase of the fighting cost the 3rd around 220 men killed.

Advancing north up the Rhône-Saône Valley, the 3 U.S. divisions and the French encountered increasingly strong opposition as they neared the Vosges Mountains. These steep, high, heavily wooded hills had never before been crossed by an enemy-opposed military force. The fortress city of Besançon fell in 3 days, and there was some hard-fought action by the 3rd around Vesoul.

Then, after crossing the Moselle in late-September, a very bloody engagement was fought around Cleurie, notably by the 15th Infantry Regiment. It was a 6-day battle. The Germans used every weapon at their disposal—mines, log roadblocks, booby-traps, 105 and 155mm self-propelled artillery, tanks, mortars, machineguns, machine-pistols, grenades, field artillery fired in battery concentrations, 20mm flak guns, and numerous snipers with telescopic sights on their rifles. The whole affair was a vicious, bloody nightmare, and both sides suffered heavy losses.

By October 1944, the weather had turned increasingly foul, often windy and rainy and with bitter-cold nights. The 3rd was in the thick of the battle in the high Vosges. During October, the division cracked the main line of German resistance at the Mortagne River, with the 45th Division on its left and the 36th on the right, and with the 3rd capturing Le Haut Jacques and Les Rouge Eaux. The GIs named the former place "The Crossroads of Hell." The 7th Infantry Regiment had 152 men killed and 824 more wounded at these two places. Between 20 October-10 November 1944 was the toughest period of combat in France that the 3rd had experienced up to this time.

Grinding ahead in the face of continued bitter enemy resistance, the 3rd forced the swollen Meurthe River under cover of darkness over rubber pontoon bridges, before it was finally relieved by the newly arrived 103rd "Cactus" Infantry Division at Chevry on 11 November 1944.

The Vosges campaign was a very bitter and costly one for the Fighting 3rd. But the Germans also suffered very heavy losses, and surrendered 2,000 prisoners to the 3rd.

After a short rest, the Third again went into action. The German 19th Army was holding onto a sizeable bridgehead west of the Rhine, with its nucleus about Colmar, roughly half-way between Strasbourg and the Swiss border.

After reaching the city of Strasbourg, on the Rhine, the 3rd shifted places with the 36th Infantry Division and moved into the area which became known as the Colmar Pocket, assisting the French 1st Army.

In December 1944, the 63rd "Blood and Fire" Infantry Division arrived in northeastern France, and on 28 December, its 254th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 3rd Division.

More hard fighting took place in December. Bennewihr fell on Christmas Eve, but it took five days to reduce Sigolsheim. German resistance was fanatical. Some of their infantrymen attacked tanks with rifles, until run over and crushed beneath the treads.

After numerous U.S. and French attacks, and German counterattacks, an all-out offensive was commenced by the two Allies on 20 January 1945. During the Battle of the Colmar Pocket several more Medals of Honor were won by men of the 3rd Division in the course of this hard, strenuous fighting. Indeed, the 3rd had so many men win this high award that, as has been already indicated, it seems unfair to single any one man out. However, in this case, one man does stand out.

As a member of the 3rd—Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment—2nd Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy was in the company of heroes. As for himself, up to this time, he had won just about every other award possible, including the Distinguished Service Cross in southern France, and 2 Silver Stars for his outstanding actions at the Cleurie Quarry in the Vosges. There, among other feats, he had killed several snipers. Audie was a crack shot. He was also one of America's truly outstanding soldiers, in spite of his diminutive size and youthful appearance, and he had recently won a battlefield commission, when the following action occurred.

On 26 January 1945, near Holtzwihr, Alsace, France, Lt Murphy was commanding Company B, when it was hit by a heavy German attack which included 6 tanks and waves of infantry.

Lt Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to prepared positions in a nearby woods, while he remained forward at his command post and gave fire directions to the artillery by phone. This fire killed large numbers of the advancing enemy infantry, but more came on. With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Lt Murphy climbed on top of a burning tank destroyer which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and began firing its .50 caliber machinegun at the Germans. He was alone and exposed to enemy fire from three sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of the enemy and caused his infantry to waver. The German tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back.

For an hour, the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate Lt Murphy, but he held his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a hip wound, but ignored it and continued his singlehanded fight until his ammunition ran out. He then made his way to his company, refused medical treatment, and organized a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw.

Lt Murphy's indomitable courage and refusal to give way saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction, and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective. It was on this day that Lt Murphy won his nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When later asked how he could have stayed on top of the burning tank destroyer so long, he replied to the effect that it was the first time in several days that his feet had been warm, and that he hadn't been too anxious to get off. (In his book, "To Hell and Back", he stated that the nights during this battle were one long, bitter hell to try and keep one's feet from freezing. On one of these nights, he and a buddy were sharing a foxhole, and the next morning his friend had to be evacuated because both of his feet were frozen).

It was a miracle that Audie Murphy survived the war. He had come into the 3rd as a replacement in North Africa, and so, went through the whole bit, having too many close calls to mention. When the war in Europe ended, Audie was deep in southeastern Bavaria. Out of his original company, only he and a supply sergeant were left. Everyone else had been either killed, wounded, possibly captured, or transferred out.

The 3rd crossed the Colmar Canal on 29 January, and captured Bischwihr, Fortschwihr, Muntzenheim, Urschenheim, and Kunheim. As men of his company were assembling to leave Urschenheim, 1 February, several German artillery shells fell in their midst. Eight men were killed or wounded, but Lt Murphy was unharmed.

The Rhône-Rhine Canal was crossed on 2 February 1945, and then there was a vicious fight in a walled Jewish cemetery, which the Germans had turned into a stronghold. By noon of the 4th, the enemy had been forced out of his macabre stronghold.

Bitter resistance was encountered until 8 February, when the town of Colmar finally fell to a regiment of the 28th "Keystone" Infantry Division and some French units.

The Colmar Pocket was finally erased by 10 February 1945. During this period between 20 January-10 February, the 3rd Infantry Division, reinforced by the 254th Infantry Regiment, had taken over 4,200 prisoners, captured 22 towns, virtually destroyed the 708th Volksgrenadier Division, badly mauled the 16th and 189th Infantry Divisions, and decisively beaten the elite Austrian 2nd Mountain Division which had been sent all the way from Norway for the special purpose of stopping the 3rd Division.

For superb fighting on the northern side of the attack, through snow, storms, terrain broken by unfordable streams, and enemy infested woods and marshes, the entire 3rd Infantry Division and the 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division were later awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation. Other American outfits which fought in the Colmar Pocket were the 12th Armored and 75th Infantry Divisions. This action cost the 3rd 317 men—killed. And the 254th Infantry Regiment lost over 100 men.

After rest and rehabilitation, in mid-March 1945, the 3rd was moved further north, just south of the Saar, to take part in the all-out 7th Army offensive to smash the Siegfried Line. With the 63rd Infantry Division on its left flank and the 45th Infantry Division on the right, the 3rd, attacking on a line to Zweibrücken, slashed through the enemy defenses after several days of hard fighting.

The 3rd was the first 7th Army unit to cross the Rhine—near Worms on 26 March 1945. Advancing east, and then slightly north, the 3rd followed in the wake of the 14th "Liberator" Armored Division. Gemünden, on the Main River, fell on 4 April to the 7th Infantry Regiment and the 14th Armored after a fierce fight. The 15th Infantry captured Wildflecken, home of a huge chemical warfare plant and a large training area on the 6th, and the 30th Infantry took Bad Kissingen on 7 April, and captured an entire regiment of the 36th Volksgrenadier Division. Further east, the 15th Infantry Regiment helped the 45th Division take Bamberg in a 1-day battle.

Swinging south, the Fighting 3rd then became involved in a major battle lasting several days to take the Nazi shrine of Nuremberg against two battered, but fanatical German divisions, the 2nd Mountain and 17th SS Panzer Grenadier, in mid-April 1945. Already bombed, the city was further reduced to a giant heap of rubble, but this didn't stop the Germans from putting up a very skillful and tenacious resistance amid the ruins.

While the 45th Infantry Division swung around to attack from the northeast, and the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division pushed into the western suburbs of the city, the 3rd attacked from the north.

The Germans had positioned hundreds of 88mm anti-aircraft guns in a protective arc around the city. Their projectiles, fused to burst overhead, scattered steel fragments for hundreds of yards down upon the advancing Americans. Scores of them were either killed or very badly wounded. The soldiers were even subjected to sorties of what remained of the Luftwaffe. As the GIs advanced into the ruined city, German soldiers and even teenagers took pot shots at them with panzerfausts, machine-pistols, and rifles from second-story windows. There were also numerous booby-traps placed by the enemy. Against this type of resistance, the GIs became ruthless. They began blasting any house or building which offered opposition into rubble. By the evening of 17 April, two-thirds of the city was under U.S. control. The 3rd had knocked out more than 50 guns and taken numerous prisoners.

The Americans ground forward steadily, and on the 19th, a regiment of the 3rd closed in on the inner city's north wall. Then elements of the 3rd and 45th Divisions met at the Regnitz River which flows through the old city. The Germans launched a final counterattack against elements of the 3rd, but it was beaten back.

Most of the soldiers shunned heroics this late in the war, but some still fought with almost reckless abandon, and the 3rd's last 3 Medals of Honor were won in Nuremberg. The city was secured by 20 April 1945.

Then, heading south, the 3rd took Augsburg, after crossing the Danube, and then headed for the big Bavarian city of Munich. It was much different than in Nuremberg. Although there was some sharp fighting in certain parts of the city due to die-hard fanatics and SS groups, resistance, for the most part, was sporadic. The civilians, by now, thoroughly disillusioned and fed-up with the war, often even pointed out to the GIs the hiding places of German soldiers, and many of them were determined to help put an end to the fighting.

Continuing on into extreme southeast Bavaria, the 3rd then cut across the Austrian border and captured Salzburg. In conjunction with the 101st Airborne Division, the 3rd then

pivoted further south, back inside Germany, to take Berchtesgaden, with the 20th Armored Division close behind. On V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 3rd was using as a messhall the dining room of Schloss Klessheim, where Hitler once housed his "more important" guests.

One of the highest compliments paid to the 3rd was by former Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, right after the war. When asked by an American war correspondent what U.S. divisions he considered to have been the most effective against his forces, the 3rd Infantry Division topped his list.

From the beginning of the 7th Army assault on the Siegfried Line, beginning 15 March 1945, to 8 May 1945, the 3rd had 373 men killed in action. During this same period, the Germans who fought against the 3rd had at least 381 men killed in action, 1,020 more wounded, and many thousands of men captured.

With little doubt, the 3rd Infantry Division was as good as any division in any army in World War II—a truly great outfit. And just look at the awards and casualties, below:

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—36	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—5,634
Battle Stars—10	Killed In Action—4,922
Distinguished Unit Citations—11 *	Wounded—18,766
Distinguished Service Crosses—109	Missing—554
Silver Stars—4,817	Captured—1,735
	Total Casualties—25,977

* One to the entire division—Colmar Pocket, Alsace, France

As most everyone knows by now, Hollywood made a movie called "To Hell and Back" in 1955, about some of Audie Murphy's exploits in the war. He played himself in the movie which, by now, has come to be considered a classic. He had previously written a book under the same title which became a best seller. Tragically, many years later, Audie Murphy was killed in a private plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia, on 28 May 1971, along with 5 other men. He would have been 47 years old that following 20 June. Audie Murphy was America's most decorated soldier of World War II. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

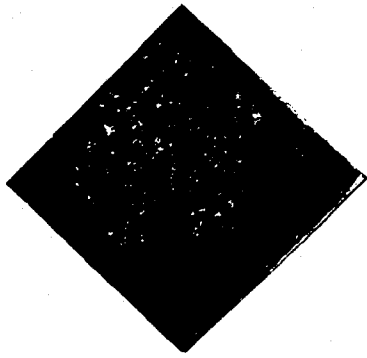
Other 3rd Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *
(Includes all of those men not listed in this article)

S/Sgt Lucian Adams, 30th Inf Rgt, 28 October 1944, near St. Dié, France
 S/Sgt Stanley Bender, 7th Inf Rgt, 17 August 1944, near La Lande, France
 1st Lt Maurice L. Britt, 30th Inf Rgt, 10 November 1943, north of Mignano, Italy
 1st Lt Frank Burke, 15th Inf Rgt, 17 April 1945, Nuremberg, Germany
 Pvt Herbert F. Christian, * 15th Inf Rgt, 2-3 June 1944, near Valmontone, Italy
 Sgt James P. Connor, 7th Inf Rgt, 15 August 1944, Cape Cavalaire, southern France
 2nd Lt Robert Craig, * 15th Inf Rgt, 11 July 1943, near Favoratta, Sicily
 1st Lt Michael J. Daly, 15th Inf Rgt, 18 April 1945, Nuremberg, Germany
 S/Sgt Russell E. Dunham, 30th Inf Rgt, 8 January 1945, near Kayserberg, Alsace, France
 Pfc John W. Dutko, * 30th Inf Rgt, 23 May 1944, near Ponte Rotto, Italy
 T/5 Grade Eric G. Gibson, * 30th Inf Rgt, 28 January 1944, near Isola Bella, Italy
 Pfc Lloyd G. Hawks, 30th Inf Rgt, 30 January 1944, near Carano, Italy
 Pvt Elden H. Johnson, * 15th Inf Rgt, 3 June 1944, near Valmontone, Italy
 2nd Lt Victor L. Kandle, * 15th Inf Rgt, 9 October 1944, near La Forge, France
 S/Sgt Gus J. Kefurt, * 15th Inf Rgt, 23-24 December 1944, near Bennewihr, Alsace, France
 Pfc Alton W. Knappenberger, 30th Inf Rgt, 1 February 1944, near Cisterna, Italy
 Pfc Floyd K. Lindstrom, * 7th Inf Rgt, 11 November 1943, near Mignano, Italy
 T/5 Grade Robert D. Maxwell, 7th Inf Rgt, 7 September 1944, near Besançon, France
 Pvt Joseph F. Merrell, * 15th Inf Rgt, 18 April 1945, near Lohe, Germany
 Sgt Harold O. Messerschmidt, * 30th Inf Rgt, 17 September 1944, near Raddon, France
 Pvt James H. Mills, 15th Inf Rgt, 24 May 1944, near Cisterna, Italy
 1st Lt Charles P. Murray, Jr., 30th Inf Rgt, 16 Dec 1944, near Kayserberg, Alsace, France
 Capt Arlo L. Olson, * 15th Inf Rgt, 13 October 1943, at the Volturno River, Italy
 Sgt Truman O. Olson, * 7th Inf Rgt, 30 January 1944, near Cisterna, Italy
 T/5 Grade Forrest E. Peden, * 10th Field Arty Bn, 3 February 1945, near Biesheim, Alsace, France

Pvt Wilburn K. Ross, 30th Inf Rgt, 30 October 1944, near St. Jacques, France
Pfc John C. Squires, * 30th Inf Rgt, 23-24 April 1944, near Padiglione, Italy
2nd Lt John J. Tominac, 15th Inf Rgt, 12 September 1944, near Saulx-de-Vesoul, France
Pfc José F. Valdez, * 7th Inf Rgt, 25 January 1945, near Rosenkrantz, Alsace, France
Lt Col Keith L. Ware, 15th Inf Rgt, 26 December 1944, near Sigolsheim, Alsace, France 1
1st Lt David C. Waybur, 3rd Recon Troop, 17 July 1943, near Agrigento, Sicily
1st Lt Eli Whitely, 15th Inf Rgt, 27 December 1944, Sigolsheim, Alsace, France

1 Colonel Keith L. Ware stayed in the Army for a career and, many years later, was killed in Vietnam. He was, for a time, Audie Murphy's battalion commander, and he and Audie were good friends.

The 3rd Infantry Division later saw extensive service in the Korean War. Since then, the 3rd has been stationed in Germany for many years, and still is, as of this writing. (11 November 1985)



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Ivy"

Regular Army

Activated (WW II)—3 June 1940

Returned To United States—10 July 1945

Inactivated—5 March 1946

Reactivated—15 July 1947

Battle Credits, World War II:	Normandy	Northern France-Belgium	Siegfried Line
Days In Combat—299	Ardennes	Rhineland	Central Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Raymond O. Barton	July 1942—December 1944
Maj-Gen Harold W. Blakeley	December 1944—October 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 4th Infantry Division saw very heavy action in World War I, having 2,160 men killed in action, and 10,660 more wounded.

In World War II, the 4th took part in some of the heaviest and most desperate fighting of the war. The 4th was in the initial D-Day assault in Normandy, 6 June 1944, landing on Utah Beach. The Germans were caught off guard in this sector, and the fighting was not as furious as on Omaha Beach, further to the east. Advancing inland against increasingly heavy opposition, the 4th reached the isolated 82nd Airborne Division in the vicinity of Ste. Mère Eglise, and encountered several German attacks on 7 June.

After isolating the Cotentin Peninsula, the 4th helped take it, along with the 9th and 79th Infantry Divisions. The three divisions attacked northward toward the port of Cherbourg, with the 4th in the right flank of the advance, and the fighting was murderous. The Americans had to battle through difficult hedgerow country against determined German resistance, and losses were extremely heavy on both sides. Nevertheless, the Americans succeeded in forcing the Germans from the Montebourg Heights, and the latter then withdrew into the key port of Cherbourg, being bombarded by heavy artillery and air strikes. However, Hitler had ordered the port to be defended to the last man, and it was very tough going. But the Americans, with tank support, attacked with considerable élan and, after bloody house-to-house fighting, Cherbourg fell on 25 June 1944. However, the port facilities were completely wrecked by the Germans, and so rendered useless to the Allies for quite some time. The 4th garrisoned the port city until the end of the month when it was then relieved by the 101st Airborne Division.

The month of June 1944, was the 4th's bloodiest month of the war. It was also the most costly month for any American division fighting in Normandy. During June 1944, the 4th Infantry Division lost well over 1,500 men killed in action or died of wounds, alone!

As may be gathered, Normandy was some of the most lengthy, heavy, and bloody fighting of the war, and the 4th was in the thick of it. After taking part in the very tough combat near Périers, 6-16 July 1944, the Ivy Division, after a brief rest, participated in the major U.S. breakthrough west of St. Lô. The men of the 4th smashed through the battered German defenses, clinging to the tanks of the 2nd Armored Division. This assault began

on 25 July 1944. As the breakout gained momentum, the 4th broke through the left flank of the German 7th Army, and continued south. The furious fighting kept on, with a battle near St. Pois, which was taken on 5 August 1944.

In the region of Mortain, beginning 7 August 1944, the Germans counterattacked with four of their very best divisions—the 1st and 2nd SS Panzer, 2nd Panzer, and 116th Panzer. Furious combat ensued with the 4th having a key role in this battle by containing the 116th Panzer at the northern flank of the German assault. After a week of the most intensive combat, the Germans finally withdrew, and the 4th headed east across northern France.

Along with the French 2nd Armored Division, the 4th entered Paris on 25 August 1944. Many of the populace had already risen up against their German oppressors, and there was considerable sharp fighting in certain quarters of the city, with much sniping, before "the city of light" was declared secured. After being allowed to spend a few glorious days in Paris, the 4th moved on to the north in hot pursuit of the enemy.

On 1 September 1944, riding on tanks of the 5th Armored Division, the division pushed to Chauny, and assembled near Mézières, advancing forward from the Meuse River on 6 September.

Cutting through eastern Belgium against ineffectual opposition, the 4th hit the Siegfried Line, in the Schnee Eifel, in mid-September 1944. The 4th penetrated the line on the 14th, but was stopped after small gains over the next several days despite costly attacks. This offensive was then halted in the face of determined German counterattacks.

All through October 1944, the 4th had it relatively easy. It was mostly a static type of war, during this month for the division, with patrolling and skirmishing actions.

But then the Ivy Division was moved somewhat further north to relieve the battered 28th Infantry Division in the Zweitfall area. By mid-November 1944, the 4th had entered the dark, grim, enemy-infested Hürtgen Forest.

The fighting in the Hürtgenwald was some of the most bitter and bloody fighting of any on the entire Western Front. All kinds of mines and booby-traps abounded, and the forbidding place was filled with first-class German troops—many of them in concrete emplacements or camouflaged bunkers, and often protected by numerous barbed-wire entanglements. Men were literally shredded with sharp pine needles which, mixed in with the shrapnel from shellbursts, helped to make a special hell out of the evil forest. One had to live in the midst of this kind of fighting, and to take part in it fully, to appreciate how men over a period of time could become so completely and utterly beaten physically and morally, that they sometimes stepped on the bodies of their fallen comrades because they didn't have the energy to step over them. Some men broke from the sheer strain of carrying supplies and ammunition over the debris-littered ground. The 9th and 28th Infantry Divisions had already been badly battered in the Hürtgen, but the 4th Infantry Division's experience in this miserable forest was as bad as any.

The 12th Infantry Regiment was subjected to a strong German attack on 10 November 1944, which cut-off the regiment from the rest of the division until the 15th. The 8th and 22nd Infantry Regiments had a gap wedged between them in the forest fighting which stopped the offensive on 19 November 1944. In 5 costly days of combat the division had gained only 1½ miles. On 17 November 1944, one of the most heroic actions of the entire battle occurred by 1st Lieutenant Bernard J. Ray, Company F, 8th Infantry Regiment.

Lt Ray was a platoon leader in an attack in wet, bitterly cold weather over rough, wooded terrain, meeting brutal resistance from enemy positions spaced throughout the forest behind minefields and wire obstacles. Fierce German fire caused heavy casualties in his company, and it was stopped by a concertina-type wire barrier. Under continued heavy enemy fire, the lieutenant prepared to blow a path through the entanglement, which appeared quite impossible to others who tried to dissuade him of it.

Determined to clear the way, he placed explosive caps in his pockets, obtained several Bangalore torpedoes, and wrapped a length of highly explosive primer cord about his body. He then dashed forward under direct fire, reaching the barbed-wire, and prepared the demolition charge. Lt Ray had placed a torpedo under the wire and was connecting it to a charge, when he was severely wounded by a mortar burst. Apparently realizing that he would fail in his self-imposed mission unless he completed it in a few seconds, he made a supreme decision. He completed a hasty wiring system and thrust down on the handle of the charger, destroying himself along with the wire barricade in the resulting explosion. Lt Ray was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic self-sacrifice.

It was still very rough going. The attack was renewed on 22 November 1944, and the 22nd Infantry Regiment eventually found a hole in the German defenses and surged forward, digging in along both sides of a road leading east toward the villages of Kleinhaus and Grosshaus. After hard fighting the 22nd Infantry took Grosshaus by frontal assault on 29 November 1944.

The Germans then rushed reinforcements into the gloomy forest, their 344th Infantry Division, and the casualties soared on both sides, with 3 December 1944, being a very bloody day. Finally, the 4th was relieved by the 83rd Infantry Division and, a month after entering the terrible forest, staggered back out of it on 8 December 1944. The 4th had eliminated five German regiments, but, in return, suffered 6,000 casualties, over 800 of whom were dead!

After this searing experience the 4th was sent back down into Luxembourg to a supposedly quiet sector of the front—the Ardennes. The 4th got a well-deserved, but much too short rest of one week, and received replacements. And then the Germans hit hard with their all-out counteroffensive on 16 December 1944.

On the southern flank of the German onslaught, in eastern Luxembourg, the 4th was hit by the 212th and 276th Volksgrenadier Divisions. Still worn from the Hürtgen Forest experience and still understrength, although forced back a little, the Fighting 4th fought valiantly, holding the line in the region about Echternach. The 4th inflicted tremendous losses on these two enemy formations which were hampered by too many 17-year old recruits in their ranks, and by the lack of a sufficient number of self-propelled guns. These factors helped even the odds, for the 4th was outnumbered 4 to 1 in personnel. Some American forward outposts were overrun, but the 4th's artillery knocked out temporary bridges the Germans had built over the Sauer River, and also took care of some of their self-propelled guns and mortar crews. Although in a rather precarious position, the 4th managed to hold the line in strenuous combat, and recaptured Echternach on 27 December 1944. The 4th was relieved by the 5th Infantry Division of Patton's 3rd Army, and was commended by the general for its valiant stand.

After resting and receiving replacements the 4th went over to the offensive in the Battle of the Bulge on 18 January 1945. In heavy fighting the division seized the heights overlooking the Our River, and crossed the river at Bettendorf on 22 January.

The attack resumed on 29 January 1945, and the 4th advanced into Germany, 1 February, breaching the Siegfried Line near Brandscheid, and entering the austere Eifel. The weather was still bitter-cold with deep snow and, for awhile, the 4th and 87th Infantry Divisions had to be supplied by airdrops.

Struggling forward in heavy combat the 4th succeeded in getting part of its components across the Prüm River on 9 February 1945, and the division stormed Prüm on the 12th. The 4th then went over to the defensive, and defended the river line from Olzheim to Watzerath against counterattacks.

On 28 February 1945, the 4th crossed the Prüm River in force, but suffered heavy losses, while making only negligible gains. In fierce fighting the town of Gondelsheim was taken on 4 March, and the 4th then raced out of the bridgehead behind the 11th Armored Division to the Kyll River by 6 March 1945. This river was forced on the following day.

After rest and rehabilitation, the 4th returned to action, and crossed the Rhine at the Worms bridgehead on 29 March 1945. The 4th was now under the U.S. 7th Army.

The 4th advanced to the east into south-central Germany. At the beginning of April 1945, the 4th, acting in conjunction with the 42nd Infantry Division and elements of the 12th Armored Division, secured the city of Würzburg in some fierce fighting. By 3 April, the 4th had established a bridgehead across the Main River, at Ochsenfurt.

The 12th and 22nd Infantry Regiments then fought determined opposition up the wooded slopes in the area of Königshofen, and the offensive was resumed on 10 April 1945.

The advance toward Rothenburg started on 11 April against strong German defenses. Resistance then soon collapsed so that the Americans could spare this ancient, medieval shrine, and on the 12th, the 8th Infantry Regiment reached Ansbach.

As the 4th advanced south-southeast into Bavaria, some heavy action occurred on 16 April 1945. After that, light to moderate resistance was met in the division's zone of attack. The 4th first forced the Danube on 25 April 1945. A bridgehead was established across the Lech at Schwabstadt, 27 April, and, by the end of the month, the 4th was deep in southern Bavaria at Miesbach. On 4 May 1945, the 4th was moved back to Neumarkt for occupational

duty under the U.S. 3rd Army. V-E Day finally came on 8 May 1945.

The Fighting 4th was one of the great U.S. divisions of the war, but it had paid a very heavy price. The 3rd Infantry Division is the only American division which had more total battle deaths than the 4th Infantry Division in World War II. The 4th returned to the United States in July 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—4	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—4,907
Distinguished Unit Citations—12 *	Killed In Action—4,097
Distinguished Service Crosses—60	Wounded—17,371
Silver Stars—1,283	Missing—461
	Captured—731
	Total Casualties—22,660

* Includes Distinguished Unit Citations to the following entire regiments:

8th Infantry Regiment—D-Day, Normandy, France
12th Infantry Regiment—Battle of the Bulge
22nd Infantry Regiment—St. Gillis-Marigny, Normandy, France
Hürtgen Forest, Germany

Other 4th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

S/Sgt Marcario Garcia, 22nd Inf Rgt, 27 November 1944, Hürtgen Forest, Germany
Lt Col George L. Mabry, Jr., 8th Inf Rgt, 20 November 1944, Hürtgen Forest, Germany
Brig-Gen Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 6 June 1944, D-Day, Normandy (Died of a heart attack on 12 July 1944)

The 4th Infantry Division later served in the Vietnam War. As of this writing, the 4th is stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado. (15 August 1989)

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Ivy"

JULY 1944

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9 July 11 55
10 July 11111111111111111111111111111111 37
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AUGUST 1944

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4TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Ivy"

SEPTEMBER 1944

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OCTOBER 1944

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NOVEMBER 1944

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4TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Ivy"

DECEMBER 1944

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224

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1
 2 Jan 1111
 5 Jan 111
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108

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Ivy"

FEBRUARY 1945

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MARCH 1945

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APRIL 1945

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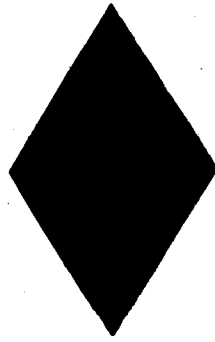
MAY 1945

2 May 1
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3

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day-----22 June 1944
 bloodiest month-----June 1944
 2nd bloodiest day-----21 June 1944
 3rd " " "-----12 and 24 June 1944
 4th " " "-----6 June 1944
 5th " " "-----9 July 1944
 Total battle deaths-----4,798
 2,881 are listed=60.0% KIA-4,017



5TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Red Diamond"

Regular Army

Activated (WW II)—2 October 1939

Returned To United States—19 July 1945

Inactivated—20 September 1946

Reactivated—15 July 1947

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy North-Central France Lorraine-Saar
 Ardennes Siegfried Line Rhineland Ruhr Pocket
 Central Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Stafford L. Irwin

June 1943—April 1945

Maj-Gen Albert E. Brown

April 1945—June 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 5th Infantry Division was no stranger to France, or to German soldiers. In World War I, the Red Diamond, entering the line on 14 June 1918, fought at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne, and took 2,356 prisoners, while sustaining 9,116 casualties, including 1,630 men killed in action.

In World War II, the 10th Infantry Regiment sailed to Iceland three months before Pearl Harbor. In March 1942, the rest of the division arrived, and by August 1943, the 5th had moved on to England, and then Northern Ireland. These early moves were cloaked with secrecy.

Then, on 9 July 1944, the 5th entered the Normandy inferno, taking up defensive positions near Caumont, and relieving the 1st Infantry Division on the 13th.

Launching a successful attack on Vidouville, 26 July 1944, as part of the general U.S. 1st Army breakout from the difficult hedgerow country, the 5th drove back a well-organized, well dug-in, and stubborn German force. Both sides sustained heavy losses, and hastily reorganized for the fighting yet to come.

The 5th next became involved in a bloody battle for Hill 183 against German paratroopers. 30 July 1944, was the 5th's bloodiest day in combat of the war. The division then advanced southeast of St. Lô, and captured the sizeable town of Angers, after more tough fighting, 8-10 August 1944.

Advancing to the east and now under Patton's 3rd Army, the Red Diamond, in conjunction with the 7th Armored Division, battled through Chartres, and then headed for the Seine River, at Fontainebleau and Montereau, 23-25 August 1944. More heavy fighting developed, as the 5th attempted to get a bridgehead across the river. It was during this action that one soldier acted especially heroically.

Private Harold A. Garman, Company B, 5th Medical Battalion, a litter bearer, was working on the friendly side of the Seine, carrying the wounded from the boats to waiting ambulances. As one boatload of wounded reached midstream, a German machinegun suddenly opened up on it from the northern bank 100 yards away. All of the men immediately took to the water except one man who was so badly wounded that he couldn't rise from his stretcher. Two other men who couldn't swim, due to their wounds, clung to the sides of the boat.

Seeing the grave danger of these men, Pvt Garman, without hesitating, plunged into the

Seine. Swimming directly into a hail of machinegun bullets, he rapidly reached the boat, and, while still under fire, towed the boat with great effort to the friendly shore.

This soldier's moving heroism not only saved the lives of three men, but so inspired his fellow soldiers, that additional assault boats were immediately procured, and the evacuation of the wounded resumed.

When later personally decorated by General Patton with the Medal of Honor, the general asked him why he did it, and Pvt Garman replied, "Well, someone had to."

After forcing the Seine, the 5th captured Reims, on 30 August 1944. By this time, the Germans, who had keenly felt the Red Diamond's cutting edge, decided that its nickname was not aptly descriptive. They gave the 5th a new name—the "Red Devils."

Advancing into the province of Lorraine, the 5th next prepared to cross the swollen Meuse River, and attack the fortress city of Metz, commencing on 7 September 1944, supported by the 7th Armored Division.

The 2nd Infantry Regiment made repeated frontal assaults, while the engineers bridged the river for tanks. Meanwhile, the 11th Infantry Regiment pushed up the Meuse heights near Dornot. On 8 September 1944, the 5th gained a precarious bridgehead over the Moselle River, which came immediately under heavy shell fire and continuous German counterattacks. This bridgehead was also hampered by deep mud and ammunition shortages, as well as continued determined enemy resistance. However, the 5th soon committed itself entirely into this battle in very costly combat, 11 September 1944, being an especially bloody day.

The furious fighting continued, and the 5th regrouped inside the perimeter and defended it against a strong German attack on 17 September 1944.

The 5th began attacking Ft. Driant on 27 September 1944, and the 11th Infantry Regiment forced its way into the bastion's outer edges, 3 October, but the Germans counterattacked from tunnels after dark. By 12 October 1944, attempts to seize this fort were given up, and the division withdrew to rest.

In the second week of November 1944, while the 95th Infantry Division assaulted a series of extremely strongly defended forts ringing Metz, from the west, the 5th launched an attack from the south. The 17th SS Panzer Grenadier and 462nd Volksgrenadier Divisions resisted fanatically. On 12 November 1944, the 5th was counterattacked at once as it entered the bridgehead of the 6th Armored Division. The fighting was vicious and bloody and, sometimes, at close-quarters, with some bayonet fighting. Between 12-20 November 1944, the 2nd Infantry Regiment took Ancerville, the 10th Infantry reduced Fort Aisne, Boies de l'Hôpital, Marly, and Fort Queuleu, and the 11th Infantry captured Prayelle Farm, Frescaty airfield, Fort Verdun, and Fort St. Privat. On 18 November, the 10th and 11th Infantry pushed into Metz, itself, and the division had completely encircled the town by the following day. Rear-guard opposition inside Metz was mopped-up by 22 November 1944, except for Fort Driant, which continued to hold out. The 5th left some infantry to contain this fort, and the rest of the division attacked across the Nied River on 25 November 1944. The 87th Infantry Division, which arrived at the front in early-December, was given the task of the final reduction of Fort Driant.

The reduction of Metz was a very courageous feat of arms. Both sides had fought very well, and had suffered very heavy losses. The 5th Infantry Division, alone, had close to 770 men killed in action or died of wounds.

Continuing eastward, the 5th, as one of General Patton's ace divisions, fought into the southern part of the Saar, in the Siegfried Line. As the Germans were launching their all-out counteroffensive in the Ardennes, further to the northwest, the 5th relieved the valiant 95th Infantry Division at Saarlautern, on 17 December 1944. However, the 5th's stint in the Saar didn't last very long, as it was soon ordered into the Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge.

The 3rd Army transfer of so many troops out of the Saar, and into the Ardennes, called for courageous endurance on the part of the soldiers involved, excellent staff work, and the driving force of Patton, himself. It would be Europe's worst winter in half-a-century.

In a monumental feat of arms the 5th struggled northward into Luxembourg, in appalling winter conditions with sometimes zero visibility. Beginning on 24 December 1944, the 5th was in for some very severe fighting, especially in the Mullerthal Draw, where two companies battled for 8 hours to gain a scant 200 yards.

Christmas Day dawned clear and crisp, and snow-laden evergreens imparted a poignant rem-

inder of the Yuletide season, as the 5th forged ahead to take Waldbilling and Haller. The division then forged ahead to force the Germans back to the north side of the Sauer River. The 5th advanced 6 miles in as many days to help thwart the German threat to the city of Luxembourg, passing through the 4th Infantry and 9th Armored Divisions. In this costly advance the Red Diamond faced heavy artillery and rocket fire, and sporadic enemy bombing and strafing. The 5th succeeded in throwing two German divisions into utter confusion, recaptured much American equipment, and took 830 prisoners. The threat in the southern side of the Bulge was slowly eliminated.

After a brief respite, the 5th saw more heavy action in the Ardennes from 18-28 January 1945. The Bulge was slowly, but surely, erased, and the Germans were forced back to the Siegfried Line by the end of January 1945.

Next, starting on 7 February 1945, the 5th and 76th Infantry Divisions crossed the swollen Sauer River from Luxembourg into Germany in a brilliant feat of arms, fighting numerous barbed-wire entanglements and other obstacles, as well as the enemy. Both divisions sustained heavy losses in this operation. By 19 February 1945, the 5th had cleared the area up to the west bank of the Prüm River.

After regrouping, the division crossed the Prüm, near Peffingen, on the night of 24-25 February 1945. The 5th cut the Bitburg-Trier Highway on the 27th, and cleared to the west bank of the Kyll River by the following day.

The 5th opened its attack to establish the Kyll bridgehead in the Erdorf area on 2 March 1945. Progress was rapid, and numerous towns and villages fell to the division. The Moselle was reached on 10 March, and crossed on the 14th. Working closely with the 4th Armored Division, the Rhine was reached at Oppenheim and Nierstein on 21 March 1945.

Then the 5th made a remarkable sneak night crossing of the fabled river on the night of 22-23 March 1945, near Oppenheim. Patton and his superiors, Generals Omar Bradley and Eisenhower, were elated when they heard the news. Although there were considerable casualties, this bridgehead was rapidly exploited, the Germans being caught completely off balance.

The 5th then attacked northward, and, along with the 6th Armored Division, cleared the big city of Frankfurt, after some sharp action, 27-29 March 1945. The 5th was then placed in reserve inside the war-torn city, and for around one week the men were allowed to enjoy themselves as best as they could.

After this, the 5th was temporarily detached from 3rd Army command to help out in the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket, further to the north. Except for 11 April 1945, when the division met heavy resistance, otherwise erratic opposition was met in the 5th's zone of attack. Attacking westward from the eastern side of the pocket, Meschede, Kalle, and Arnsberg were captured by the division, before resistance in the pocket collapsed by mid-April 1945.

In the closing days of the war, the Red Diamond was back with the 3rd Army. Patton wanted it for his final push of the war into Czechoslovakia. The 5th was toward the southern end of the attack, with its regiments in both extreme northern Austria, as well as the southwest portion of Czechoslovakia. The 5th met mostly light and sporadic resistance. However, around Kunzsvart, elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division set-up and stubbornly defended a roadblock.

The 5th then patrolled aggressively to the Tepla River, in Czechoslovakia, meeting some opposition, and then capturing Milesice and Volary, on 6 May 1945. The division had its last casualties of the war on 7 May 1945—1 man killed and 3 more wounded.

It was in Volary that the 5th discovered one of the many instances of excessive Nazi brutality. A large group of Jewish women were in this town, the survivors of a forced march through Austria by SS troops. Along the way they had been constantly beaten and otherwise mistreated. Needless to say, the survivors of this group were more than a little glad to see their American liberators.

The 5th was also given a tumultuous welcome by the Czech people, and contact was made with the Russian 107th Infantry Division. Shortly after V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 5th was in the sizeable town of České Budějovice, on the Vltava (Moldau) River.

The 5th Infantry Division had proven itself to be one of the great fighting divisions of the war, with an unusually high esprit de corps. But it had been anything but easy. The 5th suffered 12,818 casualties.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1
Distinguished Unit Citations—2
Distinguished Service Crosses—39
Silver Stars—784

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,684
Killed In Action—2,298
Wounded—9,549
Missing—288
Captured—683
Total Casualties—12,818

The 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division served in the Vietnam War. As of this writing, the 5th is stationed at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. (15 March 1985)

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Red Diamond"

JULY 1944

12 July 1
13 July 1
15 July 11
16 July 1
17 July 11
18 July 1
19 July 1111
20 July 1
21 July 11
22 July 11
24 July 111
26 July 1111111111111111111111111111111111 37
27 July 1111111111111111111111111111111111 40
28 July 11111
29 July 1111111111111 14
30 July 1111111111111111111111111111111111 50*
31 July 1111111111111 14
180
approx.
90%men

AUGUST 1944

1 Aug 11
4 Aug 1
5 Aug 1
7 Aug 1
8 Aug 111111111111 12
9 Aug 1111111111111111111111111111 29
10 Aug 111111111 9
12 Aug 1
14 Aug 1
15 Aug 1
17 Aug 1
18 Aug 11
20 Aug 1
21 Aug 111
22 Aug 111111111111111111 21
23 Aug 111111
24 Aug 1111111111111111111111 25
25 Aug 111111111 10
26 Aug 111111
28 Aug 1
29 Aug 1
31 Aug 1
136

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Red Diamond"

SEPTEMBER 1944

1 Sept 111
 7 Sept 11111111 9
 8 Sept 11111111111111111111 25
 9 Sept 11111111111111111111 24
 10 Sept 11111111111111111111 26
 11 Sept 11111111111111111111111111111111 42
 12 Sept 11111111111 13
 13 Sept 11111111111111111111 23
 14 Sept 11111111111111 17
 15 Sept 11111111111111111111111111 30
 16 Sept 111111
 17 Sept 1111111 8
 18 Sept 1111
 19 Sept 1111
 20 Sept 11111111111111111111111111 28
 21 Sept 1111111111111111111111 26
 22 Sept 111111111 10
 23 Sept 1
 24 Sept 1
 25 Sept 1111
 26 Sept 11
 27 Sept 1111111
 28 Sept 1111111 8
 30 Sept 1

OCTOBER 1944

1 Oct 1
 2 Oct 1
 3 Oct 111111111 10
 4 Oct 11111
 5 Oct 111111
 6 Oct 11
 7 Oct 1111111
 8 Oct 1111
 9 Oct 11
 10 Oct 1
 11 Oct 1
 12 Oct 111
 13 Oct 1111
 15 Oct 1
 16 Oct 1
 17 Oct 1
 18 Oct 1

NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 11
 2 Nov 1
 3 Nov 1
 5 Nov 11
 7 Nov 1
 8 Nov 11
 9 Nov 111111111 11
 10 Nov 11111111111111111111 22
 11 Nov 11
 12 Nov 1111111 8
 13 Nov 11
 14 Nov 1
 15 Nov 11111111111 13
 16 Nov 111111111111 15
 17 Nov 1111111111 12
 18 Nov 1111111111 12
 19 Nov 1111111111111 16
 20 Nov 111111
 21 Nov 11
 23 Nov 1
 24 Nov 1
 26 Nov 1
 28 Nov 11
 29 Nov 11
 30 Nov 1

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Red Diamond"

DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 11111
 4 Dec 11111
 5 Dec 111111
 6 Dec 1111
 7 Dec 111
 8 Dec 111
 10 Dec 11
 12 Dec 11
 13 Dec 1
 14 Dec 11
 17 Dec 11
 18 Dec 111
 20 Dec 1111111111 11
 21 Dec 111
 22 Dec 11111111 9
 23 Dec 111111
 24 Dec 11111111111111111111 22
 25 Dec 11111111111111111 19
 26 Dec 1111111111111111111 21
 27 Dec 11111111111111 15
 28 Dec 11111
 29 Dec 11

151

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1
 2 Jan 1
 3 Jan 111
 4 Jan 11
 5 Jan 1
 6 Jan 1
 11 Jan 1
 13 Jan 1
 18 Jan 11111111111111111111 20
 19 Jan 11111111111111111111 20
 20 Jan 11111111 8
 21 Jan 1111111111 11
 22 Jan 11111111111 12
 23 Jan 11111111111111111111 22
 24 Jan 11111
 25 Jan 111111
 26 Jan 11111
 27 Jan 1
 28 Jan 1111111111111111111111 25
 29 Jan 1

147

FEBRUARY 1945

7 Feb 111111111 9
 8 Feb 111111111111 12
 9 Feb 11111111111111111111111111 28
 10 Feb 11111111111 11
 11 Feb 1111111111111 13
 12 Feb 11111
 13 Feb 11111111 8
 14 Feb 11
 15 Feb 111
 16 Feb 111
 17 Feb 11111111111 12
 18 Feb 1111111 8
 19 Feb 1111111 8
 20 Feb 1111111
 22 Feb 11
 24 Feb 111
 25 Feb 111111
 26 Feb 11
 27 Feb 111
 28 Feb 11

147

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Red Diamond"

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 1
 2 Mar 11
 3 Mar 111111111111111 15
 4 Mar 1
 6 Mar 1
 7 Mar 111111111 9
 8 Mar 1
 11 Mar 1
 12 Mar 1
 14 Mar 111111
 15 Mar 111
 16 Mar 111
 17 Mar 1
 18 Mar 1
 19 Mar 1
 20 Mar 11
 22 Mar 1
 23 Mar 111111111111111 17
 24 Mar 111111111111111111111111111 25
 25 Mar 111
 27 Mar 111
 28 Mar 1
 30 Mar 1
 31 Mar 1
 101

APRIL 1945

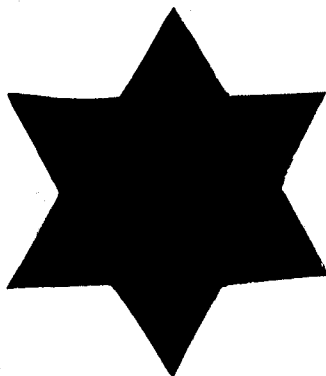
2 Apr 11
 4 Apr 1
 11 Apr 1111111111 10
 12 Apr 11
 14 Apr 11
 15 Apr 1
 30 Apr 1
 19

MAY 1945

1 May 1
 2 May 11
 3 May 11
 5 May 11
 7

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day—————30 July 1944
 bloodiest month—————September 1944
 2nd bloodiest day—————11 September 1944
 3rd bloodiest day—————27 July 1944
 Total battle deaths—————2,628
 1,400 are listed=53.2% KIA—2,277



6TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Sightseeing"

Regular Army

Activated (WW II)—12 October 1939

Battle Credits, World War II: Northern New Guinea Luzon

Days In Combat—306

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Franklin C. Sibert

October 1942—August 1944

Maj-Gen Edwin D. Patrick *

August 1944—March 1945

Maj-Gen Charles E. Hurdis

March 1945—April 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 6th Infantry Division was first activated in November 1917, and saw relatively minor action in the Vosges Mountains in World War I, losing 38 men.

The 6th saw much more than just minor action in World War II.

After being stationed at several different Army bases in the United States, including Ft. Lewis, Washington, and Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, the 6th then took part in the Tennessee maneuvers, September-November 1942. The Sightseers left the San Francisco port of embarkation on 21 July 1943.

The 6th reached Hawaii late that same month and was charged with the defense of Oahu, relieving the 27th Infantry Division.

In January 1944, the 6th set sail for Milne Bay, New Guinea, and 5 months later moved on to the Toem-Wakde area on the northern coast of New Guinea.

In June 1944, the 6th went into action west of Toem in the bloody battle of Lone Tree Hill. The Red Star received its fill of combat under the most difficult conditions consisting of heavy rains, rough terrain, and determined Japanese resistance.

On 14 June 1944, the 20th Infantry Regiment relieved the 158th Infantry Regiment along the Tirfoam River.

Then, on 23 June, the 1st Infantry Regiment, which had been actively patrolling in the steaming jungles of the beachhead's main perimeter, entered the battle.

For almost two days the Japanese strong defensive positions restricted the assaulting troops to the use of 60 and 81mm mortars from exposed positions on the beach. Repeated attempts to storm the high clay bank that bounded the beach were stopped by intense grazing fire from machine-gun emplacements dug-in at the foot of the steep cliffs of Lone Tree Hill's western side.

On 26 June, when the mortars and artillery had eventually reduced the volume of fire on the 6th's positions, the infantry again surged forward. During the next 2 days, the 63rd Infantry Regiment cleared the top of the ridge, mopping-up snipers and occasional machine-guns that still remained. This victory was a major one for it secured the Maffin Bay area for the Americans. Between 20-30 June 1944, the 6th suffered over 800 casualties, including more than 150 men killed in action. A total of 942 Japanese dead were counted.

After a short rest, the 6th again went into action. This time, the men who wore the six-pointed bright red star made a landing at Sansapor, on the Vogelkop Peninsula of northwestern New Guinea on 30 July. Striking swiftly against a surprised Japanese garrison, the 6th rapidly secured the Sansapor coast from Cape Weimak to the Mega River. The 6th, in its

lightning strike at Sansapor, captured many prisoners. Division casualties were light.

The 6th garrisoned this area until late-1944, when it then joined the vast armada sailing for the initial assault landing on Luzon. The 6th landed at Lingayen Gulf on D-Day, 9 January 1945, along with the 37th, 40th, and 43rd Infantry Divisions.

No division had a tougher assignment in the recapture of Luzon than did the 6th. It immediately took to the Cabaruan Hills in pursuit of the Japanese—and into some of the worst artillery fire that the Americans faced in the entire Luzon campaign. The GIs aptly dubbed one low-lying area "Purple Heart Valley."

Then the 6th was ordered into the plains of central Luzon against the Japanese 2nd Tank Division. Temporarily checked at Muñoz, the Sightseers, in conjunction with the 25th Infantry Division, killed 5,000 Japanese in the first month of the campaign. During the furious fighting around Muñoz under a broiling tropical sun, the 6th knocked out 57 enemy medium and light tanks and destroyed a formidable number of artillery pieces. General Walter Krueger, commanding the U.S. 6th Army, commended the division for its magnificent performance in this battle. This phase of the fighting on Luzon cost the 6th around 300 men killed in action.

Then, while the 1st Infantry Regiment was sent south to help out the 38th Infantry Division in recapturing the rest of the Bataan Peninsula, last half of February 1945, the rest of the 6th, along with the 1st Cavalry Division, the 43rd Infantry Division, and the 112th Cavalry Regiment, was sent into the hills northeast of Manila. This battle is officially called the Battle of East-Central Luzon. The object of this action was to wipe out or neutralize some 15,000 Japanese who were controlling two dams in this region which were vital to Manila's water supply—and, hopefully, capture these dams intact.

The Japanese had spent many months preparing their defenses in the towering hills and in the wooded draws of the lower Sierra Madre Mountains. Forced Filipino labor had prepared an elaborate system of mutually supporting strongpoints in caves and pillboxes located on commanding ground, and the only routes of approach for the 6th lay across flat rice fields that were open to constant enemy observation and fire.

From 24 February-30 April 1945, the division's 20th and 63rd Infantry Regiments grinded away at these extremely tough Jap defenses in rough, bitter, exhausting combat, with the 63rd Infantry being greatly handicapped by having to guard its open left flank. (The 112th Cavalry Regiment was on the 20th Infantry's right flank).

As the 6th's attack opened on 24 February 1945, all sectors of the division's front received heavy artillery and rocket fire. For the first time the troops learned the terror of the 8-inch rockets, whose siren scream caused every soldier within hearing distance to dive for cover. At the same time, however, 73 P-47s and Marine dive-bombers supported the 6th's assault. As usual, Japanese resistance was tenacious.

In the early-morning hours of 2 March, the Japs launched a vicious Banzai attack and, later on, an attack at midnight in the Mt. Pacawagan area. Both were beaten back, as the bitter fighting continued.

And then, on the morning of 14 March, the Sightseers lost their commanding officer, Major-General Edwin D. Patrick, and the 1st Infantry Regiment's commander, Colonel James E. Rees. They were at a forward battalion observation post making plans for a continuance of the attack to the east, when a burst of machine-gun fire from a draw 75 yards away instantly killed Colonel Rees and mortally wounded General Patrick who died 3 days later in a Manila hospital. His place was taken by Brigadier (later Major) General Charles E. Hurdis.

Two days later, 2 early-morning Jap counterattacks were repulsed. The enemy also answered back with heavy counter-battery artillery fire in an unsuccessful attempt to silence the "hellfire" of the 6th Division artillery.

The 20th Infantry advanced through the desperately defended hill country to the very base of Mt. Mataba, but was then forced to dig-in to escape murderous enemy fire. Meanwhile, the artillery continued to blast the Japanese.

The harrowing, exhausting battle continued. On 10 April 1945, the final attack was commenced on Mt. Mataba, which finally fell on 17 April. Supported by 6th Division artillery, Mt. Pacawagan fell on 29 April to the 145th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division. The battle far from being over, the exhausted 6th was relieved on 30 April 1945, by the 38th Infantry Division.

From the period of 25 March-30 April 1945, 2,394 Japanese were slain, raising to over

6,500 of the enemy destroyed in east-central Luzon by the 6th Infantry Division and attached units. In this drawn-out period of bitter fighting the 6th lost around 400 men.

The men of the 6th who left the Shimbu Line for their new stations in west-central Luzon were red-eyed and worn, their faces reflecting the sleepless nights and agonizing days that had been their lot for over 2 months on the Shimbu Line. They had faced some of the heaviest artillery and rocket fire of the war in the Pacific.

There then followed a rather short "mopping-up" period in west-central Luzon in which the 6th accounted for 1,320 more Japanese.

After this action, the 6th was given a well-deserved rest and recuperation.

Then, it was shifted up into northern Luzon, taking part in the final fighting of the war on Luzon which was just as vicious as any of the earlier battles. Undermined by the summer rains which made negotiating the steep hills even more difficult, and which caused landslides along the roads, the 6th battled forward. It took Bolog on 29 June, and Mt. Santo Domingo on 10 July. In the latter action some units of the 6th were cited. The 63rd Infantry forced its way into Kiangan on 12 July 1945, and captured a huge amount of Japanese military equipment. And the last Medal of Honor of the war was won by a member of the 6th, Corporal Melvin Mayfield, Company D, 20th Infantry Regiment, 29 July 1945.

Corporal Mayfield displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while fighting in the Cordillera Mountains of northern Luzon.

When two Filipino companies were pinned down under a torrent of Japanese fire that converged on them from a circular ridge commanding their position, Cpl Mayfield, in a gallant singlehanded effort to aid them, rushed from one shellhole to another until he reached four Japanese-held caves atop the barren, fire-swept hill. With grenades and his carbine, he assaulted each of the caves while enemy fire hit all around him. However, before he annihilated the last hostile redoubt, a machine-gun bullet destroyed his weapon and slashed his left hand. Disregarding his wound, he secured more grenades and dauntlessly charged again into the face of point-blank fire to help destroy an enemy observation post.

By his gallant determination and heroic leadership, Cpl Mayfield inspired the men to eliminate all remaining pockets of resistance in this area and to press the attack against the Japanese. And he survived the rest of the war to receive his award.

When V-J Day finally arrived on 14 August 1945, the 6th had fought forward to some three miles beyond Kiangan with the Japanese offering fierce resistance right to the very end. When the war ended, the 6th had been the most fully committed American division still fighting the Japanese. This final action in northern Luzon cost the 6th 99 men killed in action and 432 wounded.

After the war ended, the 6th was sent to South Korea, and was stationed there until January 1949. Of course, most all those men who had seen very much combat had long since rotated back home.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,120
Distinguished Unit Citations—7	Killed In Action—898
Distinguished Service Crosses—15	Wounded—3,876
Silver Stars—697	Missing—3
	Captured—0
	Total Casualties—4,777

Denotes killed in action (died of wounds) * (page 1)

Other 6th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II:

2nd Lt Donald E. Rudolph, 20th Inf Rgt, 5 February 1945, Muñoz, Luzon

In 1986 the 6th Infantry Division was, once again, reactivated and, as of February 1988, was stationed in Alaska.

6TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Sight-seeing"

JUNE 1944

6 June 1
 8 June 1
 10 June 1
 15 June 11
 16 June 1
 19 June 1
 20 June 1111
 22 June 1111111111111111 16
 23 June 1111111111111111111111111111 34*
 24 June 111111111111111111111111 24 approx.
 26 June 111111111 9 65*men
 28 June 111111
 29 June 1
 101

JULY 1944

1 July 11
 3 July 1
 4 July 11
 7 July 11
 13 July 1
 20 July 1
 26 July 1
 29 July 1
 30 July 11
 13

AUGUST 1944

11 Aug 1
 22 Aug 11
 3

SEPTEMBER 1944

7 Sept 11
 11 Sept 1
 3

OCTOBER 1944

24 Oct 1
 1

JANUARY 1945

9 Jan 111
 11 Jan 1
 12 Jan 111
 13 Jan 111111
 14 Jan 1
 15 Jan 1111
 16 Jan 111111
 17 Jan 111111111111 12
 18 Jan 1111111111111111 16
 19 Jan 11
 20 Jan 111111111111 12
 21 Jan 111
 22 Jan 111111111111 13
 23 Jan 1
 24 Jan 1
 25 Jan 1111111111 11
 26 Jan 11111111111111111111 23
 27 Jan 111111111 10
 28 Jan 111
 29 Jan 1
 30 Jan 1111
 31 Jan 11

6TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Sight-seeing"

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 1111
 2 Feb 11111111 9
 3 Feb 111111111 10
 4 Feb 1111111111 11
 5 Feb 1111111111111111 18
 6 Feb 111
 7 Feb 111111
 10 Feb 1
 13 Feb 1
 15 Feb 1111111
 16 Feb 1
 20 Feb 1
 21 Feb 1
 23 Feb 11111
 24 Feb 111111
 25 Feb 11
 26 Feb 11111111111111 14
 27 Feb 11111111111111 15
 28 Feb 1111111111 10

125

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111
 2 Mar 111111
 3 Mar 1111
 4 Mar 111
 5 Mar 1
 6 Mar 1111
 7 Mar 111
 8 Mar 111
 9 Mar 11
 10 Mar 111111
 11 Mar 1111
 13 Mar 11
 15 Mar 1
 16 Mar 111
 17 Mar 1111111111111111 17
 18 Mar 111
 19 Mar 111111
 21 Mar 111
 22 Mar 11
 23 Mar 1111111
 24 Mar 1
 25 Mar 1111111
 26 Mar 111
 27 Mar 1
 28 Mar 11111
 29 Mar 1111
 30 Mar 1111
 31 Mar 111

111

APRIL 1945

2 Apr 11111111111 11
 3 Apr 1
 4 Apr 1
 6 Apr 1111
 7 Apr 1111111
 8 Apr 111
 9 Apr 111
 10 Apr 11
 11 Apr 1
 13 Apr 1
 14 Apr 1
 15 Apr 11111
 16 Apr 11
 17 Apr 111111
 18 Apr 111111
 19 Apr 1
 20 Apr 1

56

MAY 1945

5 May 1
 9 May 11
 10 May 1
 11 May 1
 16 May 1
 27 May 1
 31 May 1

8

6TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Sight-seeing"

JUNE 1945

9 June 1
 15 June 1
 16 June 111
 17 June 1111
 19 June 1
 21 June 1
 22 June 11
 25 June 1
 26 June 11
 27 June 1
 28 June 11
 29 June 111
 22

JULY 1945

3 July 1
 5 July 1
 6 July 11
 7 July 1
 8 July 11
 9 July 11
 13 July 1
 14 July 1
 15 July 11
 18 July 1
 20 July 1
 22 July 1
 25 July 1
 17

AUGUST 1945

1 Aug 1
 2 Aug 1
 3 Aug 11
 5 Aug 1
 9 Aug 111
 10 Aug 11
 11 Aug 1
 12 Aug 1
 13 Aug 1
 15 Aug 1
 16 Aug 1
 17 Aug 1
 16

6TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day—————23 June 1944
 bloodiest month—————January 1945
 2nd bloodiest day—————24 June 1944
 3rd bloodiest day—————26 January 1945
 Total battle deaths—————1,120
 615 are listed=54.9% KIA——898



7TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Hourglass"

Regular Army

Activated (WW II)—1 July 1940

Battle Credits, World War II: Attu Marshall Islands Leyte Okinawa

Days In Combat—208

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Eugene M. Landrum	May—June 1943
Brig-Gen A. V. Arnold	July—September 1943
Maj-Gen C. H. Corlett	September 1943—February 1944
Maj-Gen A. V. Arnold	February 1944—September 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 7th Infantry Division didn't see action as an integral unit in World War I. Nevertheless, its various components had a total of 1,709 casualties, including 204 men killed in action.

The 7th saw plenty of action in World War II, and it was regarded as ruthless by the Japanese.

After being reactivated at Fort Ord, California, in July 1940, the division moved to Camp San Luis Obispo, for desert training, and later back to Ft. Ord, for special amphibious training. The 7th set sail for the Aleutians, on 24 April 1943.

The 7th landed on bleak, windy, desolate, foggy Attu, on 11 May 1943. In abominable weather, the 7th became involved in bitter combat with the 2,500 Japanese. The landing forces advanced toward the Jarmin Pass, but about 1900 hours (7 P.M.) were held up by intense Japanese fire from on the heights on either side of the pass. Deep mud paralysed trucks, jeeps, tractors, and other vehicles.

By 13 May, the Americans were still pinned down. Finally, after the attack got going, the 7th sustained severe losses not only from enemy fire, but also from being mistakenly bombed by U.S. aircraft.

The 7th then commenced attacks in the Holtz Bay area. Fighting over freezing tundra against a fanatical enemy, the battle spread into the mountains and the valleys. Outnumbered, the Japs elected to retire on 16-17 May, to Chicagof Harbor. After hard fighting, by 20 May 1943, the 7th succeeded in advancing into the Sarana Valley. The division then took strongly defended Clevesy Pass on the next day, and cleared Fish Hook Ridge by 27 May.

On 29 May 1943, after being subjected to heavy artillery bombardments, the remaining Japanese threw themselves at the Americans in a drunken, do-or-die Banzai attack. In an absolutely ferocious battle, the Japanese were all but annihilated and, by mid-June 1943, Attu was secured.

There was no jungle rot on Attu, nor was there the stench from the corpses which, after a few days, burst and splintered like glass. The 7th lost 441 men on miserable Attu!

On 15 August 1943, the 17th and 184th Infantry Regiments of the 7th landed on Kiska, but it had already been evacuated by the Japanese.

The Hourglass Division then shipped to Hawaii, 15 September 1943, and engaged in intense jungle and amphibious training.

The 7th's next battle was in the Marshall Islands, in conjunction with the 4th Marine

Division. While the marines landed on Roi and Namur, the 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th landed on Ennylabegan and Enubuj Islands, on 31 January 1944. On 1 February, the 32nd and 184th Infantry Regiments assaulted heavily defended Kwajalein. Elements also landed on Engebi. On Kwajalein, Japanese night attacks were repulsed with the aid of giant searchlights which prevented the Americans from being caught by surprise. The 184th Infantry was engaged in heavy fighting against a blockhouse sector, 3 February, and the next day was very bloody, but by 5 February 1944, the 7th was conducting a mopping-up operation.

Then the 7th sailed to Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, and remained there until it was time for the invasion of Leyte, in the Philippines.

On 20 October 1944, the liberation of the Philippines began. Under the U.S. 6th Army, four divisions made the initial assault landings on the east coast of Leyte. From north to south they were the 1st Cavalry and the 24th, 96th, and 7th Infantry. The 7th met heavy resistance upon landing. It was opposed by the infamous 16th Division, perpetrators of the "Bataan Death March." Fighting for every yard, the 7th battled its way inland and, after heavy combat, within four days captured Dulag, and the San Pablo and Buri Airstrips.

The 7th then crashed into the sizeable town of Burauen. Swinging north, the 7th plowed through rice paddies, waist-deep mud, and monsoon gales to crush Japanese defenses at the key town of Dagami. It was in this fighting that the 7th had one of its 3 Medal of Honor winners of the war, Pfc Leonard C. Brostrom, Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, near Dagami, on 28 October 1944.

He was a rifleman with an assault platoon which ran into powerful Japanese resistance. From pillboxes, trenches, and foxholes so well camouflaged that they could be detected no more than 20 yards away, the Japanese poured deadly machinegun and rifle fire, causing severe casualties in his platoon.

Realizing that a key pillbox in the center of the strongpoint would have to be knocked out if the company were to advance, Pfc Brostrom, without orders and completely ignoring his own safety, ran forward to attack the pillbox with grenades. He immediately became the prime target for all of the enemy riflemen in the area, as he rushed to the rear of the pillbox and tossed grenades through the entrance. Six Japs left a trench in a bayonet charge against this heroic soldier, but he shot one and drove off the others with rifle fire. He threw more grenades from his exposed position, and was mortally wounded in the abdomen and knocked to the ground. Although suffering intense pain and rapidly weakening from loss of blood, he slowly rose to his feet and once more hurled his deadly missiles at the pillbox. As he collapsed, the Japs began fleeing from the fortification and were cut down by riflemen in his platoon.

Pfc Brostrom died while being carried from the battlefield, but his heroic one-man attack against overwhelming odds enabled his company to carry on the attack, and annihilate the entire Jap position. His actions were in the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

The 7th next eliminated Japanese forces south of the Marabang River, and took Bambang. The 32nd Infantry Regiment attacked toward Ormoc, on 14 November 1944.

The battle for Shoestring Ridge began on 23 November 1944, as the Japanese counterattacked the spread-out 32nd Infantry along the Palanas River. Reinforced by the 184th Infantry, numerous Japanese attacks were repulsed in the bamboo thickets. The 7th was relieved in this region on 28 November 1944, by the 11th Airborne Division, which temporarily retained the 17th Infantry Regiment.

The 7th attacked north from Damulaan, 5 December 1944, toward Ormoc. Advance elements of the 7th overtook the 77th Infantry Division, and seized Ipil, on 11 December. This action divided the Japanese forces on Leyte.

The 7th, shifting south, and then to the west coast, attacked north, securing Valencia against heavy resistance by 25 December 1944. This operation was accomplished under the most adverse weather conditions. The men were pelted by torrential rains, blown down by typhoon velocity winds, and fought flash floods, swollen rivers, and streams, as well as the Japanese.

The 7th then landed on the Camotes Islands, 15 January 1945, and soon eliminated all of the enemy there, thus concluding its part in the Leyte campaign. Altogether, the 7th had covered over 100 miles on Leyte, and killed over 16,000 Japanese, while losing 584 men.

But the 7th had yet to enter its toughest and most costly battle. After much preparation, on 1 April 1945, Easter Sunday, the 7th and 96th Infantry and 1st and 6th Marine Divisions all landed on the southwest coast of Okinawa. The two Army divisions pivoted southward, and ran into the most intense Japanese artillery fire of the Pacific War, and the most tenacious of their defenses.

Progress was agonizingly slow. Among other devices the Japanese had pillboxes with steel doors so thick that flamethrowers were all but useless against them. They were also using their artillery and mortars quite accurately, and gains were measured in terms of yards and even feet. The 7th was in the far left (east) end of the line as it inched southward in this incredible battle.

With the assistance of massed artillery fire, the 184th Infantry Regiment took Tomb Hill on 9 April 1945. After extremely tough fighting the 17th Infantry Regiment seized the crest of Skyline Ridge, and sealed the caves there by 23 April. The 17th Infantry then took the Rocky Crags area, but then failed to force Kochi Ridge.

On 1 May 1945, despite Japanese infiltrators, the 184th Infantry relieved the 32nd Infantry in line. Then, in a heavy battle in which the Americans suffered very heavy losses, Gaja Ridge was taken, but then lost to a Japanese counterattack.

On 4 May 1945, after an extremely heavy bombardment of over 12,000 artillery shells—plus Kamikaze attacks—the Japanese executed a major counterattack. In furious fighting, sometimes at close-quarters, they were repulsed, although they succeeded in temporarily recapturing Tanabaru Ridge. The main blow of this assault fell against the 7th Infantry Division. It cost the Japanese 5,000 men. The 7th lost 47 men.

The 7th was relieved by the 96th Infantry Division, 9 May 1945, and rested and rehabilitated until 21 May. During this period the island was subjected to very heavy rains which made miniature lakes out of some of the larger shellholes and craters.

Yonabaru was captured on 22 May 1945. On the 23rd, the 7th suffered severe losses in an attempt to take a hill that was one of the Japanese strongpoints in their defensive line east of Chan. In this area the 7th was checked in heavy combat until 1 June 1945.

The battle continued unabated. There seemed to be no end to it for the tired, dirty men of the 7th, but they continued to batter away at the Japanese defenses. In more furious fighting Hills 153 and 115 were taken by 17 June. On the next day the 7th suffered further heavy losses. By this time, however, the Japanese flanks had been pushed-in and, in a few more days, 21 June 1945, Okinawa was officially declared secured, but severe mop-up actions continued for about a week longer. In a cave, men of the 32nd Infantry Regiment found the bodies of General Ushijima, commander of the Japanese 32nd Army, and his chief of staff, both of whom had committed suicide. The bloodbath had cost the 7th 1,122 men.

After Okinawa was conquered, General Joe "Vinegar" Stilwell, of Burma fame, came to assume command of the 10th Army, and found his old division, the 7th, waiting for him with a combat record few other outfits in the Pacific could surpass.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3
Distinguished Unit Citations—9 *
Distinguished Service Crosses—26
Silver Stars—982

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,346
Killed In Action—1,957
Wounded—7,258
Missing—4
Captured—2
Total Casualties—9,221

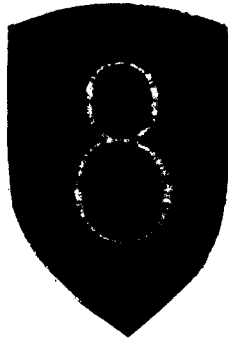
* One to the entire 17th Infantry Regiment—Leyte

Other 7th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Pvt Joe P. Martinez, * 32nd Inf Rgt, 26 May 1943, on Attu

Pfc John F. Thorson, * 17th Inf Rgt, 28 October 1944, Dagami, Leyte

The 7th Infantry Division later saw extensive service in the Korean War. The 7th is stationed at Ft. Ord, California. (29 September 1990)



8TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Arrow"

Regular Army

Activated (WW II)—1 July 1940

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy Brittany Siegfried Line Rhineland
Ruhr Pocket Northern Germany

Days In Combat—266

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Donald A. Stroh

July—December 1944

Maj-Gen William G. Weaver

December 1944—February 1945

Maj-Gen Bryant E. Moore

February—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 8th Infantry Division was first activated during World War I, but never saw any action. It was a very different story in World War II.

When the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, the 8th was immediately assigned to patrolling the east coast from North Carolina to the Florida Keys.

In December 1943, the 8th sailed to Northern Ireland, and trained with the British near Belfast.

The Golden Arrow landed in Normandy on the 4th of July 1944, and went into action four days later. The first assault squads found themselves on the target end of a shooting gallery. Those who made it through the minefields and barbed wire found shells bursting in their midst. Then there was the terror of the hedgerow. It could hide an enemy machinegun that could cut a man down from only a few yards away—and still not be seen by other troops. Stragglers were picked-off by unseen snipers, while enemy 88s completed the havoc. The 8th's losses quickly mounted.

Two days later, another attack by the 8th was beaten back by the Germans, who immediately counterattacked. The 8th, suddenly finding itself, temporarily withdrew in good order.

Tactics were quickly changed, and the hedgerows were taken in flanking attacks rather than in costly frontal assaults. The morale of the 8th rapidly rose.

On 14 July, the division reached its first main objective, the north bank of the Ay River. Here, it remained in defensive positions for two weeks.

And then, on 26 July 1944, as part of a general offensive, the 8th crossed the Ay River, flanked by the 79th and 90th Infantry Divisions, and advanced southward in the face of bitter resistance. Nevertheless, by the following day, a huge gap was punched in the German lines through which the armor of the U.S. 1st Army raced toward Avranches. While the 79th Infantry followed up behind the 6th Armored Division, the 8th followed in the wake of the rampaging 4th Armored Division.

Next, the 8th was temporarily split-up. The 13th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 4th Armored, and after a sharp fight, took Rennes. Meanwhile, the 121st Infantry Regiment was assigned to help out the 83rd Infantry Division to reduce the sea fortress of Dinard in eastern Brittany. The German garrison consisted of 4,000 men and proved a tough nut to crack. First attacks were beaten off, and the 3rd Battalion was surrounded for 3 days and later won the French Croix de Guerre. In a co-ordinated assault the fortress was finally taken.

Then the 8th, along with the 2nd and 29th Infantry Divisions, the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions, and the French Forces of the Interior (FFI) assaulted the fortress port city of Brest, at the extreme western tip of Brittany. It was a rough, exhausting battle, to say the least, and the 8th became involved in bloody, building-to-building street fighting. However, with several units trying to fight forward through the rubble, it soon became impossible to maneuver, and the 8th was pinched out of the attack.

The 8th then crossed over to the Crozon Peninsula. A German map was captured showing the complete German artillery dispositions on the peninsula. Two hours later, a tremendous American artillery barrage fell on every German gun on Crozon. The men of the 8th soon swarmed all over the peninsula, prying Germans out of their pillboxes and dugouts, and by 11 September, the German 343rd Infantry Division had been decimated.

The crack German 2nd Parachute Division was also in Brest with elements on the peninsula, with the famed German paratroop leader General Ramcke in charge. The assistant commander of the 8th, Brigadier-General Charles Canham, was told that the paratroop general was prepared to surrender his forces to "an officer of suitable credentials." General Canham motioned to his grim-faced soldiers with their fixed bayonets and said, "These are my credentials." That phrase has since been immortalized as part of the 8th's history.

After Brest finally fell by mid-September 1944, the 8th drove across northern France and into Luxembourg, running up against the Siegfried Line. A general assault was made by several divisions of the U.S. 1st Army in mid-September, but this attack made little headway against very fierce resistance. After extensive and aggressive patrolling in this area, the Golden Arrow was moved further north for a crack at the miserable Hürtgen Forest, in November 1944. Two other American divisions, the 9th and 28th Infantry, had already been very badly battered in this forest, and the 4th Infantry Division was fighting in the area as the 8th moved in, also sustaining very heavy casualties. It was the 8th's worst battle.

The green hell of the Hürtgenwald was filled with first-class German troops, extensive mines and booby traps, tough enemy defensive positions including concrete and log bunkers, barbed wire entanglements, and mud. It rained much of the time, and sometimes turning into snow. Still, by Hürtgen Forest standards, the 8th did very well, and a very heroic one-man action took place in the forest on 21 November 1944.

Staff Sergeant John W. Minick's battalion from the 121st Infantry Regiment was halted by extensive minefields, exposing the Americans to heavy German artillery and mortar fire. Further delay in the advance would have resulted in more casualties. A movement through the minefield was essential.

Voluntarily, S/Sgt Minick led 4 men through the minefield for a distance of 300 yards. An enemy machinegun opened fire, and he signaled his men to take cover. Then Sgt Minick edged his way alone toward the flank of the weapon and opened fire, killing two of the crew and capturing three others. Moving forward again, he singlehandedly engaged an entire company, killing 20 of the enemy and capturing 20 more. His platoon captured the remainder of the Germans in this area.

Again advancing forward, Sgt Minick spearheaded his battalion's attack, coming under heavy machinegun fire. Crawling toward the gun, he knocked it out of action. But then another minefield had to be crossed. Undeterred, the brave sergeant advanced forward alone through constant enemy fire and, while advancing, detonated a mine and was killed instantly.

For his exceptional gallantry and intrepidity, S/Sgt Minick was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In spite of such tough going, the 8th managed to clear the small town of Hürtgen, deep in the forest, 28 November, and Brandenburg by 3 December, then reaching the Roer River.

Then, while the great Battle of the Bulge raged further south, the 8th received orders to clear the last remaining German positions west of the Roer, around Obermaubach. The fighting was bitter, as the crack 6th Parachute Regiment resisted fiercely, and men fell upon each other in hand-to-hand combat in the ghostly white wilderness. But Obermaubach was seized by the end of December 1944.

For the next two months, opposite the Roer, the Golden Arrow fought a static kind of war, as the Bulge was being flattened and the front stabilized. The 8th built extensive fortifications, conducted numerous patrol actions, and beat back a number of counterattacks.

Then, on 23 February 1945, the 1st and 9th Armies began their offensive across the Roer. The 8th's big artillery pieces poured on a 45-minute barrage that virtually flattened the

town of Düren. The Germans fought stubbornly. Upon reaching the Rhine, the 8th cleared the big city of Cologne—or what was left of it after the Allied bombings—in conjunction with the 3rd Armored and 104th Infantry Divisions. The Germans had numerous snipers and men with burp guns and panzerfausts lurking amid the ruins, but the gutted city was still cleared after only a few days of fierce fighting. The 8th was then given a rest.

The division then swung up against the south side of the Ruhr Pocket, and had to beat back furious counterattacks by the 12th Volksgrenadier Division which flung itself at the 8th with some of the Wehrmacht's old style. The 8th had to fight hard to take the large town of Siegen. Battling into the pocket, the 8th took 5,000 prisoners in one day alone as German resistance began to slacken. Organized German opposition inside the pocket ended by mid-April 1945, with a tremendous number of POWs taken—well over 300,000!

And then, in the last major assignment of the war for the 8th, it was moved up into northern Germany, beginning on 26 April 1945. The 8th was one of the few U.S. outfits to actually cross the wide Elbe River. Although some resistance was initially encountered, this quickly diminished as the Americans got over the river. The Germans knew the jig was all but up, anyway, and were only too glad to get away from the advancing Russians from the east, and give themselves up to the Americans and British.

The British 6th Airborne Division and U.S. 7th Armored, 82nd Airborne, and 8th Infantry Divisions all moved into the western portion of the province of Mecklenburg (greatly, to forestall a Russian advance into Denmark) meeting very little or no opposition. On 2 May, the 8th entered the city of Schwerin. Elements of the division captured other smaller towns against negligible opposition. And then the entire German 3rd Panzer Army surrendered to the 8th—150,000 first-class German troops!

By the time the war in Europe ended on 8 May 1945, the 8th had captured a grand total of 316,000 prisoners, the highest total of any American division in World War II. But all of this hadn't been without heavy cost. By V-E Day, the 8th had suffered 13,986 casualties.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,852
Distinguished Unit Citations—5 *	Killed In Action—2,532
Distinguished Service Crosses—33	Wounded—10,057
Silver Stars—768	Missing—729
	Captured—668
	Total Casualties—13,986

* One to the entire 121st Infantry Regiment—Hürtgen Forest, Germany

The third line infantry regiment of the 8th Infantry Division in World War II was the 28th Infantry Regiment.

Other 8th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Pfc Ernest W. Prussman, * 13th Inf Rgt, 8 September 1944, near Les Coates, Brittany, France
Pfc Walter C. Wetzel, * 13th Inf Rgt, 3 April 1945, Birken, Germany

The 8th Infantry Division has been stationed in the Rhineland, West Germany, for many years, and still is, as of this writing. (20 September 1984)

8TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Arrow"

JULY 1944

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320

AUGUST 1944

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8TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Arrow"

SEPTEMBER 1944

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OCTOBER 1944

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NOVEMBER 1944

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8TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Arrow"

DECEMBER 1944

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222

JANUARY 1945

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 12 Jan 111
 13 Jan 111
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FEBRUARY 1945

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8TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Arrow"

MARCH 1945

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APRIL 1945

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 26 Apr 1
 27 Apr 11
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164

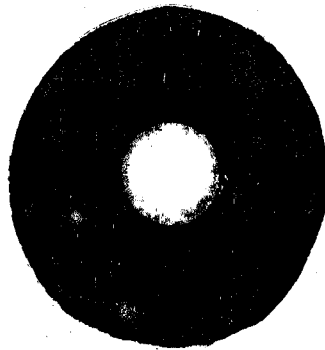
MAY 1945

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8TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day-----5 September 1944
 bloodiest month-----July 1944
 2nd bloodiest day-----16 July 1944
 3rd " "-----23 February 1945
 4th " "-----12 and 14 July 1944
 5th " "-----3 March 1945

Total battle deaths-----2,804
 1,503 are listed=53.6% KIA--2,513



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

Activated (WW II)—1 August 1940

Inactivated—15 January 1947

Reactivated—15 July 1947

Battle Credits, World War II:	Morocco	Algeria	Tunisia	Sicily
	Normandy	Northern France-Belgium		
Days In Combat—404	Siegfried Line	Ardennes	Rhineland	
	Central Germany			

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Manton S. Eddy

August 1942—August 1944

Maj-Gen Louis A. Craig

August 1944—May 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 9th Infantry Division has a World War II record that few outfits can surpass. Its 23,277 casualties attest to the tough fighting it saw. And the battles the 9th won attest to its high combat effectiveness. "Stars and Stripes" called it "The Varsity." Someone else dubbed the division "Hitler's Nemesis."

In its first combat of the war, the invasion of North Africa, 8 November 1942, the 9th was divided up. The 39th Infantry Regiment, as part of the Eastern Task Force, landed at Algiers, and the other two infantry regiments landed on the coast of Morocco—the 47th at Safi, and the 60th at Port Lyautey. The worst resistance was encountered at the latter place, where the French fought fiercely. The defenders included Legionnaires, and the heights above Port Lyautey bristled with French artillery that exchanged salvos with U.S. battleships and destroyers, forcing them to withdraw. Hardest hit in the 60th Infantry was the 2nd Battalion. One company lost five of its six officers. The walls of a kasbah were scaled, but it wasn't until 11 November, that a cease-fire was reached. The main problem with the French in North Africa was that they were under the overall command of Admiral Darlan, a notorious Nazi collaborator who was eventually assassinated.

The 9th then patrolled the Spanish Moroccan border against possible intervention by Franco's Spanish Army. Franco was a well-known Nazi sympathizer. However, this never occurred, and the 9th entered the battle in Tunisia in February 1943.

Part of the 9th fought at Sened against seasoned Italian troops. At Maknassy, the fighting continued for nearly two weeks, and at El Guettar, with the 1st Infantry Division alongside, the battle raged for 11 days and nights in the bitterest kind of combat. In the latter action, the 47th Infantry Regiment suffered heavy losses, while the entire division failed in an assault on Hill 772. By 7 April 1943, however, the Germans and Italians in central Tunisia were thrown back, and the British 8th Army broke through the Mareth Line in the south. The enemy retreated into northern Tunisia around a final line of bristling, well-fortified defenses.

On 11 April 1943, the 9th was moved into northern Tunisia, and took over the

British 46th Infantry Division's sector. Reinforced by the French Expeditionary Corps, the 9th attacked toward enemy positions near Jefna, 23 April 1943, and took Djebel Dardyss the next day. After sustained combat, the 9th captured Hill 382 and Kef en Nsour. Battling along and near the northern coast, the 9th slashed through the Sedjenane Valley and on to Bizerte. Axis resistance collapsed on 13 May 1943.

On Sicily, the 9th landed at Palermo in the end of July 1943, and two of its regiments, again fighting next to the 1st Infantry Division, took part in the bitter battle at Troina, the Americans' toughest fight of the campaign. It took almost two weeks of intense fighting, plus artillery and air strikes, before the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division finally withdrew during the night of 6 August 1943. Continuing north, the 9th took Floresta and Randazzo, and helped capture the city of Messina, on the northern tip of the large island, concluding the campaign on 17 August 1943. Both North Africa and Sicily cost the 9th 681 men dead and 2,542 wounded.

Then the Varsity sailed for England to take part in the invasion of Normandy. After a long period of training and waiting, the 9th landed on 10 June 1944 (D-plus 4) and almost immediately ran into the toughest fighting it had yet encountered. Swinging west, the 9th cut off the Cotentin Peninsula, and then, along with the 4th and 79th Infantry Divisions, battled north up the peninsula through difficult hedgerow country and strong German opposition in a spirited assault. The objective was the port of Cherbourg. After intense street-fighting, the port was captured in late-June 1944, with the 9th capturing the German commander of the seaport garrison. On 29 June, the 9th attacked Cap de la Hague Peninsula and secured it quickly.

On 9 July 1944, the 9th arrived in the Taute sector of Normandy to take part in the costly fighting southward toward St. Lô. The division was soon hit by an attack by the crack Panzerlehr Division which penetrated its lines in the Lé Desert area on 11 July. However, this attack was soon contained.

Then the 9th, along with the 83rd and 90th Infantry Divisions, launched an offensive. Advancing south, 3 regiments abreast through the bocage country, German soldiers had to be blasted and bayoneted out of holes dug into the root bases of the hedgerows. The St. Lô-Coutances Road was reached, and then the St. Lô-Périers Road in the heaviest kind of fighting.

After a short rest, the 9th took part in the major U.S. breakthrough west of St. Lô, beginning 25 July 1944, which was also the 9th Infantry Division's bloodiest day in combat of the entire war. On this extremely bloody day the 9th lost over 170 men killed in action.

Exploiting the breakthrough, the 9th found itself, in August 1944, helping to trap thousands of German troops in the Falaise Gap, although many of them did manage to fight their way out. Altogether, the entire bloodbath in Normandy cost the 9th over 1,700 men killed in action or died of wounds.

Turning eastward, the Varsity crossed the Marne, near Mieux, on 27 August, fought at Château-Thierry, and continued in fast pursuit with the 3rd Armored Division into Belgium. The 9th crossed the Meuse River at Dinant, 6 September, in the face of strong resistance. Liège was cleared and, on 13 September 1944, the division entered Germany, south of Rötgen.

By mid-September 1944, the 9th had plunged into the dark depths of the Hürtgen Forest, probably the worst place to fight in the entire Siegfried Line. The 9th was the first American division to fight in this miserable forest, which was filled with mud, mines, booby-traps, and well dug-in first-class German troops. In fact, Hitler had just recently ordered the crack, full-strength, 14,000-man 12th Infantry Division by rail, all the way from East Prussia, for the sole purpose of helping to stop the Americans in this forest. Casualties quickly mounted on both sides, and officers in the 9th leaped up-

ward on the seniority lists by the mere fact of survival.

The 60th Infantry Regiment engaged in close-quarters fighting in the forest, while the 39th Infantry took Hill 554 after heavy combat by 29 September 1944. Severe weather hampered continued fighting in the forest. However, an important road junction was finally secured by 14 October, but the 9th was stopped far short of its objective of the town of Schmidt.

The 28th Infantry Division relieved the 9th in the Hürtgen Forest on 26 October 1944. The 9th lost over 700 men.

After a rest, rehabilitation, and receiving replacements, the 9th held defensive positions from Monschau to Losheim. However, in a limited attack on Frenzenberg Castle, near Weisweiler, Germany, the 9th had one of its 5 Medal of Honor winners of the war, Pfc Carl V. Sheridan, Company K, 47th Infantry Regiment, 26 November 1944.

In an attack on this fortress, held by 70 German paratroopers, Company K advanced 1,000 yards through shattering artillery and mortar fire, and captured two buildings in the courtyard of the castle, but was left with only 35 men.

Pfc Sheridan, a recently arrived 18-year-old replacement, was a bazooka man. The only approach to this stone castle was across the courtyard and over a drawbridge above a moat, leading to a heavy, barricaded oaken door.

Realizing that his weapon was the only one left with the power to blast-in this door and, although handicapped by the lack of an assistant, he skillfully fired two rounds into the door, weakening it, but not destroying it. Carefully, he reloaded with his last rocket, took careful aim, and blasted in the heavy barricade. Turning to his company he shouted, "Come on, let's get them!" With his .45 pistol blazing, he charged into the gaping entrance and was killed by the withering fire that met him.

The final assault on Frenzenberg Castle was made through the gap which Pfc Sheridan gave his life to create. His action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

Not long after this episode, the 9th relieved the great 1st Infantry Division on 7 December 1944, in the Luchem-Langerwehe-Juengersdorf-Merode region. The 9th, in conjunction with the 3rd Armored Division, then launched an attack toward the Roer River, 10 December, taking the small towns of Echtz and Schlich.

When the Germans struck with their all-out counteroffensive in the Ardennes on 16 December 1944, the 9th was holding a sector toward the northern end of the assault. It helped contain German attacks toward Mariaweiler and Guerzenich. The 9th next relieved the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions, and defended the Monschau area, and restoring the Monschau Forest line by 23 December 1944.

Of course, there were many untold instances of individual heroism during the Battle of the Bulge, but a very courageous action was that of Technical Sergeant Pete Dalessandro, Company E, 39th Infantry Regiment, near Kalterherberg, Germany, 22 December 1944.

Sgt Dalessandro manned a machinegun after its 2-man crew had been put out of action. Assaulted by an overwhelming force of the enemy, he ordered his platoon to withdraw, while directing a murderous rain of lead at the Germans who, thinking that the machinegun had been knocked out for good, scurried for cover at the edge of a woods. This action saved the probable annihilation of his platoon, while upsetting the entire German advance in the area.

Then, as the Germans infiltrated in close, he directed artillery fire right onto the area of his position, even though the officer on the other end of the phone greatly hesitated to do this. But Pete insisted.

Soon, Sgt Dalessandro was captured and forced to lie out in the open as the artillery barrage pounded into the Germans. But, miraculously, he wasn't seriously injured, while all around him Germans cried out in pain. When the barrage lifted, the irate German commanding officer took him behind the German lines. There, he was treated for minor wounds by a much more sympathetic doc-

tor. However, he used paper bandages because of the medical shortages in Germany. Sgt Dalessandro remained a prisoner for the duration of the war, and was later awarded the Medal of Honor. Ironically, he was liberated by his own 9th Infantry Division.

The 9th maintained defensive positions throughout the remainder of the Bulge battle.

On 30 January 1945, the 9th jumped-off from Monschau, after relieving the 99th Infantry Division, and helped the 78th Infantry Division take the vital Roer River Dams. The 9th then advanced to the Rhine, and was one of the first outfits to go into the Remagen bridgehead. The 9th helped defeat furious German attacks on the bridgehead, and then battled its way out of it. The entire 47th Infantry Regiment was later awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for this action. The 9th then cut the Cologne-Frankfurt autobahn (4-lane divided highway), and captured the ancient walled town of Zulpich.

Next, the 9th entered the huge Battle of the Ruhr Pocket, fighting on the eastern side of it. Parts of the 9th and 11th Panzer Divisions counterattacked so fiercely near Winterberg, that the 9th was forced to dig-in and temporarily go over on the defensive. Reinforcements arrived and, after heavy fighting, organized resistance in the pocket ended by mid-April 1945.

After this, the Varsity Division advanced eastward into central Germany and took Nordhausen, liberating a slave-laborer camp.

Then, swinging somewhat to the north, the 9th attacked into the Harz Mountains, a very high-hilled, heavily wooded region. Several other U.S. divisions also attacked into the Harz from all different directions. There were 70,000 Germans in the Harz, including the crack 5th Parachute Division, but they were too disorganized, at this stage of the war, to put up any more than a limited defense. Still, they caused considerable casualties. On 18 April 1945, the 60th Infantry Regiment overran Magdesprung and Friedrichsbrunn, while the 47th Infantry cleared Opperde, and the motorized 39th Infantry Regiment reached the sizeable town of Quedlinburg. By 23 April 1945, the Germans in the Harz had given up.

Heading back to the east, the 9th pulled up along the Mulde River, which flows into the Elbe, and relieved the 3rd Armored Division near Dessau. The 9th held that line until V-E Day, 8 May 1945.

Ernie Pyle, the famous war correspondent, once said, "The 9th is good." He knew what he was talking about.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—5	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—4,550
Distinguished Unit Citations—24 *	Killed In Action—3,856
Distinguished Service Crosses—76	Wounded—17,416
Silver Stars—2,282	Missing—357
	Captured—1,648
	Total Casualties—23,277

* One to the entire 47th Infantry Regiment—Remagen Bridgehead, Germany

Other 9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: KIA *

2nd Lt John E. Butts, * 60th Inf Rgt, 14, 16, and 23 June 1944, Normandy
Sgt William L. Nelson, * 60th Inf Rgt, 24 April 1943, near Sedjenane, Tunisia
Lt Col Matt Urban, Summer 1944, Northern France

The 9th Infantry Division served in the Vietnam War. The 9th is stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington (as of this writing). (17 August 1989)

7TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Hourglass"

OCTOBER 1944

20 Oct 11
 21 Oct 11111111111111 13
 22 Oct 111111111111111111 21
 23 Oct 1111111111 11
 24 Oct 111111111111111 17
 25 Oct 111111111111111 17
 26 Oct 111111111 9
 27 Oct 11111111111 12
 28 Oct 111111111111111111111111 24
 29 Oct 11111111111111 15
 30 Oct 111111111111111 18
 31 Oct 1111111 8

167

NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 1
 2 Nov 1
 3 Nov 111
 4 Nov 1111
 5 Nov 1
 6 Nov 1
 8 Nov 1
 13 Nov 1
 15 Nov 11
 16 Nov 1
 17 Nov 1111111 8
 18 Nov 11
 19 Nov 1
 25 Nov 11
 27 Nov 1
 29 Nov 11

32

DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 1111
 3 Dec 11
 5 Dec 11111111 9
 6 Dec 111111111111111111 20
 7 Dec 1111
 8 Dec 1111111 8
 10 Dec 11111111 9
 11 Dec 1
 12 Dec 111111
 13 Dec 1
 14 Dec 111
 16 Dec 1111111 8
 17 Dec 111
 18 Dec 11
 19 Dec 11
 21 Dec 11
 24 Dec 11
 25 Dec 1
 27 Dec 11111
 30 Dec 11

94

JANUARY 1945

2 Jan 1
 3 Jan 1
 4 Jan 1
 7 Jan 1
 8 Jan 1
 9 Jan 11
 13 Jan 11
 15 Jan 11
 17 Jan 1
 21 Jan 1
 23 Jan 1
 24 Jan 111111
 25 Jan 1
 28 Jan 1
 29 Jan 1
 31 Jan 11

25

7TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Hourglass"

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 1
 2 Apr 11
 3 Apr 111111111 10
 4 Apr 11
 5 Apr 11111111111 12
 6 Apr 1
 7 Apr 111
 8 Apr 11111111111111 17
 9 Apr 11111111 8
 10 Apr 111111111 10
 11 Apr 1111111111 11
 12 Apr 1111
 13 Apr 11111111 8
 14 Apr 111111
 15 Apr 1111111
 17 Apr 11111
 18 Apr 1
 19 Apr 11111111111111 17
 20 Apr 111111
 21 Apr 1111111111111111 20
 22 Apr 11111111111111111111 25
 23 Apr 11111111111 11
 24 Apr 1111111111111 14
 25 Apr 1111
 26 Apr 111111
 27 Apr 11111111 8
 28 Apr 1111111111111 15
 29 Apr 111111111111111 18
 30 Apr 111111111111111111 23

275

MAY 1945

1 May 11111111111111111111111111111111 33
 2 May 11111111
 3 May 1111111111111111 17
 4 May 11111111111111 15
 5 May 111111111111 13
 6 May 111
 7 May 11
 8 May 11111
 9 May 1111111 8
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 23 May 11111111111111111111111111 29
 24 May 111111111111 15
 25 May 1111111
 26 May 11
 27 May 1111111 8
 28 May 11
 29 May 1111111 8
 30 May 11
 31 May 111111

188

JUNE 1945

1 June 11
 2 June 11
 3 June 11111
 4 June 111
 5 June 1111111
 6 June 11
 7 June 111111
 8 June 1111111 8
 9 June 111111
 10 June 11111111111111 15
 11 June 1
 12 June 111
 13 June 111111111 10
 14 June 111
 15 June 1111111 8
 16 June 1111
 17 June 1111111
 18 June 11111111111111 16
 19 June 11111111 9
 20 June 11111111 8
 21 June 1
 22 June 11111
 23 June 111
 24 June 111
 25 June 11
 26 June 1
 27 June 1

141

7TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day—29 May 1943
 bloodiest month—April 1945
 2nd bloodiest day—4 February 1944
 3rd bloodiest day—1 May 1945
 Total battle deaths—2,346
 1,269 are listed=54.0% KIA—1,957

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

NOVEMBER 1942

8 Nov lllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll 21
 9 Nov lllllll
 10 Nov lllllll
 11 Nov l
 20 Nov ll
 36

DECEMBER 1942

5 Dec l
 28 Dec l
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FEBRUARY 1943

20 Feb ll
 21 Feb llll
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MARCH 1943

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 30 Mar lllllllllllllllll 15
 31 Mar lllllllllllllll 12
 87

APRIL 1943

1 Apr lllll
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 4 Apr lllllllll 8
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 24 Apr lllllllllllllll 12
 25 Apr lllllllllllll 10
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 29 Apr ll
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 127

MAY 1943

1 May lllllllll
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 6 May lll
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9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

JULY 1943

31 July 1111111111 12
12

AUGUST 1943

1 Aug 11111111 10
2 Aug 111
3 Aug 1
4 Aug 1
5 Aug 1
6 Aug 1111111 9
7 Aug 1111111111111111111 25
8 Aug 1
9 Aug 111
10 Aug 11
11 Aug 1
12 Aug 11111
13 Aug 1
64

JUNE 1944

12 June 111
13 June 1
14 June 1111111111 12
15 June 1111111111111111111111111111 32
16 June 111111111111 15
17 June 11111111111111 17
18 June 111111111111111111111111 24
19 June 11
20 June 11111111111 13
21 June 1111111 8
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27 June 11
28 June 11
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9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

AUGUST 1944

1 Aug 1111111
 2 Aug 11111111111111111111 22
 3 Aug 11111111111111111111111111111111 39
 4 Aug 11111111111111111111 22
 5 Aug 11111111111111 14
 6 Aug 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 52
 7 Aug 1111111111111111111111 25
 8 Aug 111111111111111111111111 25
 9 Aug 1111111111111111 16
 10 Aug 11 40
 11 Aug 1111111111111111111111 18
 12 Aug 1
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 15 Aug 11
 16 Aug 111
 17 Aug 11111111111111111111 17
 18 Aug 1
 19 Aug 1
 21 Aug 1
 26 Aug 11
 28 Aug 1
 31 Aug 11

313

SEPTEMBER 1944

1 Sept 11111
 2 Sept 111
 3 Sept 1111111
 4 Sept 1111111
 5 Sept 11111111111111 13
 6 Sept 1111111111111111111111111111111111 28
 7 Sept 11111
 8 Sept 11
 9 Sept 11
 10 Sept 1
 11 Sept 1
 12 Sept 1
 13 Sept 11111
 14 Sept 111
 15 Sept 11111111 8
 16 Sept 11111111111111111111 17
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 25 Sept 111111111111 11
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240

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

OCTOBER 1944

1 Oct 1
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 6 Oct 111111111111111111 19
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 8 Oct 1111111111111111 16
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 18 Oct 1111111 8
 19 Oct 11
 20 Oct 111111
 21 Oct 111
 22 Oct 1
 23 Oct 11
 24 Oct 11
 25 Oct 111
 26 Oct 11
 27 Oct 1
 28 Oct 1
 31 Oct 11

276

NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 1
 12 Nov 1
 16 Nov 11111111 8
 19 Nov 1
 20 Nov 111111111111111111 20
 21 Nov 1111111111 10
 22 Nov 11
 23 Nov 1
 24 Nov 111
 25 Nov 111111111 10
 26 Nov 11111111
 27 Nov 111
 28 Nov 11

71

DECEMBER 1944

3 Dec 1
 6 Dec 1
 8 Dec 1
 9 Dec 11
 10 Dec 111111111111 12
 11 Dec 1111111111 11
 12 Dec 111111111111111111111111 30
 13 Dec 11111
 14 Dec 11
 15 Dec 1111111
 16 Dec 1
 17 Dec 111
 18 Dec 1
 20 Dec 1
 21 Dec 111
 22 Dec 11111111 8
 23 Dec 111
 24 Dec 1
 26 Dec 1
 27 Dec 111
 28 Dec 111
 29 Dec 1
 30 Dec 11
 31 Dec 11

105

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Varsity"

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1111111
 3 Jan 11111
 4 Jan 111
 6 Jan 1
 7 Jan 11
 10 Jan 1111
 12 Jan 1
 15 Jan 111
 23 Jan 1
 24 Jan 111
 25 Jan 11
 28 Jan 11
 30 Jan 11111111 9
 31 Jan 1111

47

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 111111111 9
 2 Feb 1
 3 Feb 1111111111 11
 4 Feb 11
 5 Feb 11111111 8
 8 Feb 111
 9 Feb 111111111111 13
 10 Feb 111
 11 Feb 1
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 20 Feb 1
 27 Feb 1111111
 28 Feb 11111111111 13

74

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111111111111 12
 2 Mar 11111111 8
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 10 Mar 111
 11 Mar 111111111111111111 21
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 25 Mar 11111111 9
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 29 Mar 111
 30 Mar 1
 31 Mar 1

260

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 111111111111111 16
 2 Apr 111111111111111 17
 3 Apr 11111111 8
 4 Apr 1
 5 Apr 11111111 9
 6 Apr 1111
 7 Apr 1111
 8 Apr 1
 9 Apr 1111
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 14 Apr 1111111 8
 15 Apr 11
 16 Apr 111111111111 15
 17 Apr 111111111111 15
 18 Apr 1111111
 19 Apr 111
 20 Apr 11
 23 Apr 11
 25 Apr 1
 27 Apr 11

124

MAY 1945

3 May 1
 17 May 1
 26 May 1

3

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day—25 July 1944
 bloodiest month—July 1944
 2nd bloodiest day—6 August 1944
 3rd bloodiest day—14 and 17 July and
 10 August 1944
 4th " " " —3 August 1944
 5th " " " —12 and 26 July 1944
 6th " " " —13 July 1944

Total battle deaths—4,531
 2,677 are listed=59.0% KIA—3,863



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION "Mountaineers"

Activated—15 July 1943

Returned To United States—11 August 1945

Inactivated—30 November 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Northern Apennines Po Valley

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):
Maj-Gen George P. Hays

November 1944—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 10th Mountain Division was activated at Camp Hale, Colorado, on 15 July 1943, and, at that time, was known as the 10th Light Division. It was not officially designated as the 10th Mountain Division until more than a year later. Previously, however, the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment had seen minor action in the Aleutians in May 1943, losing 16 men.

Except for this, the 10th Mountain Division saw all of its actual combat in Italy. First elements of the division began arriving in Italy in late-December 1944. After a brief training period, the 10th Mountain entered combat in the northern Apennines, near Cutigliano and Orsigna, on 6 January 1945.

After preliminary defensive actions, the Mountaineers were given the highly difficult task of dislodging crack German troops from some very formidable heights in the northern Apennines, in mid-February 1945. It was rugged country, even for a St. Bernard, but the men of the 10th had trained for a year and a half for such an operation. They had trained in sub-zero weather, and many of them had been battling the elements all their lives. Some of them were famous skiers, and others were climbers, forest rangers, and park and wild-life service men.

On the night of 18-19 February 1945, some 1,300 men from the 10th Mountain climbed the steep slopes of Riva Ridge in the snow and ice. This monumental feat of arms completely surprised the Germans who thought the icy slopes to be impregnable. This feat greatly facilitated the attack on Monte Belvedere. German counterattacks were defeated and the 10th gained the crests of both Monte Belvedere and Monte Gorgolesco on 20 February. The 10th then advanced against the crest of Monte della Torraccia in the face of strong enemy opposition, and reached its summit after heavy fighting on 24 February 1945, and routed the first-rate German 232nd Infantry Division.

In early-March 1945, the 10th, in limited objective attacks, fought its way north of Canolle, taking several more peaks, beating back counterattacks, and advancing to within 15 miles of the city of Bologna. The object of these attacks was to gain better jumping-off positions for the coming Allied offensive in the spring, and the 10th Mountain did a splendid job.

The 10th then maintained defensive positions for the next three weeks.

Then, on 14 April 1945, the 5th Army was ready to begin its long-awaited offensive out of the mountains and into the Po Valley. The morning was covered with fog and mist

and the situation was very tense. Both commanders and troops were depending heavily on close air support for the attack. Then, about 9:45 A.M., the weather began to clear, and the air force went into action, as did the artillery, pounding enemy targets, many of them pre-selected. While the ground still shook, the troops began advancing forward. The 10th Mountain led the way, fighting in the clouds, and the battle was intense. The 10th slugged ahead relentlessly, smashing through elements of two German divisions which were blocking the way. The Germans hastily moved over their mobile reserve, the 90th Panzer Grenadier Division, but this also failed. 14 and 15 April 1945, were the 10th Mountain Division's two bloodiest days of the war, and it was also on 14 April that the 10th had a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc John D. Magrath, Company G, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment, near Castel d'Aiano, Italy.

His company was pinned down by heavy artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire near Castel d'Aiano. Voluntarily acting as a scout, and armed only with a rifle, he charged headlong into withering fire, killing two Germans and wounding three others in order to capture a machinegun. Carrying this weapon across an open field through heavy fire, he eliminated two more machinegun nests. Pfc Magrath then circled behind four other Germans who were firing into his company, and dispatched them with a burst from his weapon. Spotting another enemy position to his right, he knelt down and exchanged fire with them until he had killed 2 of the enemy and wounded 3 more.

Pfc Magrath next volunteered to brave the shelling of his company to collect a report of casualties. As he was carrying out this task, he was killed, his actions in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

The intensive fighting continued with the 10th Mountain capturing Mongiorgio on 20 April. On this same day the 10th Mountain and 85th Infantry Divisions broke out of the mountains and into the Po Valley, with the 10th seizing the strategic towns of Pradalbino and Bomporto. The 10th Mountain advanced 75 miles in 8 action-packed days in reaching the Po at San Benedetto on 23 April 1945.

Crossing the river on that same day, the 10th reached the vicinity of Verona, 25 April, and ran into heavy fighting at Torbole and Nago, near the southern end of Lake Garda. After an amphibious crossing of this large mountain lake, the 10th secured Gargnano and Porto di Tremosine by 30 April 1945.

The 10th Mountain had many outstanding soldiers in its ranks. One was world champion ski jumper, Sergeant Torger Togle, from Norway, who was killed in action in March 1945. And, as the 10th moved into the Alps, Colonel Bill Darby, famous organizer of the elite Rangers, was killed by a mortar burst near Lake Garda, on 1 May. He had wanted to be up front where the action was, and got it with the 10th Mountain.

The 10th advanced north into the Alps and through Trento, capturing many prisoners, and when the Germans surrendered in Italy on 2 May 1945, was in the old gray-walled city of Merano. The 10th then went on security duty, receiving the surrender of various German units, and screening the areas of occupation.

During the month of April 1945, the 10th Mountain Division lost more men than any other U.S. division fighting in either Italy or Germany!

The Germans were continually surprised by the offensive power of the American divisions in the mountains of Italy, especially the 10th Mountain Division, one of the truly elite American outfits to come out of the war.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1
 Distinguished Unit Citations—1
 Distinguished Service Crosses—3
 Silver Stars—449

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—955
 Killed In Action—872
 Wounded—3,134
 Missing—38
 Captured—28
 Total Casualties—4,072

The 10th Mountain was reactivated in July 1948 as the 10th Infantry Division, but was later, again inactivated.

In 1986, the 10th Mountain Division was again reactivated and, as of February 1988, was stationed at Fort Drum, New York.



24TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Taro Leaf"

Regular Army

Activated—25 February 1921 in Hawaii as the Hawaiian Division

Redesignated—24th Infantry Division on 26 August 1941

Battle Credits, World War II: Northern New Guinea Leyte Central Philippines
Bataan Peninsula Mindanao

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Durward S. Wilson	October 1941—August 1942
Maj-Gen Frederick A. Irving	August 1942—November 1944
Maj-Gen Roscoe B. Woodruff	November 1944—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 24th Infantry Division was among the first to see action in World War II, and among the last American troops to stop fighting. The 24th was on Oahu, with headquarters at Schofield Barracks, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941, and sustained minor casualties. Charged with the defense of Oahu, the 24th built an elaborate system of coastal defenses.

By September 1943, the Taro Leaf Division had completed its movement to Australia, near Rockhampton, on the eastern coast. After a period of intensive training, the division moved on to Goodenough Island, 31 January 1944, to stage for a landing on the coast of northern New Guinea.

In an almost perfectly executed maneuver, the 24th landed in New Guinea, 22 April 1944, and slashed its way to the important Hollandia Airdrome despite torrential rains and marshy terrain. Enemy resistance was scattered and ineffective, and by 6 June, the 24th had killed 1,777 Japanese and taken over 500 prisoners, many of them Korean laborers, while losing only 43 men.

Shortly after, the division's 34th Infantry Regiment went over to weird, craggy, cave-ridden Biak to help out the 41st Infantry Division in that bloody battle. Biak wasn't secured until August 1944.

Next, for the 24th, came the invasion of Leyte on 20 October 1944, along with the 1st Cavalry and 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions. It was on Leyte, where the backbone of the Japanese defense of the Philippines was broken, that the 24th proved itself one of the great fighting outfits of the war. The men landed on Red Beach and it was an inferno. Jap mountain guns blasted away at the landing boats, and planes sprayed the beach with machine-gun fire. The dunes were raked by mortar, machine-gun, and small-arms fire. But the men of the 24th kept moving, battling their way inland, and repulsing one counterattack after another.

The 24th bore the brunt of some of the toughest fighting on Leyte. It fought on and along dirt roads, in jungles, rice paddies, along the banks of dirty streams, and in the hills. Early in the fighting, one heroic action was that of Private Harold H. Moon, Jr., Company G, 34th Infantry Regiment, at Pawig, Leyte, 21 October 1944.

Pvt Moon was cut-off from his platoon and beat back several attempts to take his position. In supreme defiance, he fired his own weapon and then those of his fallen buddies and hurled grenades at the enemy, while challenging them with curses. A Jap officer, covered by

machine-guns and hidden by an embankment, attempted to knock out his position with grenades, but Pvt Moon, after protracted and skillful maneuvering, shot him. A little later, he killed two Japs who were charging a medic.

Near dawn an entire platoon of Japanese charged his position, and Pvt Moon, firing his submachine-gun, calmly cut down about 20 of the attackers before he was, himself, killed as he attempted to throw a grenade at an enemy machine-gun. Later, nearly 200 dead Japanese were found within 100 yards of his foxhole.

The tenacity, combat sagacity, and magnificent courage with which Pvt Moon fought on against overwhelming odds contributed in large measure to breaking up a powerful enemy threat, and did a great deal in insuring the 24th's initial success on Leyte. Pvt Moon was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

After taking the town of Carigara, the 24th advanced into wild northwestern Leyte. The town of Jaro fell in hard fighting. But a particularly tough, bloody, and see-saw type of bitter combat occurred at a place called Breakneck Ridge.

The Japanese had planned a large assault to throw the Americans back, but they underestimated the U.S. strength, and so, were forced to remain, basically, on the defensive.

Heavy rains continued to handicap both the American and Japanese movements.

On Breakneck Ridge the Japanese employed two of their army's best units, the 1st Division which had arrived all the way from Manchuria, and the 57th "Tempei" Brigade. Their defenses were very imaginative and intricate, and the ridge itself was rough ground with much of it covered by tall cogon grass. The main advantage the 24th had was its powerful artillery, but the Japanese were consistently skillful and accurate with their mortars.

From 6-16 November 1944, this ridge was the scene of the most bitter and incessant type of fighting, some of it hand-to-hand. As well as the savage fighting, the ordeal was noted for the tactics of the Japanese. Among other devices, they didn't indulge in reckless banzai charges, but used tricky infiltration attacks, especially at night, although they sometimes attacked during daylight. They frequently fired upon the Americans from the rear, from holes and hidden dugouts which the GIs sometimes didn't detect until it was too late. Some of the Jap snipers had rifles with telescopic sights. Also, some of the Japs spoke English with which they tried to fool the U.S. soldiers during night infiltrations.

The 24th's tanks were of little value because the ground was too steep and rugged, so the soldiers relied heavily upon artillery and deadly phosphorus shells.

The ferocious struggle ebbed back and forth, with each side attacking and counterattacking, and with the 21st Infantry Regiment eventually bearing the brunt of the battle. To help keep up the pressure and maintain the momentum, the 32nd Infantry Division began relieving the exhausted 24th on 15 November 1944, and continued the eventually successful battle.

Altogether, the 24th was in combat on Leyte for 78 days, and slew over 7,000 Japanese, while losing 544 men.

While mopping-up continued on Leyte, the 24th's 19th Infantry Regiment landed on Mindoro, in the western Philippines, and south of Luzon. Resistance was light with some 20 Americans killed and around 50 wounded. Other elements of the 24th secured the smaller islands of Marinduque and Verde against scattered resistance.

Also, from late-January-mid-February 1945, the 34th Infantry Regiment, helping out the 38th Infantry Division, ran into a furious battle at Zig Zag Pass at the top of the Bataan Peninsula. Fighting in some of the most rugged and densest jungle terrain anywhere in the world, both the 34th Regiment and the 38th Division suffered heavy casualties before this pass was cleared by mid-February. As an indication as to just how tough this battle was, the 34th Infantry suffered almost half as many casualties in two weeks at Zig Zag Pass as it had in over two months on Leyte!

Meanwhile, elements of the 24th landed on Corregidor and helped the 503rd Parachute Regiment take "the Rock" in another vicious battle.

After a number of mopping-up actions during March 1945, and then with the whole division reassembled, the 24th and 31st Infantry Divisions landed on the southern coast of Mindanao on 17 April 1945. While the 31st headed into the central interior, the 24th struck eastward through jungle terrain, rice paddies, and overgrown hemp plantations, reaching Digos, and then capturing the city of Davao fairly easily on 2 May. But this was because the Japanese 100th Division had decided to make a stand in the hills northwest of the city. But in so doing, it allowed the 24th to establish Davao as a valuable base and communications center.

Mindanao was some of the 24th's toughest and most drawn-out fighting of the war, most of it in terrific, stifling heat.

Very heavy fighting occurred in the first half of May 1945, as the 34th Infantry Regiment reduced a Japanese pocket in the Guma sector, and the 21st Infantry Regiment, supported by massive artillery fire, attacked along the Talamo River on 12 May 1945. The 19th and 34th Infantry then tackled Hill 550, which fell to the latter unit after a battle lasting several days which ended on 21 May 1945.

In fierce fighting the 24th continued to clear the Talamo River Valley, with the 19th Infantry taking Mandog, on 9 June 1945.

As late as 24 June 1945, heavy combat was taking place, but by this time, the 24th had succeeded in cracking the center of the Japanese defenses, and the Japanese 100th Division was then forced deeper into the interior regions of the large island. By this time the Japanese division had lost over 4,500 men.

The end of organized enemy resistance on Mindanao, was declared on 30 June 1945, but the 24th continued operations in the Kibangay area.

The 21st Infantry landed at Sarangani Bay, on the southern coast of Mindanao, and secured this area by 12 July 1945.

Aided by large, well-equipped, and well-organized Filipino guerrilla forces, the 24th continued mopping-up, patrolling, and performing security on Mindanao, until the end of the war, 14 August 1945. Mindanao, one of the least publicized battles of the war, cost the 24th over 600 men.

On 15 October 1945, the 24th left Mindanao, for occupational duty in Japan. When the Korean War erupted in late-June 1950, the 24th was the first American unit to enter that conflict, first clashing with the North Koreans near Osan, on 5 July 1950.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3
Distinguished Unit Citations—8 *
Distinguished Service Crosses—15
Silver Stars—625

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,691
Killed In Action—1,374
Wounded—5,621
Missing—11
Captured—6
Total Casualties—7,012

* One to the entire 19th Infantry Regiment—Davao, Mindanao

Other 24th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Pfc James H. Diamond, * 21st Inf Rgt, 8-14 May 1945, Mintal, Mindanao

Sgt Charles E. Mower, * 34th Inf Rgt, 3 November 1944, near Capocan, Leyte

The 24th Infantry Division saw extensive action in the Korean War. Later on, the division was stationed in southern Germany for many years, and then at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. As of this writing, the 24th Infantry (Mechanized) Division is in Saudi Arabia. (23 October 1990)

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Taro Leaf"

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 20 Nov 111111111 9
 21 Nov 111111
 22 Nov 11
 23 Nov 11111111 8
 24 Nov 11
 25 Nov 1
 26 Nov 11
 29 Nov 1

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DECEMBER 1944

7 Dec 1
 11 Dec 1
 15 Dec 1
 16 Dec 11
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 19 Dec 1
 21 Dec 1111111
 24 Dec 1
 28 Dec 1

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JANUARY 1945

9 Jan 1
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FEBRUARY 1945

2 Feb 1
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 26 Feb 1

119

MARCH 1945

2 Mar 1
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 23 Mar 111111111111 12

16

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Taro Leaf"

APRIL 1945

5 Apr 1
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MAY 1945

1 May 1111111
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JUNE 1945

1 June 1111111
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 29 June 1
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94

JULY 1945

1 July 1
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14

AUGUST 1945

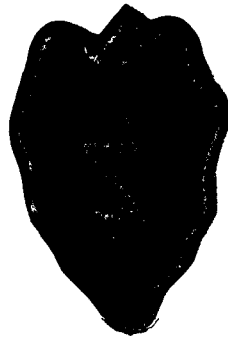
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24TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day _____ 21 October 1944
 bloodiest month _____ May 1945
 2nd bloodiest day _____ 9 November 1944
 3rd bloodiest day _____ 20 October 1944

Total battle deaths _____ 1,441
 812 are listed = 56.3% KIA — 1,209



25TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tropic Lightning"

Regular Army

Activated—10 October 1941 in Hawaii

Battle Credits, World War II: Guadalcanal Central Solomons Luzon

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Maxwell Murray	October 1941—May 1942
Maj-Gen J. Lawton Collins	May 1942—January 1944
Maj-Gen Charles L. Mullins	January 1944—May 1948

Combat Chronicle: The 25th Infantry Division was but two months old when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Activated from elements of the Hawaiian Division's Regular Army troops in October 1941, it was burying its dead on 7 December 1941. Few other American divisions have ever had such a shocking introduction to combat.

All through 1942 the Tropic Lightning Division fretted for a chance to get revenge against the Japanese. It came in early-1943, when the men who wore the Spanish red taro leaf, with a lightning flash on it, cleared for Guadalcanal.

First elements of the 25th went ashore on the open beaches west of the Tenaru River. Entering combat on 10 January 1943, prior to an all-out attack, the division assembled numerous artillery pieces—75, 105, and 155mm guns—and fired over 5,000 rounds into the Japanese positions. To make all initial rounds hit their targets simultaneously, the artillery used time-on-target fire. This technique invariably caused carnage among any troops caught in the open, and in this instance it was later found to have been very effective.

The 25th then slashed forward in some of the most bitter fighting of the war in the Pacific. The rough and broken terrain made supply, communication, and evacuation of the wounded very difficult. Lack of suitable maps was another handicap. The Japanese were there in abundance, and the high quality of their camouflage and their tenacious resistance made the attack very rough going.

It was on this very first day of the 25th's entry into combat that it had a pair of Medal of Honor winners, both men from Company M, 35th Infantry Regiment, 10 January 1943.

Company K turned west and, to cover its right flank while crossing a branch of the Matanikau River, posted two .30 caliber machine-guns from Company M, plus some riflemen, on a knoll. As Company K crossed the river, a large group of Japanese further down the river attacked and nearly broke through the company's right flank. The Japs drove back the riflemen, knocked one machine-gun out of action, and killed the gunner and wounded the assistant gunner of the second.

They were then prevented from hitting the flank of vulnerable Company K by the heroism of two soldiers from Company M, Sgt William G. Fournier and T/5 Grade Lewis Hall. In spite of being ordered to withdraw, the two men ran forward to the idle machine-gun and opened fire on the Japanese, who were then in the low stream bottom in front of and below them. As the gun couldn't bear low enough on them, Sgt Fournier lifted it by its tripod to depress the muzzle sufficiently to fire on the enemy, while T/5 Grade Hall operated the trigger. Both soldiers stayed at their exposed post, pouring fire at the enemy, and were fatally wounded before other troops could come forward. But these two valiant soldiers had broken the enemy attack.

In bitter, strenuous fighting, by 15 January, the Japanese were bottled-up into three main pockets. The 27th "Wolfhounds" Infantry Regiment fought them in the open. The 35th "Cacti" Infantry Regiment fought them in the thick jungles of Mt. Austen, while the 161st Infantry Regiment was temporarily held in reserve.

By 20 January, heavy rain, mud, and particularly poor visibility had limited effective operations.

However, on the following day, three light tanks started up a jeep trail toward Mt. Austen's 1,514-foot crest. Two broke down, but the third reached the top. Supported by 16 infantrymen, the tank drove into the northeast part of the Gifu Line and destroyed 3 pillboxes with high explosive 37mm shells and then shot the defenders with canister and machine-gun fire. Turning south, the tank eliminated five more pillboxes. The infantry then moved forward before dark to occupy the gap. This lone tank, in a few hours, had torn a 200-yard hole in the Japanese defenses which had withstood infantry assaults for a month! The reduction of the Gifu Line cost the 25th 64 men killed and many more wounded, while 518 Japanese were slain.

Meanwhile, in the overall battle for Mt. Austen, the 35th Infantry Regiment wiped out almost 1,100 of the enemy and captured 29 prisoners. American losses were not light.

During the final phase of the fighting on Guadalcanal, 26 January-9 February 1943, units of the 25th, in conjunction with elements of the Americal and 2nd Marine Divisions and the 147th Infantry Regiment, advanced northwest along and near the north coast from a point west of Kokumbona. The 27th Infantry Regiment captured the highest ground dominating the landing beaches between Kokumbona and Cape Esperance. The 27th also captured an enemy radar station, some trucks, landing craft, field artillery, and anti-aircraft guns, besides dispatching over 400 Japanese.

On 6 February, the 161st Infantry passed through the understrength 147th Infantry Regiment. After making a junction with the Americal Division, the 161st continued the pursuit toward Cape Esperance. The Japanese didn't resist as determinedly as usual, and eventually withdrew from Guadalcanal with only scattered stragglers left on the island. Organized resistance ended on 9 February 1943. And so, along with the campaign in Papua, southeast New Guinea, the 25th Infantry Division played an important role in winning this other of the two crucial early land battles in the Pacific—Guadalcanal.

A period of garrison duty followed, ending on 21 July 1943. Then the 25th joined the 37th and 43rd Infantry Divisions and Marine Raider battalions in the bitter, frustrating struggle for New Georgia, in the central Solomons. The 161st Regiment was the first of the division to reach the embattled island. So fierce was the opposition and so miserable the weather, it required nine days to fight its way to its line of departure. By this time the 27th Infantry had arrived and, in an historic 19-day march through the jungle and mud, secured the harbor of Bairoko along with Marine Raider elements.

Soon after, the 35th Infantry fought a relatively light battle on Vella Lavella, 15 August-15 September 1943. Other elements of the division cleared Arundel Island, 24 September, and Kolombangara on 6 October.

After all this fighting, the 25th was sent to New Zealand for a well-earned rest. From there it went to New Caledonia, 3 February-14 March 1944, where replacements brought the division back up to full strength.

After renewed training on New Caledonia, the Tropic Lightning entered the battle on Luzon on 11 January 1945—D-plus 2. Attacking between the 6th and 43rd Infantry Divisions, the 25th met the enemy at Binalonan on the 17th, capturing this town and cutting Route 8. The Japanese counterattacked furiously, but the 25th held and then captured a tremendous ammunition dump.

The 25th then fought a savage 5-day battle for San Manuel. The Japs had dug-in their tanks up to the turrets and every building was a fortress. The 25th's brilliant assistant commander, Brigadier-General James L. Dalton, II, was killed in this battle.

Advancing through the rice paddies, the 27th Infantry took Umingan in heavy fighting. A few, small, scattered trees afforded the only shade in the vicinity, and the broiling tropical sun was a real problem. On 2 February, the 35th Infantry pushed on to Lupao meeting very fierce resistance. At Lupao, the 35th lost 95 men killed and 270 wounded, but in the overall battle in the Central Luzon Plains, the 25th, in conjunction with the 6th Infantry Division, destroyed a large part of the Japanese 2nd Tank Division.

As some of the 6th Army units were heading south toward Manila, the 25th pivoted at San José and advanced north into the Caraballo Mountains—and into some of the most bitter and drawn-out fighting of the war.

The offensive was initiated, 21 February 1945, as the 25th drove up Highway 5 toward Balete Pass. The 161st Infantry Regiment captured Bryant Hill, northwest of Puncan on 25 February, while the 35th Infantry Regiment took Puncan, 2 March 1945, and opened the road as far as Digidig by 5 March. Continuing the attack, the division's 27th and 161st Infantry Regiments pushed forward along Highway 5, while the 35th Infantry moved up the Old Spanish Trail. All three regiments met determined opposition and strong counter-attacks. On 15 March 1945, the 25th began attacking Norton's Knob, but the entrenched Japanese repulsed all attacks for the next ten days. Putlan fell on the 18th. Three high hills were then taken in fierce combat—the 35th Infantry took Fishhook Ridge, 2 April 1945, the 161st Infantry captured Crump Hill, 8-13 April, and the 27th Infantry fought for Mt. Myoko, 9-19 April 1945. The town of Kapintalan was finally entered on 19 April 1945, by the 35th Infantry.

The 25th next made a three-pronged drive on Balete Pass, and the 161st took Lone Tree Hill on 25 April. The 25th was reinforced by the 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division and the 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division. It then took a bloody battle at Kapintalan Ridge and the sealing of over 200 Japanese-held caves, before Balete Pass finally fell on 13 May 1945.

As tough as the battle for Balete Pass was, the 25th's final operation wasn't over until it seized the junction of Route 5 and the Villa Verde Trail, in co-operation with the 32nd Infantry Division at Santa Fe.

From 14-22 May 1945, operating in mainly heavily forested, rough terrain, the 27th Infantry Regiment battled to destroy fanatically resisting remnants of the Japanese 10th Division blocking the approaches to Sawmill Valley. After this was accomplished, the Americans cleared Kanami Ridge. Meanwhile, the 161st Infantry Regiment mopped-up on forested Mt. Haruna by 22 May 1945. Following this, the 25th conducted mopping-up actions along Skyline Ridge, and maintained a block on the Old Spanish Trail. It relieved the 37th Infantry Division south of Aritao, 10 June 1945, and secured Highway 5. The 25th was relieved from combat by the 32nd Infantry Division on 30 June 1945. During the lengthy battle from central Luzon to on up through Balete Pass to Santa Fe, the 25th slew several thousand Japanese, while losing 685 men. By the conclusion of the battle on Luzon, the 25th had established a record of 165 continuous days in combat.

On 1 July 1945, the 25th moved to Tarlac, and then for occupational duty in Japan on 20 September 1945. The division was assigned to south-central Honshu with headquarters in the large city of Osaka. The 25th was still occupying this area when the Korean War erupted in late-June 1950, and, soon after, entered that conflict.

The Tropic Lightning Division—one of the best outfits to come out of the war in the Pacific.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—6	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,508
Distinguished Unit Citations—6 *	Killed In Action—1,253
Distinguished Service Crosses—72	Wounded—4,190
Silver Stars—622	Missing—5
	Captured—2
	Total Casualties—5,450

* One to the entire 35th Infantry Regiment—
Guadalcanal

Other 25th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

S/Sgt Raymond H. Cooley, 27th Inf Rgt, 24 February 1945, near Lumboy, Luzon

Major Charles W. Davis, 12 January 1943, on Guadalcanal

M/Sgt Charles L. McGaha, 35th Inf Rgt, 7 February 1945, near Lupao, Luzon

T/4 Grade Laverne Parrish, * 161st Inf Rgt, 18-24 January 1945, Binalonan, Luzon

The 25th Infantry Division saw extensive service in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. As of this writing, the 25th is stationed at Schofield Barracks, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. (26 June 1984)

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tropic Lightning"

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FEBRUARY 1943

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MARCH 1943

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JULY 1943

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AUGUST 1943

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SEPTEMBER 1943

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OCTOBER 1943

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25TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tropic Lightning"

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FEBRUARY 1945

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 28 Feb 11

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MARCH 1945

2 Mar 111111
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APRIL 1945

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25TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tropic Lightning"

MAY 1945

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 23 May 1111
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 30 May 1111111
 31 May 1

124

JUNE 1945

2 June 11
 4 June 11
 12 June 1
 22 June 1
 23 June 111
 9

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day-----12 January 1943
 bloodiest month-----April 1945
 2nd bloodiest day-----24 January 1945
 3rd bloodiest day-----11 January 1943; 4 February 1945
 Total battle deaths-----1,508
 849 are listed=56.2% KIA--1,253



PHILIPPINE DIVISION

Activated—8 June 1921 in the Philippines

Officially inactivated—30 April 1947 in the Philippines

Battle Credits, World War II: Luzon

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Jonathan M. Wainwright
Brig-Gen Maxon S. Lough

November 1940—December 1941
December 1941—May 1942

Combat Chronicle: The Philippine Infantry Division consisted of approximately 2/3rds American and 1/3rd Filipino personnel. Units of the division were on security missions at Manila, Fort McKinley, and the Bataan Peninsula, prior to the declaration of war in the Pacific on 8 December 1941.

After undergoing two days of bombings, the Philippine Division moved into the field to cover the withdrawal of troops into Bataan, and to resist the Japanese in the Subic Bay area. Positions were organized and strengthened and, while the 31st Infantry Regiment moved to the region of Zig Zag Pass, the rest of the division organized the main and reserve lines of defense on the Bataan Peninsula.

From 10-12 January 1942, elements of the division repulsed Japanese night attacks near Abucay. It was during this action that the Philippine Division had one of its 3 Medal of Honor winners, 2nd Lieutenant Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., 57th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, near Abucay, 12 January 1942.

Although assigned to a company not then engaged in combat, he voluntarily attached himself to Company K of the same regiment, as this unit was being attacked by Japanese forces superior in firepower. There were enemy snipers in trees and foxholes, and hand-to-hand fighting soon followed. Lt Nininger repeatedly forced his way into the hostile positions. A Jap officer leaped at him with a sword, but the lieutenant shot him a split second before the fatal blow would have fallen.

Exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and grenades, and succeeded in destroying several Jap groups in foxholes, as well as several snipers. Although wounded 3 times, he continued his attacks until he was killed, after pushing far alone into the enemy positions. Lt Nininger's bravery was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

On 16 January, the Philippine Division counterattacked. However, strong offensive, as well as defensive action, was unable to prevent enemy penetrations. The division then withdrew to the reserve battle line in the Pilar-Bagac area, 26 January.

Until the latter part of March 1942, the Japanese, made cautious by heavy losses, engaged in patrols and limited local attacks. They didn't start any serious activity again until 28 March. During this period, elements of the division were shifted to assist in the defense of other sectors.

Had the Americans and Filipinos been able to carry on the battle much longer, the Japanese would probably have been forced on to the defensive until they received reinforcements. As it was, the Japanese attack on 28 March 1942, struck at a division weakened by malnutrit-

ion, sickness, and prolonged exposure to combat. The division, no longer able to operate as a co-ordinated unit, was unable to counterattack against the heavy Japanese assaults. On 8 April, the 31st and 57th Infantry Regiments were lost near the Alangan River, and the 45th Infantry Regiment surrendered on 10 April 1942. Some men escaped over to the island of Corregidor to continue the battle for another month, but most of the division went into captivity.

And so, the Philippine Division ceased to exist as an active combat unit. But—it had vastly upset the Japanese timetable by the heroic stand on Bataan, as well as helping the United States gain several precious months to build-up its forces for the coming battles in the Pacific.

The defenders of Bataan had hoped in vain for the help their country was not yet able to send. They fought when no one could have blamed them for surrendering, and they were cited three times for their heroism. When they finally had to quit, those who were still alive suffered the tortures and indignities of the infamous Bataan Death March—78 miles from Mariveles to Camp O'Donnell, under a blistering hot sun, and subjected to the savage and barbaric acts of a ruthless enemy. Many of the men never made the long march all the way. Weakened by various tropical illnesses such as malaria and dysentery, by the heat, exhaustion, and lack of sleep, not a few were shot, bayoneted, or clubbed to death along the roadsides on the way to the camp.

The victory over Japan ended the misery for those men still in Japanese prison camps. Some of the men of the Philippine Division who later made it back home, wore their shoulder patch with a special pride, but with the pride of men who have been through all the worst horrors of war.

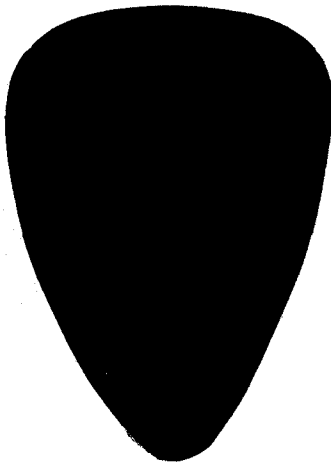
Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3
Distinguished Unit Citations—1 *

No other awards or a casualty listing is available for the Philippine Division.

* To the entire division—Defense Of Bataan

Other Philippine Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action*

1st Lt Willy C. Bianchi, * 45th Inf Rgt, 3 February 1942, Bataan Peninsula, Luzon
Sgt José Calugas, 88th Field Artillery Bn, 16 January 1942, Bataan Peninsula, Luzon



1ST CAVALRY DIVISION "Hell For Leather"

Regular Army

Activated—31 August 1921 at Ft. Bliss, Texas

Battle Credits, World War II: Admiralty Islands Leyte Luzon

Days In Combat—521

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Innis P. Swift

April 1941—August 1944

Maj-Gen Verne D. Mudge

August 1944—February 1945

Brig-Gen Hugh Hoffman

February—July 1945

Maj-Gen William C. Chase

July 1945—End of war

Combat Chronicle: The 1st Cavalry Division, after participating in the Louisiana maneuvers (3 different times), left the San Francisco port of embarkation on 26 June 1943.

The 1st Cavalry (dismounted in early-1942), arrived in Australia, in July 1943, and, for months, slaved away at amphibious training and jungle fighting methods in Queensland. In February 1944, the 1st Cavalry Division moved to New Guinea, to stage for a landing in the Admiralty Islands, in the Bismarck Archipelago.

A squadron of the 5th Cavalry Regiment landed on Los Negros Island, in the Admiralties, on 29 February 1944. Despite intense Japanese opposition, the cavalymen swept inland to seize Momote Airstrip within half an hour. Elements of the 7th Cavalry Regiment arrived on 4 March 1944, and fanatical Japanese attacks were thrown back. In one of these attacks the 1st Cavalry had a Medal of Honor winner on 4 March 1944.

Sergeant Troy A. McGill, with an 8-man squad, occupied a revetment which was attacked by 200 drink-crazed Japanese. Being in an exposed position, he could receive little, if any, support, and all members of the squad were killed except Sgt McGill and one other man, whom he ordered to try to get to the rear. Courageously resolving to hold his position, he fired his weapon until it ceased to function. Then, with the Japs only 5 yards away, he charged from his foxhole into the face of certain death, and clubbed the enemy with his rifle in hand-to-hand combat until he was killed. At dawn, 105 dead Japanese were found around his position! Sgt McGill's extraordinary courage was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers, and helped increase their determination in defeating a fanatical enemy.

The 8th Cavalry Regiment assaulted Manus Island, on 15 March 1944, and overran Lugos Mission, as the 7th Cavalry also landed. After furious fighting, by 18 March, Lorengau and its airfield were captured, and the division mopped-up on both Los Negros and Manus, and seized other smaller nearby islands. The Admiralties were secured by 18 May 1944. Altogether, the 1st Cavalry slew 3,300 Japanese on these islands, while losing 326 men! The division then trained for operations in the Philippines.

The next battle for the 1st Cavalry Division was when it took part in the initial assault on Leyte, in the Philippines, 20 October 1944. The 1st Cavalry landed in the right (northern flank) of the attack, and cleared San José, Taclobán Airfield, and the Cataisan Peninsula. Meanwhile, the 8th Cavalry Regiment landed on southern Samar, and secured the San Juanico Strait, on 24 October 1944.

On Leyte, the 1st Cavalry battled some of the best units the Japanese had. After taking Taclobán and heading inland, the troopers had to fight torrential downpours and gale velocity winds reaching up to 80 miles per hour. General Walter Krueger, commanding the U.S. 6th Army, described it as "the most brutal terrain and conditions American soldiers have ever been asked to stand." The soldiers sweated it out by day, and nearly froze at night. Food, ammunition, and medical supplies had to be brought in by air-drop, native carriers, or by carabao pack. The men fought their way up trails knee-deep in mud, and waded neck-deep in jungle streams, while under continual artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire. There was also a good deal of hand-to-hand fighting with the Japs, and on more than one occasion, cooks, clerks, signalmen, and engineers were used in the front line.

The 1st Cavalry regrouped on 28 October 1944, as the 2nd Cavalry Brigade assembled at Barugo, converged on Carigara, and contacted the 24th Infantry Division on 2 November 1944. On 15 November 1944, the 112th Cavalry Regiment was attached to the division, and assumed responsibility for the Capocan-Carigara-Barugo area.

The 1st Cavalry cleared the Mount Badian-Hill 2348 region from 28 November-9 December 1944, and the 112th Cavalry Regiment battled at the ridge south of Limon, 30 November-10 December. The 7th Cavalry then relieved the 112th, and finally took this ridge on 14 December. The 12th Cavalry Regiment pushed into Lonoy, 19 December 1944, and seized Kananga, on the 21st.

The 1st Cavalry attacked west toward the coast through swamps against scattered resistance on 23 December 1944, and Tibur was reached on the 28th. The 1st then fought past Villaba to contact the 32nd Infantry Division on 30 December 1944. The western coast of Leyte was reached on 1 January 1945. For every 1st Cavalry soldier killed on Leyte, the Japanese paid with 24 of their own. The 1st Cavalry lost 203 men.

Next came Luzon. The 1st Cavalry landed at Lingayen Gulf, 27 January 1945, and, spearheading the attack, fought its way to Manila, after a bitter night battle, by 3 February 1945.

There then followed an extremely tough and costly battle inside the city—the only major city battle in the Pacific. Following a fairly simple plan of assault, the 37th Infantry Division attacked south along the Manila waterfront, the 11th Airborne Division attacked from the south, and the 1st Cavalry swung around to make its assault from the northeast and east.

The Japanese were heavily outnumbered, but had no intention of giving up. On the contrary, their 16,000-man force resisted fanatically, and American losses quickly mounted. The GIs came to the regretful conclusion that they would be unable to save very many of Manila's buildings, and still eliminate the Japanese. So restrictions were reluctantly lifted on artillery fire. Any stronghold that blocked the advance was pounded into a shambles. While churches and hospitals were spared, the toll in other large structures and in civilian lives was high. Many of the Filipinos were slaughtered by the Japs, as they, themselves, were being annihilated. During the vicious fighting the cavalrymen liberated some 4,000 civilian internees at Santo Tomás University.

The 1st Cavalry fought through fierce opposition in the northern and eastern suburbs of Manila. Manila Bay was reached on 12 February 1945, as the raging battle continued. On 23 February 1945, the 1st Cavalry had its second Medal of Honor winner of the war, Pfc William J. Grabiarez, 5th Cavalry Regiment, in Manila.

As his unit advanced with tanks through a street in Manila, without warning, enemy machinegun and rifle fire from the Customs Building swept the street, striking down the troop commander and driving the men to take cover.

Pfc Grabiarez suddenly ran from behind a tank to rescue his exposed commander, although he, himself, was wounded. Finding it impossible to drag the wounded officer out of range

from the enemy fire, he deliberately used his own body as a shield to cover the officer, and, in so doing, was riddled by bullets before a tank could knock out the enemy position. His commander survived.

By his heroic self-sacrifice, Pfc Grabiarz had saved his commander's life, and set an inspiring example of bravery for his fellow soldiers.

While large elements of the 1st Cavalry Division kept on fighting in Manila, a large portion of the division began an attack against the Japanese Shimbu Line in the hills northeast of Manila. However, this attack was checked on 25 February 1945.

Meanwhile, the 5th Cavalry Regiment captured the Agriculture Building in Manila, on 1 March 1945. The city finally fell on 3 March 1945. This battle cost the 1st Cavalry, 11th Airborne, and 37th Infantry Divisions over 1,000 men killed in action or died of wounds, and a great many more wounded. The Japanese were all but annihilated.

The 1st Cavalry began its drive against the Shimbu Line with four regiments abreast on 8 March 1945. After seizing and securing crossings over the Marikina River, and then securing the Tagaytay-Antipolo Line in exhausting combat, the division was relieved of this assignment on 12 March 1945, as the 6th and 43rd Infantry Divisions and 112th Cavalry Regiment continued the battle. The 1st Cavalry was then given rest and rehabilitation until late-March 1945.

After this, the 1st Cavalry moved into southern Luzon. By 29 March 1945, the 8th Cavalry Regiment had taken Lipa, and established contact with the 11th Airborne Division. The Batangas-Calamba supply road into Manila was then opened.

The 1st Cavalry then turned east and the 7th Cavalry seized Alaminos on 1 April 1945, while the 12th Cavalry fought the battle for Imoc Hill, 1-5 April. The 5th Cavalry Regiment reached San Pablo, 2 April, and after heavy fighting took Mauban, on the east coast, on 10 April 1945. Contact was again made with the 11th Airborne Division at Lamong Bay, on the next day.

The men of the 1st Cavalry next advanced into the Bicol Peninsula on 12 April 1945, and the Japanese in this region were soon pocketed-in north of Mount Matasana Bundoc, by 16 April. Beginning on 17 April 1945, this area was gradually reduced. On 2 May, the 5th Cavalry Regiment probed Mount Isarong for the next two weeks. Eventually, the 1st Cavalry contacted, near Naga, the 158th Infantry Regiment which had landed on the eastern end of the Bicol Peninsula. Resistance in southern Luzon was officially declared ended on 1 July 1945. Luzon had cost the 1st Cavalry well over 600 men.

The 1st Cavalry Division left Luzon on 25 August 1945, for occupational duty in Japan. It arrived in Yokohama, 2 September 1945, and entered Tokyo on 8 September, the first American division to enter the Japanese capital. The 1st Cavalry Division was still in Japan when the Korean War erupted in late-June 1950, and, soon after, entered that war.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2
Distinguished Unit Citations—10
Distinguished Service Crosses—14
Silver Stars—542

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,152
Killed In Action—887
Wounded—4,035
Missing—9
Captured—1
Total Casualties—4,932

The 1st Cavalry Division later saw extensive service in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, (Airmobile) in the latter conflict. As of this writing, the 1st Cavalry is stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. (9 September 1990)

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION "Hell For Leather"

MARCH 1944	APRIL 1944	OCTOBER 1944	NOVEMBER 1944	DECEMBER 1944
1 Mar 11	1 Apr 1	20 Oct 111	1 Nov 11	1 Dec 11111
2 Mar 11111	10 Apr 1	21 Oct 111111	3 Nov 1	2 Dec 11
3 Mar 111	21 Apr 1	22 Oct 11111	7 Nov 111	3 Dec 11
4 Mar 1111111111111 13	25 Apr 1	24 Oct 111	8 Nov 111	5 Dec 11
5 Mar 11111	4	25 Oct 1	9 Nov 11	11 Dec 1
6 Mar 1		27 Oct 1	12 Nov 1111	12 Dec 11
7 Mar 111111		28 Oct 11	13 Nov 11	13 Dec 111
8 Mar 111	MAY 1944	29 Oct 11	14 Nov 1	14 Dec 111
9 Mar 1	10 May 1	31 Oct 1	16 Nov 1	15 Dec 1
10 Mar 111	22 May 1	24	18 Nov 1	16 Dec 1
11 Mar 111			19 Nov 1	19 Dec 1111111111 10
12 Mar 111	2		20 Nov 1	20 Dec 1111
13 Mar 111111			22 Nov 11111	21 Dec 1111111
14 Mar 111			28 Nov 1	22 Dec 1
15 Mar 1			29 Nov 1	25 Dec 11
16 Mar 1111111111 10			30 Nov 1	26 Dec 111111
17 Mar 111111			30	29 Dec 11
18 Mar 1111111111 11				30 Dec 1
20 Mar 111111				31 Dec 11
21 Mar 11111				
22 Mar 11111111111 12				57
23 Mar 1111				
24 Mar 111				
25 Mar 1111				
26 Mar 1				
27 Mar 111				
28 Mar 1				
29 Mar 1				
30 Mar 1111				
31 Mar 1				

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION "Hell For Leather"

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1
 4 Jan 1
 6 Jan 1
 16 Jan 1
 17 Jan 1
 28 Jan 1
 30 Jan 1
 7

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 11
 2 Feb 11
 3 Feb 1111111111 11
 4 Feb 111
 6 Feb 111
 7 Feb 111
 8 Feb 1
 9 Feb 1111111
 10 Feb 1111
 11 Feb 111111111111 13
 12 Feb 1111
 13 Feb 111
 14 Feb 1
 15 Feb 1111111111 11
 16 Feb 111
 17 Feb 11
 18 Feb 111111
 19 Feb 111111
 20 Feb 1111111111 10
 21 Feb 111111
 22 Feb 1111
 23 Feb 1111111
 24 Feb 1111111111 10
 25 Feb 111111111111 12
 26 Feb 11111111111 11
 27 Feb 111
 28 Feb 11111

164

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111111
 2 Mar 1111111
 3 Mar 1
 4 Mar 1
 5 Mar 111
 6 Mar 111
 7 Mar 1
 8 Mar 1111111111111111 16*
 9 Mar 11111111 8 approx.
 10 Mar 11111111 8 30%men
 11 Mar 111111
 12 Mar 1
 13 Mar 11
 15 Mar 11
 16 Mar 1
 18 Mar 11
 22 Mar 111
 24 Mar 1
 25 Mar 1111111
 26 Mar 111
 27 Mar 111111
 28 Mar 11
 29 Mar 1111
 30 Mar 1111
 31 Mar 1111111

105

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 1111
 2 Apr 111
 3 Apr 11
 4 Apr 111
 5 Apr 1
 6 Apr 1
 7 Apr 111
 9 Apr 1
 10 Apr 111111
 11 Apr 1111
 12 Apr 111
 15 Apr 1
 16 Apr 11111111 8
 17 Apr 11
 18 Apr 1
 19 Apr 11
 21 Apr 11
 22 Apr 111
 25 Apr 1
 26 Apr 11
 27 Apr 11
 28 Apr 11
 29 Apr 111
 59

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION "Hell For Leather"

MAY 1945

7 May 11
 8 May 1
 9 May 1
 12 May 1
 14 May 1
 16 May 1
 18 May 11
 20 May 1
 22 May 1
 23 May 111
 26 May 1
 27 May 1
 28 May 11
 30 May 1

19

JUNE 1945

2 June 1111
 3 June 1
 6 June 1
 8 June 111
 11 June 11
 15 June 1
 16 June 11
 21 June 1
 23 June 1
 28 June 1

17

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION'S

*bloodiest day—————8 March 1945
 bloodiest month—————February 1945
 2nd bloodiest day—————4 March 1944; 11 February 1945
 3rd bloodiest day—————22 March 1944; 25 February 1945
 Total battle deaths—————1,152
 617 are listed=53.5% KIA——887

U.S. UNIT CASUALTIES—WORLD WAR II

(In the order of the number of total battle deaths)

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
3rd Infantry Dvn	5,634	4,922	18,766	25,977
4th Infantry Dvn	4,798	4,017	17,371	22,580
29th Infantry Dvn	4,736	3,870	15,541	20,603
9th Infantry Dvn	4,531	3,863	17,416	23,284
1st Marine Dvn	4,465		13,849	18,314
1st Infantry Dvn	4,365	3,616	15,208	20,659
45th Infantry Dvn	4,276	3,714	14,541	21,260
36th Infantry Dvn	3,890	3,318	14,190	20,652
90th Infantry Dvn	3,868	3,270	14,386	19,128
34th Infantry Dvn	3,708	3,145	12,545	17,680
30th Infantry Dvn	3,525	2,992	13,376	18,435
83rd Infantry Dvn	3,387	2,960	11,000	14,902
4th Marine Dvn	3,317		13,006	16,323
2nd Infantry Dvn	3,272	2,833	12,000	16,812
80th Infantry Dvn	3,194	2,800	11,500	15,865
35th Infantry Dvn	2,936	2,476	11,526	15,813
79th Infantry Dvn	2,923	2,454	10,971	15,181
28th Infantry Dvn	2,873	2,316	9,609	16,762
8th Infantry Dvn	2,804	2,513	10,057	13,967
2nd Marine Dvn	2,729		8,753	11,482
5th Infantry Dvn	2,628	2,277	9,549	12,797
88th Infantry Dvn	2,529	2,282	9,225	13,095
32nd Infantry Dvn	2,524	2,108	6,627	8,763
101st Airborne Dvn	2,500	2,188	6,800	10,162
7th Infantry Dvn	2,346	1,957	7,258	9,221
3rd Armored Dvn	2,302	2,043	7,160	9,673
96th Infantry Dvn	2,166	1,596	7,281	8,945
26th Infantry Dvn	2,116	1,892	7,886	10,743
82nd Airborne Dvn	2,116	1,737	6,950	9,581
5th Marine Dvn	2,113		6,450	8,563
27th Infantry Dvn	1,977	1,545	5,485	7,071
3rd Marine Dvn	1,932		6,744	8,676
1st Armored Dvn	1,907	1,623	6,300	8,657
77th Infantry Dvn	1,904	1,482	6,000	7,559
85th Infantry Dvn	1,749	1,572	6,314	8,785

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
78th Infantry Dvn	1,655	1,432	6,103	8,151
6th Marine Dvn	1,637		6,590	8,227
91st Infantry Dvn	1,633	1,456	6,748	8,800
43rd Infantry Dvn	1,514	1,213	5,187	6,411
25th Infantry Dvn	1,508	1,253	4,190	5,450
4th Armored Dvn	1,483	1,282	5,098	7,258
104th Infantry Dvn	1,465	1,285	5,200	6,818
2nd Armored Dvn	1,456	1,200	5,757	7,283
37th Infantry Dvn	1,456	1,112	5,261	6,378
84th Infantry Dvn	1,420	1,282	5,098	7,258
24th Infantry Dvn	1,441	1,209	5,321	6,547
95th Infantry Dvn	1,374	1,206	4,945	6,592
6th Armored Dvn	1,270	1,074	4,200	5,445
87th Infantry Dvn	1,269	1,124	4,342	6,004
Americal Dvn	1,259	1,075	3,350	4,442
7th Armored Dvn	1,222	994	4,000	6,084
1st Cavalry Dvn	1,152	887	4,035	4,932
99th Infantry Dvn	1,131	983	4,177	6,543
17th Airborne Dvn	1,130	978	4,704	6,332
6th Infantry Dvn	1,120	898	3,876	4,777
44th Infantry Dvn	1,101	940	4,209	5,557
94th Infantry Dvn	1,100	950	4,789	6,474
102nd Infantry Dvn	1,012	888	3,668	4,878
41st Infantry Dvn	975	758	3,504	4,275
63rd Infantry Dvn	960	844	3,326	4,487
10th Armored Dvn	945	790	4,000	5,070
100th Infantry Dvn	944	847	3,539	5,002
10th Mountain Dvn	941	862	3,134	4,062
75th Infantry Dvn	922	818	3,314	4,325
5th Armored Dvn	840	665	2,842	3,570
70th Infantry Dvn	840	758	2,713	3,922
103rd Infantry Dvn	821	659	3,329	4,497
66th Infantry Dvn *	800	795	636	1,452
442nd Infantry Rgt		680		
38th Infantry Dvn	791	653	2,814	3,472
76th Infantry Dvn	779	667	2,197	3,033
9th Armored Dvn	741	607	2,350	3,952

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
12th Armored Dvn	718	605	2,416	3,516
40th Infantry Dvn	718	587	2,407	2,994
42nd Infantry Dvn	655	553	2,212	3,971
11th Airborne Dvn	631	516	1,926	2,453
11th Armored Dvn	628	523	2,394	2,968
92nd Infantry Dvn	610	544	2,187	2,993
14th Armored Dvn	609	544	1,955	2,729
81st Infantry Dvn	520	374	1,942	2,322
106th Infantry Dvn	513	444	1,278	8,419 **
33rd Infantry Dvn	509	388	2,024	2,418
1st Spec Serv Force	449	419		2,500
31st Infantry Dvn	418	342	1,392	1,733
69th Infantry Dvn	384	341	1,146	1,506
8th Armored Dvn	355	299	1,375	1,720
158th Infantry Rgt	340	290	1,097	1,390
89th Infantry Dvn	311	281	690	1,016
65th Infantry Dvn	261	233	927	1,230
97th Infantry Dvn	215	188	721	979
71st Infantry Dvn	169	150	643	821
113th Cavalry Grp	161	154		
86th Infantry Dvn	161	136	618	785
473rd Infantry Rgt		160	450	
3rd Ranger Bn	150			
1st Ranger Bn	140			
4th Ranger Bn	140			
13th Armored Dvn	129	107	712	819
5th Ranger Bn		117		
20th Armored Dvn	54	46	134	186
93rd Infantry Dvn	50	43	133	194
16th Armored Dvn	5	4	28	32

No casualty figures are available for the following units:

Philippine Inf Dvn
 1st Marine Provl Bgde
 2nd Ranger Bn
 2nd Cavalry Grp
 3rd Cavalry Grp
 4th Cavalry Grp
 Marine Raiders

6th Ranger Bn
 6th Cavalry Grp
 13th Amd Grp
 14th Cavalry Grp
 15th Cavalry Grp
 22nd Marine Rgt
 Merrill's Marauders
 102nd Cavalry Grp

99th Infantry Bn
 112th Cavalry Rgt
 147th Infantry Rgt
 474th Infantry Rgt
 503rd Parachute Rgt
 517th Parachute Rgt
 Mars Task Force
 106th Cavalry Grp

Notes on the casualty listing:

- 1 Some of the totals are approximate figures. However, the total battle death and the KIA (killed in action) figures are quite accurate. An exception to this is the Ranger battalions. All of those battalions which are listed are approximate figures except for the 5th Ranger Battalion which is an exact figure.
- 2 * The 66th Infantry Division lost over 700 men in the English Channel in December 1944, due to enemy submarine action.
- 3 ** The 106th Infantry Division had close to 7,000 men captured in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.
- 4 No killed in action figures are available for any of the Marine divisions—only the total battle death figures.
- 5 The total battle death column includes those men who later died of wounds.
- 6 Captured and missing in action figures have been omitted primarily due to lack of space. In the Pacific, as a rule, very few men surrendered to the Japanese.
- 7 Figures are also incomplete for the 1st Special Service Force and the Japanese-American 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 473rd Infantry Regiment, and the 113th Cavalry Group. The 473rd fought in Italy, and the 113th fought in Europe.
- 8 The casualty figures for all of these units does not include any units or personnel which may have been temporarily attached to a given unit at any time.

U.S. BATTLE DEATHS IN WORLD WAR II—INCLUDES ARMY, MARINE CORPS, AND NAVY

France	52,844	
Germany	42,915	
Sicily and Italy	25,953	
Belgium	10,418	
Tunisia	3,053	
Holland	2,468	
Luxembourg	1,297	
Algeria	671	
Morocco	130 *	
Austria	118	
Czechoslovakia	116	
Yugoslavia	7	
	<u>139,990</u>	
Philippines	26,428	(Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Samar, Negros, and others)
Okinawa	13,415	(Also, includes Ie Shima, Tsugen Shima, and Kerama Rettō)
Iwo Jima	6,100 *	
Mariana Islands	5,160	(Saipan, Tinian, and Guam)
Solomon Islands	3,625	(Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and others)
New Guinea	2,774	(Also, includes Biak, Wakde, Noemfoor, and Morotai)
Palau Islands	2,715	(Peleliu, Angaur, and smaller islands)
Gilbert Islands	1,715	(Tarawa and Makin)
Burma	729	
Marshall Islands	708	(Eniwetok and Kwajalein)
Aleutian Islands	457	(Attu and Kiska)
Admiralty Islands	329	(Los Negros, Manus, and Lorengau)
New Britain	315	
China	61	
	<u>64,530</u>	
GRAND TOTAL	204,520	(In this listing)

* Approximate figures

WORLD WAR II

North Africa—battle deaths listed in order for Morocco-Algeria: Nov-Dec 1942

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Amd Dvn	91	190
9th Inf Dvn	33	70
3rd Inf Dvn		66 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	19	45
2nd Amd Dvn	7	20
1st Inf Dvn		unavailable

Approx. total-290 (not including the 1st Infantry Dvn)

North Africa—battle deaths listed in order for Tunisia: Jan-13 May 1943

1st Inf Dvn		750 (approx. figure)
1st Amd Dvn	290	550
9th Inf Dvn	220	450
34th Inf Dvn	183	380
1st Ranger Bn		unavailable

Approx. total-2,130 (not counting the 1st Ranger Bn)

Sicily—battle deaths listed in order for Sicily: 10 July-17 Aug 1943

3rd Inf Dvn		381 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn		302 (exact figure)
1st Inf Dvn		264 (exact figure)
82nd Abn Dvn		206 (exact figure)
9th Inf Dvn	63	130
2nd Amd Dvn	23	60
Rangers		unavailable

Approx. total-1,345 (not counting the Rangers)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for Southern Italy (includes 1st Battle of Cassino)
9 Sept 1943—into February 1944

36th Inf Dvn	692	1,400	
34th Inf Dvn	601	1,225	
45th Inf Dvn	404	820	
3rd Inf Dvn		683 (exact figure)	
82nd Abn Dvn	81	175	
1st Amd Dvn	61	110	
1st Spec Srv Force		unavailable	
Rangers		unavailable	

Cassino:
34th Inf Dvn 610
36th Inf Dvn 370 (142nd Rg)

Approx. total-980

Approx. total-4,410 (not counting the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for Anzio (includes both the beachhead and the breakout to Rome): 22 Jan—4 June 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
3rd Inf Dvn		1,585 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn	661	1,330
34th Inf Dvn	252	520
1st Amd Dvn	260	500
36th Inf Dvn	104	220
82nd Abn Dvn	68	150 (504th Para Rgt, only)
91st Inf Dvn	5	12
1st Spec Srv Frce	unavailable	
Rangers	unavailable	

Approx. total—4,320 (not counting the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Rome-Arno Campaign: June—early-Sept 1944

91st Inf Dvn	270	545
88th Inf Dvn	237	490
34th Inf Dvn	195	415
1st Amd Dvn	156	300
36th Inf Dvn	93	200
92nd Inf Dvn		104 (exact figure)
85th Inf Dvn	35	65

Approx. total—2,120

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle Through the Gothic Line and into the Northern Apennines (includes from about mid-Sept—through Oct 1944)

88th Inf Dvn	437	890
85th Inf Dvn	414	800
91st Inf Dvn	362	730
34th Inf Dvn	253	520
1st Amd Dvn	59	110
92nd Inf Dvn		80 (exact figure)

Approx. total—3,130

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Final Allied Offensive In Northern Italy—
from out of the Apennines—into the Po Valley and to the Alps: beginning
mid-April—2 May 1945

10th Mtn Dvn	272	500
88th Inf Dvn	91	195
91st Inf Dvn	75	155
1st Amd Dvn	73	130
92nd Inf Dvn		115 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	40	90
85th Inf Dvn	18	35
442nd Inf Rgt	unavailable	
473rd Inf Rgt	unavailable	

Approx. total—1,220 (not including the last 2 units)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of Normandy: 6 June 1944-
mid-Aug 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total		
29th Inf Dvn	1,301	2,700		
4th Inf Dvn	1,216	2,500		
90th Inf Dvn	1,049	1,950	Helping to repulse German	
9th Inf Dvn	847	1,700	Counteroffensive at Mortain, Normandy;	
2nd Inf Dvn	818	1,650	7-14 August 1944:	
30th Inf Dvn	803	1,640	30th Inf Dvn	355
83rd Inf Dvn	810	1,580	35th Inf Dvn	165
79th Inf Dvn	596	1,200	4th Inf Dvn	115
101st Abn Dvn	400	850	3rd Amd Dvn	110
35th Inf Dvn	394	825	2nd Amd Dvn	95
3rd Amd Dvn	361	710	1st Inf Dvn	unknown
28th Inf Dvn	332	710		
8th Inf Dvn	320	630		
82nd Abn Dvn	250	530		
2nd Amd Dvn	197	425		
5th Inf Dvn	134	300		
80th Inf Dvn	70	135		
5th Amd Dvn	45	105		
4th Amd Dvn	42	90		
1st Inf Dvn		unavailable		

Approx. total-20,230 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of Brittany: 1 Aug 1944-
mid-Sept 1944

8th Inf Dvn	411	790
29th Inf Dvn	325	700
2nd Inf Dvn	229	480
83rd Inf Dvn	213	400
6th Amd Dvn	117	250
4th Amd Dvn	42	100

Approx. total-2,720

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 1st Army Attack Into The Siegfried Line:
Mid-Sept 1944

28th Inf Dvn	245
3rd Amd Dvn	225
9th Inf Dvn	200
4th Inf Dvn	180
5th Amd Dvn	125
30th Inf Dvn	90
2nd Amd Dvn	25

Approx. total-1,090

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the U.S. 3rd Army Offensive from Lorraine—into the Saar, and U.S. 7th Army Offensive from southern Lorraine—into Alsace; co-ordinated together into one big massive offensive: beginning 8 Nov 1944—well into Dec 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
95th Inf Dvn	481	980 (3rd Army)
26th Inf Dvn	412	840 (3rd Army)
90th Inf Dvn	331	640 (3rd Army)
80th Inf Dvn	321	635 (3rd Army)
35th Inf Dvn	277	575 (3rd Army)
79th Inf Dvn	257	515 (7th Army)
44th Inf Dvn	225	465 (7th Army)
100th Inf Dvn	219	420 (7th Army)
103rd Inf Dvn	189	380 (7th Army)
87th Inf Dvn	169	315 (3rd Army)
4th Amd Dvn	144	300 (3rd Army)
5th Inf Dvn	134	285 (3rd Army)
6th Amd Dvn	108	225 (3rd Army)
45th Inf Dvn	101	210 (7th Army)
10th Amd Dvn	87	185 (3rd Army)
14th Amd Dvn	55	100 (7th Army)
12th Amd Dvn	33	62 (7th Army) (exact figure)

Approx. total-7,335

note: Some of the above units entered combat well after the offensive was under way.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for Southern France: August 1944

36th Inf Dvn	128	270
3rd Inf Dvn		220 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn	52	115
1st Spec Srv Frce		unavailable
517th Para Rgt		unavailable

Approx. total-605 (not including the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Northern Apennines: November 1944—to the beginning of the U.S. 5th Army Offensive which began on 14 April 1945. Also, this listing doesn't include the beginning of the 92nd Infantry Dvn's attack which commenced on 5 April 1945.

10th Mtn Dvn	440
92nd Inf Dvn	362 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	180
88th Inf Dvn	175
91st Inf Dvn	130
85th Inf Dvn	90
1st Amd Dvn	55

Approx. total-1,430

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle In The Hürtgen Forest, extreme western Germany—Altogether, beginning in mid-Sept 1944 and lasting through most of Dec 1944. The 9th Infantry Dvn was the first American unit to fight in this forest.

	Listed	Approx. Total
4th Inf Dvn	391	815
9th Inf Dvn	351	710
28th Inf Dvn	252	550
8th Inf Dvn	264	500
83rd Inf Dvn	204	390
5th Amd Dvn	120	255
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	

Approx. total-3,220 (not including the great 1st Infantry Dvn which, no doubt, lost at least 400 men in this terrible forest)

note: The 8th Infantry Dvn's fighting in this forest overlaps with the autumn Assault To The Roer River.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 3rd Army divisions in Lorraine, northern France (along the line of the Moselle River). Much of the Battle of Metz is included in this time sequence which is from early-September-7 November 1944:

	Approx. Total
80th Inf Dvn	1,000
5th Inf Dvn	735 M
35th Inf Dvn	600
90th Inf Dvn	300 M
7th Amd Dvn	250 M
4th Amd Dvn	230
26th Inf Dvn	190
6th Amd Dvn.	145
10th Amd Dvn	10

Approx. total—3,460

M—indicates was in the Battle of Metz

Italy—battle deaths listed in order (approx. totals):

Allied break through the Gustav Line, Italy: beginning 11 May 1944

85th Inf Dvn	510
88th Inf Dvn	220

Approx. total-730

Europe

Vosges Mountains, northeastern France: October 1944, only (approx. totals)

3rd Inf Dvn	unavailable
79th Inf Dvn	380
36th Inf Dvn	320

45th Inf Dvn	300	Approx. total-1000 (not including the 3rd Infantry Dvn)
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The Remagen Bridgehead, across the Rhine, Germany: Mid-March 1945

1st Inf Dvn	unavailable
78th Inf Dvn	335
9th Inf Dvn	270
99th Inf Dvn	200
9th Amd Dvn	120

Approx. total-925 (not counting the 1st Infantry Dvn)

The Scheldt Estuary, southwestern Holland: Late-Oct—Early Nov 1944

104th Inf Dvn	270
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"Operation Market Garden"—Airdrop Into Southern Holland: 17 Sept—into Nov 1944

101st Abn Dvn	750
82nd Abn Dvn	460

Approx. total-1,210

note: The break through the Gustav Line, Italy and the clearing of the Scheldt Estuary in south Holland were largely British operations.

The Battle of Metz, Lorraine, France: beginning 7 Sept—late-Nov 1944

5th Inf Dvn	770
95th Inf Dvn	380
7th Amd Dvn	250
90th Inf Dvn	230

Approx. total-1,630

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Bulge: 16 Dec 1944-
28 Jan 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
101st Abn Dvn	290	610
26th Inf Dvn	280	575
80th Inf Dvn	292	570
30th Inf Dvn	227	475
75th Inf Dvn	223	465
84th Inf Dvn	232	455
17th Abn Dvn	218	450
83rd Inf Dvn	234	450
28th Inf Dvn	187	440
35th Inf Dvn	198	430
99th Inf Dvn	219	425
5th Inf Dvn	172	400
106th Inf Dvn	189	400
90th Inf Dvn	204	385
3rd Amd Dvn	184	360
2nd Inf Dvn	175	350
87th Inf Dvn	170	320
6th Amd Dvn	142	315
82nd Abn Dvn	145	310
4th Inf Dvn	141	300
78th Inf Dvn	147	280
9th Amd Dvn	131	275
11th Amd Dvn	133	275
7th Amd Dvn	146	270
4th Amd Dvn	91	190
10th Amd Dvn	86	180
2nd Amd Dvn	80	175
9th Inf Dvn	75	150
5th Amd Dvn	14	35
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	

Approx. total-11,315 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

note: Several different cavalry groups (consisting of around 3,000 men each) were also in the Battle of the Bulge, but no casualty figures are available for them, and, likewise, the 517th Parachute Regiment.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle Against the German Offensive In Northern Alsace, France: Throughout Jan 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
45th Inf Dvn	147	315
70th Inf Dvn	145	300
79th Inf Dvn	145	290
42nd Inf Dvn	140	290
12th Amd Dvn	102	245
14th Amd Dvn	115	225
36th Inf Dvn	85	185
44th Inf Dvn	73	170
100th Inf Dvn	70	150
103rd Inf Dvn	69	140
63rd Inf Dvn	36	85
95th Inf Dvn	9	25

Approx. total-2,420

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Colmar Pocket, eastern Alsace, northeastern France: 20 Jan-12 Feb 1945

3rd Inf Dvn		317 (exact figure)
28th Inf Dvn	75	170
75th Inf Dvn	65	150
63rd Inf Dvn	51	115 (254th Rgt, only)
12th Amd Dvn	28	65

Approx. total-820

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 7th Army breakthrough the Siegfried Line mid-March 1945

36th Inf Dvn	103	215
103rd Inf Dvn	80	160
45th Inf Dvn	57	120
42nd Inf Dvn	55	120
63rd Inf Dvn	46	105
65th Inf Dvn	43	90
70th Inf Dvn	27	60
14th Amd Dvn	22	45
100th Inf Dvn	18	35
71st Inf Dvn	5	10
6th Amd Dvn	4	10
3rd Inf Dvn		unavailable

Approx. total-965 (not counting the 3rd Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Assault to the Roer River: mid-November—
into Dec 1944

8th Inf Dvn	575
84th Inf Dvn	550
104th Inf Dvn	520
29th Inf Dvn	500
102nd Inf Dvn	460
30th Inf Dvn	225
2nd Amd Dvn	160
3rd Amd Dvn	140

Approx. total-3,130

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Assault Across the Roer—to the Rhine:
beginning 23 Feb-into early-March 1945. U.S. 9th and part of 1st Armies.

8th Inf Dvn	385
84th Inf Dvn	265
102nd Inf Dvn	255
104th Inf Dvn	235
69th Inf Dvn	160
29th Inf Dvn	140
30th Inf Dvn	140
8th Amd Dvn	135
9th Amd Dvn	135
3rd Amd Dvn	130
2nd Amd Dvn	105
35th Inf Dvn	95
83rd Inf Dvn	50
5th Amd Dvn	30
75th Inf Dvn	30
79th Inf Dvn	15

Approx. total-2,310

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket: late-March—
mid-April 1945

8th Inf Dvn	320
78th Inf Dvn	180
99th Inf Dvn	150
97th Inf Dvn	140
75th Inf Dvn	130
3rd Amd Dvn	120
9th Inf Dvn	105
7th Amd Dvn	100
13th Amd Dvn	95
95th Inf Dvn	95
8th Amd Dvn	90
86th Inf Dvn	90
104th Inf Dvn	80
35th Inf Dvn	60
82nd Abn Dvn	55
101st Abn Dvn	45
2nd Amd Dvn	40
79th Inf Dvn	40
5th Inf Dvn	25
94th Inf Dvn	25
29th Inf Dvn	15
83rd Inf Dvn	10
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable

Approx. total-2,015 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Eifel Campaign, western Germany, by the U.S. 3rd Army: 29 Jan—12 March 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
76th Inf Dvn	287	580
4th Inf Dvn	251	500
80th Inf Dvn	237	460
87th Inf Dvn	216	390
5th Inf Dvn	142	320
90th Inf Dvn	136	250
69th Inf Dvn	81	170 (1st Army)
4th Amd Dvn	77	165
2nd Inf Dvn	60	130 (1st Army)
6th Amd Dvn	57	125
11th Amd Dvn	56	120
10th Amd Dvn	44	100
28th Inf Dvn	20	50 (1st Army)
17th Abn Dvn	12	30

Approx. total-3,390

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Palatinate Campaign, western Germany, to the Rhine, by the U.S. 3rd Army: 13-23 March 1945

26th Inf Dvn	67	145
80th Inf Dvn	73	135
94th Inf Dvn	64	135
90th Inf Dvn	64	110
10th Amd Dvn	47	105
12th Amd Dvn	34	80
4th Amd Dvn	26	60
11th Amd Dvn	19	45
5th Inf Dvn	17	40
76th Inf Dvn	18	38
89th Inf Dvn	17	37
65th Inf Dvn	2	5

Approx. total-940

Europe—number of battle deaths listed when and where the following units crossed the Rhine in Germany: March-April 1945

1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	15-16 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
2nd Inf Dvn	20	23 Mar 45	mid-Rhineland, 1st Army
2nd Amd Dvn	negligible	27 Mar 45	near Wesel, 9th Army
3rd Inf Dvn	unavailable	26 Mar 45	Worms bridgehead, 7th Army
3rd Amd Dvn	2	23 Mar 45	near Cologne, 1st Army
4th Inf Dvn	negligible	30 Mar 45	7th Army area
4th Amd Dvn	18	24 Mar 45	Worms bridgehead, 3rd Army
5th Inf Dvn	3	22 Mar 45	Oppenheim bridgehead, 3rd Army
5th Amd Dvn	5	30-31 Mar 45	at Wesel, 9th Army
6th Amd Dvn	5	25 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
7th Amd Dvn	negligible	25 Mar 45	1st Army area
8th Inf Dvn	16	29-30 Mar 45	near Cologne, 1st Army
8th Amd Dvn	negligible	26 Mar 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
9th Inf Dvn	40	9 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
9th Amd Dvn	8	7 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
10th Amd Dvn	negligible	28 Mar 45	7th Army area
11th Amd Dvn	unknown	late-Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
12th Amd Dvn	3	27-28 Mar 45	at Worms, 7th Army
14th Amd Dvn	2	1 Apr 45	near Worms, 7th Army
26th Inf Dvn	negligible	26 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
29th Inf Dvn	unknown	unknown	9th Army area
30th Inf Dvn	35	24 Mar 45	near Buderich, 9th Army
35th Inf Dvn	15	25-26 Mar 45	near Rheinberg, 9th Army
42nd Inf Dvn	3	31 Mar 45	7th Army area
44th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-27 Mar 45	at Worms, 7th Army
45th Inf Dvn	30	26 Mar 45	near Worms, 7th Army
63rd Inf Dvn	negligible	28 Mar 45	at Neuschloss, 7th Army
65th Inf Dvn	negligible	29-30 Mar 45	near Schwabenheim, 3rd Army
69th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-28 Mar 45	1st Army area
71st Inf Dvn	negligible	30 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 7th Army
75th Inf Dvn	6	24 and 30 Mar 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
76th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-27 Mar 45	at Boppard, 3rd Army
78th Inf Dvn	16	8 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
79th Inf Dvn	40	24 Mar 45	near Rheinberg, 9th Army
80th Inf Dvn	30	27-28 Mar 45	Oppenheim vicinity, 3rd Army
83rd Inf Dvn	negligible	29 Mar 45	south of Wesel, 9th Army
84th Inf Dvn	negligible	1 Apr 45	9th Army area
87th Inf Dvn	35	25 Mar 45	Braubach-Boppard area, 3rd Army
89th Inf Dvn	110	26 Mar 45	Wellmich-Oberwesel region, 3rd Army
90th Inf Dvn	35	24 Mar 45	near Mainz, 3rd Army
95th Inf Dvn	unknown	early-Apr 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
99th Inf Dvn	30	10-11 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
100th Inf Dvn	negligible	31 Mar 45	7th Army area
102nd Inf Dvn	negligible	3-4 Apr 45	at Wesel, 9th Army
104th Inf Dvn	3	21-22 Mar 45	at Honnef, 1st Army

note: Any divisions not listed which were in Europe—they were either mopping-up, policing, or resting in areas behind the main line of advance at the time of these Rhine crossings. There are 520 known approximate battle deaths in this works. The 17th Airborne Dvn airdropped across the Rhine near Wesel, on 24 March 1945, losing, altogether, on that day, approximately 350 men!

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for Across The Elbe—Into Mecklenburg,
northern Germany: late-April—8 May 1945

82nd Abn Dvn	29
8th Inf Dvn	15
7th Amd Dvn	2
Approx. total 46	

Europe—battle deaths listed in order—Into Czechoslovakia: late-April—9 May 1945

97th Inf Dvn	57
90th Inf Dvn	35
5th Inf Dvn	12
26th Inf Dvn	9
89th Inf Dvn	9
16th Amd Dvn	5
87th Inf Dvn	2
9th Amd Dvn	2
Approx. total 131	

Europe—battle deaths listed in order—At, and South Of The Danube, southern Germany,
including (for some units) Austria: late-April—8 May 1945

65th Inf Dvn	72	
20th Amd Dvn	50	M
12th Amd Dvn	46	
45th Inf Dvn	40	M
86th Inf Dvn	40	
100th Inf Dvn	35	(southern Württemberg, somewhat north of the Danube)
63rd Inf Dvn	32	
42nd Inf Dvn	31	M
11th Amd Dvn	28	
99th Inf Dvn	27	
44th Inf Dvn	24	
13th Amd Dvn	20	
103rd Inf Dvn	18	
10th Amd Dvn	17	
71st Inf Dvn	17	
14th Amd Dvn	16	
36th Inf Dvn	10	
26th Inf Dvn	9	
4th Inf Dvn	6	
80th Inf Dvn	2	
101st Abn Dvn	2	
		3rd Inf Dvn unavailable
Approx. total 542		

M Includes fighting in Munich, Germany

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for April 1945: Germany and northern Italy

	Listed	Approx. Total		Listed	Approx. Total
10th Mtn Dvn	270	510	26th Inf Dvn	20	45
63rd Inf Dvn	194	410	101st Abn Dvn	19	45
83rd Inf Dvn	164	305	103rd Inf Dvn	21	42
8th Inf Dvn	164	300	79th Inf Dvn	20	40
3rd Inf Dvn		250	5th Inf Dvn	14	40
3rd Amd Dvn	123	225	85th Inf Dvn	18	33
100th Inf Dvn	122	225	36th Inf Dvn	12	30
9th Inf Dvn	109	225	94th Inf Dvn	10	25
97th Inf Dvn	102	200	106th Inf Dvn	9	20
4th Inf Dvn	95	200	28th Inf Dvn	6	20
12th Amd Dvn	92	200	70th Inf Dvn	3	8
45th Inf Dvn	92	200	1st Inf Dvn		unavailable
69th Inf Dvn	94	195			
88th Inf Dvn	90	195			Approx. total-8,485 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)
78th Inf Dvn	100	185			
99th Inf Dvn	95	180			
10th Amd Dvn	86	180			
2nd Inf Dvn	80	170			
80th Inf Dvn	86	165			
91st Inf Dvn	80	165			
104th Inf Dvn	68	150			
14th Amd Dvn	78	145			
75th Inf Dvn	67	145			
86th Inf Dvn	74	145			
42nd Inf Dvn	68	140			
44th Inf Dvn	62	135			
13th Amd Dvn	55	124			
1st Amd Dvn	70	120			
84th Inf Dvn	60	115			
4th Amd Dvn	52	115			
92nd Inf Dvn		115 (exact figure)			
89th Inf Dvn	52	110			
30th Inf Dvn	46	110			
8th Amd Dvn	54	105			
95th Inf Dvn	48	105			
9th Amd Dvn	47	105			
65th Inf Dvn	54	100			
71st Inf Dvn	54	100			
76th Inf Dvn	50	100			
6th Amd Dvn	46	100			
17th Abn Dvn	44	100			
34th Inf Dvn	43	100			
5th Amd Dvn	44	95			
11th Amd Dvn	44	95			
2nd Amd Dvn	41	95			
7th Amd Dvn	55	90			
87th Inf Dvn	45	80			
90th Inf Dvn	42	80			
82nd Abn Dvn	35	80			
102nd Inf Dvn	35	80			
35th Inf Dvn	27	65			
29th Inf Dvn	23	55 (exact figure)			
20th Amd Dvn	29	52			

In Brittany, France—April 1945

66th Inf Dvn	12 (exact figure)
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WORLD WAR II

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Guadalcanal: 7 Aug 1942—9 Feb 1943

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Mar Dvn		642 (exact figure)
Americal Dvn	193	365
2nd Mar Dvn		342 (exact figure)
25th Inf Dvn	115	230
Marine Raiders		unavailable
147th Inf Rgt		unavailable

Approx. total-1,580 (not including the last 2 units)

Papua, Southeast New Guinea: Nov 1942—2 Jan 1943

32nd Inf Dvn	253	530
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Attu: May 1943

7th Inf Dvn		441 (exact figure)
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New Georgia: July-August 1943

43rd Inf Dvn	171	550
37th Inf Dvn	103	225
25th Inf Dvn	71	145
Marine Raiders		unavailable

Approx. total-920 (not including the Marine Raiders)

Makin: 20-23 Nov 1943

27th Inf Dvn		71 (exact figure) (165th Rgt, only)
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Tarawa: 20-24 Nov 1943

2nd Mar Dvn		1,000 (approx. figure)
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Bougainville: Nov 1943—Nov 1944

Americal Dvn	151	275
3rd Mar Dvn		253 (exact figure)
37th Inf Dvn	89	200
93rd Inf Dvn	13	25
Marine Raiders		unavailable

Approx. total-755 (not including the Marine Raiders)

note: Only the Americal Dvn stayed on Bougainville until late-1944.

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

New Britain: 26 Dec 1943—well into 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Mar Dvn		310 (exact figure)
40th Inf Dvn	5	15
		Approx. total-325

Kwajalein: Early-Feb 1944

4th Mar Dvn		190 (exact figure)
7th Inf Dvn	65	170
		Approx. total-360

Eniwetok: Mid-Feb 1944

27th Inf Dvn	40	100 (106th Rgt, only)
22nd Mar Rgt		unavailable

Admiralty Islands: March 1944

1st Cav Dvn		326 (exact figure)
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Biak: May—Aug 1944

41st Inf Dvn	192	400
24th Inf Dvn	22	40 (34th Rgt, only)
		Approx. total-440

Northern New Guinea: April—Sept 1944

32nd Inf Dvn	100	230
6th Inf Dvn	121	220
31st Inf Dvn	55	115
41st Inf Dvn	44	90
158th Inf Rgt		70 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn		43 (exact figure)
43rd Inf Dvn	13	35
33rd Inf Dvn	2	5
112th Cav Rgt		unavailable
		Approx. total-710 (not including the 112th Cavalry Rgt)

Saipan: 15 June—into Aug 1944

2nd Mar Dvn		1,200 (approx. figure)
4th Mar Dvn		1,107 (exact figure)
27th Inf Dvn		1,025 (approx. figure)
		Approx. total-3,335

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

	Listed	Approx. Total
Tinian: July-into Aug 1944		
4th Mar Dvn		214 (exact figure)
2nd Mar Dvn		185 (approx. figure)
	Approx. total-400	
Guam: July-Aug 1944		
3rd Mar Dvn		619 (exact figure)
77th Inf Dvn		248 (exact figure)
1st Mar Prov Bgde	unavailable	
	Total-867 (not including the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade)	
Peleliu: Mid-Sept—Nov 1944		
1st Mar Dvn		1,252 (exact figure)
81st Inf Dvn		208 (exact figure)
	Total-1,460	
Angaur: Mid-Sept-Oct 1944		
81st Inf Dvn		265 (exact figure)
Morotai: Mid-Sept—into Dec 1944		
31st Inf Dvn	34	75
33rd Inf Dvn	25	55
32nd Inf Dvn	2	5
	Approx. total-135	
Leyte: 20 Oct 1944—into Feb 1945		
7th Inf Dvn		584 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn		544 (exact figure)
96th Inf Dvn		532 (exact figure)
77th Inf Dvn	233	490
32nd Inf Dvn		450 (exact figure)
1st Cav Dvn		203 (exact figure)
11th Abn Dvn		200 (approx. figure)
Americal Dvn	82	145
38th Inf Dvn	51	105
112th Cav Rgt	unavailable	
	Approx. total-3,255 (not including the 112th Cavalry Rgt or the 6th Ranger Battalion)	

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Luzon: 9 January—mid-August 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
25th Inf Dvn	536	1,070
43rd Inf Dvn	473	970
6th Inf Dvn	494	930
32nd Inf Dvn	407	900
37th Inf Dvn	411	850
1st Cav Dvn	368	710
38th Inf Dvn	336	675
11th Abn Dvn	225	430
33rd Inf Dvn	199	420
40th Inf Dvn	188	390
158th Inf Rgt		245 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn	60	140 (34th Rgt, only)
6th Ranger Bn	unavailable	
13th Amd Grp	unavailable	
112th Cav Rgt	unavailable	

Approx. total-6,730 (not including the last 3 formations)

Iwo Jima: 19 February—end of March 1945

5th Mar Dvn	2,113 (exact figure)
4th Mar Dvn	1,800 (approx. figure)
3rd Mar Dvn	988 (exact figure)
147th Inf Rgt	unavailable

Approx. total-4,900 (not including the 147th Infantry Rgt)

Okinawa: 1 April—end of June 1945 (all are exact figures)

1st Mar Dvn	2,274
6th Mar Dvn	1,637
96th Inf Dvn	1,506
7th Inf Dvn	1,122
77th Inf Dvn	1,018
27th Inf Dvn	711
2nd Mar Dvn	36 (8th Rgt, only)

Total-8,264

Corregidor (recapture): February 1945

503rd Para Rgt	250 (approx. figure)
Other minor elements	unavailable

Cebu: Late-March—April 1945

Americal Dvn	410 (exact figure)
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Ie Shima: 16-29 April 1945

77th Inf Dvn	230 (approx. figure)
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Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Panay: March 1945

	Approx. Total
40th Inf Dvn	20 (exact figure)

Negros: April—June 1945

40th Inf Dvn	325
503rd Para Rgt	unavailable

Mindanao: 17 April—mid-August 1945

24th Inf Dvn	500
31st Inf Dvn	220
41st Inf Dvn	110
93rd Inf Dvn	5
	835 Approx. total

Burma: February 1944—August 1945

Merrill's Marauders and Mars Task Force	729 (exact figure)
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In the Battle-Myitkyina—Summer 1944

Merrill's Marauders	272
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