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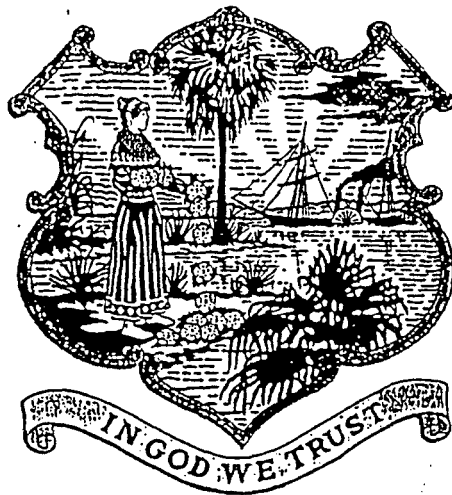
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**FLORIDA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**MILITARY AFFAIRS**



**Special Archives Publication  
Number**

**135**

**SUMMARY HISTORIES:  
WORLD WAR II  
RESERVE ARMY INFANTRY  
DIVISIONS**

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

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
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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

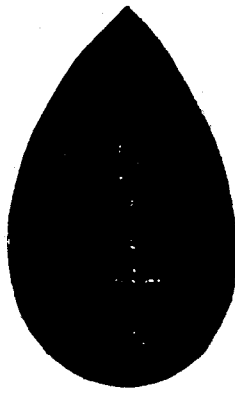
## RESOURCES

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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63RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Blood and Fire"

Activated—15 June 1943

Returned To United States—Early-September 1945

Inactivated—27 September 1945

Battle Credits, World War II:   Alsace       Saar       Siegfried Line       Rhineland  
  Württemberg       Bavaria

Days In Combat—119

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Louis E. Hibbs

June 1943—July 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 63rd Infantry Division was activated at Camp Blanding, Florida, in June 1943. Its commander, Major-General Louis E. Hibbs, saw extensive action in World War I with the 1st Infantry Division. He was wounded twice, once seriously in the arm by shell fragments, and was hospitalized for nine months.

After 1½ years of training in the United States, the 63rd left Camp Shanks, New York, for the embarkation from New York harbor, and arrived in Marseille, France, on 8 December 1944. Under the code name of Task Force Harris, the 63rd helped protect the eastern flank of the U.S. 7th Army along the west bank of the Rhine between Seltz and Gamsheim. The 79th Infantry Division was on the north flank, and the 36th Infantry Division to the south. From 23-31 December 1944, the Task Force fought defensively in this area with two of its regiments, the 253rd and 255th. This sector was, at this time, relatively quiet with light enemy patrol activity. The first division casualty—killed in action, was reported by the 255th on 23 December 1944.

On 28 December, the newly arrived 70th Infantry Division began relieving these two regiments along the Rhine, and the 63rd was divided up. The 253rd and 255th Infantry Regiments were attached to the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions, respectively, both of which were fighting in northern Alsace. On 1 January 1945, the Germans opened a furious offensive in this region, and fierce and heavy fighting ensued as the Americans battled hard to stem the German assault in bitter-cold weather. 3 January was a particularly rough day for the 255th Infantry, as it suffered heavy casualties in conducting determined counterattacks.

Meanwhile, further south, the 254th Infantry Regiment had been attached to the famous 3rd Infantry Division which was helping the French against the Germans in the Colmar Pocket. This was a sizeable area the German 19th Army was holding onto in eastern Alsace, roughly halfway between Strasbourg and the Swiss border, with the nucleus about the town of Colmar.

After numerous U.S. and French attacks and German counterattacks, an all-out offensive was launched by the two Allies to eliminate this troublesome area, beginning 20 January 1945. Operating on the north side of this pocket, the 254th Infantry joined in the attack on 22 January, and very tough combat followed. The 254th struggled forward through knee-deep snow which concealed deadly land mines. These fiendish devices were designed to blow a man's foot or leg off below the knee, and not a few men bled to death from these mortal wounds as they laid in the deep snow.

The 254th soon became involved in the battle of Hill 216. Its men literally crawled up

this hill in the face of murderous machine-gun fire and took it. But many never made it to the top. This was a very courageous feat of arms.

Dug-in German 88mm guns caused considerable losses as the 254th fought its way into the key town of Jepsheim. The 254th then beat back vicious attacks by a regiment of the élite Austrian 2nd Mountain Division, with much of the fighting at very close quarters.

The 3rd Division and the 254th Regiment held fast and, along with the 12th Armored and 28th and 75th Infantry Divisions, plus the French, began renewed powerful attacks. At one point, the 254th captured over 500 prisoners, and the Germans were finally cleared out of the Colmar area, their last remaining stronghold west of the Rhine in Alsace. This battle has been described as one of the hardest fought campaigns on the Western Front. Major-General "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, commended the 254th for its valiant part in the struggle, and the entire regiment, as well as the entire 3rd Infantry Division, were later awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

Then, with the entire division reassembled, the 63rd pushed forward into the Saar area near the Saar-Blies Rivers, near Sarreguemines. The division conducted local raids and patrols, and then crossed the Saar River on 17 February 1945. This operation was in conjunction with the 70th Infantry Division on its left (west) flank. The 63rd ran into strenuous German opposition near Bliesransbach and beyond, and led the U.S. 7th Army advance onto German soil for the first time. The 63rd captured the fortress town of Ormesheim, and also cleared the enemy out of a sizeable wooded area.

Next, after bitter fighting at Bubingen in early-March, the 63rd smashed at the Siegfried Line as one of a dozen 7th Army divisions attacking in an all-out offensive, beginning 15 March 1945. On the 63rd's left flank was the 70th Infantry Division, and on the right the 3rd Infantry Division. The Blood and Fire Division was the first 7th Army unit to break through the Siegfried Line. After several days of heavy fighting it breached the line at St. Ingbert and Hassel on 20 March. The 63rd then fought on to take Spiesen, Erbach, and the sizeable town of Neunkirchen, before receiving several days of rest beginning on 23 March.

On 28 March 1945, the 63rd crossed the Rhine at Neuschloss. A pontoon bridge, constructed by the engineers was in place, and the men and vehicles crossed unmolested.

Advancing to Viernheim, and then in conjunction with the 10th Armored Division, the 63rd took the old university city of Heidelberg against hardly any resistance at all. In fact, many of the people turned out to cheer on the Americans and throw flowers at them!—no doubt, greatly because their city was spared the destruction which was the fate of almost every other major city in Germany. This was on 30 March. The Nazis, who were great ones for burning books, had always regarded Heidelberg as their principal seat of learning. Not a single book was burned by the 63rd.

As April 1945 opened, the men who wore the blood-tipped sword headed east—and into very heavy fighting in the Neckar River Valley, where the Germans resisted fiercely. Attacking along a broad front over miles of hilly, wooded terrain, interlaced with steep ascents, rivers, and streams, the 63rd, along with the 10th Armored and 100th Infantry Divisions, had to battle hard to force a crossing of the Neckar. The 63rd, facing the much-battered, but still formidable 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, severely mauled this enemy formation in the Hardthäuser Woods, but also suffered heavy losses, especially in the 253rd Infantry Regiment. The 63rd's two Medal of Honor winners emerged from out of this fighting in the Neckar Valley.

On 6 April 1945, 1st Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., was a field artillery forward observer attached to Company A, 253rd Infantry Regiment, near Untergriesheim, Germany.

Eight hours of desperate fighting over open terrain swept by enemy machine-gun, mortar, and small-arms fire had decimated Company A, and robbed it of its commanding officer and most of its key enlisted personnel.

Lt Robinson rallied the remaining 23 uninjured riflemen and a few walking wounded and, while carrying his heavy radio for communication with artillery batteries, led them in a charge against a German objective. Ten enemy infantrymen in foxholes attempted to stop them, but the gallant leader killed all 10 at point-blank range with rifle and pistol fire. They swept all resistance from the area.

Shortly after, the lieutenant was ordered to seize the defended town of Kressbach. In this advance, he was seriously wounded in the throat by a shell fragment. Despite great pain, he refused medical treatment and continued the attack, directing artillery fire until he no longer could speak. Only after the town had been taken, did he walk nearly two miles to an aid station where he died from his wound, a lasting source of inspiration to the men he had

led in their trying ordeal. Lt Robinson's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

Two days later, on 8 April 1945, when this fighting was at its worst, Company F, 253rd Infantry, was advancing near the small town of Lobenbacherhof, when German machine-gun and automatic rifle fire opened up on it from a hill on its right flank.

His platoon leader being wounded, Staff Sergeant John R. Crews, on his own initiative, rushed this strongpoint with two other men. One of these men was killed and the other badly wounded, but he continued his assault up the hill in the face of terrific fire. Storming the well dug-in position, he killed 2 of the machine-gun crew at point-blank range with his rifle, and wrested a gun from the hands of a German he had wounded. He then charged the strongly emplaced automatic rifle. Although badly wounded in the thigh from crossfire from the remaining enemy, he kept on and silenced the entire position with his accurate, deadly rifle fire. His actions so unnerved the remaining enemy that 7 surrendered and the others fled. Very fortunately, Sgt Crews lived to receive his Medal of Honor.

On 10 April, the 255th Infantry Regiment established a bridgehead across the Kocher River which opened the way for the 10th Armored Division to pierce the Heilbronn Line. On 12 April, the 63rd forced the Neckar River, near Mosbach and the Jagst River.

Continuing the advance, the 63rd then began to pivot into a southeasterly direction with the 254th Infantry Regiment in the outer rim of the attack (the furthest east). Heavy enemy resistance slowed the attacks on Adelsheim, Möckmühl, and Bad Wimpfen. After capturing Lampoldshausen and then Weissbach, Schwäbisch Hall fell by 17 April. This is a very hilly and wooded region, and was full of areas for potential ambushes by the Germans. As they fell back, they imposed numerous delaying actions and roadblocks, as well as an occasional counterattack on the men of the Blood and Fire Division. As German resistance became more erratic and disorganized, the 63rd was one of the outfits that continued the pursuit relentlessly, striking at the near-beaten enemy forces. It chased the Germans through the province of Württemberg, crossed the Rems River, and rushed toward the Danube.

However, the Germans still refused to believe they were licked, and resistance stiffened, with the 63rd sustaining severe losses in the valley of the Danube. The 254th and 253rd Infantry Regiments had some hard fighting before they could cross the Danube at Günzburg and Leipheim, respectively. At Leipheim, the Germans suddenly lashed back with a vicious counterattack including some armor, but with the help from elements of the 12th Armored Division, which was fighting on the 63rd's eastern flank, the Germans were hurled back, and Leipheim fell by noon on 26 April.

After crossing the Danube, the 63rd continued in hot pursuit to the southeast with the 253rd and 255th Infantry in the lead. Wertach was captured, and then Landsberg was reached near the edge of the Bavarian Alps. It was here in prison that Hitler had written his book "Mein Kampf". When the Americans arrived, the fortress, built to accommodate 500, was crammed with some 1,400 wretched prisoners of many nationalities. And the dead and dying lay all over the camp. From the Rhine into Bavaria had cost the 63rd at least 400 men!

At noon on Sunday, 29 April 1945, nine days before V-E Day, the 63rd was relieved from combat at Landsberg by the great 36th Infantry Division. It was a hard-earned and well-deserved rest. The 63rd had been in continuous contact with the enemy since 23 December 1944, except for several days between the Siegfried Line breakthrough and the Rhine crossing. Altogether, the division had captured 21,542 prisoners.

The 63rd, following the German surrender, was then assigned security duty within an area from the Rhine on the west, between Darmstadt and Speyer, to Stuttgart and Würzburg on the east. Divisional headquarters was in Bad Mergentheim. The 63rd began leaving for home on 21 August 1945.

The 63rd Infantry Division—a truly first-class outfit.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—980
Distinguished Unit Citations—4 *	Killed In Action—844
Distinguished Service Crosses—5	Wounded—3,326
Silver Stars—435	Missing—98
	Captured—219
	Total Casualties—4,487

\* One to the entire 254th Infantry Regiment—Colmar Pocket, Alsace, France





63RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Blood and Fire"

APRIL 1945

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221

MAY 1945

1 May 1  
 2 May 1  
 2

JUNE 1945

7 June 1  
 1

63RD INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----9 April 1945  
 bloodiest month-----April 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----8 April 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----3 January 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----960  
 509 are listed=53.0% KIA--8/4



## 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Battle-axe"

Activated—16 August 1943

Inactivated—31 August 1945 in Germany

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

Days In Combat—55

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Stanley E. Reinhart

August 1943—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 65th Infantry Division landed at Le Havre, France, on 21 January 1945, and proceeded to Camp Lucky Strike, where training continued until 1 March. The 65th then moved forward to relieve the 26th Infantry Division in the right flank of the U.S. 3rd Army front along the Saar River, near Saarlautern.

First elements entered the line on 5 March 1945, and the whole division took over an aggressive defense from Orscholz to Wadgassen on 8 March.

After diversionary attacks commencing on 13 March 1945, the 261st Infantry Regiment crossed the Saar, near Menningen, on 17 March. It cleared the heights south of Merzig, and took Dillingen the following day. The rest of the 65th fought its way out of this bridgehead, as the 259th Infantry Regiment captured Fraulautern, and the 260th Infantry Regiment seized Saarlautern. Both of these regiments saw very heavy fighting, but the 260th Infantry had secured Saarlautern by the end of the day on 19 March 1945. It was in this first major action of the 65th, that it had a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc Frederick C. Murphy, Medical Detachment, 259th Infantry Regiment, at Saarlautern, Germany.

An aid man, he was wounded in the right shoulder soon after the attack jumped-off. He refused to withdraw from the battle, and administered first aid under heavy artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire. When his company ran into a minefield and suffered further casualties, he unhesitatingly braved the danger of exploding mines, and moved about in heavy fire, helping the wounded, until he stepped on a mine which severed one of his feet.

In spite of this grievous wound, he struggled on with his work, crawling from man to man while bleeding profusely and in great pain. As he made an effort to reach another casualty, he dragged across another mine and was killed in the explosion.

With indomitable courage and supreme spirit of self-sacrifice, Pfc Murphy saved many of his fellow soldiers at the cost of his own life. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

By 20 March 1945, the Siegfried Line defenses, in the 65th's zone, had begun to crack. On 21 March, the 65th took the sizeable town of Neunkirchen, in conjunction with the 63rd Infantry Division.

Closing into the Schwabenheim area, the 65th crossed the Rhine during the night of 29-30 March 1945. The city of Wiesbaden, west of Frankfurt, fell against negligible resistance. The 65th was now under Patton's 3rd Army.

The 65th attacked across the Fulda, 2 April 1945, in the wake of the 6th Armored Division, advanced north-northeast toward central Germany. The division reached the Reich-

ensachen-Langenhain line, 3 April, where it rested as armor with road priority passed it. On this same day the 259th Infantry crossed the Werra River, in central Germany, and continued on to the Greuzberg area on 4 April 1945.

Advancing almost due east, the 65th assaulted Langensalza, which was taken on 6 April, but a German counterattack overran a battalion of the 261st Infantry Regiment at Struth, on 7 April 1945. The situation was restored with air support, and the 65th went into reserve, 8 April 1945, moving to Berka on the 10th.

The 65th moved to Waltershausen, 11 April, and then mopped-up stragglers at Arnstadt. On 17 April 1945, the division assembled in Bamberg, and attacked toward Altdorf with the 259th and 260th Infantry Regiments the next day.

There was some sharp combat on 20 April 1945, as the 65th headed toward southeastern Bavaria. Neumarkt was taken on 23 April, and the division then advanced south toward the Danube River.

The 65th forced the Danube four miles below the city of Regensburg against strong opposition, especially against the 261st Infantry Regiment, 26 April 1945. The 260th Infantry Regiment took Regensburg the following day, as the 13th Armored Division passed through its sector.

The 65th crossed the Isar River, at Plattling, on 1 May 1945. The 261st Infantry reached the Inn River, at the picturesque town of Passau, next to the Austrian border, 2 May 1945, and assaulted across the Inn at Neuhaus. Passau fell the next day, and the 261st Infantry pushed toward the city of Linz, Austria. Meanwhile, the 260th Infantry mopped-up a local woods between Sandbach and Passau. The Inn River crossings were completed on 4 May 1945. The 260th Infantry entered Linz on 5 May 1945. The 11th Armored Division had already been fighting in the city. The 261st Infantry reached the Enns River, deep in central Austria. These first days of May 1945, for the 65th, were marked by German troops surrendering enmasse in some areas, and still fierce fighting in others.

On 7 May 1945, one day before V-E Day, a patrol from the 259th Infantry crossed the Enns, and proceeded on to Unterwinden and Haag.

On the afternoon of 8 May 1945, V-E Day, the 65th met the Russians near Strengberg, Austria. After this, the 65th moved back to Linz, under a separate occupation agreement.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—1  
Silver Stars—77

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—261  
Killed In Action—233  
Wounded—927  
Missing—3  
Captured—67  
Total Casualties—1,230





66TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Black Panther"

Activated—15 April 1943

Returned To United States—6 November 1945

Inactivated—8 November 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Brittany

Days In Combat—91

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Herman F. Kramer

April 1943—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 66th Infantry Division arrived in England, late-November to early-December 1944. On 24 December, the division began crossing the English Channel to Cherbourg, France. A German U-boat fired a torpedo into one of the transport ships, and 14 officers and 748 enlisted men were lost.

Upon reaching France, the 66th was assigned to relieve the 94th Infantry Division, beginning 29 December 1944, and take over the important, if not glamorous mission, of containing 50,000 Germans in the ports of Lorient and St. Nazaire, on the south coast of Brittany. These German troops remained a constant security threat not only to the rear of the Allied Lines, but also, to the local populace, as long as they refused to surrender. Most of these Germans were first-rate troops.

With each side in a highly frustrating situation, there occurred many sharp patrol clashes and frequent artillery duels. The 66th, for the most part, limited its activities to containing actions, rather than mounting unnecessary and costly attacks into the German lines. And, for the most part, also, the Germans stayed put. However, on 16 April 1945, they launched a heavy attack near La Croix, but this was repulsed with heavy casualties to the Germans. The 66th then commenced a number of limited attacks and took several strongly emplaced German positions between 19-29 April 1945. During all this time, the Black Panthers were greatly aided by the French Forces of the Interior (FFI).

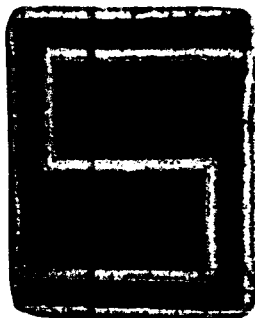
The German troops in the Lorient and St. Nazaire pockets surrendered to the 66th upon the end of hostilities in Europe on 8 May 1945. This action also freed 180,000 French civilians who had been trapped in these German held areas.

The 66th then moved into Germany for occupational duty in the Koblenz area, and then was sent south to Marseille, France, the task of the division being to see that this port of embarkation, from which American troops flowed toward home and to the Pacific, was kept running smoothly. The 66th sailed for home on 27 October 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—0  
Silver Stars—78

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—800  
Killed In Action—795  
Wounded—636  
Missing—0  
Captured—21  
Total Casualties—1,452





69TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Fighting 69th"

Activated—15 May 1943

Returned To United States—13 September 1945

Inactivated—16 September 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Siegfried Line Rhineland Central Germany

Days In Combat—86

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Emil F. Reinhardt

September 1944—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 69th Infantry Division, activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on 15 May 1943, arrived in England, on 12 December 1944, and moved to near Winchester.

On 24 January 1945, the 69th landed at Le Havre, France. From there, it moved through Belgium, relieving the 99th Infantry Division on 12 February 1945, and holding defensive positions in the Siegfried Line. This was in the U.S. 1st Army sector of the front.

Some of the positions occupied by the infantry and artillery were in the pillboxes themselves. The roads were rough and muddy, and it rained and snowed much of the time, with the Germans harrassing the men of the 69th with artillery and "screaming meemies" (nebelwerfers—or multiple rockets). Intensive patrolling was carried out until 27 February 1945.

On 27 February 1945, the 69th went over to the attack with two regiments abreast. The main mission was to seize and hold the high ground between Hönningen and Gescheid. This objective was taken by 1100 hours, and six towns were overrun including Hönningen, Gescheid, Buschem, and Dickerscheid. This advance also facilitated use of the Hellenthal-Hollerath Highway. The Germans were blasted very heavily with artillery in this attack, but the 69th still sustained heavy casualties.

On 7 March 1945, the 69th resumed the attack on a 2,000 yard front, taking Schmidtheim and Dahlem, and capturing over 200 prisoners.

From 9-21 March 1945, the division engaged in mopping-up activities. This period was brightened somewhat by the fact that the 69th was able to locate and liberate some supplies of excellent Rhine wine.

Then, against ineffectual resistance, the 69th resumed its advance to the Rhine. It took Jamberg, crossed the large river, and captured the ancient fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, as well as the Lahn River towns of Bad Ems and Nassau, on 27 March.

Advancing into central Germany, the 69th relieved the 80th Infantry Division in the city of Kassel, on 5 April 1945. It then took two days of bitter fighting to take the heavily defended town of Hann-Münden. The attack continued eastward through the province of northern Thuringia via Schlotheim, Kölleda, and Naumburg, until slowed down and then stopped by fanatical resistance in the sizeable town of Weissenfels, which fell on 14 April. The 272nd Infantry Regiment also reached the Weisse River at Luetzkewitz.

Continuing further to the east, the 69th, in conjunction with the 2nd Infantry Division, approached the city of Leipzig, which was ringed with numerous 88mm guns geared to fire flat trajectory, and considerable fighting developed just outside the city, in the area of Zwenkau. Upon entering Leipzig, the 69th, along with tanks of the 9th Armored Division,



fought a fierce battle, notably at the railroad station (the largest in Germany) and at the base of Napoleon's Monument, a huge building held by fanatical, die-hard Germans. Both places were massive structures built of heavy masonry and stone from which artillery shells actually bounced or were deflected off! They were tough places to reduce, but after being blasted by tanks and self-propelled guns, plus infantry assaults, the Germans finally surrendered on 19 April 1945. But the fighting in, and around, Leipzig, had cost the 69th heavy losses—among other losses, 107 men killed in action or died of wounds.

Six hours after the fall of Leipzig, the 69th continued on east, relieving the 9th Armored Division, and securing the east bank of the Mulde River. Little opposition was met except at Eilenburg, where fresh German troops were encountered. The 69th couldn't see losing any more men this late in the war than absolutely necessary, so the town was blasted with more than 10,000 rounds of white phosphorus and high explosive artillery shells. Needless to say, there wasn't much left of Eilenburg (formerly 20,000) after this. The town fell on 23 April 1945.

On 25 April 1945, sizeable patrols of the 69th continued east to the Elbe River, where contact was made with the Russian 58th Guards Division near Leckwitz, Torgau, and Strehla. And so, the 69th had the distinction of being the first American division to link-up with the Red Army.

The 69th was then given occupational duties until leaving for home in September 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—3  
Silver Stars—112

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—384  
Killed In Action—341  
Wounded—1,146  
Missing—9  
Captured—10  
Total Casualties—1,506

## 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Fighting 69th"

## FEBRUARY 1945

11 Feb 1  
 18 Feb 1  
 19 Feb 111  
 20 Feb 11  
 22 Feb 111111111111111111111111 25\*  
 25 Feb 1 approx.  
 26 Feb 1 45\*men  
 27 Feb 11111  
 28 Feb 1111111111111111111111 23

62

## MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111111111111111111 17  
 2 Mar 1  
 4 Mar 1  
 5 Mar 1  
 6 Mar 111  
 7 Mar 11111111 9  
 8 Mar 1  
 23 Mar 1  
 34

## APRIL 1945

5 Apr 1111111  
 6 Apr 1111  
 7 Apr 1111111111111 13  
 8 Apr 11  
 9 Apr 11  
 11 Apr 11  
 12 Apr 111  
 13 Apr 11111111 8  
 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 1111  
 16 Apr 1111111111111111111111 23  
 17 Apr 1111111 8  
 18 Apr 11111111111111 15  
 19 Apr 11111111 9  
 21 Apr 1  
 22 Apr 1111  
 23 Apr 11111  
 24 Apr 1

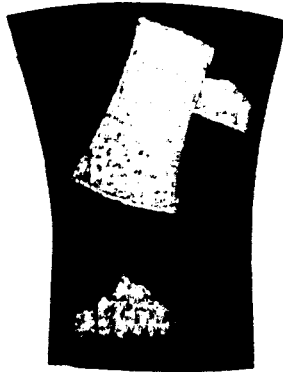
## MAY 1945

6 May 1  
 1

113

## 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----22 February 1945  
 bloodiest month-----April 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----28 February and 16 April 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----1 March 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----384  
 210 are listed=54.6% KIA--352



70TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Trailblazers"

Activated—15 June 1943

Returned To United States—10 October 1945

Inactivated—11 October 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Alsace Siegfried Line Saar Rhineland

Days In Combat—83

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Allison J. Barnett

July 1944—July 1945

**Combat Chronicle:** The 70th Infantry Division had an axe blade as its shoulder patch insignia, and it was a very appropriate one, for its men were axemen to the Wehrmacht. From the time the 70th entered combat, until the German capitulation, the Trailblazers never suffered a major setback.

The 70th was activated at Camp Adair, Oregon, on 15 June 1943. Its shoulder patch bears an axe in recognition of the pioneers who travelled the Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley (site of Camp Adair), a snowy mountain for Oregon's Mt. Hood, and a fir tree, symbolizing the 91st Infantry Division, from which officers and cadre of the 70th were drawn, prior to its activation. The 70th's recruits came largely from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, and Missouri.

After extensive training at Camp Adair and at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, the 70th left the Boston port of embarkation at the beginning of December 1944. The division arrived in Marseille, France, 10-15 December 1944, and was code named Task Force Herren. The division's three infantry regiments began relieving the 63rd Infantry Division along the west bank of the Rhine between Seltz and Gamsheim on 28 December 1944. This area is in the more northeastern part of Alsace.

The 70th was just in time to help stop the German offensive in northern Alsace which began on New Year's Eve, 1944. Shortly after midnight, 1 January 1945, the 275th Infantry Regiment was ordered to attack. From Bitche to Haguenau, the Krauts were smashing south, plowing over snow-covered hills. With the Battle of the Bulge raging to the northwest, it was a crucial time for the Allies in Europe.

The Trailblazers, shifting to the west away from the Rhine, first struck at the Germans at Phillipsbourg. The snow-covered hills were steep, the forests thick, and the weather was freezing. Increasing enemy infiltration eventually broke contact between four companies of the 275th Infantry, and innumerable fragmentary guerrilla-like actions resulted. But Phillipsbourg was recaptured in savage house-to-house fighting.

On 4 January 1945, the Germans had infiltrated an estimated 800 troopers from the 6th SS Mountain Division "Nord" into Wingen-sur-Moder, west of Phillipsbourg. Their mission was to establish contact with enemy forces to the north and hold fast. Nearly 150 men of the 276th Infantry Regiment were captured when the Germans cut their lines of communication

which channelled through Wingen. The German strategy made imperative the recapture of Wingen by the Americans.

Jumping-off before noon, 4 January, the 70th's attack made slow progress against withering automatic weapons fire. But by the next day, the 70th had completely surrounded Wingen. Anti-tank guns were hauled over mountain trails, the only routes available, and lowered from icy cliffs.

Spearheaded by the 274th Infantry Regiment, the attack was launched at dawn. The Germans were eliminated in a hard-fought 3-day battle, and American prisoners who had been forced to serve as litter bearers for the Germans were freed. SS men wearing American uniforms were dealt with accordingly. (They were shot). And so, the German attempt to cut-off the U.S. 7th Army from the rear had been thwarted, and one of the main northern prongs of the German advance was broken.

In mid-January 1945, the 70th moved to an area directly south of Saarbrücken, where it carried out reconnaissance and combat patrolling, and improved defensive positions. Meanwhile, the German offensive in Alsace was gradually sputtering out.

On 17 February 1945, in conjunction with the 63rd Infantry Division on its right (eastern) flank, the 70th began an attack just below the Saar River. Oeting, Kerbach, and Etzling fell in quick succession to the 276th and 274th Infantry, while in the right flank the 275th Infantry fought bitterly for Lixing and Grossbliederstroff.

The drive on Saarbrücken was a nightmare from the outset. From a distance the bright yellow shu-mines looked like a field of daffodils, and tanks couldn't move up to give the infantry the support they needed. It was tough fighting, but the 70th drove on into the high ground overlooking Saarbrücken, and then smashed into Forbach. It was bitter house-to-house battling as German rockets blasted unmercifully at the men of the 70th.

After seizing Forbach, the Trailblazers slugged forward to take Spicheren Heights and, beginning on 22 February, felt the full fury of numerous counterattacks, all of which were beaten back. The heights were held in very strenuous fighting.

Known as "Hitler's Holy Ground", the heights had sentimental as well as military value to the Germans. German soldiers are buried here where they had fought the French in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. It was at this point that Hitler first set foot in France, following his accession to power. On Christmas Day, 1939, during the "phony war", Der Führer cautiously advanced a few hundred yards into France, and spoke a few words to his followers.

Spicheren Heights overlooks the town of Styring-Wendel. In liberating this town, the 70th freed nearly 1,000 Allied prisoners of war, including French, Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, and Russians. This was one of the first, if not the first, deliverances of Allied POWs on the Western Front.

The 70th then poked all the way to the Saar. So far, the division had captured 18 towns, 2,034 prisoners, and had repulsed 29 counterattacks.

Then, on 15 March 1945, the 7th Army launched its major offensive into the Siegfried Line. On the left flank of the 70th was the 65th Infantry Division, and on the right the 63rd Infantry Division. Anti-tank ditches, roadblocks, demolitions, and furious enemy resistance failed to stop the 70th which slashed forward across the Saar River. The city of Saarbrücken (population 133,000) was captured on 20 March. Among the prisoners taken were Prince August, son of the former Kaiser Wilhelm, and Julius Lippert, Lord Mayor of Berlin. One of the division's artillery shells had severed the lines leading to German demolition charges under the Altbrück Bridge. When the Germans attempted to blow-up this span, the charges failed to detonate. Accurate fire kept them from restoring the demolition system.

The 70th followed up the capture of Saarbrücken with the taking of the sizeable town of Völklingen, and other Saarland towns and villages.

In April, while other 7th Army divisions were crossing the Rhine, the 70th performed a very commendable job in the reduction of the Saar Basin. The Trailblazers became well-known to the American public for their fighting in the Saar. Among other newspapers printing stories on them was the New York Post which devoted a full column on the 70th, and the Minneapolis Tribune which printed a front page map of the unit's assault on Saarbrücken.

After the reduction of the Saar Basin, the 70th was assigned security duty along the middle Rhine, with its base at Frankfurt. At this time, the 70th was under 3rd Army command.

After V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 70th was engaged in occupational duties, with command posts at Frankfurt, Bad Kreuznach, Otterberg, and Oranienstein. The 70th left for home in October 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—1  
Distinguished Service Crosses—13  
Silver Stars—228

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—847  
Killed In Action—755  
Wounded—2,713  
Missing—54  
Captured—397  
Total Casualties—3,919

70TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Trailblazer"

JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1111  
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 5 Jan 11111111111111111111 29\*  
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 10 Jan 1111111 8  
 11 Jan 111111111111 14  
 12 Jan 1111111111 12  
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 14 Jan 111  
 15 Jan 1111  
 16 Jan 111  
 17 Jan 11  
 18 Jan 1  
 19 Jan 11  
 20 Jan 1  
 21 Jan 1  
 29 Jan 1  
 31 Jan 1

173

FEBRUARY 1945

6 Feb 11111  
 7 Feb 111111111111111111 21  
 8 Feb 1  
 15 Feb 1  
 17 Feb 11111111111111 16  
 18 Feb 111111111111 13  
 19 Feb 111111111 10  
 20 Feb 11111111111111 17  
 21 Feb 111111111111111 19  
 22 Feb 111111111111 14  
 23 Feb 1111111111111111 21  
 24 Feb 111111111111 15  
 25 Feb 11111111 9  
 26 Feb 11111  
 27 Feb 11  
 28 Feb 11111

175

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111  
 3 Mar 111111111111 13  
 4 Mar 1111111  
 5 Mar 111111  
 6 Mar 11111111 9  
 7 Mar 111  
 8 Mar 11  
 9 Mar 11  
 10 Mar 1  
 11 Mar 11  
 12 Mar 1  
 14 Mar 11111  
 15 Mar 111111111111 14  
 16 Mar 1111111 8  
 17 Mar 111  
 19 Mar 111  
 20 Mar 1  
 25 Mar 1  
 28 Mar 1

85

APRIL 1945

5 Apr 1  
 16 Apr 1  
 26 Apr 1

3

MAY 1945

3 May 1

1

70TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----5 January 1945  
 bloodiest month-----February 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----4 January 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----7 and 23 February 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----840  
 437 are listed=52.0% KIA--758



71ST INFANTRY DIVISION "The Red Circle"

Activated—15 July 1943

Returned To United States—10 March 1946

Inactivated—12 March 1946

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

Days In Combat—62

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Willard G. Wyman

November 1944—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 71st Infantry Division arrived at Le Havre, France, on 6 February 1945. Heading east, the 71st relieved the 100th Infantry Division at Ratswiller in northern Alsace, in the 7th Army area.

The 71st first saw action on 11 March 1945, and on the 15th, the division took part in the 7th Army offensive through the Siegfried Line, with the 100th Infantry Division on its left flank and the 42nd Infantry Division on the right. The weather was still bitter cold, besides the enemy resistance, but by the 21st, the Red Circle had captured the large town of Pirmasens, and liberated 8,000 slave laborers.

After clearing up pockets of German resistance in the Hardt Mountains, west of the Rhine, the 71st crossed that large river at Oppenheim on 30 March 1945.

Advancing northeast into central Germany, the 71st had a fierce battle with a large body of German SS mountain troops in the region of Büdingen, in the first days of April. In fact, 3 April 1945 was the 71st's bloodiest day in combat. About 2,700 prisoners from this SS unit were taken prisoner by the 71st.

Passing through Fulda, the 71st advanced eastward for awhile through the southern part of Thuringia. It took Coburg unopposed, and then cut the Berlin-Munich autobahn on 13 April. This was the main highway escape route of high-ranking Nazis and other German officials fleeing Berlin, south to the Bavarian Alps. In this advance the 71st bagged upwards of 30 German generals. Then Bayreuth was captured, 16 April, after fierce opposition.

Now advancing southeast, the 71st headed into east-central Bavaria, and was placed under the U.S. 3rd Army.

The 71st passed through Trockau and Pegnitz on 17 April. On the 18th, it destroyed Schönfeld, and then took Sulzbach-Rosenberg. Crossing the Naab River at Kallmünz on the 24th, the division then crossed the Danube in assault boats on the 26th. In conjunction with the 65th Infantry Division, the 71st captured the city of Regensburg after considerable fighting on 27 April 1945.

Against increasingly disorganized resistance, the 71st crossed the Isar River, 29 April, and by 2 May had entered Austria. Although the war in Europe was almost over, the 71st sustained casualties almost to the very end. For example, on 6 May 1945, the 71st lost 7 men killed in action.

Ranging deep into Austria, the 71st reached the Enns River and organized and occupied defensive positions. To the north was the 65th Infantry Division and to the south the 80th Infantry Division. The Russians were contacted on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. The 71st was then assigned occupational duties in Augsburg, Germany, west of Munich.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—9  
Silver Stars—180

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—169  
Killed In Action—150  
Wounded—643  
Missing—9  
Captured—19  
Total Casualties—821



## 71ST INFANTRY DIVISION "The Red Circle"

## MARCH 1945

13 Mar 11  
 15 Mar 11  
 17 Mar 11  
 18 Mar 1  
 24 Mar 1  
 25 Mar 1111111111 11  
 26 Mar 1111  
 28 Mar 11111  
 28

## APRIL 1945

1 Apr 11  
 3 Apr 11111111111111111111 23\*  
 4 Apr 1 approx.  
 5 Apr 11 40\*men  
 7 Apr 11  
 11 Apr 11  
 12 Apr 1  
 14 Apr 11  
 15 Apr 1111  
 18 Apr 11  
 19 Apr 1  
 20 Apr 1111111  
 21 Apr 111  
 22 Apr 1  
 24 Apr 111  
 26 Apr 111  
 27 Apr 1  
 63

## MAY 1945

3 May 111  
 4 May 1  
 5 May 1  
 6 May 111  
 31 May 1  
 9

## AUGUST 1945

4 Aug 1  
 1

## 71ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—————3 April 1945  
 bloodiest month—————April 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day—————25 March 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day—————20 April 1945  
 Total battle deaths—————169  
 101 are listed=59.7% KIA—150



75TH INFANTRY DIVISION "75th"

Activated—15 April 1943

Returned To United States—18 November 1945

Inactivated—26 November 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Ardennes Alsace Rhineland Ruhr Pocket

Days In Combat—94

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Fay B. Prickett  
Maj-Gen Ray E. Porter

August 1943—January 1945  
January—June 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 75th Infantry Division finished training at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, on 15 October 1944, and, after leaving Camp Shanks, New York, on the 22nd, left New York harbor and arrived in England on 3 November 1944. The 75th landed at Le Havre and Rouen, France, on 13 December, and bivouacked at Yvetot on the 14th.

The 75th was supposed to have went to the 9th Army, but when the German counteroffensive began in the Ardennes on 16 December 1944, the division was rushed to the front and took up positions along the Ourthe River in eastern Belgium on 23 December 1944.

The 75th's initiation to combat was both a very bloody and bitter-cold experience. It seized Grandmenil, 26 December against heavy resistance. Blinding snowstorms and heavy drifting added to the terrain difficulties. Snowdrifts often filled ravines so as to make them unnoticeable until men and equipment disappeared from sight. Movement was especially rough at night, and minefields in the snow were hard to detect.

Between 27 December 1944-1 January 1945, the 289th and 290th Infantry Regiments were attached to the 3rd Armored Division. Part of the 12th SS Panzer Division filtered in between units of the 289th and penetrated to Sadzot, before being stopped by strong counterattacks. Casualties were heavy on both sides.

Then, on 2 January 1945, the U.S. 1st Army began a strong offensive on the northern flank of the Bulge to throw back the Germans, and the 75th advanced to the Salm River where it relieved the great-fighting 82nd Airborne Division on 8 January.

In the bitter cold, the 75th strengthened its defensive positions until 15 January, when it again went over to the offensive. Opposing enemy units were the 62nd and 326th Volksgrenadier Divisions. The 75th cleared Salmchâteau and Bech, and helped take the important bastion of Vielsalm in bitter fighting. After advancing to St. Vith and seeing combat in that area, the division was pulled out of the line for a short rest.

In one month of bitter combat in the Battle of the Bulge, the 75th suffered losses including 407 men killed in action and 1,707 wounded. The intense cold had been as serious an antagonist as the Germans. Non-battle casualties, mostly trench foot, frostbite, and cold injury, accounted for 2,633 more men. Despite all of this, the 75th was now a battle-hardened fighting division, blooded in the snow, hills, valleys, towns, and forests of the Ardennes.

Next, the 75th was sent by rail to enter the battle in the Colmar Pocket, in east-central Alsace. Several American divisions were loaned out to help the French 1st Army eliminate

this troublesome area the Germans were still holding west of the Rhine, and the 75th was one.

This battle was a hard-fought and bloody one. The German 19th Army had had plenty of time to build-up some very strong defenses, the snow was knee-deep with considerable drifting, and the Germans had planted numerous mines.

The primary mission of the 75th was to cover the right flank of the 3rd Infantry Division in its attack southeast toward the Rhine.

After the initial assault had opened on 22 January 1945, the 75th joined in the battle on 1 February by taking Horbourg and Andolsheim in fierce house-to-house fighting. In Horbourg, snipers installed in the church steeple were eliminated by destroying the steeple with a bazooka. The Germans counterattacked, but were repulsed.

On 2 February, the 75th overcame stubborn opposition in the Colmar Forest and, by the 5th, had taken Wolfgantzen and Appenwihr. Pushing southeast, the 75th crossed the Rhone-Rhine Canal without resistance, 7 February, and by the 10th, the battle was over except for mopping-up actions. The Germans lost their last stronghold west of the Rhine in Alsace, and suffered around 30,000 casualties in the overall battle.

After a short rest in Lunéville, Lorraine, the 75th was moved up far to the north and returned to combat. The division relieved the British 6th Airborne Division on a 24-mile front along the Maas River, near Roermond, in southeast Holland, beginning 21 February 1945. Reconnaissance and numerous patrol actions were conducted and, at times, the 75th was subjected to heavy artillery fire.

Then, as the Americans slashed to the Rhine, the 75th patrolled a sector along the west bank from Wesel to Homburg, between 13-23 March, and probed enemy defenses at night. At this time, the 75th was under the U.S. 9th Army.

Then, on 24 March 1945, the 75th crossed the Rhine in the wake of the 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions. For the next two weeks the 75th battled inside the Ruhr Pocket against very heavy opposition from elements of 4 different German divisions—the 180th and 190th Infantry, the 116th Panzer, and the reconstituted 2nd Parachute. Though badly understrength, the last two formations were still among the best that Germany had left.

The 75th cleared the Haard Forest, 1 April, and crossed the Ems-Dortmund Canal on the 4th. Two slave-labor camps were liberated containing some 3,000 inmates.

The 75th then ran into prolonged and furious fighting in the northern portion of the huge Ruhr Pocket. Battling over difficult terrain in the vicinity of the city of Dortmund, it was some of the heaviest resistance encountered by any U.S. unit during this big battle.

At first, the 75th contained Dortmund, while fighting to take the smaller town of Witten, just to the southwest. The 75th had its hands full, and after several days of heavy fighting, a very large task force battled to the east to link-up with the hard-pressed division. This powerful force included one regiment of the 17th Airborne Division, and the 8th Armored and 79th and 95th Infantry Divisions and the 15th Cavalry Group. A gestapo headquarters was destroyed by the 75th at Annen after hard fighting, and by 12 April, the Germans had fallen back south of the Ruhr River. By now, the 95th Infantry Division was on the 75th's left flank and the 79th Infantry Division on the right.

The attack continued against stubborn opposition over rough, hilly terrain. Several smaller towns were taken by the 75th, all against bitter resistance. At last, in one final burst of energy, the 75th and 95th surged forward and took Dortmund. After taking Herdecke, the 75th moved to Brambauer for rest and rehabilitation, and then security duty.

On V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 75th was at Lütgen, Germany, and, shortly after, set up occupational headquarters in Werdohl. Later, the division moved out to operate an assembly area for other troops being returned to the United States. The 75th left for home in November 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—4  
Silver Stars—193

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—932  
Killed In Action—817  
Wounded—3,314  
Missing—77  
Captured—116  
Total Casualties—4,324



75TH INFANTRY DIVISION "75th"

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 11111111111111 14  
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 3 Feb 11111111111111111111 23  
 4 Feb 111111111111111 15  
 5 Feb 11111111 8  
 6 Feb 11111111  
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 8 Feb 1  
 17 Feb 1  
 24 Feb 1  
 25 Feb 11  
 26 Feb 1111  
 28 Feb 111  
 90

MARCH 1945

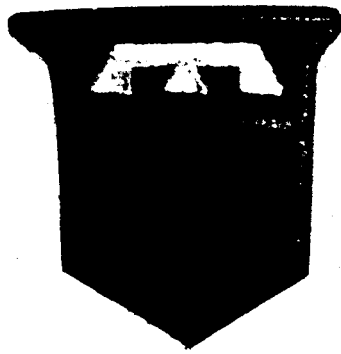
1 Mar 11  
 6 Mar 1  
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 18 Mar 11  
 19 Mar 11  
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 26 Mar 1  
 28 Mar 1  
 29 Mar 111  
 30 Mar 11  
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 37

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 11  
 2 Apr 11111111 8  
 3 Apr 11  
 4 Apr 111  
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 9 Apr 111111  
 10 Apr 111  
 11 Apr 11111111 8  
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 25 Apr 111111  
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 78

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----15 January 1945  
 bloodiest month-----January 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----3 February 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----25 December 1944; 20 January 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----922  
 479 are listed=51.9% KIA-818



76TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Liberty Bell"

Activated (WW II)—15 June 1942

Inactivated—31 August 1945 in Germany

Battle Credits, World War II: Siegfried Line Rhineland Central Germany

Days In Combat—107

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen William R. Schmidt

December 1942—July 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 76th Infantry Division, also nicknamed the "Onaway Division", was composed of men from every state of the Union. After extensive training in the United States, the 76th arrived in England on 20 December 1944, where it received some additional training. The division landed at Le Havre, France, 12 January 1945, and after moving to near Reims, and then Champlon, Belgium, prepared for combat.

The 76th was placed under the 3rd Army, and relieved the 87th Infantry Division in defensive positions along the Sauer and Moselle Rivers in eastern Luxembourg, toward the end of the Battle of the Bulge, on 25 January 1945. At this time, the valiant 4th Infantry Division was on the left flank, and to the right was the 2nd Cavalry Group.

Mines were a nightmare of worry, not lessened by the fact that the earth was blanketed with snow. And directly ahead of the 76th, across the rivers, was the Siegfried Line. Facing the 76th was the 212th Volksgrenadier Division.

In early-February, in conjunction with the great 5th Infantry Division, the 76th crossed the icy Sauer from Luxembourg into Germany in a magnificent feat of arms. The Sauer River, ordinarily a meandering, slumbersome stream, was in February 1945 a raging torrent fed by heavy rains and thawing snow, and anywhere from 90-180 feet wide.

From the very start of the attack there was enemy mortar and artillery fire. Some assault boats were damaged, some were swept downriver, while others capsized. Barbed wire abutted the river and when the men got to the other side (those who made it) they were caught up in it.

On 8 February, the 301st Engineer Battalion began a pontoon bridge across the Sauer, and, despite casualties, after much concentrated labor, saw the rest of the 76th march across. The men who sometimes jokingly called themselves "the Bell Telephone outfit", because of the design of their shoulder patch, were the first American troops to enter Germany from Luxembourg.

Near Bitburg, Germany, the 76th cleared the east bank of the Prüm River, went south to take Irrel, Wolsfeld, and Alsdorf, and then drove a salient across a highway linking Bitburg with the city of Trier, and contributing greatly to Trier's ultimate capture.

Inside Germany, joining up with the 10th Armored Division, the Liberty Bell made two crossings of the Moselle River, pushing to 17 miles north of Trier, and adding such towns as Butzweiler, Binsfeld, Herscherforst, and Arrenrath to its bag.

As the winter wore on, the 76th found itself mixed up in some heavy fighting. In one sector, 3,000 meters square, the 76th cleaned out a total of 131 German pillboxes.

By 25 February 1945, the advance continued across the Prüm and Nims Rivers. Katzenkopf Fortress fell on the 28th, and the attack pushed on, reaching the Moselle again by 3 March.

Driving across the Kyll against heavy resistance, and advancing along the north bank of the twisting, winding Moselle, the 76th took Hosten, 3 March, and several other towns by the 10th.

The 76th then crossed the Moselle on 18 March, near Mülheim, and into the northern part of the Palatinate. It was in this operation that the 76th had one of its 2 Medal of Honor winners of the war, Private William D. McGee, Medical Detachment, 304th Infantry Regiment.

A medical aid man, he made a night crossing of the Moselle with troops whose object was to capture Mülheim. The Germans had retreated in this area, but had left the banks of the river heavily laden with anti-personnel mines.

Two men of the first wave, attempting to work their way forward, detonated mines which seriously wounded them, and left them bleeding and in great pain beyond the reach of their fellow soldiers.

Entirely on his own initiative, Pvt McGee entered the minefield and brought out one of the wounded men to comparative safety. He then returned to rescue the second man, when he stepped on a mine and was severely wounded in the explosion. Although suffering intensely and bleeding badly, he shouted to his buddies for none of them to try to risk rescuing him.

In saving one man, and attempting to rescue another at his own self-sacrifice, Pvt McGee upheld the very highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

Advancing to the Rhine, the 76th took over defenses from Boppard to St. Goar, and then crossed the river at Boppard on 27 March 1945.

Driving eastward, the 76th ran into a hornet's nest of SS troops in Kamberg, and had to take it in a fierce house-to-house struggle.

Then, after consolidating in the province of Hesse, north of Friedberg, the 76th attacked as part of the 3rd Army offensive into central Germany. After crossing the Werra River, 4 April, the Liberty Bell met heavy opposition including air strikes. In and around Langensalza, the Luftwaffe made a last dying effort, and antiaircraft crews had a field day.

Working with the veteran 6th Armored Division, the two divisions were an unbeatable combination. Advances became so rapid that communication and supply lines were often strained to the limits.

Then, the 76th came to the town of Zeitz (population 30,000) and there developed a bitter, violent battle. The fighting lasted throughout 14-15 April. It ended with more than 1,000 Germans being killed and wounded. The 76th's losses were heavy. In addition, some 1,000 French slave laborers and 250 Russian soldiers were liberated from a POW camp.

Shortly after this, the Liberty Bell had a sharp battle with the Germans near Gera, and then established a bridgehead across the Mulde River. By this time, the 76th had captured 33,000 prisoners. The 76th lost over 100 men in Central Germany.

When American forces were ordered to pull back out of occupied territory assigned to the Russians, the 76th retired from the city of Chemnitz, to the west bank of the Mulde, and took up positions south and west of the city of Zwickau.

In July 1945, the 76th was on guard duty at Hof, near the Czech border, and was inactivated there that following August.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2  
Distinguished Unit Citations—2 \*  
Distinguished Service Crosses—13  
Silver Stars—214

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—779  
Killed In Action—667  
Wounded—2,500  
Missing—18  
Captured—141  
Total Casualties—3,326

\* One to the entire 417th Infantry Regiment—Across The Sauer River

Other 76th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action \*

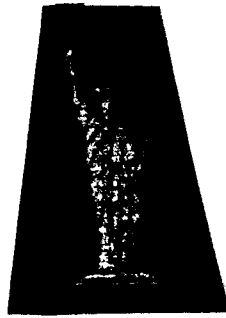
Pfc Herman C. Wallace, \* 301st Engineer Bn, 27 February 1945, near Prümzurley, Germany.

He absorbed the full blast of a mine by smothering the blast with his foot. He was killed, but he saved the lives of several of his fellow soldiers.

Footnote: The third line infantry regiment of the 76th Infantry Division in World War II was the 385th Infantry Regiment.







## 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Statue of Liberty"

Activated (WW II)—25 March 1942

Inactivated—15 March 1946 in Japan

Battle Credits, World War II: Guam Leyte Ie Shima Okinawa

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Andrew D. Bruce

May 1943—February 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 77th Infantry Division, "New York's Own", first saw action in World War I. It first served in Lorraine, and then took part in the Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne offensives. It was in the Meuse-Argonne forest that the 77th produced the famous "lost battalion", which was rescued by elements of the 28th Infantry Division after having been surrounded by the Germans and suffering heavy casualties.

In World War II, the 77th landed in Hawaii on 31 March 1944, and trained in amphibious and jungle warfare.

With a great many of its men from New York City, New Jersey, and surrounding areas, the 77th first went into action against the Japanese in the historic recapture of Guam in the summer of 1944. Also, taking part in this invasion was the 3rd Marine Division and the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade. The 77th landed on the Orote Peninsula, three days after the initial assault landings, and seized Mt. Tenjo. Japanese resistance was tenacious.

Then the 77th was shifted north, with the 3rd Marine Division on the left, and the 77th on the right. In ten days of bitter fighting against a fanatical enemy, the 77th captured all area as far north as San Antonio. By 31 July 1944, the 77th and the 3rd Marine Division had followed up the enemy to the north, reaching a line running from Agana on the west coast to Yona on the east.

On 2 August 1944, the 77th was temporarily held up near Barrigada by Japanese troops deployed in the jungle in perfectly camouflaged positions, but the valiant 77th soon smashed through this resistance and continued attacking further north.

On 4 August, the division took Mt. Barrigada, and then repulsed a strong Japanese counterattack on the 8th. Soon following this up, supported by air and naval bombardments, and attacking with 3 regiments abreast, the 77th captured Mt. Santa Rosa in an almost perfectly co-ordinated tank-infantry attack.

The men of the 77th advanced 18 miles against a trapped and desperate enemy in one of the hardest fought battles in the Pacific. Organized Japanese resistance on Guam was broken by 10 August 1944. It cost the lives of 248 men in the division. Even the marines spoke rather fondly of the 77th after Guam.

The 77th next set sail for New Caledonia, but plans were changed en route, and it was directed to proceed to Leyte to help break the stalemate on that bitterly embattled island.

The division landed on the east coast of Leyte on 23 November 1944. After a short period of combat patrolling behind the U.S. 24th Corps, 23 November-6 December, the 77th landed at Ipil in western Leyte on 7 December 1944. Although there was negligible resistance on the beach, the Japanese attempted to disrupt the landing by air strikes. Army and Marine fighters took a heavy toll of the attackers.

Fighting up the east coast of Ormoc Bay, the 77th seized the town of Ormoc on 10 December 1944. This was a very serious blow to the Japanese, because Ormoc had been their main landing place for their reinforcements coming over from Cebu and Negros.

In bitter and heavy combat the 77th attacked north astride Highway 2, and secured Valencia against a violent counterattack, and then took the Libungao-Palompon road junction, linking-up with U.S. 10th Corps elements. This action sealed the fate of the Japanese on Leyte and, although much "mopping up" remained, especially in the wild northwest portion of the island, Leyte was officially declared secured by Christmas Day 1944. It was the beginning of the end for the Japanese in the Philippines, and the great-fighting 77th had played a vital role in breaking the deadlock on Leyte. Leyte cost the 77th almost 500 men.

On 9 February 1945, the division moved to Tarragona for rehabilitation.

The next operation for the 77th was when the division seized a series of small islands off the coast of Okinawa, called Kerama Retto, late-March 1945. Moderate opposition was encountered. However, riding at sea between 1-15 April 1945, the division sustained considerable casualties from Japanese Kamikaze attacks.

On 16 April 1945, the Statue of Liberty Division landed on Ie Shima, a small island off the western coast of Okinawa. After capturing an airfield, the 77th engaged in a bitter battle for Government House Hill and Bloody Ridge. It was in the latter action that famous and beloved war correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed, struck in the temple by a machinegun bullet. Ie Shima was secured after one week of bitter combat. This little-known battle cost the 77th almost 1,000 men killed, wounded, and missing. The Japanese had 4,700 men killed and 149 captured.

With the Guam and Leyte campaigns, plus Ie Shima, behind them, the men of the 77th could have been excused for thinking that they had seen Pacific fighting at its toughest. But the worst was yet to come.

After a short rest, the 77th plunged into the inferno of Okinawa on 30 April 1945, right in the Japs' front yard. Here, the 77th ran into the heaviest artillery fire of the Pacific War. The men were plastered day and night by field pieces of all sizes. The Jap pillboxes were superior to any they had used on Tarawa or Saipan. And facing the division's front was Shuri, central fortress of the Japanese defense line on southern Okinawa.

On 1 May 1945, the 77th, using mountaineers' nets and ladders, tried to scale the steep Maeda Escarpment. Some men reached the top, but were driven off by a furious night counterattack by the Japanese. The 307th Infantry Regiment gained the reverse slope of the escarpment and held it against counterattacks, 5-6 May.

Continuing the advance slowly in the face of extremely heavy Japanese resistance, the 77th drove on Shuri in conjunction with the 1st Marine Division. As the 305th Infantry Regiment pushed up heavily defended Route 5, the 306th and 307th Infantry fought the battle of Chocolate Drop Hill, 11-20 May 1945. Innumerable ridges, all bristling with Nip defenses, blocked the way to the high ground commanding Shuri. The soldiers and marines, working with tanks, flamethrowers, and dynamite charges, finally dislodged the Japanese, but not without very heavy losses. The ruins of Shuri were finally entered by the 77th on 31 May 1945. The 77th then covered the rear of the 96th Infantry Division, and mopped-up in the Shuri region.

During June 1945, the 77th covered the right flank of the U.S. 24th Corps, and sealed Japanese cave positions, as the bloody battle finally came to an end. Okinawa was officially declared secured on 21 June 1945. The Japanese had over 110,000 men killed, while the Americans lost over 13,000 men, counting air, land, and sea action. The terrible bloodbath cost the 77th Infantry Division 1,018 men.

At least one man in the 77th deserves special mention during the battle on Okinawa. For a 2-3 week period, Pfc Desmond T. Doss, a medic and previous conscientious objector in the 307th Infantry Regiment, repeatedly risked his life by exposing himself to enemy fire in extremely dangerous circumstances to give first aid and help bring to safety many men who were wounded and under fire.

In basic training Pfc Doss had been derided, even scorned by many men in his

outfit for refusing to fight. But on Okinawa, he won the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions, and his name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty.

In July 1945, the 77th moved to Cebu, in the Philippines, to prepare for the invasion of Japan. Of course, this never had to be, and the 77th landed in Japan in October 1945 for occupational duty, and was later inactivated there on 15 March 1946.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—6	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,904
Distinguished Unit Citations—16	Killed In Action—1,482
Distinguished Service Crosses—19	Wounded—6,003
Silver Stars—335	Missing—76
	Captured—1
	Total Casualties—7,562

Other 77th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: KIA \*

Pfc George Benjamin, Jr., \* 306th Inf Rgt, 21 December 1944, on Leyte

Pfc Martin O. May, \* 307th Inf Rgt, 19-21 April 1945, on Ie Shima

T/5 Grade John Meagher, 305th Inf Rgt, 19 June 1945, near Ozato, Okinawa

Sgt Joseph E. Muller, \* 305th Inf Rgt, 15-16 May 1945, near Ishimmi, Okinawa

1st Lt Robert P. Nett, 305th Inf Rgt, 14 Dec 1944, near Cognon, Leyte

77TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Statue Of Liberty"

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AUGUST 1944

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77TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Statue Of Liberty"

JANUARY 1945

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MARCH 1945

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APRIL 1945

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78TH INFANTRY DIVISION "White Lightning"

Activated (WW II)—15 August 1942

Inactivated—22 May 1946 in Europe

Battle Credits, World War II: Siegfried Line      Ardennes      Rhineland  
Ruhr Pocket

Days In Combat—125

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Edwin P. Parker, Jr.      August 1942—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 78th Infantry Division saw heavy action in World War I, at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne. In World War II, the majority of its men still came from Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The 78th arrived in England on 26 October 1944. It landed in France on 22 November 1944, and moved to Tongres, Belgium, and then to Rötgen, Germany, to prepare for combat.

The 311th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 8th Infantry Division in the grim Hürtgen Forest on 10 December 1944. The 309th and 310th Infantry Regiments relieved the 1st Infantry Division, 1-12 December. On the 13th, these regiments smashed into Simmerath, Witzerath, and Bickerath, in heavy combat, and were fighting for Kesternich, when the Germans began their offensive in the Ardennes on 16 December 1944.

The 78th, on the extreme northern fringe of the German assault, blocked the road junction near Monschau in heavy fighting. Although, at first, forced back a little, the 78th was eventually able to clear some hill positions over the Kall River by 11 January 1945. The division sustained heavy casualties on 12 January, but managed to hold its sector of the line throughout the winter.

On 30 January 1945, the 78th attacked at Kesternich over ground it had fought on 1½ months earlier. It was in this battle that the 78th produced a Medal of Honor winner, Staff Sergeant Jonah E. Kelley, Company E, 311th Infantry Regiment, at Kesternich, Germany.

In charge of the leading squad of Company E, he heroically spearheaded the attack in furious house-to-house fighting. Although wounded twice, once in the back, and when a mortar shell fragment passed through his left hand, he refused to withdraw and kept on leading his squad after hasty dressings had been applied. His wounds forced him to fire his rifle with one hand, resting it on rubble or other support. The sergeant had to pull the pins of his grenades with his teeth while grasping the missiles with his good hand. Despite these handicaps, he created tremendous havoc with the Germans. Sgt Kelley rushed one house and killed 3 of the enemy. On approaching the next house, he was fired upon from a second-story window, and killed the sniper with one shot. He dispatched another German who ran from the cellar of the house. As darkness came, Sgt Kelley assigned his men to defensive positions, never leaving them to seek medical treatment.

At dawn the next day, his squad resumed the attack and was stalled by heavy automatic and small-arms fire. Upon locating an enemy rifleman in a haystack, the sergeant killed him with rifle fire. He then discovered a well-protected German machinegun in a neighboring house. Ordering his squad to stay behind cover, he dashed into the open and attacked this position in a hail of bullets.

Sgt Kelley was hit several times and fell to his knees within 25 yards of his objective, but he summoned his waning strength and emptied his rifle into the machinegun nest, silencing its crew before he died.

Sgt Kelley's inspiring heroism enabled his men to sweep all resistance, on their front, from Kesternich.

Shortly after, the 78th attacked Schwammenauel Dam, on the Roer River. The Lightnings took the dam, but only after one of the fiercest battles on the Western Front. The attack was begun in mid-winter (early-February 1945), with the men struggling through waist-deep snowdrifts. Fortified positions and pill-boxes studded the path to the dam. The infantry advanced a scant 100 yards behind the artillery fire, as it went up against some of the heaviest fortifications inside Germany.

The German defenders of the Schwammenauel Dam were the 6,000 men of the 272nd Volksgrenadier Division—a supposedly second-rate unit, but manifestly well led and well deployed. The Americans got as far as the road leading into the town of Schmidt, which commanded the approach to the dam, but were then stopped cold. The German grenadiers beat back several battalion-sized attempts to clear the road. Manning carefully prepared defenses, the Germans seemed invulnerable to everything that the 78th could throw against them. Finally, one regiment of the 9th Infantry Division was added to the attack, and this tipped the balance. Yet, it wasn't until midnight on 9 February 1945, that the Americans managed to battle their way through to the dam.

Following the seizure of this vital dam, the 78th was commended by the 5th Corps commander, Major-General Clarence R. Huebner. Without the capture of this dam, he said, further winter operations in the entire area would have been impossible. "It is an accomplishment worthy of the highest praise that the 9th and 78th Divisions were able to capture this dam before the Germans blew it up," he stated.

Upon reaching the Rhine, the 78th was the first infantry division to cross the Ludendorff Railroad Bridge at Remagen. Tracer bullets ripped the air in wild zig-zag patterns, shells splashed against the abutments, and flying metal ricocheted off of the steel girders. But the 78th reached the east bank of the Rhine and helped hold this vital bridgehead against furious German attacks, and suffered very heavy losses. In fact, during the entire month of March 1945, few, if any, U.S. divisions had higher casualties than did the 78th. During March 1945, the 78th lost approximately 600 men!

After the Remagen bridgehead was consolidated, the Lightnings then cut part of an autobahn (4-lane highway), and raced northward into the Ruhr. The 78th saw heavy action along the Sieg River, where the Germans put in some fierce counterattacks.

The 78th was relieved along the south bank of the Sieg, and on 6 April 1945, attacked across it to help reduce the Ruhr Pocket. The 78th saw heavy fighting as it battled through well-defended Waldbröl, Lichtenberg, and Freudenberg by 8 April. Continuing the attack in conjunction with the 13th Armored Division, the 78th seized Wipperfürth, 13 April, and overran both Elberfeld and the city of Wuppertal by 16 April 1945. This concluded the 78th's action in the Ruhr where over 300,000 Germans surrendered! The 78th lost 180 men.

The 78th then mopped-up in the Ruhr, along with several other U.S. divisions. On V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the division was stationed near Marburg, Germany, somewhat south of the Ruhr area. The 78th was inactivated in Europe in May 1946, although most of its personnel who had seen very much combat were rotated back to the United States much earlier.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,655
Distinguished Unit Citations—4	Killed In Action—1,432
Distinguished Service Crosses—5	Wounded—6,103
Silver Stars—491	Missing—231
	Captured—385
	Total Casualties—8,151





## 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION "White Lightning"

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## MARCH 1945

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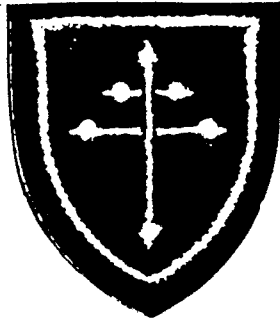
## MAY 1945

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## 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—16 December 1944  
 bloodiest month—March 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day—13 December 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day—30 January 1945

Total battle deaths—1,655  
 875 are listed=52.8% KIA—1,432



79TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Cross Of Lorraine"

Activated (WW II)—15 June 1942

Returned To United States—10 December 1945

Inactivated—20 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II:    Normandy    Northern France    Lorraine  
Days In Combat—248            Vosges Mountains    Alsace    Rhineland    Ruhr Pocket

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Ira T. Wyche

June 1942—May 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 79th Infantry Division had for its shoulder patch insignia, The Cross Of Lorraine—the symbol of the Fighting French.

There were cheers, flowers, wine, and, sometimes, women for the liberating GIs of our fighting divisions in Europe. But no outfit was ever greeted more warmly than the Fighting 79th by the grateful citizens of the numerous towns and villages it liberated in France.

In World War I, the 79th had a good record. It stormed Montfaucon, in the Meuse-Argonne, in 30 hours of hellish fighting, and helped start the Kaiser's armies on their way to defeat. The 79th sustained a total of 6,874 casualties in that war, including 1,151 men killed in action.

In World War II, the 79th's record can be borne out by a compliment made about it by the Germans. Four months after landing in Normandy, the German 361st Infantry Division, in an order to its individual units, warned them to watch out for the 79th—"one of the best attack divisions in the U.S. Army."

The 79th, after extensive training in the United States, sailed for Britain, and, after two months more of training there, landed in Normandy on D-plus 6—12 June 1944. The 79th entered combat on 19 June 1944, with an attack on the high ground west and northwest of Valognes.

After helping to cut off the Cotentin Peninsula, the 79th, 4th, and 9th Infantry Divisions attacked north up the peninsula with the 79th in the center. Fighting hard, the attack progressed well inspite of difficult hedgerow country and strong German resistance. After a heavy battle, the 79th took Fort du Roule and entered Cherbourg. The division then engaged in a fierce street battle with the city falling on 25 June 1944.

The Cross Of Lorraine then held defensive positions along the Ollonde River, until 2 July 1944, and then again went over to the attack, now advancing southward. The objective was La Haye-du-Puits, nerve center of the German supply system in Normandy. In driving rain and through hedgerows honeycombed with artillery and automatic weapons, and despite German tanks raking them at point-blank range, the 79th, inspite of very heavy losses, swarmed into the town and took it on 8 July 1944. German counterattacks were repulsed on this same day. Heavy fighting continued until 15 July, when the 79th again went on the defensive.

On 26 July 1944, as part of an all-out American offensive, the 79th attacked across the Ay River, took Lessay and Granville, and broke through the German front at Avranches, foll-

owing up behind the 6th Armored Division. The 79th then cut through Fougères, and then southeast to Le Mans, where, after bridging the Sarthe River, it turned north to help close the Falaise Gap. Up to this time, 20 August 1944, the 79th had lost over 1,200 men in the terrific fighting in Normandy!

Then, the men who wore the Cross Of Lorraine insignia raced ahead to the Seine River to seize Mantes-Gassicourt. This action greatly facilitated the liberation of Paris.

The 79th then made a daring and highly skillful night crossing of the Seine, beginning on 19 August 1944. In a torrential rain the 313th Infantry Regiment crossed the river on foot, over a dam that offered the only dry crossing in the area. Each man held on to the shoulder of the man in front to avoid falling into the river. On the 20th, the 314th Infantry Regiment followed, wading across, and the 315th Infantry joined them that afternoon on the far bank. The 79th had not only established a bridgehead, but also captured the German Army Group B Headquarters, Rommel's former headquarters at La Roche-Guyon.

The Germans were stunned by this brilliant maneuver, but soon recovered, launching fierce counterattacks by the 18th Luftwaffe Field Division between 22-27 August 1944. They were all defeated, and the 79th reached the Therain River on 31 August.

Advancing as far north as Tournai, Belgium, and vicinity, the 79th then swung sharply to the southeast, deep into the province of Lorraine, France. Heavy street-fighting occurred in Charmes, on the Moselle. After overcoming this resistance, the 79th forded the Moselle, and the 313th Infantry Regiment took Poussay, while the 315th Infantry seized Neuf-château. This took place on 13 September 1944.

In heavy fighting, as the division cleared its sector of the front, the attack was resumed on 18 September 1944. On 20 September, the 314th Infantry, under German fire, reached the Meurthe River, at Baccarat. Attempting to turn the German flank, a battalion crossed the river near St. Clement the next day, but had to be pulled back.

The 79th continued to advance in the face of intense enemy attacks from the Forêt de Parroy (forest). The 315th Infantry Regiment lost, and then recovered part of Lunéville, 22 September 1944, but the 314th Infantry was delayed by counterattacks at Moncel. On the next day the 314th frontally assaulted Forêt de Monden in heavy combat, and the 79th then entered the Forêt de Parroy. The 315th Infantry was temporarily isolated in fighting at the main road junction there on 5 October 1944, and the 79th was forced onto the defensive. However, an all-out divisional assault forced the Germans to retire from the forest, with the final capture of the main road junction on 9 October 1944.

The 79th next took Embermenil, and then attacked east of this town and battled for some high ground from 14-23 October 1944. In all this fighting the 79th fought three excellent German divisions, the 11th Panzer, 15th Panzer Grenadier, and 361st Infantry. The 79th was relieved on 24 October 1944, by the 44th Infantry Division.

After resting at Lunéville, the 79th launched an attack that carried it across the Vezouse and Moder Rivers, in Alsace. This was part of a major U.S. 7th Army offensive, and the 79th began attacking on 13 November 1944, with the 19th being an especially bloody day. As the assault continued in the face of heavy German resistance, the 79th then consolidated north of Strasbourg, on 25 November 1944, and fought for Haguenau, 9-11 December 1944. The division reached the Lauter River, at Schiebenhardt, on 15 December, and hit the Siegfried Line on the 17th. It was here that the 79th had one of its three Medal of Honor winners of the war, Technical Sergeant Robert E. Gerstung, Company H, 313th Infantry Regiment, on 19 December 1944, near Berg, Germany.

Near the above named town, Sgt Gerstung was ordered, with his heavy machinegun squad, to support an infantry company attacking the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line. For 8 hours he maintained a position made almost untenable by the density of artillery and mortar fire concentrated upon it, and by the proximity of enemy troops who threw hand grenades at it. When all other members of the squad became casualties, Sgt Gerstung remained at his gun. When running out of ammunition, he boldly dashed across bullet-swept, open terrain to secure a new supply from a disabled friendly tank. He continued to fire until his weapon overheated and jammed. Instead of withdrawing, the sergeant succeeded in securing another machinegun whose crew had been killed. He continued to man this weapon, giving vital support to the infantry, even when an enemy tank shot the glove from his hand with an armor-piercing shell.

When the Americans were ordered to retire to their original positions, he remained at his

gun, giving covering fire. Finally, Sgt Gerstung began to withdraw, but 100 yards from safety he was struck in the leg by fragments from a mortar shell. With a supreme effort, he crawled the remaining distance, dragging along the machinegun which had served him and his fellow soldiers so well.

Sgt Gerstung's remarkable perseverance and courage gave his comrades vital support in their encounter with formidable German forces. He survived the war to receive his award.

The 79th held a defensive line along the Lauter River, at Wissembourg, from 20 December 1944-2 January 1945.

The Germans had begun a heavy offensive in northern Alsace on 1 January 1945. Holding defensive positions in the more northeastern part of the province, the 79th's regiments became intermingled with part of the 42nd Infantry Division in the line. In a very skillful and valiant 11-day battle the Americans threw back repeated assaults by the German 21st Panzer and 25th Panzer Grenadier Divisions and elements of the 7th Parachute Division. But the Germans were very persistent, and the 315th Infantry Regiment was finally forced out of Hatten and Rittershoffen, while the 314th Infantry's efforts to retake Drusenheim were defeated in furious fighting. The regiments of the 42nd Infantry Division were also forced back, and, by 12 January 1945, parts of the 14th Armored and 103rd Infantry Divisions were thrown into the struggle which continued unabated.

Meanwhile, the German 553rd Volksgrenadier Division's dangerous bridgehead across the Rhine in the area around and in Herrlisheim resulted in furious combat with the U.S. 12th Armored Division.

Back in the 79th's sector, it lost Sessenheim on 19 January 1945, and by the 21st, its lines had been forced back to the Moder River.

The Germans then made their final all-out bid to retake Alsace beginning on 24 January 1945. Once again they employed several of their best formations which included the 7th Parachute, 47th Volksgrenadier, 25th Panzer Grenadier, and 10th SS Panzer Divisions. The heaviest blow fell upon the 42nd and 103rd Infantry Divisions which fought courageously. In the 79th's sector several holes were punched in its lines at Neubourg and Schweighouse, but this situation was quickly restored. In three desperate days of furious fighting, 24-26 January 1945, the Americans defeated the German attempts to advance any further, and by the end of the month, the fighting in Alsace had pretty much sputtered out. The 79th remained on the defensive along the Moder until 6 February 1945.

After rest and rehabilitation, the 79th was picked to help spearhead the U.S. 9th Army assault across the Rhine, during the latter part of March 1945. Transferred to the north in a secret move, the 79th crossed the large river near Rheinberg against heavy resistance on 24 March 1945. The 30th Infantry Division, meanwhile, spearheaded an attack near Buderich.

Three days later strong opposition again developed before the 79th reached the Rhine-Herne Canal by 29 March.

The 79th then relieved the 35th Infantry Division west of Gelsenkirchen, and then took Wattenscheid and the city of Bochum, as it advanced into the Ruhr against moderate to heavy resistance. The 79th continued operations in this region until 13 April 1945. The 79th was then sent to the eastern part of the Ruhr Pocket to occupy the blasted, bombed-out city of Dortmund. After this, the 79th saw occupational duties in Czechoslovakia and Bavaria, before returning to the United States and inactivation.

The 79th Infantry Division—one of the best!

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3  
Distinguished Unit Citations—8  
Distinguished Service Crosses—24  
Silver Stars—962

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,964  
Killed In Action—2,476  
Wounded—10,971  
Missing—570  
Captured—1,186  
Total Casualties—15,203

Other 79th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action \*

Cpl John D. Kelly, \* 314th Inf Rgt, 25 June 1944, Cherbourg, Normandy, France  
1st Lt Carlos C. Ogden, 314th Inf Rgt, 25 June 1944, Cherbourg, Normandy, France



## 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Cross Of Lorraine".

## AUGUST 1944

1 Aug 11  
 2 Aug 11  
 3 Aug 11  
 5 Aug 1  
 6 Aug 11111111 8  
 8 Aug 11  
 9 Aug 11  
 10 Aug 1  
 13 Aug 1  
 16 Aug 1  
 18 Aug 1  
 20 Aug 1111111  
 22 Aug 1  
 23 Aug 11111  
 24 Aug 111  
 25 Aug 1111111111 10  
 26 Aug 11111111 8  
 27 Aug 111111111111111111 20  
 28 Aug 1111111111111111 17  
 29 Aug 1111  
 30 Aug 1  
 31 Aug 1

100

## SEPTEMBER 1944

9 Sept 1  
 12 Sept 111111111 9  
 13 Sept 1111111  
 14 Sept 11111111 8  
 15 Sept 111  
 16 Sept 1  
 18 Sept 1  
 19 Sept 111111  
 20 Sept 1  
 21 Sept 111111111 9  
 22 Sept 111111111111111111 20  
 23 Sept 1  
 24 Sept 1  
 25 Sept 11  
 27 Sept 11  
 28 Sept 111  
 29 Sept 111111111111 13  
 30 Sept 11111111 8

96

## OCTOBER 1944

1 Oct 1111111111 10  
 2 Oct 11111  
 3 Oct 1111111111111111 17  
 4 Oct 111  
 5 Oct 111111  
 6 Oct 111  
 8 Oct 111  
 9 Oct 1111111  
 10 Oct 111111111111111111 18  
 11 Oct 1111  
 12 Oct 11  
 13 Oct 11111111111111 14  
 14 Oct 111111111111111111 19  
 15 Oct 111  
 16 Oct 111  
 17 Oct 11  
 18 Oct 1  
 19 Oct 1111  
 20 Oct 111111111 9  
 21 Oct 1111111111111111111111 25  
 22 Oct 11111111111 11  
 23 Oct 111111111 9  
 24 Oct 111111111111111 15  
 25 Oct 1  
 26 Oct 1111  
 27 Oct 1  
 28 Oct 11111  
 31 Oct 1111

208

## 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Cross Of Lorraine"

## NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 111  
 4 Nov 1  
 5 Nov 1  
 9 Nov 1  
 13 Nov 1111111111111111 16  
 14 Nov 1111111111 11  
 15 Nov 111111111111 13  
 16 Nov 11  
 17 Nov 1111111111111111 17  
 18 Nov 1111  
 19 Nov 1111111111111111111111111111 33  
 20 Nov 111111111111 12  
 21 Nov 11  
 22 Nov 1  
 23 Nov 11111  
 24 Nov 1  
 25 Nov 11111  
 26 Nov 1  
 27 Nov 11111  
 28 Nov 111  
 29 Nov 11111111 9  
 30 Nov 11111

151

## DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 1111111111111111 17  
 2 Dec 1111111111 10  
 3 Dec 1111111111 11  
 4 Dec 1  
 5 Dec 11  
 6 Dec 1  
 7 Dec 1  
 9 Dec 1111111111111111 18  
 10 Dec 1111111111 11  
 11 Dec 111  
 12 Dec 11  
 13 Dec 11  
 14 Dec 11111  
 15 Dec 1111111 8  
 16 Dec 1111111 8  
 17 Dec 111  
 18 Dec 11111  
 19 Dec 11111111111111111111 23  
 20 Dec 11111  
 21 Dec 11

138

## JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1  
 2 Jan 11  
 3 Jan 1111  
 5 Jan 11111111 9  
 6 Jan 1111  
 7 Jan 11111111 9  
 8 Jan 111111111111 13  
 9 Jan 1111111  
 10 Jan 11111111 9  
 11 Jan 11111111111111 16  
 12 Jan 1111111  
 13 Jan 111111111 10  
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 15 Jan 11111111111 12  
 16 Jan 11111  
 17 Jan 11111111111 12  
 18 Jan 111111111111 13  
 19 Jan 1111111  
 20 Jan 11111111 9  
 21 Jan 1  
 22 Jan 1  
 23 Jan 1111  
 25 Jan 11111  
 27 Jan 1  
 28 Jan 1  
 31 Jan 11

167



## 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Cross Of Lorraine"

## FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 11  
 2 Feb 1  
 5 Feb 1  
 23 Feb 11111111 8  
 24 Feb 1  
 13

## MARCH 1945

24 Mar 111111111111111111 20  
 25 Mar 11111111 8  
 26 Mar 1111111  
 27 Mar 111111111111111111 22  
 28 Mar 1111  
 29 Mar 11  
 30 Mar 11  
 65

## APRIL 1945

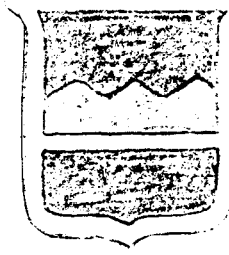
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 7 Apr 11  
 8 Apr 1  
 10 Apr 111111  
 11 Apr 11  
 12 Apr 1  
 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 1  
 17 Apr 1  
 20 Apr 1  
 22

## MAY 1945

6 May 1  
 26 May 1  
 30 May 1  
 3

## 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—————6 July 1944  
 bloodiest month—————July 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—————5 July 1944  
 3rd " " "—————10 July 1944  
 4th " " "—————12 July 1944  
 5th " " "—————23 June 1944  
 Total battle deaths—————2,923  
 1,582 are listed=54.1% KIA—2,454



## 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Ridge"

Activated (WW II)—15 July 1942

Returned To United States—3 January 1946

Inactivated—5 January 1946

Battle Credits, World War II:	Normandy	Northern France	Lorraine-Saar
Days In Combat—239	Ardennes	Siegfried Line	Rhineland
	Central Europe		

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Horace L. McBride

March 1943—October 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 80th Infantry Division originally consisted of men mainly from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, and saw heavy action in the Somme Offensive of 1918 and in the Meuse-Argonne during World War I.

In World War II, the 80th landed in Normandy on 3 August 1944. The division assembled near St. Jores, and on 8 August, began fighting near Le Mans. It then turned east, seizing Evron and Ste. Suzanne on 10 August.

Then, under new orders, the Blue Ridgers were thrown into the Battle of the Falaise-Argentan Gap. They were told to take Argentan and the high ground north of the town. This area was held by at least one panzer division, Luftwaffe personnel, and SS men, supported by artillery and numerous self-propelled guns. Just before midnight of 19 August 1944, the town was blasted by artillery, and the 80th then stormed into the burning objective the following day. The division had a notable role in mopping-up remnants of the once proud German 7th Army, as the Germans tried to escape to the east and out of the trap, with many succeeding.

The 80th then took part in the 3rd Army dash across France. (The 80th would remain under the 3rd Army for the duration of the war in Europe). With history repeating itself, the 80th crossed the Meuse, cut through St. Mihiel, and passed over ground where 26 years earlier, the World War I 80th had fought. Commercy and Châlons were taken, and then the division was stopped for lack of gasoline. During this period, early-September 1944, the 80th came up against the swollen and heavily fortified Moselle River, and there was very heavy fighting. The 317th Infantry Regiment was repulsed on 6 September, while the 318th Infantry fought for Fort de Vилley-le-Sec, 5-10 September. The 80th crossed the Moselle on 12 September 1944, and defended this bridgehead against counterattacks. The 319th Infantry Regiment advanced into Toul, as the Germans struck the Dieulouard bridgehead again on 15-16 September.

The 80th fought for Bois de la Rumont on 20-24 September, and fought pitched battles as it approached the Seille River at a farm strongpoint which was taken on 2 October. The division also took Serrières and Sivry, but lost elements to another German counterattack on 3-4 October. Then the 80th suffered very heavy losses in attacking a large hill mass on 8 October 1944. The division then maintained an aggressive defense for the rest of October 1944, and through the first week of November, as preparations were made for an all-out attack to the Saar.

The offensive began on 8 November 1944, under very inclement weather conditions. General Patton wanted to catch the Germans by surprise and, to a good extent, he did. Nevertheless, it was heavy and bloody fighting as the 80th advanced over Delme Ridge, and through Faulquemont and St. Avold. The 80th continued the advance in desperate fighting despite mud, mines, and highway congestion. The battle of Farbersviller was won on 3-4 December. Upon reaching to a point just 5 miles below Saarbrücken, the 80th was relieved by the 6th Armored Division on 7 December 1944. In this offensive the 80th lost 635 men killed in action or died of wounds.

After 10 days of rest, the 80th returned to combat, moving southeast to take part in an attack through the Siegfried Line to Zweibrücken, when the Germans struck in full fury with their winter offensive in the Ardennes. The terrible Battle of the Bulge had begun.

Under about the most trying winter conditions imaginable—it would be Europe's worst winter in 50 years—the 80th was one of the first 3rd Army divisions to attack into the southern flank of the German penetration. Through murderous opposition by some of Germany's best troops, and over frozen, snow-crusted terrain, the Blue Ridge Division fought forward into Luxembourg. The 80th contained numerous enemy attacks at Heiderscheid and Ettelbruck, and advanced to the Sauer River with the 319th Infantry Regiment on 24 December 1944. Sustaining heavy losses, the 80th then checked German attacks near Ringel and blocked roads around Ettelbruck and Mostroff on 27-28 December. The division helped break the German cordon around Bastogne, fighting the cold and cases of frostbite, as well as the enemy resistance. This action helped to relieve the pressure on the surrounded 101st Airborne and elements of the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions at Bastogne. (Relief of the defenders of Bastogne was successfully completed by the 4th Armored Division on 26 December 1944). Hitler's dream of a major German victory was shattered, although much hard fighting still lay ahead. But the 80th could proudly reassert its motto: "Ever Forward."

"You can't say too much for them," was the tribute paid to the 80th by the top "brass."

On 6 January 1945, large elements of the division attacked across the Sure River, and bitter fighting raged around Dahl and Goesdorf. It was in this battle that the 80th had one of its 4 Medal of Honor winners of the war, Sergeant Day G. Turner, Company B, 319th Infantry Regiment, at Dahl, Luxembourg, 8 January 1945.

Sgt Turner commanded a 9-man squad with the mission of holding a critical flank position. When overwhelming numbers of the enemy attacked under cover of devastating artillery, mortar, and rocket fire, he withdrew his squad into a nearby house, determined to defend it to the last man.

The Germans launched repeated attacks with heavy losses. Supported by direct tank fire, they finally gained entrance, but the intrepid sergeant refused to surrender, although five of his men were wounded and one killed. He boldly flung a can of flaming oil at the first wave of attackers, dispersing them, and then fought doggedly from room to room, closing with the Germans in fierce hand-to-hand encounters. He hurled grenade for grenade, bayoneted two Germans who rushed a doorway, and fought on with the enemy's weapons when his own ammunition ran out.

The savage fight raged for 4 hours, and finally, when only three of his men were left unwounded, the Germans surrendered. 25 prisoners were taken and 11 enemy dead and a great number of wounded were counted.

Sgt Turner's heroic stand will live on as an everlasting inspiration to his comrades. He was killed in action exactly one month later.

The 317th Infantry Regiment was defeated in an attempt to force the Wiltz River, 21 January 1945, but the 319th Infantry succeeded in crossing at Merkols

and Kautenbach on 23 January. The 80th next pushed a bridgehead over the Clerf River, and then cleared the heights beyond Hosingen on the 27th. The next day the division took over the 4th Infantry Division's zone along the Our River.

After this, on 7 February 1945, the 80th crossed the swollen Our from Luxembourg into Germany in a brilliant feat of arms. The weather was still bitter cold and, in this case, an artillery barrage of 30 minutes was used, and the assault took place at dawn in the face of heavy fire from high ground in the distance. As the West Wall (Siegfried Line) fortifications and pillboxes were slowly reduced, the bridgehead was expanded, and the 80th cleared the area near Bollendorf by 14 February 1945.

Leaving the 319th Infantry Regiment to deal with any remaining German troops, the rest of the 80th renewed the attack on 18 February. Mettendorf and Roth were captured and this completed the 80th's reduction of the Siegfried Line defenses in its sector.

The 80th next took Obergeckler and then crossed the Prüm River near Wissmannsdorf, 27 February 1945. It then relieved the 4th Armored Division on 3 March, and then transferred to the Saar sector opposite Saarlautern. The 80th suffered heavy losses in this entire operation which began on 7 February 1945. To be a little more precise, the 80th had close to 450 men killed in action or died of wounds.

The 80th, as part of another general 3rd Army offensive, this time into the Palatinate region of western Germany, attacked Wadern Forest, 13 March 1945, and fought for Weiskirchen where a battalion of the 318th Infantry Regiment was temporarily isolated. Continuing to the east, the 80th helped the 10th Armored Division take the large town of Kaiserslautern on 20 March.

Advancing to the Rhine against desperate, but futile, resistance, the 80th put one regiment across the large river at Mainz, 27 March, while other elements jumped the Main River 3 miles above its confluence with the Rhine. The city of Wiesbaden was cleared with very light casualties.

As Patton's 3rd Army headed into a northeastward direction into central Germany, the 80th was its most northerly division, and it ran into a tough, 4-day battle to take the city of Kassel. Pivoting almost due east, the division then had another fierce battle in the city of Erfurt, before pushing on further east and capturing the large towns of Jena and Gera by 14 April. Relieved near the Mulde River, 21 April 1945, the 80th then cut a sweep behind the general line of advance, to the southwest, and pulled up north of Bamberg.

Then the 80th was redeployed, still under the 3rd Army, and advanced deep into Bavaria, crossing the Danube, and heading into Austria against light to moderate resistance in its zone of attack. The 80th was halted at the Enns River, having advanced deeper into Austria than any other U.S. division, and awaited the oncoming Red Army.

The 80th had been one of the stalwarts of the U.S. 3rd Army, but had paid a very heavy price—15,854 casualties.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—4	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—3,194
Distinguished Unit Citations—6	Killed In Action—2,805
Distinguished Service Crosses—34	Wounded—11,484
Silver Stars—771	Missing—488
	Captured—1,077
	Total Casualties—15,854

Other 80th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: KIA \*

1st Lt Edgar H. Lloyd, \* 319th Inf Rgt, 14 Sept 1944, near Pompey, France  
2nd Lt Harry J. Michael, \* 318th Inf Rgt, 14 March 1945, at Neiderzerf, Germany  
Pvt Paul J. Wiedorfer, 318th Inf Rgt, 25 Dec 1944, near Chaumont, Belgium

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Ridge"

AUGUST 1944

13 Aug 1111  
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19 Aug 11111111111111111111111111 27  
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22 Aug 1  
25 Aug 1  
28 Aug 1  
29 Aug 1  
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31 Aug 1

75

SEPTEMBER 1944

1 Sept 11  
2 Sept 11  
3 Sept 1  
4 Sept 111  
5 Sept 1111111111 11  
6 Sept 111111111111 13  
7 Sept 11111111 8  
8 Sept 1111111  
9 Sept 11111111 8  
10 Sept 111111111 9  
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14 Sept 11111111111111111111111111 29  
15 Sept 11111111111111111111 19  
16 Sept 11111111111111111111 19  
17 Sept 111111111111111111111111 25  
18 Sept 111111111111 12  
19 Sept 11111111111111 14  
20 Sept 111111111111 12  
21 Sept 1111111  
22 Sept 11111111111 11  
23 Sept 1111111111111111 16  
24 Sept 1111111111111111 16  
25 Sept 11111111111111111111 21  
26 Sept 1111111111111111111111 24  
27 Sept 111111111 9  
28 Sept 1111111  
29 Sept 11  
30 Sept 1



80TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Ridge"

DECEMBER 1944

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 2 Dec 111  
 3 Dec 1111111  
 4 Dec 11111111111111111111111111 25  
 5 Dec 1111111  
 7 Dec 11  
 10 Dec 11  
 11 Dec 1  
 14 Dec 1  
 19 Dec 11  
 20 Dec 1  
 21 Dec 1  
 22 Dec 1111111111 10  
 23 Dec 111111111111111111111111 22  
 24 Dec 11111111111111111111111111 28  
 25 Dec 11111111111111111111111111 28  
 26 Dec 1111111111111111111111111111 32  
 27 Dec 11111111111111 14  
 28 Dec 1111111  
 29 Dec 1111111  
 30 Dec 111  
 31 Dec 1  
 211

JANUARY 1945

3 Jan 111  
 5 Jan 1111  
 6 Jan 11111  
 7 Jan 1111111 8  
 8 Jan 1111111111 11  
 9 Jan 1  
 10 Jan 11  
 11 Jan 11  
 12 Jan 11111  
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 16 Jan 11  
 17 Jan 111  
 18 Jan 111111111111111111 19  
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 20 Jan 111  
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 22 Jan 111  
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 24 Jan 111  
 25 Jan 1111111  
 26 Jan 11  
 27 Jan 111111111111 13  
 28 Jan 1

FEBRUARY 1945

5 Feb 1111  
 6 Feb 11  
 7 Feb 11111111111111 14  
 8 Feb 11111111111111111111 18  
 9 Feb 1111111111111111 16  
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 13 Feb 1111  
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 19 Feb 1111111111111111 17  
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 21 Feb 111111111111111111111111  
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 22 Feb 111111111111111111 18  
 23 Feb 1111  
 24 Feb 11  
 25 Feb 1  
 26 Feb 11  
 27 Feb 1111

## 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Ridge"

## MARCH 1945

1 Mar 1  
 2 Mar 1  
 4 Mar 1111  
 7 Mar 1  
 12 Mar 1  
 13 Mar 11111111111111 14  
 14 Mar 11111111 8  
 15 Mar 11111111111111 17  
 16 Mar 1111111111111111 21  
 17 Mar 11  
 18 Mar 11  
 19 Mar 111  
 21 Mar 11111  
 23 Mar 1  
 28 Mar 11111111111111 16  
 29 Mar 1  
 30 Mar 1  
 31 Mar 111  
 102

## APRIL 1945

1 Apr 1  
 2 Apr 1111111111111111 20  
 3 Apr 111111111 10  
 4 Apr 1111  
 5 Apr 11111111 9  
 10 Apr 11111111111111 15  
 11 Apr 11111111111111 14  
 12 Apr 11  
 13 Apr 11  
 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 111  
 16 Apr 1  
 18 Apr 1  
 20 Apr 1  
 25 Apr 1  
 26 Apr 1  
 29 Apr 1  
 87

## 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—8 October 1944  
 bloodiest month—September 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—10 November 1944  
 3rd " " " —8 and 25 November and 26 December 1944  
 4th " " " —21 February 1945  
 5th " " " —14 September 1944  
 Total battle deaths—3,194  
 1,658 are listed=51.9% KIA—2,800





81ST INFANTRY DIVISION "Wildcat"

Activated (WW II)—15 June 1942

Inactivated—30 January 1946 in Japan

Battle Credits, World War II: Palau Islands Leyte

Days In Combat—166

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Paul J. Mueller August 1942—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 81st Infantry Division saw heavy action in the closing days of the Meuse-Argonne campaign in World War I. Most of its men were originally from Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. The 81st was the first U.S. division to initiate the wearing of shoulder patches. Its insignia caused much comment by men of other divisions, who questioned the right of the 81st to so distinguish itself. When the matter was brought to the attention of General John J. Pershing, "ol' 'Black Jack" was fond of the idea, and suggested that all of the other divisions adopt a distinctive insignia.

In World War II, the 81st, after extensive training, landed in Hawaii between 11 June-8 July 1944.

On 17 September 1944, the Wildcats invaded the island of Angaur, in the Palau Islands, minus the 323rd Infantry Regiment, and in conjunction with the 1st Marine Division's assault on nearby Peleliu. These islands lie, roughly, 550 miles east of the island of Mindanao, in the Philippines.

The 321st Infantry Regiment secured a beachhead from Cape Nagariois to Rocky Point, the 322nd Infantry took the northern beaches, and the 323rd Infantry feinted a landing off Angaur's western shore. The 321st Infantry Regiment fought to Green Beach, and the 322nd Infantry Regiment reached the Phosphate Plant—where it was mistakenly bombed—on 18 September.

The main effort to clear southern Angaur began the next day, and the 321st Infantry reached the southern end of the island by 20 September 1944, and an airstrip was begun.

However, the 322nd Infantry Regiment moved to battle entrenched Japanese in the Lake Salome Bowl depression on northwestern Angaur. After heavy air and artillery bombardment, the 322nd attacked on 21 September, but was forced to withdraw that night. With positions rendered untenable the next day, another night retreat was made, and then the Japanese positions were saturated with more artillery fire. Renewing the attack from another direction, the 322nd gained a foothold in the bowl's northern portion. By 27 September 1944, the regiment succeeded in surrounding the Lake Salome depression, and gained positions inside of it. Methodical elimination of the Jap defenders then was commenced, but 28 September 1944, was the 81st's bloodiest day in combat.

The final all-out assault on Angaur was made on 13 October 1944, and, with the exception of stragglers, Japanese opposition was ended by 21 October 1944. This little-known battle cost the lives of 265 men in the 81st.

Meanwhile, the 321st Infantry Regiment landed on Peleliu, 23 September,

where the 1st Marine Division was engaged in one of the most savage battles of the war in the Pacific. The heat was almost as murderous as the Jap bullets, as there was very little shade on Peleliu. Men dropped from sheer exhaustion, the heat reaching as high as 110 degrees.

On 26 September 1944, the 5th Marine Regiment attacked east to seal off the northern tip of Peleliu, while the 321st Infantry Regiment maneuvered to cut off the Umurbrogal Pocket, part of a high ridge mass. The Japanese, as usual, resisted with the utmost tenacity. Elements of the 321st also aided the marines in mopping-up Ngesebus Island, and helped capture Kongaru and Garakayo.

Meanwhile, the 323rd Infantry Regiment had left Angaur to attack Ulithi, 21 September 1944, and found it unoccupied. Part of this regiment also landed on Ngulu Atoll and destroyed the Japanese garrison there, as well as the installations on 16 October. This action completed the outflanking of the Japanese base on Yap.

On 18 October 1944, the 323rd left to join the rest of the 81st on bitterly contested Peleliu. The 81st assumed command of the operation on the island on 20 October 1944, as the 1st Marine Division was gradually evacuated. It took almost another month of fighting before Peleliu was declared secured by 27 November 1944. The murderous battle cost the lives of 1,252 marines and 208 men from the 81st.

In all the above operations the Wildcats killed 5,676 Japanese, and took 344 Japanese and Korean laborers prisoners.

The 81st left in increments from 1 January-8 February 1945, for New Caledonia, for rest and rehabilitation.

On 17 May 1945, the 81st landed on Leyte, in the Philippines, and took part in difficult mopping-up actions in the wild northwestern part of the island from 21 July-12 August 1945.

On 18 September 1945, the 81st landed in Japan and performed occupational duties in, and around, Aomori, until inactivated in Japan on 30 January 1946.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—520
Distinguished Unit Citations—0	Killed In Action—374
Distinguished Service Crosses—7	Wounded—1,942
Silver Stars—281	Missing—6
	Captured—0
	Total Casualties—2,322

## 81ST INFANTRY DIVISION "Wildcat"

## SEPTEMBER 1944

15 Sept 1  
 17 Sept 11111  
 18 Sept 111111111111111 15  
 19 Sept 1111111111 10  
 20 Sept 1111111111 10  
 21 Sept 1111  
 22 Sept 111  
 23 Sept 11  
 24 Sept 111  
 25 Sept 1111  
 26 Sept 1111111  
 27 Sept 1111111111111111 17  
 28 Sept 1111111111111111 18\*  
 29 Sept 111111 approx. 35\*men  
 30 Sept 11111111111111 14  
  
 118

## OCTOBER 1944

1 Oct 11  
 2 Oct 11111  
 3 Oct 11  
 4 Oct 1111  
 5 Oct 111  
 6 Oct 111  
 7 Oct 1  
 11 Oct 11  
 12 Oct 11  
 13 Oct 111  
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 15 Oct 1111  
 16 Oct 1111111  
 17 Oct 11111111 8  
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 19 Oct 11111  
 20 Oct 11111  
 21 Oct 1111  
 22 Oct 111111  
 23 Oct 11111  
 24 Oct 1  
 25 Oct 11  
 26 Oct 111111  
 27 Oct 11111111 8  
 28 Oct 1111  
 29 Oct 111  
 30 Oct 1  
 31 Oct 1  
  
 114

## NOVEMBER 1944

2 Nov 111  
 3 Nov 111111111 9  
 7 Nov 11  
 11 Nov 1  
 12 Nov 1  
 13 Nov 111111  
 14 Nov 1  
 15 Nov 11  
 17 Nov 111  
 18 Nov 1  
 20 Nov 11  
 22 Nov 11111  
 23 Nov 11  
 27 Nov 1  
  
 39

## DECEMBER 1944

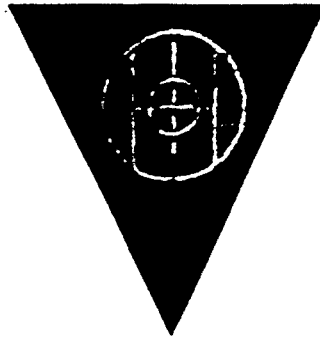
30 Dec 1  
  
 1

## JANUARY 1945

3 Jan 1  
  
 1

## 81ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----28 September 1944  
 bloodiest month-----September 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----27 September 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----18 October 1944  
  
 Total battle deaths-----520  
 273 are listed=52.3% KIA--374



## 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Thunderbolt"

Activated (WW II)—15 August 1942

Returned To United States—26 March 1946

Inactivated—5 April 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy      Brittany      Northern France-Luxembourg  
Siegfried Line      Ardennes      Rhineland  
Days In Combat—244      North-Central Germany

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Robert C. Macon

January 1944—January 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 83rd Infantry Division was originally made up of men mainly from Ohio. In World War I, its 332nd Infantry Regiment was sent to northeastern Italy, in the autumn of 1918 to help out the Italians, and took part in the victorious Battle of Vittorio Veneto, defeating the Austrians and Germans.

In World War II, long before the war had ended, there were men in the 83rd from all over the United States.

The 83rd arrived in England on 16 April 1944. After some further training in Wales, the division landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on 18 June 1944—D-plus 12. Rough weather had kept it out in the English Channel for a week.

As it was, the Thunderbolt first went into action in Normandy, in the bitter hedgerow struggle south of Carentan, on 27 June 1944.

On 4 July 1944, along with the 9th and 90th Infantry Divisions, the 83rd launched its first big offensive. The fighting in the hedgerows almost defied description. It was treacherous, rugged, nerve-racking, murderous. Gnarled tree roots and vines as tough and strong as iron hoops, and other bramble were all woven together in an impenetrable wall. And these hedgerows were 15-20 feet high. And to make things even worse, much of the terrain in the 83rd's zone of attack was marshy and swampy. The weather was unusually overcast and rainy, and, hardly least of all, the German 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, the 6th Parachute Regiment, and part of the 5th Parachute Division put up hellish resistance.

An example of how costly this fighting was in the hedgerows is that in 17 days, 12 American divisions incurred 40,000 casualties in advancing the U.S. 1st Army 7 miles! It was some of the most costly and frustrating combat that American troops have ever been forced to experience, and the 83rd was in the thick of it. Indeed, during the month of July 1944, in Normandy, no other U.S. division had higher losses than did the 83rd. In spite of it all, the 83rd, 9th, and 90th Infantry Divisions succeeded in blasting, shooting, and bayoneting their way to the St. Lô-Coutances Road, as a renewed, all-out American offensive picked up momentum in late-July 1944. The 83rd lost almost 1,600 men in Normandy!

The 83rd then swung west to invest the German-held port towns of Dinard and St. Malo, in eastern Brittany. The Germans had an extensive and formidable system of defenses. However, barbed-wire, minefields, and artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire from pillboxes slowed down, but couldn't stop the Fighting 83rd. In the center of the attack the 330th Infantry Regiment overcame murderous fire to take St. Joseph's Hill. Meanwhile, the 331st Infantry

Regiment was moved around to the center, also, for a main effort against Parame, which was captured in a bitter house-to-house battle. This successful attack sealed-off the Germans still occupying the St. Idene-La-Varde area in front of the 331st Infantry.

On the west side of the Rance River, the Germans put in a counterattack which isolated elements of the 83rd near Pleurtuit. But, on the night of 9-10 August 1944, a strong counterblow was launched by the 331st Infantry, and severe street-fighting occurred in Dinard. Both sides suffered heavy losses, but St. Lunaire was taken, and then Hills 42 and 48. The Germans were driven back to the sea, and over 3,000 of them, many from their 77th Infantry Division which had recently fought in Normandy, were taken prisoner. Intense fighting reduced further enemy strongpoints, and a co-ordinated assault on the citadel fortress of St. Servan finally brought on the fall of St. Malo, on 17 August 1944.

Operating in the Loire River Valley from 22 August-20 September 1944, the 83rd, operating on a highly extended 200-mile front, while other outfits moved north and east, made a junction near Auxerre, with elements of the U.S. 7th Army moving up from the south. On 16 September 1944, the 83rd accepted the surrender of a large, isolated German force of 20,000 men, while screening the Loire.

Late in September 1944, as part of the 3rd Army, the 83rd swung northeast for a drive through northern France, including northern Lorraine, and then turned north up into Luxembourg. Here, the Thunderbolt relieved the 5th Armored and 28th Infantry Divisions. Taking Remich, 28 September 1944, the 83rd patrolled defensively along the Moselle, and resisted a number of counterattacks. Echternach and Grevenmacher were then captured on 7 October 1944, the latter town in a night attack with grenades and bayonets.

The 83rd then sent strong elements across the Sauer River, into Germany—into the Siegfried Line. The division attacked and took Le Stromberg Hill against bitter enemy resistance in early-November 1944, and defeated some German counterattacks.

In early-December 1944, the 83rd was moved up further north into the terrible Hürtgen Forest, relieving the battered 4th Infantry Division. By Hürtgen Forest standards the 83rd did well. It was subjected to most of the evils that several other American divisions had faced in this grim forest—mines and booby-traps, very tough German defenses, and first-rate German troops. Facing the 83rd was the German 353rd Infantry Division and elements of the 344th.

In the villages of Gey and Strass, the Germans fought tenaciously, but these two towns were taken by 10 December 1944.

Between 10-15 December 1944, the weather was good, for a change, but the furious fighting continued. It was on 14 December 1944, that the 83rd had a Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant Ralph G. Neppel, Company M, 329th Infantry Regiment, near Birgel, Germany.

Sgt Neppel was the leader of a machinegun squad defending an approach to the village of Birgel, when a German tank, supported by around 20 infantrymen, counterattacked. He held his fire until the Germans were within 100 yards, and then raked the foot soldiers beside the tank, killing several of them. The tank continued to press forward, and at point-blank range of 30 yards, fired a high-velocity shell into the American emplacement, wounding the entire squad.

Sgt Neppel, blown 10 yards from his machinegun, had one leg severed below the knee, and suffered other injuries. Despite his wounds and the danger from the onrushing tank and infantry, he dragged himself back to his position on his elbows, remounted his weapon, and mowed down the remaining enemy infantry. Stripped of its infantry protection, the tank was forced to withdraw.

By his superb courage and fighting spirit, Sgt Neppel destroyed an enemy counterattack, and saved himself and the rest of his squad from probable capture, or even death. His actions upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces. He survived the war.

The 83rd then contained a strong German attack toward Guerzenich, 16 December 1944, and then cleared Roelsdorf and Lendersdorf the following day. In heavy fighting the 83rd managed to get to the western bank of the Roer River, west of Düren. The 83rd relieved the 5th Armored Division in line on 22 December 1944. The division then fought for Winden, 23-25 December 1944.

Shortly after, the Thunderbolts found themselves fighting in the Battle of the Bulge,

just to the south, in the Ardennes. The 83rd entered this huge, bitter struggle on 27 December 1944, striking at a German salient at Rochefort. The snow was waist-deep, morphine syrettes froze, automatic weapons wouldn't function, and the men suffered from the intense cold. But the valiant men of the 83rd stuck to their guns—sometimes literally—and reduced this enemy salient, suffering heavy casualties not only from German shells and bullets, but also from frostbite.

The 83rd smashed at the Germans in force on the morning of 3 January 1945, and advanced against stubborn opposition, along with the 3rd Armored Division. Floret and Malempré were recaptured, and then the 83rd attacked through the 3rd Armored Division on 9 January 1945. The 83rd took both Petite Langlir and Langlir in heavy combat, and gained a bridgehead across the Langlir-Ronce River, but 13 January 1945 was an especially trying and bloody day.

The 83rd then mopped-up in Honvelez, 14 January, battled at Bovigny, 15 January 1945, and then consolidated along the east edge of the Bois de Ronce (Woods). Both Bovigny and Courtil were taken on 19 January 1945. The advances of the 83rd had been directly responsible for enabling the 3rd Armored Division to cut the vital St. Vith-Houffalize Highway. The 9th SS "Hohenstauffen" Panzer and 12th Volksgrenadier Divisions had been very formidable opponents. The 83rd lost over 450 men in the Battle of the Bulge.

The 83rd then moved back into Belgium and Holland for rest and rehabilitation from 22 January 1945, to the end of February. However, from 23-27 February 1945, the 330th Infantry Regiment fought with the 29th Infantry Division near Schleiden.

Then, on 1 March 1945, as part of the general U.S. 9th Army offensive to the Rhine, the 83rd captured the sizeable town of Neuss, on the river's west bank, opposite Düsseldorf.

The 83rd then repulsed German counterattacks from the town of Kapellen. The division reached a bridge at Oberkassel, on 3 March, but this structure was blown up by the Germans as the American soldiers approached. Defensive positions were then assumed along the west bank of the Rhine, for the rest of March 1945, with no heavy combat in the 83rd's zone during this period.

On 29 March 1945, the Thunderbolt crossed the Rhine, south of Wesel, and advanced through part of the province of Westphalia, pausing long enough to take the large town of Hamm, on the northern rim of the Ruhr Pocket.

Continuing on to the east, the 329th Infantry Regiment met resistance in the high hills east of Bad Lippspringe, and so artillery and tank destroyer fire blasted this town into rubble. And the 331st Infantry encountered opposition in attempting to force a bridgehead over the Weser River, near Holzminden. However, this was soon overcome, and the Weser was crossed at Bodenwerder on 6 April 1945.

Scattered fighting continued with the 83rd clearing pockets bypassed by the 2nd Armored Division.

And then the 83rd raced across north-central Germany, advancing so rapidly in abandoned vehicles of any kind—jeeps, trucks, and about anything else that had wheels, that at one point it even outstripped the mighty 2nd Armored.

Swinging slightly to the southeast, the 83rd crossed the Leine River, 8 April 1945, and then continued on to the east, except for the 330th Infantry Regiment which was detached to help other U.S. units clean out a large force of Germans holding out in the Harz Mountains. There were some 70,000 German troops, including the crack 5th Parachute Division, in this heavily forested region full of very high hills. In bitter fighting the 330th Infantry suffered heavy losses, 12-15 April 1945, in helping to reduce this German redoubt. Though they caused heavy casualties, these Germans were too isolated to cause any lengthy trouble, and they were subjected to continuous air attacks. On 23 April 1945, the Germans in the Harz Mountains surrendered.

Further to the east the 329th and 331st Infantry Regiments succeeded in establishing a bridgehead over the Elbe River, at Barby. This bridgehead was held against furious German counterattacks on 16 and 18 April 1945. This area was eventually turned over to the Russians on 6 May 1945.

In 14 days the 83rd had captured 24,000 Germans and liberated 75,000 Allied POWs.

A great division—and one of the more under-publicized ones—the 83rd certainly did its share to help defeat Nazism. But the cost had been very heavy. Of all the American combat

divisions in the war, the 83rd was 12th highest on the list for total battle deaths.

After extensive occupational duty in different parts of Germany, the 83rd returned to the United States in March 1946. But many men who had seen extensive combat had already long since been rotated back to the States.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—7  
Distinguished Service Crosses—7  
Silver Stars—798

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—3,387  
Killed In Action—2,960  
Wounded—11,105  
Missing—279  
Captured—663  
Total Casualties—15,007







## 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Thunderbolt"

## DECEMBER 1944

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## JANUARY 1945

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## FEBRUARY 1945

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83RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Thunderbolt"

MARCH 1945

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 21 Mar 11  
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APRIL 1945

1 Apr 111  
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 6 Apr 1111  
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MAY 1945

3 May 1  
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83RD INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----4 July 1944  
 bloodiest month-----July 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----5 July 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----8 July 1944  
 4th " " "-----26 and 27 July 1944  
 5th " " "-----7 July 1944  
 Total battle deaths-----3,387  
 1,805 are listed=53.2% KIA-2,960



One of the brightest aspects of the entire action was the tank-infantry teamwork. This was all the more interesting since the tankers were British and the infantry were men of the 84th. An excellent example of teamwork, also, was in the capture of Leiffarth, where the infantry advanced a scant 50 yards behind the crashing shells of the artillery.

Continuing rains made tiny lakes out of the GIs' foxholes. The roads were heavily mined, and many of the houses in the villages were bitterly defended. Avenues of approach were so narrow that every foot of the way was subject to staggering artillery fire. The whole region was ideally suited for a battle of attrition. Eventually, due to the heavy rains and the deep mud, the tanks were forced to drop out of the battle altogether.

After a few days of rest, the 84th returned to the battle, taking Würm and Müllendorf, and concluding its part in this operation.

The Siegfried Line wasn't broken in the 84th's zone of attack—it was chipped away a little at a time in intensive, strenuous combat under miserable weather conditions. The Railsplitters destroyed 112 German pillboxes, and received the highest praise from the veteran British units.

By this time, in mid-December 1944, the Germans had begun their all-out counteroffensive in the Ardennes. Moving down on short notice from north of Aachen, the 84th secured the line Marche-Hotton. For the first 3 days there was no contact with friendly forces on either flank, until contact with the 3rd Armored Division was made on 24 December.

Marche and Hotton were key spots on the line of the advance of the Germans to the Meuse River, a major German objective. Their panzer spearheads made repeated attempts in late-December to seize these vital road centers. But, fighting in snow, sleet, and rain, the 84th, in hastily organized positions, held the line in a very valiant stand against the first-class 116th Panzer Division. The few points where penetrations were made, the enemy tanks and infantry were quickly sealed off and eliminated. At the end of a week of desperate fighting, the 84th's front had held at all points, and the Marche-Hotton area was firmly secured. This area was one of the furthest advances westward by any of the German forces in the Bulge.

When on 3 January 1945, the U.S. 1st Army passed over to the offensive, the 84th, with the 4th Cavalry Group attached, fought in close co-operation with the 2nd Armored Division. In spite of the bitterest weather yet experienced on the Western Front, and with snow waist-deep, the Railsplitters with great skill took all their assigned objectives in the minimum of time and with great loss to the enemy.

After bitter, frustrating action Beffe and Devantave were taken, 4-6 January. With the capture of Laroche, 11 January, the Germans were denied a major crossing area over the Ourthe River. The 84th then cleared an area northwest of Grand Mormont. On 16 January 1945, two regiments of the division, along with the 2nd Armored, linked-up with the 11th Armored Division of Patton's 3rd Army at Houffalize.

After only a 5-day rest, the 84th was again committed to action. In two days of bitter combat it captured the important road center of Beho, and also Gouvy. The Battle of the Bulge officially ended on 28 January 1945.

The Railsplitters were then secretly moved to an assembly area in southern Holland. On 7 February, the division assumed responsibility for the Roer River sector between Linnich and Himmerich, and got ready to cross the river.

The assault across the Roer commenced on 23 February 1945. There was some ferocious fighting in the earlier stages of the battle, and then more fluid warfare as the German defenses began to crumble. The 84th took Boisheim and Dülken on 1 March. The division then crossed the Niers Canal on the 2nd, and took the city of Krefeld on the 3rd. The Germans resisted stubbornly, and it was on this same day that they tried to form a line of resistance between Homberg and Ürdingen with the 15th Panzer Grenadier and 406th Infantry Divisions, plus some paratroopers. As a result, some of the heaviest fighting in the drive to the Rhine suddenly flared up in the very final phase of the operation. The 84th reached the Rhine on 5 March.

The division then held defensive positions along the river's west bank for the remainder of March.

Then, after crossing the Rhine, 1-2 April 1945, the 84th drove from Lembeck to Bielefeld

in conjunction with the 5th Armored Division. After crossing the Weser River against very little opposition, the Railsplitters captured Erbeck, discovered a German arms factory built 350 feet into the side of a cliff, and then smashed into the city of Hannover and took it in a tough, but skillful 3-day battle.

As the 84th advanced closer to the Elbe River, it joined forces with the 5th Armored and some British units to wipe out pockets of enemy resistance east of Hamburg and south and just west of the large river.

On 21 April, a force of some 200 Germans with their backs to the Elbe, fought back bitterly against elements of the 335th Infantry Regiment. The Germans also put up a fight for Gartow, 2 miles west of the Elbe, and the men of the 335th were even strafed by enemy planes. Some resistance was also met in the village of Kapern. A few other villages were cleared on 22 April 1945, and, after a futile counterattack by a die-hard band of Germans, the fighting ceased in the 84th's sector. The division's river line on the Elbe was then 40 miles long.

At Salzwedel, near the Elbe (population 15,000), the 84th liberated 3,000 women slave-laborers of different nationalities. The less sickly went wild with joy, and some went mad for revenge against any Germans they could encounter. But they had to be very careful, as their stomachs had shrunken through malnutrition, and some of the weaker ones died, the shock of a normal amount of food being too much for them. The scene was a mixed, confusing one of sadness and jubilation.

Meanwhile, the 84th also maintained patrol activity on the west bank of the wide Elbe, with orders from higher up not to advance any further east. And so, the Railsplitters waited for the oncoming Red Army.

On 2 May 1945, the Russians were contacted at Barow, and on the 3rd, General Bolling and the staff of the 84th exchanged formal greetings with them at the headquarters of the Russian 23rd Infantry Division at Bad Wilsnack.

Altogether, in 6 months of combat, the 84th bagged a total of 70,109 POWs.

After V-E Day, 8 May 1945, with headquarters at Hannover, the 84th spent weeks trying to help displaced persons find a place to stay, since so many no longer had homes.

The 84th remained on occupational duty in Germany until January 1946, but, like many other outfits, much of its personnel had rotated back home much earlier.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—7  
Distinguished Service Crosses—12  
Silver Stars—555

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,468  
Killed In Action—1,284  
Wounded—5,098  
Missing—129  
Captured—749  
Total Casualties—7,260

## 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Railsplitter"

## OCTOBER 1944

25 Oct 1  
26 Oct 1  
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## NOVEMBER 1944

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## DECEMBER 1944

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24 Dec 111111111111 13  
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## JANUARY 1945

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25 Jan 1  
27 Jan 1  
28 Jan 11

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84TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Railsplitter"

FEBRUARY 1945

6 Feb 1  
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MARCH 1945

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APRIL 1945

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 11 Apr 1  
 12 Apr 11  
 13 Apr 1  
 14 Apr 1  
 19 Apr 1  
 21 Apr 111  
 22 Apr 1111  
 23 Apr 11111  
 24 Apr 11  
 26 Apr 1  
 60

MAY 1945

5 May 1  
 1

JUNE 1945

3 June 1  
 26 June 1  
 2

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----22 November 1944  
 bloodiest month-----December 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----1 December 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----23 January 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----1,420  
 743 are listed=52.3% KIA-1,282





85TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Custer"

Activated (WW II)—15 May 1942

Returned To United States and Inactivated—25 August 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Rome-Arno Northern Apennines Po Valley

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen John B. Coulter

February 1943—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 85th Infantry Division, with the majority of its men originally being from Michigan and Wisconsin, has been called the "Custer" Division since 1917, when its soldiers trained at Camp Custer, Michigan. The Germans, heavily punished by this hard-fighting outfit in World War II, gave it a new name. They called it the "Elite Assault Division."

The 85th arrived in Casablanca, French Morocco, on 2 January 1944. The division received amphibious training at Port aux Poules, near Arzew and Oran, Algeria, from 1 February-23 March 1944, then embarking for Naples, Italy, and arriving there on 27 March 1944.

Advance units appeared on the front north of Naples on 28 March. The division, as a unit, was first committed in action along the Garigliano River, in the Gustav Line, on 10 April 1944. It held defensive positions for a month.

Then, on 11 May 1944, the Allies launched their all-out offensive to smash the Gustav Line. Time after time the 85th found itself fighting against seemingly hopeless odds—like the platoon that was wiped out with German bodies piled up all around it. 12 May 1944, was the 85th's bloodiest day in combat of the war. But the 85th kept on slugging ahead. In furious, heavy fighting it advanced northward along with the 88th Infantry Division, taking Solacciano, Castellonorato, and Formia by 18 May 1944. Numerous counterattacks were beaten back as the 85th severely battered the famed Hermann Göring Panzer Division. It was during this early action of the 85th that it had the first of its four Medal of Honor winners of the war in Italy, 1st Lieutenant Robert T. Waugh, 339th Infantry Regiment, near Tremensuoli, Italy. Lt Waugh was personally responsible for eliminating 6 enemy bunkers, 2 pillboxes, killing 30 of the enemy, and capturing 25 more. An inspiration to his entire company, he was killed several days later while leading his platoon in an attack on Itri, which fell on 19 May 1944.

After clearing the Gaeta Peninsula, Terracina was taken in fierce fighting, and the way to the Anzio beachhead was opened. The 85th was then pinched out of the attack, and started for a rest area on 29 May, but was then ordered to a sector near Lariano, which it cleared in two days, including Monte Artemisio. The 85th then battled for Monte Ceraso, 1-2 June 1944, which was captured by the 337th Infantry Regiment. Meanwhile, the 338th Infantry reached Highway 6 at San Cesareo, and the 339th Infantry took Monte Fiore. Frascati was captured on 3 June, and the 85th sped up the Via Tuscolana through Rome, 5 June 1944, and advanced to the Viterbo River before being relieved on 10 June 1944.

The 85th had it relatively quiet during the summer of 1944, taking over the defense of the Arno River Line, 15-26 August 1944, after rest and rehabilitation.

But then, in mid-September 1944, the Custer Division was given the job, along

with other 5th Army outfits, of hacking away at the extremely tough positions of the German Gothic Line. In some of the toughest fighting of the war in Italy, the 85th took Verruca, Monte Pratone, and then battled for the key height of 3,000-foot Monte Altuzzo. Defending this mountain was a regiment of the elite German 4th Parachute Division.

The 338th Infantry Regiment, making the main effort, suffered heavy casualties in a 4-day battle from 14-17 September 1944. The peak remained in German hands. It was during this bitter battle that the 85th had another Medal of Honor winner, Staff Sergeant George D. Keathley, on 14 September 1944.

Like Captain Robert E. Roeder, of the 88th Infantry Division on Monte Battaglia, S/Sgt Keathley was an inspiration to the men under him.

In bitter combat Sgt Keathley's company had advanced to within 50 yards of its objective, when it was held up by withering enemy automatic, small-arms, sniper, and mortar fire. Three desperate German counterattacks were defeated with heavy losses on both sides. All officers and NCOs of Company B became casualties, and Sgt Keathley assumed command of the remaining 20 men.

The Germans soon made a fourth counterattack with around two companies of men. So strong was this attack that Company B was given up for lost. The men now looked to Sgt Keathley for leadership, and he responded magnificently. He shouted orders precisely and with determination, and his men responded with all that was in them. Time after time the Germans were beaten back.

Suddenly, an enemy grenade exploded near the sergeant, and inflicted a mortal wound in his left side. Hurling defiance at the enemy, he rose to his feet and shot one German with his rifle. He continued shouting orders to his men who were so inspired by his brave actions that they fought with incomparable determination and viciousness.

The sergeant could have sought a sheltered position and, perhaps, saved his life, but, instead, he continued to lead his men. Friendly artillery fire finally helped force the Germans to withdraw.

Sgt Keathley died a few moments later. Had it not been for his inspiring leadership and indomitable courage, Company B might well have been wiped out. His actions upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

Supported by heavy air attacks, Monte Altuzzo was taken and held by 17 September 1944. Out of 400 men in the rifle companies of the assaulting battalion, 252 were killed or wounded.

Breaking through the Gothic Line, the 85th took Firenzuola on 21 September 1944, as well as Monte Frena and Monte Coloreta. Mud, rain, and very heavy opposition slowed the 85th's advance. The 338th Infantry Regiment took Monte Canda after severe fighting on 28 September. Other elements of the division battled up the crest of Torre Poggioli and into Sambuco. La Martina was taken on 1-2 October 1944, as the 337th Infantry Regiment cleared a ridge between the Idice and Sillaro Rivers, and was subjected to heavy counterattacks on 3-4 October 1944. Quinzano was taken on 4 October, and the 85th's regiments then cleared several more mountains in heavy fighting by 12 October 1944.

The 85th continued to advance northward above Monterenzio, and attacked Monte Fano on 19 October 1944. Hill 459 switched hands, 22-23 October, and on 24 October 1944, the 85th reached Monte Mezzano—at the threshold of the Po Valley.

By this time, the U.S. 5th Army was completely exhausted from battling through the mountains in the cold and rainy weather. The Germans packed the mountains south of the city of Bologna with first-class troops, and neither the Americans or the British 8th Army could make any further progress of any significance during the remainder of 1944.

In most of November 1944, the 85th held a defensive area near Pizzano. On 23 November, the division was relieved for rest and rehabilitation.

On 6 January 1945, the 85th relieved the British 1st Infantry Division, and limited its activities to cautious patrolling until 13 March 1945. For a time, facing the 85th was a crack German paratroop division. The men on both sides

wore white cloaks and capes for camouflage up in the mountains.

Finally, on 14 April 1945, the Americans opened their all-out offensive to smash the Germans in northern Italy. At first, held back in reserve, the 85th then slashed forward taking Gesso, Tignano, and Casalecchio, and advancing to the Po River. The 85th flung itself across the Po, though no bridges were available in its sector of attack. The division used rafts, DUKWs, and anything else that would float. The 85th advanced quickly through the city of Verona, crossed the now unoccupied Adige Line—last German defensive position in Italy—smashed into the Alps and, by sealing off the area south of the Brenner Pass, trapped the remnants of the German 10th Army which surrendered en masse. Officially, the Germans in Italy gave up on 2 May 1945.

When this day finally arrived, concluding the long, hard, frustrating, and sometimes heartbreaking Italian campaign, the 85th had captured a grand total of 27,429 POWs, uncovered millions of dollars worth of gold and valuable works of art. The 85th also released from prison a number of international celebrities the Germans had hidden at Lago di Braies, in the Alps, including Martin Niemöller, Leon Blum, Kurt Schuschnigg, and Fritz Thyssen.

The 85th was one of the Army's best, returning home on 25 August 1945.

Honors:	Congressional Medals of Honor—4	Casualties:	Total Battle Deaths—1,775
	Distinguished Unit Citations—5 *		Killed In Action—1,561
	Distinguished Service Crosses—0		Wounded—6,314
	Silver Stars—545		Missing—402
			Captured—497
			Total Casualties—8,774

\* One to the entire 338th Infantry Regiment—Monte Altuzzo, Italy

Other 85th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II:

1st Lt Orville E. Bloch, 338th Inf Rgt, 22 Sept 1944, near Firenzuola, Italy

Sgt Chris Carr, 337th Inf Rgt, 1-2 October 1944, near Guignola, Italy





## 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Custer"

## OCTOBER 1944

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 30 Oct l  
 31 Oct lll

247

## NOVEMBER 1944

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 3 Nov ll  
 5 Nov lll  
 6 Nov ll  
 7 Nov ll  
 8 Nov ll  
 9 Nov ll  
 10 Nov llllll  
 14 Nov l  
 17 Nov ll  
 18 Nov l  
 19 Nov l  
 20 Nov l  
 27 Nov l  
 28

## DECEMBER 1944

6 Dec l  
 22 Dec l  
 23 Dec l  
 3

## JANUARY 1945

12 Jan l  
 13 Jan l  
 14 Jan l  
 21 Jan l  
 26 Jan l  
 30 Jan l  
 31 Jan l

7

## FEBRUARY 1945

2 Feb l  
 5 Feb l  
 8 Feb llll  
 12 Feb l  
 19 Feb l

8

85TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Custer"

MARCH 1945

3 Mar 1  
 8 Mar 1  
 11 Mar 1  
 12 Mar 1  
 25 Mar 1  
 31 Mar 1  
 6

APRIL 1945

18 Apr 1  
 19 Apr 111  
 20 Apr 111111  
 21 Apr 111  
 22 Apr 1111  
 27 Apr 1  
 18

MAY 1945

5 May 1  
 1

85TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----12 May 1944  
 bloodiest month-----May 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----14 May and 14 September 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----13 May and 1 October 1944  
 Total battle deaths-----1,749  
 928 are listed=53.0% KIA-1,572



## 86TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blackhawk"

Activated (WW II)—15 December 1942

Inactivated—30 December 1946 on Leyte

Battle Credits, World War II: Ruhr Pocket Central Europe

Days In Combat—34

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Harris M. McLasky

January 1943—December 1945

**Combat Chronicle:** The 86th Infantry Division fought in Europe for only a little over a month, but during that time, the division earned respect from friend and foe alike for its speed, maneuverability, and courage. Most of its men were originally from Illinois and Wisconsin.

The 86th arrived at Le Havre, France, on 4 March 1945. It then moved east to Cologne (Köln), Germany to take over defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine, relieving the 8th Infantry Division. After a short period of patrolling, the 86th crossed the Rhine at Bonn, and moved to Eibelshausen on 5 April.

Then, in a rapid attack, the 86th cleared Attendorn, 11 April, and entered the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket. It took Hohenlimburg and Gösseldorf, before being transferred into Bavaria, under the 3rd Army.

By 26 April, the Blackhawks had crossed the Altmühl River, and advanced to a position just outside of the sizeable town of Ingolstadt, by the Danube. Under persistent German artillery fire, the 86th took this town and then moved to the banks of the Danube. That evening, while American tanks lined the river banks and poured shells into the German lines across the river, and while the 86th's mortars and machine-guns threw thousands of rounds of steel into the dusk, infantrymen of the division shoved off from the north side of the Danube and secured a bridgehead on the opposite bank. Once across, the men of the 86th had to fight off an enemy counterattack designed to throw them back into the water. The 86th held.

Fighting against Germans who wouldn't yet admit they were licked, and against Hungarian storm troopers whom the Nazis had thrown into the battle, the 86th fought its way south. It secured a bridge over the Amper Canal, 29 April, crossed the Isar River, and reached the outskirts of Wasserburg on 1 May 1945. The division was then ordered to withdraw the next day, and move east to Salzburg, Austria. The 86th was securing the left flank of the 15th Corps, 7th Army, when V-E Day arrived on 8 May 1945.

After processing POWs, the 86th was one of the two U.S. divisions that actually got re-deployed to the Far East from Europe—the other was the 97th Infantry Division. After a 2 month stay at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, the 86th left from San Francisco on 24 August 1945, for Leyte, in the Philippines.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—2  
Silver Stars—12

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—161  
Killed In Action—136  
Wounded—618  
Missing—12  
Captured—19  
Total Casualties—785



## 86TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blackhawk"

APRIL 1945

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 18 Apr 11  
 19 Apr 1  
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 21 Apr 1  
 25 Apr 111  
 26 Apr 1111111111111 15  
 27 Apr 11  
 28 Apr 11  
 29 Apr 11  
 30 Apr 1

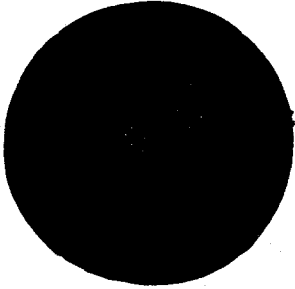
88

MAY 1945

2 May 11  
 3 May 1  
 3

## 86TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—————14 April 1945  
 bloodiest month—————April 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day—————15 April 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day—————26 April 1945  
 Total battle deaths—————161  
 91 are listed=56.5% KIA—136



87TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Acorn"

Activated (WW II)—15 December 1942

Returned To United States—11 July 1945

Inactivated—20 September 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Lorraine-Saar      Ardennes      Rhineland      Central Europe

Days In Combat—154

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Frank L. Culin, Jr.

April 1944—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 87th Infantry Division had for its shoulder patch, an acorn, a traditional symbol of strength. Before the Golden Acorn was through in Europe, it had convinced the Germans that this symbol was more than justified.

After extensive training at Ft. (then Camp) Hood, Texas, the 87th sailed from the United States in mid-October 1944, arriving in Scotland, on the 22nd, and then training in England from 23 October-30 November 1944.

The 87th landed at Le Havre, France, 1-3 December 1944, and was placed under the 3rd Army, as it moved up to the front. It first went into action on 8 December, when it took part in the final phase of the capture of the fortress city of Metz, including Fort Driant.

The 87th then moved forward into the Saar, in 3rd Army's right (eastern) flank, relieving the worn-out, but valiant 26th Infantry Division on 13 December 1944. The 87th first shifted to the vicinity of Gros Rederching, and then between 14-18 December, took the small towns of Rimling, Obergailbach, and Guiderkirch, in 5 days of furious fighting, and sustaining very heavy casualties. Elements of the division then fought a terrific 3-day battle in a woods inside Germany, before orders came down to dig-in and hold.

The 87th's brief, but very bloody stint in the Saar is borne out by the fact that it lost close to 325 men killed in action or died of wounds! And, as it turned out, 16 December 1944, was the 87th's bloodiest day in combat. Nevertheless, considering the awful conditions the 87th was about to go through in the already commenced Battle of the Bulge, nothing could compare with that.

When the Germans launched their major counteroffensive in the Ardennes, 16 December 1944, the 87th was one of the 3rd Army divisions which was eventually pulled out of the Saar, and ordered to attack into the southern flank of the German "bulge" penetration. The recently arrived 11th Armored and 17th Airborne Divisions had been rushed over from Britain, and these two outfits, along with the 87th, were placed in the western part of General Patton's counteroffensive, with the 87th on the far left (west) flank in the vicinity of Neufchâteau.

The 87th and the 11th Armored soon jumped-off into the attack on 30 December 1944, and ran smack into the right flank of a renewed attack by the Germans on Bastogne, with their Panzerlehr and 26th Volksgrenadier Divisions. The German assault was disrupted in furious fighting, and on the morning of 4 January 1945, the 17th Airborne was thrown into the struggle. The weather was bitter cold, there were some snowstorms with heavy drifting, there were numerous cases of frostbite, and the Germans resisted tenaciously—war at its worst.

Violent, fluctuating combat then occurred. The 87th had elements surrounded in a woods east of St. Hubert, and was stopped near Pironpré, west of Bastogne, on 4 January. The division was then forced out of Bonnerue, 6 January, and this town wasn't recaptured until

the 347th Infantry Regiment retook it on 11 January 1945. The rest of the 87th fought for Tillet, 6-10 January 1945. It was during this battle that the 87th had a Medal of Honor winner, Staff Sergeant Curtis F. Shoup, Company I, 346th Infantry Regiment, 7 January 1945, near Tillet, Belgium.

Sgt Shoup's company was attacking German troops on rising ground near Tillet. Intense enemy machinegun fire pinned down and threatened to annihilate the company in an exposed position, where frozen ground made it impossible to dig-in. Heavy artillery and mortar fire added to the destruction falling upon the Americans.

Realizing that the machinegun must be silenced at all costs, Sgt Shoup, armed with an automatic rifle, crawled to within 75 yards of the enemy emplacement. Finding his fire ineffective from this position, he completely disregarded his own safety, and got up and grimly strode ahead into a murderous stream of bullets, firing his low-held weapon as he went. He was hit several times and was knocked down. But he struggled to his feet and staggered forward until close enough to hurl a grenade and wiping out the machinegun nest. He then attempted to crawl toward another machinegun nest, when he was killed by a sniper. Sgt Shoup's inspiring heroism helped turn the tide of victory in the Americans' favor.

The 87th crossed the Ronce River, east of Petite Langlir, and a British outfit was contacted at the Ourthe River, on 13 January 1945.

On 15 January 1945, the 87th moved eastward, into Luxembourg, to relieve the valiant 4th Infantry Division along the Sauer River, and seized Wasserbillig, on the 23rd. On 26 January, the 87th relieved the 17th Airborne Division beyond Wattermal, Belgium, and the 346th Infantry Regiment took Espeler and several other towns south of St. Vith. The 87th then advanced to the vicinity of blasted-out St. Vith, 28 January 1945, and then took Schlierbach, Selz, and Hogden.

Next, the Golden Acorn cracked the Siegfried Line, and entered the austere Eifel region of extreme western Germany, at the beginning of February 1945. The weather was still bitter cold and, for awhile, the 87th and 4th Divisions had to be supplied by airdrops. Reconnaissance troops entered Roth on 3 February, as the division consolidated. The 87th then fought a fierce battle at the Schnee Eifel Crossroads, east of Kobscheid, 6-7 February 1945. The 345th Infantry Regiment then took Olzheim, on the 8th, and Neuendorf the following day. The division then went on the defensive from 10-26 February 1945.

In the extreme left (northern) flank of the 3rd Army, the 87th attacked on 26 February 1945, against some well-defended German positions. Despite armored assistance, pillboxes and other obstacles made the advance difficult, and the town of Ormont wasn't captured until 1 March 1945. Ormont, as well as Hallschlag, were taken in skillful night attacks.

Against heavy resistance—4 March 1945 was especially rough—the 87th next crossed the Kyll River, 6 March. With three regiments in line the next day, the division advanced rapidly to seize the Ahrhütte bridge, intact, over the Ahr River. Dollendorf fell on 8 March 1945, and on the following day the 87th was withdrawn for rehabilitation.

After going back into the line, the 87th crossed the Moselle, 16 March 1945, against ineffectual opposition. The 345th Infantry Regiment then cleared the large town of Koblenz, 17-19 March, in house-to-house combat. At the same time, the 347th Infantry Regiment took Oberspray.

On 25 March 1945, the 87th crossed the Rhine in the Boppard-Rhens area. It wasn't easy. As the first wave of troops in the night began to sneak across in small boats, the Germans on the far shore threw up flares. By their weird light, the Germans hurled in heavy and accurate mortar fire. Casualties were heavy, but the 87th forced its way across the large river, and pressed forward on the opposite bank. The division, despite strong opposition, including a counterattack, consolidated its bridgehead, and captured Grossenlinden and Langgons. Some units of the 87th were cited for this courageous action.

The 87th then consolidated its positions in the province of Hessen, south of Giessen.

On 7 April 1945, the 87th started an attack into central Germany, and fought through part of the Thüringen Forest, having a fierce battle with some 2,000 Germans near Arnstadt. With the loss of Saalfeld, the Germans lost one of their prize towns. Its capture further hampered the already dying German war production machine. Elements of the 87th also got a

good look at what Nazidom stood for at the concentration camp at Ohrdruf.

After this experience, the 87th continued on to the east, capturing the city of Plauen on 17 April 1945. The division then took up defensive positions from 20 April-4 May 1945, about 4 miles from the Czech border. On 6 May, the 87th took Falkenstein, capturing many prisoners, and elements of the division had its last major fight in the town of Oelsnitz. Before V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 87th had crossed into Czechoslovakia. The battle through central Germany had cost the 87th around 100 men.

During its time in combat, the 87th captured over 31,000 prisoners.

On 11 July 1945, the 87th returned to the United States, and was inactivated in September 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—3  
Distinguished Service Crosses—9  
Silver Stars—364

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,269  
Killed In Action—1,124  
Wounded—4,342  
Missing—109  
Captured—429  
Total Casualties—6,004



87TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Acorn"

MARCH 1945

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 28 Mar 11111111111111111111 20  
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177

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 11  
 7 Apr 1  
 8 Apr 1111111111 10  
 9 Apr 111  
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 11 Apr 11  
 12 Apr 111111  
 13 Apr 11  
 14 Apr 11111111 8  
 15 Apr 111  
 16 Apr 1  
 17 Apr 11  
 19 Apr 1  
 20 Apr 1  
 22 Apr 1  
 25 Apr 1

45

MAY 1945

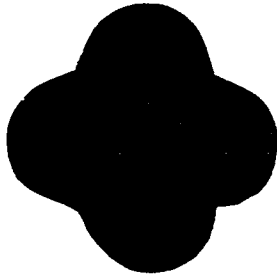
2 May 1  
 3 May 1  
 6 May 1  
 9 May 1  
 28 May 1  
 5

JUNE 1945

8 June 1  
 1

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----16 December 1944  
 bloodiest month-----December 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----14 December 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----17 December 1944  
 Total battle deaths-----1,269  
 722 are listed=56.8% KIA--1,124



## 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Devils"

Activated (WW II)—15 July 1942

Inactivated—24 October 1947 in Italy

Battle Credits, World War II: Rome-Arno Northern Apennines Po Valley

Days In Combat—307

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen John E. Sloan

July 1942—September 1944

Maj-Gen Paul W. Kendall

September 1944—July 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 88th Infantry Division arrived at Casablanca, French Morocco, on 15 December 1943, and moved to Magenta, Algeria, on the 28th for intensive training. It arrived in Naples, Italy, 6 February 1944, and the entire division relieved a British outfit along the Garigliano River near Minturno on 5 March 1944. This area was part of the German Gustav Line. To keep the Germans guessing, the men of the 88th were given British helmets to wear. So efficiently was the relief effected that all who witnessed it were amazed by the business-like manner in which the units of the division took over their respective sectors.

A period of defensive patrolling followed, and the soldiers of the 88th soon became wise to a number of German tricks including, notably, where a few of their men would offer to surrender, waving a white flag, but not coming forward. The unwary GIs would move out into the open and be mowed down by a hidden machine-gun. The 88th quickly got wise to this vicious trick and made any Germans who wanted to give up to come to them, while they remained in their foxholes, trenches, or behind other cover. During this static period of action the 88th sustained losses of 99 men killed, 252 wounded, and 36 missing. It was only the beginning!

On 11 May 1944, the Allies opened an all-out offensive to smash the Gustav Line, and the Blue Devils advanced in bitter and heavy fighting. It was on the very next day that the 88th had a Medal of Honor winner, 2nd Lieutenant Charles W. Shea, Company F, 350th Infantry Regiment, Monte Damiano, Italy, 12 May 1944.

While going over the crest of Monte Damiano shortly after dawn, Lt Shea's platoon leader was killed and his platoon sergeant wounded. Taking cover from enemy artillery, the lieutenant spotted two trip wires at his head and feet, and knew he was in the middle of a minefield.

Then a German machine-gun opened up on the men trapped in the field. Lt Shea realized it had to be silenced. Without hesitating he rose and started for the gun. As he approached, some sixth sense warned him to turn. He whirled about to see a German emerging from another machine-gun position and pointing a machine-pistol at him. He leveled his rifle and the German surrendered. Then 4 other Germans emerged from the position. One refused to come out. Motioning with his rifle, Lt Shea directed the prisoners to the rear, one being killed when he stepped on a mine. The last German rose to toss a grenade at an officer leading another platoon, and Lt Shea got him with one shot.

Maneuvering to keep out of range of the gunner he'd started out to get, Lt Shea suddenly found himself directly beneath another machine-gun nest, "so close I could have reached up

and touched the barrel." He captured 2 more Germans in this emplacement. A third German suddenly stood up and fired 8 shots from a P38 at less than 15 yards—and missed. Likewise, Lt Shea fired off an 8-round clip from his rifle, but, somehow, also missed. The two men then both ducked for cover. The lieutenant waited with another clip in his rifle. Then the German, blood streaming from his face, rose up to throw a grenade. The American fired his M1 and the German fell dead.

Altogether, that day, Lt Shea put 3 machine-gun positions out of action, captured several of the enemy, and his display of personal valor was an inspiration to his entire company.

Meanwhile, the 351st Infantry Regiment stormed into Santa Maria Infante and a particularly bitter battle developed. American tanks knocked out 21 enemy machine-guns in the first few hours. A hell of small-arms, machine-gun, and mortar fire fell upon the soldiers as they advanced up the rocky slopes. The Germans also counterattacked, but the relentless battering of the 351st was too much for them.

As the 88th slugged northward toward Rome, taking Itri, Fondi, and Roccagorga, the German 94th Infantry Division was eliminated as an effective fighting force. On 29 May, the 88th linked-up with forces from the Anzio beachhead area and, after some sharp fighting on the outskirts of Rome, entered "the eternal city" on 4 June 1944—two days before the invasion of Normandy.

After a few weeks of rest and rehabilitation in Rome, the 88th went into defensive positions near Pomerance, 5 July and, after relieving the 1st Armored Division, launched a double enveloping attack with the 349th and 350th Infantry Regiments on the ancient Etruscan stronghold of Volterra. The 351st Infantry, which had been held in reserve, was brought up even with the other two regiments. Volterra fell on 9 July 1944. Against bitter resistance the Blue Devils pushed further north taking Laiatico on the 11th, Villamagna on 13 July, and crossing the Arno River on the 20th.

After a rest period, the 88th opened an assault on the Gothic Line, beginning 21 September 1944. The Gothic Line was some of the toughest fighting of the entire war. The Blue Devils slugged across mountains and through concrete defenses thought to be impregnable. The Germans struck back savagely and fanatically as the 88th forged ahead in its sector, outdistancing other units and fighting with its flanks wide open as it caught hell from 3 sides in this raw, rainy autumn of 1944. Elements of the 88th battled to the top of the key bastion of Monte Battaglia against violent German counterattacks. It was during this bitterly fought action that the 88th had another Medal of Honor winner, Captain Robert E. Roeder, Company G, 350th Infantry Regiment, 27-28 September 1944.

Captain Roeder commanded his company in defense of this strategic hill mass. Soon after they occupied this hill, the Germans came on with determined counterattacks. Capt Roeder constantly circulated among his men, reassuring and encouraging them and directing their defense. During the sixth attack, the Germans, using flamethrowers and under cover of a fog, succeeded in overrunning the position. Captain Roeder led his men in a fierce battle which repulsed the Germans with heavy losses.

The following morning, while the company was repulsing another counterattack, Capt Roeder was seriously wounded by shell fragments and rendered unconscious. Regaining consciousness, he refused medical aid, and then, though weakened, dragged himself to the door of the command post and picked up a rifle, shouted encouragement to his men, and issued orders. He personally killed two of the enemy, before he was killed instantly by an exploding shell.

Captain Roeder's indomitable courage and fighting spirit were an inspiration to his entire company, and was vitally important in helping to fight off the enemy on Monte Battaglia.

Altogether, for 7 days and nights in the face of incessant and violent counterattacks by powerful German forces from elements of 4 different divisions, the 2nd Battalion, 350th Infantry Regiment clung tenaciously to its positions. Each enemy assault was preceded by artillery and mortar barrages and climaxed by bitter fire fights, use of flamethrowers by the Germans, hand-to-hand combat, bayonet charges, and hand grenade duels. The gallant men of the 88th repulsed each attack with a marked display of fighting ability and teamwork. Evacuation of the wounded was extremely difficult because of the inclement weather conditions, the nature of the rugged terrain, and the fact that the Germans covered every route of approach to Monte Battaglia with heavy artillery fire. On several occasions the ammunition supply became dangerously low, and when the men exhausted their hand grenades they resorted to throwing rocks at the oncoming enemy. Though fighting under the most



adverse battle conditions, the Americans never wavered. For this outstanding action the 2nd Battalion, 350th Infantry Regiment received the Distinguished Unit Citation, one of three such awards won by the 88th in Italy.

At Gesso, Monte Acuto, Monte la Fine, Castel del Rio, and San Clemente the Blue Devils stood off the worst that the enemy could throw at them. And, like so many of the earlier battles in southern Italy, supplies often had to be brought up the mountains by pack-mule. During this time, the 88th fought some of the best units in the German Army.

The various units of the U.S. 5th Army, after breaking through the Gothic Line in the bitterest type of combat, continued to battle further north through the mountains. The 88th was in the center of the assault and the closest to breaking out of the mountains south of the key city of Bologna. Courageously the Blue Devils slugged forward against desperate resistance and succeeded in capturing the key feature of Monte Grande on 20 October 1944. But then, in a vicious night attack, the Germans shattered three companies of the 88th, made up mostly of recently arrived replacements, near the village of Vedriano.

By this time, the 88th was exhausted, as were most all of the other 5th Army units, and the effort to break out of the mountains and into the Po Valley failed. The 88th, for its part, had done all it could. Just since 10 September 1944, the 4 main infantry divisions of the 5th Army—the 34th, 85th, 88th, and 91st had lost 15,716 men killed and wounded. This may give an idea as to how tough the fighting was in the northern Apennines. And the weather was often miserable, and the American formations in Italy were lacking in sufficient replacements.

There then followed a lengthy period of patrol activity until mid-January 1945. Then the division defended the Loiano-Livergnano area and, after a short rest, returned to the front. By this time, the Blue Devils had destroyed or severely mauled 6 German divisions and captured over 5,500 prisoners.

Finally, on 14 April 1945, the 5th Army opened its all-out offensive to destroy the German Army in northern Italy. It was bitter, intense fighting almost every step of the way, but the 88th captured Monterumici on 17 April after an intensive artillery barrage, and the Po River was reached on 23 April. The 88th bagged 15,000 more POWs including Major-General von Schellwitz, commander of the German 305th Infantry Division.

In bitter street fighting the cities of Verona and Vicenza fell on 25 and 28 April, and the 88th pursued the disintegrating Germans into the Alps. The 88th met elements of the 103rd Infantry Division which had fought through southern Germany in the Brenner Pass, and the Germans in Italy surrendered on 2 May 1945. During the push through the Po Valley, the 88th captured more than 30,000 POWs in 16 action-packed days.

The 88th was better than good. As a captured major from the German 1st Parachute Division, pride of the Wehrmacht, told his interrogators, "The 88th was the best we ever fought against."

The 88th formed part of the Army of Occupation (although most all of its men who had seen a lot of action were rotated back home) until it was inactivated in Italy in October 1947.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2  
Distinguished Unit Citations—3  
Distinguished Service Crosses—40  
Silver Stars—522

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,606  
Killed In Action—2,298  
Wounded—9,225  
Missing—941  
Captured—647  
Total Casualties—13,111



88TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Devils"

JUNE 1944

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JULY 1944

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SEPTEMBER 1944

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## 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Blue Devils"

## OCTOBER 1944

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## NOVEMBER 1944

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## DECEMBER 1944

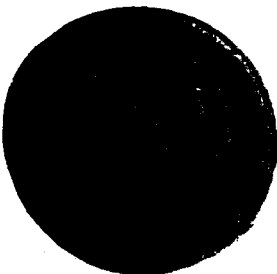
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## JANUARY 1945

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89TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Rolling W"

Activated (WW II)—15 July 1942

Returned To United States—16 December 1945

Inactivated—27 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Rhineland Central Europe

Days In Combat—57

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Thomas D. Finley

February 1943—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 89th Infantry Division, which originally had many men from both the central states and the Southwest, saw heavy fighting in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne operations during World War I. It also came away with 9 Medal of Honor winners in that war and had 980 men killed in action and 6,111 wounded.

In World War II, the 89th entered combat quite late in the war. The division landed at Le Havre, France, on 21 January 1945, and engaged in several weeks of pre-combat training. After being committed to the U.S. 3rd Army, the 89th moved up to along the Sauer River, east of Echternach, Luxembourg, on 11 March 1945.

On 12 March, the 3rd Army offensive began, and no battle-hardened troops ever attacked more relentlessly than the line companies of the 89th. The division plunged across the Sauer in a rapid advance to and across the Moselle, 17 March, and into the Palatinate. The 89th established a bridgehead through which the 11th Armored Division passed in its battle to the Rhine.

After clearing an area between the Moselle and Glan Rivers, the 89th moved to a new sector for a crossing of the Rhine between the towns of Kestert and Kaub. By noon, 26 March, after losing around 100 men killed in action (the division's bloodiest day in combat), the 89th had established three bridgeheads, and within a week had completed mopping-up in the rough, wooded area of the Bingen Bulge, including the capture of the town of Bingen, on the Rhine.

After crossing the Rhine, the 89th headed into the province of Hessen, consolidating its positions.

Then, in early-April 1945, the 89th, along with other 3rd Army divisions, started an attack in Thuringia, in central Germany. Eisenach was the first sizeable town to fall to the division, after a tough fight against SS troops. The next objective was the town of Friedrichroda, core of the vaunted Nazi redoubt in Thuringia. After a bitter battle it fell by 8 April. Further east, as the 89th advanced into part of the Thüringen Forest, it had a sharp battle with some 2,000 Germans in the vicinity of Arnstadt. The 87th Infantry Division was also in on this fight. In one town, 330 Polish women officers were liberated.

Continuing on to the east, the 89th captured the city of Zwickau against light opposition, 17 April, and then advanced to the Mulde River, where the drive was halted on the 23rd. At this time the division had already passed under control of the 1st Army. From then, until V-E Day, the 89th saw only limited action, engaging in patrolling and

general security. Three sizeable towns, Lössnitz, Aue, and Stollberg, were kept under constant pressure, but no attacks were launched until a few days before V-E Day, when the 89th pushed into northwestern Czechoslovakia, meeting moderate resistance.

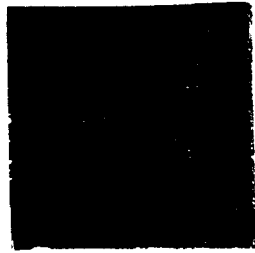
The 89th returned home on 16 December 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor	—0	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths	—325
Distinguished Unit Citations	—0	Killed In Action	—292
Distinguished Service Crosses	—0	Wounded	—692
Silver Stars	—46	Missing	—5
		Captured	—40
		Total Casualties	—1,029

The 89th Infantry Division had an unusually high percentage of men killed in action to its total casualties—30.5%—which may help indicate the élan of its attacks. The usual World War II ratio for an American combat division was, most frequently, around 20-23 per cent.







90TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tough 'ombres"

Activated (WW II)—25 March 1942

Returned To United States—16 December 1945

Inactivated—27 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy Northern France Lorraine-Saar  
Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe

Days In Combat—308

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Brig-Gen Jay W. MacKelvie	January—July 1944
Maj-Gen Eugene M. Landrum	July—August 1944
Maj-Gen Raymond S. McLain	August—October 1944
Maj-Gen James A. Van Fleet	October 1944—February 1945
Maj-Gen Lowell W. Rooks	February—March 1945
Maj-Gen Herbert L. Earnest	March—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 90th Infantry Division was originally composed of men mainly from Texas and Oklahoma. Thus, the monogram T-O on the division shoulder patch. The 90th first saw combat in World War I, in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives.

In World War II, the 90th landed in England on 5 April 1944, and trained from then until early-June. Elements of the division saw combat on D-Day at Utah Beach, with the rest of the outfit entering the fighting in Normandy on 10 June 1944—D-plus 4.

After the landings, the 90th, previously untried in combat, fought for 53 straight days. However, the 90th got off to a very shaky start. Voluntary pullbacks and continued collapses among certain units within the division soon threatened the entire American sector in Normandy.

At first, the 90th cut across the Merderet River and took very heavy casualties. The German 91st Infantry Division resisted with professional ferocity. After defensive action along the Douve River, the 90th entered the misty hell of Forêt de Mont Castre, in early-July. For 3 years the Germans had been using this area for maneuvers, and knew the terrain intimately. Besides this, it was a heavily fortified sector, the strong point in a line running east from Coutances. Facing the 90th were SS troops and paratroopers. The 90th battled in the forest for 8 days. Camouflaged enemy paratroopers took advantage of the low visibility in the area, and the 90th again suffered very heavy losses, but, still took Mont Castre. An attack on the island of Seves then failing, 23 July, the division bypassed it and captured Périers on the 27th.

By this time, General Omar Bradley had sent his ace troubleshooter into the 90th's area to investigate the division's situation, and then report back to him. General McLain said the trouble seemed to be in the higher levels of the chain of command. Surprised, General Bradley then proceeded to relieve 16 of the division's officers—the lowest one in rank being a major!

As the Americans broke the stalemate in Normandy in late-July and began the breakout across northern France, the 90th was put under the command of General McLain, one of the most dynamic and capable field commanders to come out of the war. Under his leadership, the 90th soon transformed into a very good outfit—in fact, one of the best.

After crossing the Selune River and seizing St. Hilaire-du-Harcouet, the 90th then helped close-in on the Falaise Gap and took Chambois on 19 August 1944. The 90th captured over 12,000 prisoners in the Falaise Gap, and killed many more of the enemy. But the stench of decay from dead horses and human flesh in this bombed-out, artillery blasted area was almost overpowering. Still, a large number of German troops managed to fight out of this trap—to cause a great deal of trouble in future battles. These troops included large parts of the vaunted 1st SS Panzer and 3rd Parachute Divisions and sizeable elements of the 116th Panzer and 353rd Infantry Divisions.

Under General Patton's 3rd Army the 90th raced across northern France, through Verdun, 6 September, and then repulsed a major German armored attack. Into Lorraine, for lack of fuel, the Americans were forced to dig-in, giving the Germans time to regroup and strengthen their defenses. As the weather turned increasingly foul during October 1944, the 3rd Army temporarily suspended offensive actions along its front. However, in late-October, the 90th launched a limited attack on the heavily defended town of Maizières-les-Metz, which fell after several days of fighting on 30 October 1944.

Then, while the 95th Infantry Division attacked the fortress city of Metz from the west, and the 5th Infantry Division from the south, the 90th was given the highly difficult job of crossing the swollen Moselle River north of the city. Normally, the Moselle is a placid, lovely stream. But the unusually heavy autumn rains had turned it into a raging torrent  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide. In the assault, some boats overturned but, heroically, every man was rescued, and the men reached the far side of the river to around Fort Königsmacker on 9 November. This was in the region of Thionville.

Then, a few days later, the 90th was hit by a violent assault by the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division. The 90th had a Medal of Honor winner in this furious fighting, Technical Sergeant Forest E. Everhart, Company H, 358th Infantry Regiment, 12 November 1944, near Kerling, France.

Before his men knew what was happening, German tanks and infantry penetrated their left flank. Sgt Everhart took command and organized the defense. After an hour, only he and one machinegunner were left out of his platoon, but they stopped a German attack. Upon this happening, the sergeant charged the Germans and killed at least 30 of them.

The surviving Germans withdrew, but then circled around to come up on his right. The sergeant grabbed a handful of grenades and once again moved forward alone, throwing the grenades wherever he found clusters of the enemy. The advance of the Germans was stopped cold. Sgt Everhart had dispatched at least 20 more of the enemy. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

In the overall battle, although the 90th sustained heavy casualties, the German dead ranged all the way from 600-700 yards in the distance to just a few feet from the GIs fox-holes. General Patton visited the battlefield afterwards and stated that he had never yet seen so many enemy dead in one area.

Between 6-18 December 1944, the 90th, as one of Patton's prize divisions, fought into the Saar, engaged in vicious house-to-house fighting in Dillingen, northwest of Saarlautern, and established a bridgehead across the Saar River.

But before Patton could make a major assault into the Saar and, possibly, reach the Rhine, the Germans struck with their all-out counteroffensive in the Ardennes on 16 December 1944. The 90th was secretly pulled out of the Saar, leaving only a skeleton radio net to fool the eavesdropping Germans. All men were ordered to remove their shoulder patches. The 90th had become such a crack outfit that even the Germans knew it. Captured German documents stated, "Prisoners identified as belonging to the 90th Division will be immediately taken to regimental G-3." The Germans felt that movements of the 90th might tip them off to overall 3rd Army strategy.

At first, being held back in reserve, the 90th took the offensive on 9 January 1945, attacking into Luxembourg into the southern flank of the bulge salient the Germans had created. It was bitter cold, there were heavy snowdrifts, and the Germans resisted fanatically, particularly when they savagely counterattacked at a place called Oberwampach. As the 90th, along with other 3rd Army divisions, painfully fought its way north, the Germans were finally forced back within the Siegfried Line after some of the most bitter fighting of the entire war. As the 90th helped force the Siegfried Line, another one of its 4 Medals

of Honor of the war occurred in the person of Corporal Edward A. Bennett, Company B, 358th Infantry Regiment, near Heckhuscheid, Germany, 1 February 1945.

Corporal Bennett and the rest of Company B were advancing over open terrain just after dark, near the village of Heckhuscheid. Suddenly, vicious German machinegun fire pinned down the company and caused several casualties. Corporal Bennett began crawling to the edge of a field in an effort to outflank, and get to the machinegun by a circuitous route, which was in a house on the edge of the village. In spite of the fact that the enemy spotted him by the light of some burning buildings, and tried to cut him down, he still managed to reach the safety of some trees. Stealthily, he circled around behind the house, and killed the sentry guarding the back door with his knife. Then he charged into the darkened house. In a furious hand-to-hand struggle, he stormed about a single room in which there were 7 Germans. He killed 3 with rifle fire, another with the butt of his rifle, and the last three with a .45 caliber pistol.

This courageous soldier eliminated the enemy fire which was decimating his company's ranks, and allowed it to sweep all further resistance from this village. Corporal Bennett survived the war to receive his award.

The 90th pushed into the austere Eifel, and forced the Kyll River against heavy resistance. Then the division crossed the Moselle and captured the city of Mainz, on the Rhine, 22 March 1945. Isolated pockets of resistance were quickly overcome. The streets had been heavily mined, but the disillusioned civilians, sick to death of Nazi lies and weary of war, volunteered to lead the GIs safely through the maze of mines.

After crossing the Rhine, along with other 3rd Army divisions, the 90th headed northeast through the province of Hessen, and then cut a swath through central Germany. On 2 April, the 90th reached the Werra River, running into fierce opposition. Ignorant of the German determination to hold at all cost, the 90th smashed through the German defenses and advanced to the east. Vacha was taken against stiff resistance, and then Dippach, Oberzella, and Merkers. Thanks to two German women who told them of this, men of the 90th made an amazing discovery at Merkers. They uncovered a mine with Germany's entire gold supply and a great portion of its wealth and stolen treasures. There was currency from many different nations, including 5 billion German marks and 2 million American dollars. There were some 4,500 gold bricks, weighing 35 pounds each, and worth over \$57,000,000!

From Zella-Mehlis, home of the Walther small arms factories, the 90th negotiated its way through part of the difficult country of the Thüringen Forest and cut to the southeast.

A news blackout had been imposed on the activities of the 3rd Army for several days. When it was lifted, the 90th had cut Germany in two and seized the rail center of Hof against fanatical but futile resistance.

Now advancing south-southeast, the 90th, using the Czech border as its left boundary, captured Marktredwitz, Tirschenreuth, Flossenbürg, and Weiden. At Flossenbürg, the 90th got to see what the Nazis were really capable of doing, for here was one of the most infamous concentration camps in Germany. Bodies of former inmates were stacked grotesquely like cordwood, and the ovens used for disposing of the bodies were on display. More than 1,100 surviving inmates, living under indescribably hard conditions, were liberated by the men of the 90th. With memories of Flossenbürg etched indelibly in their brains, the Americans moved on.

Scattered resistance continued as the 90th took Cham at the edge of the Bohemian Forest, near the Czech border. The heavily wooded Sudeten hills were as formidable an obstacle as the Eifel. Patrols venturing into the vast wooded area met sharp opposition from the battle-wise 11th Panzer Division.

On 30 April, the 90th opened an attack in the region of Waldmünchen and met stubborn opposition from tank, artillery, and small-arms fire. The dense forest made progress difficult. Plans were then abruptly altered when the redoubtable 11th Panzer, having ran out of fuel for its tanks, and wishing to prevent further bloodshed on both sides, surrendered the 9,000 men it had left to the indomitable 90th. At this time, this was one of the largest enemy formations that had been fighting the Allies.

Then, the 90th crossed into Czechoslovakia during the last several days of the war as part of the 3rd Army final attack of the war. On the division's left flank was the great 2nd Infantry Division, and on the right was the rampaging 4th Armored Division. Resistance, for the most part, was sporadic and ineffective. However, in the village of Zhuri, members

of the 90th were ambushed by around 100 Officer Candidates, and one company suffered 20 casualties. The Americans, enraged at these losses so late in the war, fought into Zhuri. In hand-to-hand combat they killed 24 of the enemy and captured the remainder.

Then, finally, V-E Day arrived on 8 May 1945.

Among the 90th's many noteworthy achievements, were a total of 83,437 prisoners captured, and the following enemy material destroyed or captured: over 500 tanks, 195 self-propelled guns, 1,228 artillery pieces, 134 airplanes, 82 locomotives, and 32 ammunition dumps.

After extensive occupational duty in northeastern Bavaria, the 90th returned home in December 1945, although a great many of its personnel who had seen extensive combat were rotated back to the United States much earlier.

All of the great accomplishments of the 90th Infantry Division were not without very heavy cost. It is 9th highest in number of total battle deaths of any American division in World War II. Nevertheless, as one of the U.S. divisions the Germans most respected, the 90th was one of General Patton's toughest and most reliable outfits. It seldom, if ever, let him down.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—4  
Distinguished Unit Citations—5  
Distinguished Service Crosses—78  
Silver Stars—1,418

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—3,868  
Killed In Action—3,270  
Wounded—14,386  
Missing—287  
Captured—1,185  
Total Casualties—19,128

Other 90th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action \*

Sgt John D. Hawk, 359th Inf Rgt, 20 August 1944, near Chambois, France

Pfc Foster J. Sayers, \* 357th Inf Rgt, 12 November 1944, near Thionville, France

Corporal Edward A. Bennett (later, Captain Bennett, in 1959), was the author's commanding officer in an advanced infantry training company at Ft. Ord, California, from January-March 1959. Captain Bennett not only looked and acted like a soldier but, was one in the best sense of the word. Rather rough looking, well-built, and soft-spoken, he never threw his weight around or bothered anyone.





## 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tough 'ombres"

## SEPTEMBER 1944

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## 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tough 'ombres"

## DECEMBER 1944

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## JANUARY 1945

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## 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Tough 'ombres"

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## APRIL 1945

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## MAY 1945

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## 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—————12 June 1944  
 bloodiest month—————July 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—————7 July 1944  
 3rd " " "—————23 July 1944  
 4th " " "—————13 June 1944  
 5th " " "—————11 June 1944

Total battle deaths—————3,868  
 2,063 are listed=53.0% KIA—3,270



## 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION "Wild West"

Activated (WW II)—15 August 1942

Returned To United States—10 September 1945

Inactivated—1 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Rome-Arno Northern Apennines Po Valley

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen William G. Livesay

July 1943—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 91st Infantry Division saw heavy action in the Meuse-Argonne and Ypres-Lys Offensives in World War I. Most of its men, in that war, were from Montana and the Pacific Northwest.

In World War II, the 91st arrived in French Morocco, on 18 April 1944, and underwent several weeks of intensive training.

Leaving by units, the entire division was in Italy by 19 June 1944. Meanwhile, the 361st Infantry Regiment landed at Anzio, 1 June 1944, and fought near Velletri, south of Rome. The 363rd Infantry Regiment entered combat near Riparbella, on 4 July.

On 12 July 1944, the entire division went into action near Chianni, Italy, for the high ground dominating the Arno River. It was on this day that the 91st had the first of its two Medal of Honor winners of the war, Sergeant Roy W. Harmon, Company C, 362nd Infantry Regiment, near Chianni, Italy.

He courageously attacked three German machinegun emplacements, knocking the first two out with grenades and submachinegun fire. Each of these positions was located in haystacks at loose interludes along the front. The third emplacement continued to direct a murderous rain of lead at Sgt Harmon's platoon.

Running to a small knoll, he attacked the third gun, crawling over ground which offered no concealment or cover. About halfway to his objective, he was wounded for the second time. But the sergeant struggled ahead until within 20 yards of the machinegun nest, where he rose up on his knees to throw a grenade. He was hit again, but with a final supreme effort he again rose up, hurled the grenade, and then fell dead. His grenade wiped out the machinegun nest.

The heroism of Sgt Harmon was a lasting inspiration to the men of a platoon he saved from possible annihilation, and made it possible for his company to continue its advance.

The Germans, entrenched in prepared positions, looked down from the mountains on the advancing 91st. However, after heavy fighting, by 19 July 1944, the 91st had fought its way through Terriciola, Bagui, Capannelli, Pensacco, and other towns, and reached the Arno River, north of Pontedera. At the same time the 34th Infantry Division reached the river on the 91st's left flank, while east of the 91st was the 88th Infantry Division. The 363rd Infantry Regiment took part in the capture of Leghorn (Livorno) along with elements of the 34th Division on the same day. Only two days later, 24 July 1944, part of the 363rd knifed into Pisa, another important objective.

From 24 July-11 September 1944, the 91st held positions along the Arno.

Then, on 12 September 1944, the 91st, along with various other Allied units, attacked

the formidable Gothic Line. Some of the toughest fighting of the entire Italian campaign soon followed. Pillboxes ringed with minefields and barbed-wire studded the countryside, and first-class German troops fought from within them. Each pillbox had to be knocked out individually and often at hand grenade range. The peak of Monticelli, especially, stood in the way, but the 91st took it in furious fighting. The division then battled through Il Giogo and Futa Passes, mid-September 1944, fighting against the formidable German 4th Parachute Division. The 91st Infantry Division stormed fortifications so strong that 105mm howitzers couldn't breach them. Losses on both sides were very heavy. It was in this bitter fighting that the 91st had a second Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant Oscar G. Johnson, Company B, 363rd Infantry Regiment, 16-18 September 1944, near Scarperia, Italy.

Sgt Johnson practically singlehandedly protected the left flank of his company's position. Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the entire corps. The advance was stopped by intense enemy fire, and Company B took cover behind an embankment.

As leader of a 7-man squad, he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank.

Repeated German counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire from high ground to the front had, by the afternoon of 16 September, killed or wounded all of his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen buddies, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans, who several times came close enough to throw hand grenades.

On the night of 16-17 September 1944, the Germans began a very heavy attack, putting the greatest pressure on the sergeant's position. In spite of mortar fire crashing about him and machinegun bullets ripping past him, he stood erect and repulsed this attack with grenades and small-arms fire. He remained awake and alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration.

On 17 September, 25 Germans surrendered to Sgt Johnson. Two men sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage. Disregarding his own safety, he rushed to a shellhole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered the position with his fire, and assisted a first-aid-man in giving first aid.

That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved.

Five companies of a German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B without success. Many enemy dead were found around the sergeant's position. By his heroic stand and combat sagacity, Sgt Johnson was, in large measure, responsible for beating back formidable German forces. He lived to receive his award.

The 91st breached the Gothic Line in 10 days of furious fighting.

Advancing through rocky escarpments and other natural barriers, as well as fanatical German resistance, the 91st was next stopped by the Caesar Line. It then proceeded to capture Monghidoro in a very hard battle in which the division performed magnificently.

The 91st, during October 1944, slowly and bloodily battled further north through the mountains, taking heavy losses and dishing it out to the Germans in return. It was a very rainy autumn and, as with the other Allied divisions in Italy, supplies often had to be brought forward by pack-mules on the treacherous slopes and trails.

In mid-October 1944, the 91st became involved for the towering escarpment of Livergnano. An advance platoon was caught in Livergnano by a terrific artillery bombardment and wiped out amid the ruins and rubble of the town. That night the Germans were heard slipping down from the heights and taking souvenirs from the dead GIs. This infuriated the Americans, and they were determined to get even—but they couldn't just yet. More tough fighting lay ahead. Flanked on both sides by towering mountains, the 91st fought hard, and the Livergnano Escarpment fell on 15 October 1944.

But then, the 91st ran into Monte Adone, a Gibraltar-like obstacle protecting the approaches to the city of Bologna and into the Po Valley.

By this time, the 91st, along with the other outfits of the 2nd Corps, U.S. 5th Army, was absolutely exhausted and could go on no further, although all the divisions had given their very best. The 91st, alone, since 12 September 1944, had had over 750 men killed or

missing in action and a great many more men wounded. This may give some idea as to just how rugged the fighting was in the northern Apennines. The Po Valley, though tantalizingly close, just could not be reached before winter set-in, much to the chagrin of the Allies. They would be stuck in the mountains for another long winter.

The 91st assumed defensive positions below Pianoro until 22 November 1944, when it was then relieved, and retired for rest and rehabilitation. Following this, the division assumed static defensive lines until relieved again on 24 January 1945. After this, the 91st relieved the 34th Infantry Division on 13 February 1945, in the Idice Valley sector, and had the Italian Legnano Group attached to it on 18 March 1945. Two days later the 91st retired to Gagliano and Villanova to prepare for the coming spring offensive.

The final assault to destroy the German Army in northern Italy began, for the U.S. 5th Army, on 14 April 1945. The 91st joined in the assault on 16 April 1945, attacking up Highway 65. 17 April 1945, was the bloodiest day of this offensive for the 91st, as it took Monte Adone, Monte Posigliano, Pianoro, and Monte Arnigo, all by the next day. Large elements of the division entered Bologna, 20 April 1945, along with elements of the 34th Infantry Division and the Polish 3rd Infantry Division. Monte Sabbiano was taken on the following day, and the 91st crossed the Po River on 23 April. The 91st was then placed under the British 8th Army, as it advanced into northeastern Italy. The division fought through Cerea, 25 April, and then crossed the Adige River the next day. It crossed the Brenta River, 29 April 1945, and reached Treviso, north of Venice, on the 30th, as German opposition collapsed. With the German surrender in Italy on 2 May 1945, the 91st swarmed into Trieste, and linked-up with Tito's Yugoslav partisan forces.

The 91st Infantry Division—another one of America's best.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,633
Distinguished Unit Citations—3 *	Killed In Action—1,456
Distinguished Service Crosses—2	Wounded—6,748
Silver Stars—528	Missing—262
	Captured—334
	Total Casualties—8,800

\* One to the entire 363rd Infantry Regiment—Monte Monticelli, Italy

## 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION "Wild West"

## JUNE 1944

3 June 1  
 4 June 1111  
 8 June 11  
 9 June 11  
 10 June 111111  
 11 June 1  
 14 June 1  
 16 June 11111111 8  
 17 June 1  
 18 June 1  
 20 June 1  
 22 June 111111  
 23 June 111  
 24 June 1  
 25 June 1111111111 11  
 26 June 11111111 8  
 27 June 111111  
 28 June 11111  
 29 June 11  
 30 June 111

74

## JULY 1944

1 July 11  
 2 July 111111111 9  
 3 July 11  
 4 July 1  
 5 July 111111111111111 16  
 6 July 111  
 7 July 11111111111 11  
 8 July 11111111111111111 20  
 9 July 1111111111111111 19  
 10 July 111  
 11 July 11  
 12 July 11111111111111111 20  
 13 July 1111111111 11  
 14 July 1111111111 10  
 15 July 1111111111111111 18  
 16 July 111111111111 13  
 17 July 1111111111 11  
 18 July 111111111 9  
 19 July 1111111  
 20 July 1  
 21 July 1  
 22 July 11  
 23 July 11  
 24 July 1  
 25 July 1  
 26 July 111  
 30 July 1  
 31 July 1

200

## AUGUST 1944

1 Aug 111  
 3 Aug 11  
 4 Aug 1  
 5 Aug 1  
 6 Aug 1111  
 7 Aug 1  
 8 Aug 11  
 9 Aug 1  
 12 Aug 1  
 14 Aug 1  
 17 Aug 11  
 19



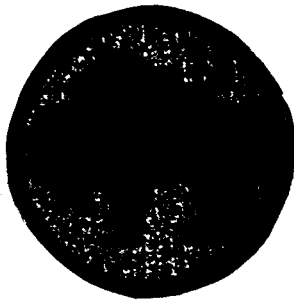
## 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION "Wild West"

DECEMBER 1944	JANUARY 1945	FEBRUARY 1945	MARCH 1945	APRIL 1945	MAY 1945
1 Dec 1	1 Jan 1	18 Feb 1	5 Mar 111	5 Apr 1	24 May 1
5 Dec 11	5 Jan 111	20 Feb 1	7 Mar 1	11 Apr 1	
10 Dec 1	16 Jan 1	25 Feb 1	9 Mar 11111	14 Apr 11	1
11 Dec 11	17 Jan 1	28 Feb 1	11 Mar 1	15 Apr 1	
16 Dec 1	20 Jan 1		14 Mar 1	16 Apr 11111111111111 15	
26 Dec 1	21 Jan 1	4	17 Mar 11	17 Apr 11111111111111111111 25	
27 Dec 11	22 Jan 111		29 Mar 1	18 Apr 111111111111 13	
30 Dec 1				19 Apr 1111111111 10	
	11		14	20 Apr 1111	
11				23 Apr 11	
				25 Apr 1111	
				26 Apr 111111	
				27 Apr 111	
				28 Apr 1	
				29 Apr 1	
				30 Apr 111111	
				95	

## 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—————16 September 1944  
 bloodiest month—————September 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—————17 September 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day—————14 September 1944

Total battle deaths—————1,633  
 886 are listed=~~54.2%~~ KIA—1,456



92ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Buffalo"

Activated (WW II)—15 October 1942

Returned To The United States—26 November 1945

Inactivated—28 November 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Rome-Arno Northern Apennines Po Valley

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Edward M. Almond October 1942—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 92nd Infantry Division got the idea for its shoulder patch when, many years ago, when the Army was chiefly concerned with Indians, a detachment of Black soldiers was assigned. To keep warm during the cold winters on the prairies, the soldiers killed buffalos and clothed themselves with the hides. The Indians began to call them "Black Buffalos", and the 92nd's shoulder patch and nickname carried on the tradition of those early American fighters.

The 92nd was one of the two U.S. divisions in both world wars which consisted of all Black enlisted personnel, plus numerous Black officers. In World War I, it saw considerable action in the Meuse-Argonne.

In World War II, the 370th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Armored Division, arrived in Naples, Italy, on 1 August 1944, and entered combat on the 24th. The 370th took part in the crossing of the Arno, the capture of Lucca, and the penetration of the Gothic Line. At first, enemy resistance was fairly light in its sector, as the remainder of the division arrived in Italy throughout October 1944.

Elements of the 92nd began a protracted struggle for Monte Cauala on 6 October 1944. Supporting tanks and tank destroyers were initially unable to cross swollen streams to reinforce the infantry driving on the mountain the next day. After reaching the slopes of Monte Cauala, the 92nd was forced back by German fire on 8 October. After four attempts were made to gain and hold the mountain, another major push was made, 12 October, which reached the crest, but the division was again forced to retire. Efforts were then suspended for a few days, while patrol activities were conducted. Monte Cauala fell undefended to a patrol on 17 October 1944. However, after unsuccessful attempts to advance northeast from the mountain, the division went over to the defensive on 23 October 1944.

Part of the 92nd advanced into the Serchio River Valley, early-November 1944, but was stopped in an attempt to capture Castelnuovo. Patrol actions were then carried out until 26 December. By this time, the separate 366th Infantry Regiment, also Black, was attached to the rest of the division.

On 26 December 1944, under cover of a fog, the Fascist Italian "Monte Rosa" Infantry and "Italia" Bersaglieri and German 148th Infantry Divisions began strong attacks on a 6-mile front in the 92nd's sector. While German and Ital-



ian units probed along the west side of the Serchio River, stronger elements of the German 148th Division advanced east of the river against the towns of Sommocolonia and Tiglio. Forward elements of the 92nd gave ground, with the heaviest blow falling on the 366th Infantry Regiment, which suffered heavy losses. The rest of the division had just 10 men killed in action. The enemy attack was renewed the next day, gained more ground, and forced the 92nd back to its second defense line. Fortunately, the 8th Indian Division quickly moved into the area, and the enemy soon withdrew after having pushed-in the front of the 92nd five miles. After this local, but alarming, setback there was a big shake-up in the division, with it eventually being reorganized with the nucleus about the 370th Infantry Regiment.

In early-February 1945, the 92nd launched a limited objective attack, which resulted in indecisive fighting for the heights on either side of the Serchio. The 92nd also crossed a heavily mined area to capture the Cinquale Canal on 8 February 1945, the division's bloodiest day in combat. However, on 11 February, it broke off all further attacks, and withdrew its bridgehead across the Cinquale Canal.

Until early-April 1945, the 92nd, along with other 5th Army units, shivered and waited in the cold, undergoing endless patrol activities.

For the final, all-out Allied assault in Italy, the 92nd had been reorganized into three line regiments (plus artillery support) consisting of the 370th Infantry, the excellent Japanese-American 442nd Infantry (back from France), and the newly formed 473rd Infantry Regiment, a white unit.

On 5 April 1945, a preliminary attack was begun on the left side of the Allied line by the 92nd. This attack, along and near the west coast, toward Massa and Carrara, made good progress, and on 9 April 1945, the British 8th Army opened its offensive along and near the Adriatic, followed by the U.S. 5th Army on the 14th. The fighting was hot and heavy all along the front. In the 92nd's sector, La Spezia and the big port of Genoa were taken by 27 April 1945, and many prisoners were captured. The 92nd then took over selected towns along the Ligurian coast until the enemy surrendered on 2 May 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—	0	Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—	624
Distinguished Unit Citations—	0	Killed In Action—	548
Distinguished Service Crosses—	2	Wounded—	2,187
Silver Stars—	208	Missing—	206
		Captured—	56
		Total Casualties—	2,997

## 92ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Buffalo" (Black)

## AUGUST 1944

24 Aug 1  
 28 Aug 1  
 29 Aug 1  
 30 Aug 111  
 31 Aug 1

7

## SEPTEMBER 1944

2 Sept 11  
 3 Sept 11  
 4 Sept 11111  
 5 Sept 11111  
 6 Sept 11  
 8 Sept 1  
 9 Sept 1  
 12 Sept 1  
 13 Sept 11111  
 14 Sept 11  
 15 Sept 111  
 16 Sept 1  
 17 Sept 1111  
 18 Sept 11111111 8  
 19 Sept 11  
 20 Sept 1  
 26 Sept 1  
 27 Sept 11

48

## OCTOBER 1944

6 Oct 111111111 9  
 7 Oct 11111111111 12  
 8 Oct 111  
 9 Oct 111  
 10 Oct 111111  
 11 Oct 11  
 12 Oct 1111111111111 14  
 13 Oct 11  
 14 Oct 111  
 16 Oct 111111  
 17 Oct 1111  
 22 Oct 11111111 8  
 23 Oct 1  
 25 Oct 1  
 28 Oct 1  
 31 Oct 11

77

## NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 1  
 4 Nov 11  
 6 Nov 1111  
 7 Nov 111111111 9  
 8 Nov 1  
 9 Nov 1111  
 11 Nov 1111  
 12 Nov 1  
 13 Nov 111  
 14 Nov 1  
 15 Nov 1  
 16 Nov 111111111 10  
 17 Nov 11111111111 13  
 18 Nov 11111111111 13  
 19 Nov 1111  
 20 Nov 111  
 22 Nov 1  
 23 Nov 1  
 24 Nov 1111111  
 25 Nov 11  
 27 Nov 11111  
 29 Nov 1  
 30 Nov 1

92







## 93RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Activated (WW II)—15 May 1942

Returned To United States—1 February 1946

Inactivated—3 February 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Bougainville Morotai Southern Mindanao

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Raymond G. Lehman

May 1943—August 1944

Maj-Gen Harry H. Johnson

August 1944—September 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 93rd Infantry Division, the other of the two U.S. Black divisions, including numerous Black officers, saw considerable action in World War I, although not as an integral division. Its regiments were divided up and placed under French control. This may help explain the World War I French helmet on its shoulder patch.

Elements of the 93rd first arrived on Guadalcanal in January 1944. One regiment landed on the Russell Islands. Various units of the division performed garrison duties on these and other islands throughout most of 1944, such as on Los Negros, Biak, and at Finschhafen, Eastern New Guinea.

Meanwhile, other elements of the 93rd fought on Bougainville during April 1944, working with the 37th Infantry Division. Elements of the 93rd secured the Saua River and a good deal of territory east of the Torokina River. This operation denied the Japanese a supply route from southern Bougainville.

During the early months of 1945, the 93rd was assigned as a garrison force on the island of Morotai.

In July 1945, the 368th Infantry Regiment spearheaded the divisions' assault on the southern side of Mindanao, just east of the Zamboanga Peninsula. Patrols encountered scattered resistance until the end of hostilities on 15 August 1945.

The 93rd moved to Taclobán, Leyte, on 13 January 1946, and left for home on 17 January.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—1  
Silver Stars—5

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—50  
Killed In Action—43  
Wounded—133  
Total Casualties—194

## 93RD INFANTRY DIVISION (Black)

JANUARY 1943	APRIL 1944	MAY 1944	JANUARY 1945	APRIL 1945	MAY 1945	JUNE 1945
15 Jan 1	3 Apr 11	17 May 1	27 Jan 1	30 Apr 1	7 May 1	7 June 1
27 Jan 1	5 Apr 1	1	1	1	1	10 June 1
2	6 Apr 1111*					2
	7 Apr 1					
	11 Apr 1	JULY 1945	SEPTEMBER 1945			
	16 Apr 1	17 July 1	28 Sept 1			
	17 Apr 1	18 July 1	1			
	20 Apr 1	2				
	12					

## 93RD INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----6 April 1944

bloodiest month-----April 1944

Total battle deaths-----46

23 are listed=50.0% KIA-----42



94TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Neuf-cats"

Activated—15 September 1942

Returned To United States—6 February 1946

Inactivated—9 February 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Brittany Siegfried Line Rhineland

Days In Combat—209

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Harry J. Malony

September 1942—May 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 94th Infantry Division was activated at Fort Custer, Michigan, on 15 September 1942. The division was sent to Camp Phillips, Kansas, for basic training, and later took part in the Tennessee maneuvers of 1943. It eventually shipped out from Camp Shanks, New York, to board the SS Queen Elizabeth. After disembarking in Scotland, 11 August 1944, and then a short stay in England, the 94th landed on the quiet Utah Beach, Normandy, on, coincidentally, D-plus 94, after a stormy crossing of the English Channel, on 8 September 1944.

The 94th moved into Brittany, France, to assume the responsibility of containing some 60,000 German troops in the ports of Lorient and St. Nazaire, who had refused to surrender, and continued to be a menace behind the Allied front.

For 111 days the 94th kept a wary eye on these Germans, with frequent skirmishes on the perimeters of the German positions. One of the most unusual occurrences of the war was the part played by the 94th's cavalry reconnaissance troop which secretly established itself on an island between the two ports to observe German sea traffic in the area.

Rarely before had a division operated on so wide a front and with such thinly held lines. To reinforce itself, the 94th trained and equipped 29 battalions of French troops. The 94th inflicted over 2,700 casualties on the Germans and took 566 prisoners, while having 100 men killed and 618 wounded, before being relieved on New Year's Day, 1945, by the 66th Infantry Division and the French forces it had trained.

After its war on the "forgotten front", the 94th was rushed across France and into the 3rd Army front to help fill-in the gap caused by a large part of the 3rd Army being shifted into the Bulge battle from the Saar area. The 94th took up positions at the base of the so-called Saar-Moselle Triangle, the southern end of the region between Luxembourg and the Saar, on 7 January 1945. It was bitter cold, and there were soon numerous cases of frostbite and trench foot.

On 14 January 1945, the 94th went over to the attack, advancing on Tettingen. So highly did the Germans prize this region, that they moved one of their ace outfits, the elite 11th Panzer Division, into it.

On 16 January 1945, the 11th Panzer attacked. The "Ghost Division" blasted the men of the 94th with a tremendous barrage of shells from tanks and self-propelled guns. For 20 minutes the 11th Panzer pounded Tettingen, Butzdorf, and Wochern. Geysers of dirt flew up from the streets, and snow, mud, and steel fragments lacerated the air. Roofs fell and walls crumbled until it seemed that nothing would remain but rubble. Then it grew quiet, save for the clanking treads of half-tracks, self-propelled guns, and dozens of

German Mark IV tanks. Tettingen seemed to quiver under the fury of the attack. As the tanks roared into the towns, the 94th let fly with everything it had—bazookas, satchel charges, grenades, machineguns, and small-arms fire. In furious fighting the Germans were beaten back.

Six more times Germany's finest panzer division threw itself against the 94th, only to be thrown back with staggering losses. Finally, General von Wietersheim, the 11th's commander, gave up the costly attacks, and ordered his division to fall back.

From 19-28 January 1945, the 94th cleared Nennig, Berg, and Sinz, aided by Combat Command A of the 8th Armored Division. However, the Germans continued to fight fiercely in this sector of the Siegfried Line, and on 20 January 1945, an unsuccessful battalion-sized attack against Orscholz, at the eastern side of the Triangle, resulted in the loss of most of two companies of the 94th.

On 23 January 1945, Master Sergeant Nicholas Oresko, Company C, 302nd Infantry Regiment, won the Medal of Honor for singlehandedly destroying two German bunkers and their machine-guns in the face of heavy fire. Although seriously wounded, he survived the war.

From 1-2 February 1945, the 94th made a limited objective attack and cleared the Campholz Woods, southeast of Tettingen. The 301st Infantry Regiment fought house-to-house and captured Sinz again on 8 February. The 301st and 376th Infantry Regiments fought for Bannholz Woods, 9-10 February, but were driven back. And the 302nd Infantry renewed its attack on some pillboxes east of Campholz, but was also repulsed. The division then regrouped.

As all this was occurring, on 9 February 1945, the 5th Ranger Battalion was attached to the 94th and, for over a month, this élite unit was a most valuable asset to the division's operations.

After 39 days of continuous fighting in the Saar-Moselle Triangle, the 94th had practically destroyed the German 416th Infantry Division, reduced the strength of the 11th Panzer Division by one-half, prevented the disengagement of large concentrations of enemy armor, and forced the funneling of badly needed German infantry replacements for other areas into its sector of front.

And then, beginning on 19 February 1945, the 94th launched a full-scale attack, three regiments abreast, and stormed the heights of Münzigen Ridge, backbone of the Saar-Moselle Triangle defenses, and in bitter fighting took all objectives. Exploiting the assault, the 94th and the 10th Armored Division secured the region from Orscholz to the confluence of the Saar and Moselle Rivers, by late-February 1945. Heavy fighting continued, but by 26 February, the two bridgeheads were joined, permitting a heavy pontoon bridge to be put in at Saarburg. It was also on the 26th that the Austrian 2nd Mountain Division attacked savagely at Serrig, before being forced back with heavy losses.

Elements of the 94th helped the 10th Armored capture the key city of Trier (population 77,000) in early-March 1945, forcing a bridgehead over the Saar River, inspite of a swift-running current. This was a brilliant feat of arms. For five days the Germans tried to eliminate this bridgehead, but the Yanks were not to be denied. Perhaps the finest tribute that was paid the 94th for its bloody success in crossing the Saar came from Hitler, himself. Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring later reported his reaction. "When the first break was made in the Siegfried Line, Der Führer was very upset. After that came the breakthrough near Trier, and that was wholly incomprehensible. We could not believe that these fortifications could be penetrated..."

On 13 March 1945, the 94th, spearheading the 3rd Army's 20th Corps, broke out of this bridgehead and slashed through the Palatinate in a dashing campaign. In the face of heavy resistance, the division reached the Rhine and, after fierce fighting, took the industrial city of Ludwigshafen, 22-24 March 1945. On the 25th, the 94th was withdrawn for rest and rehabilitation in the area of Baumholder.

On 3 April 1945, the 94th was moved by rail and motor to the city of Krefeld, where it relieved the 102nd Infantry Division along the west bank of the Rhine. Along with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, the 94th assumed responsibility for containing the western side of the Ruhr Pocket. Patrols were sent across the Rhine, and an aggressive defense was maintained. During this period, the only day when the 94th sustained any



casualties of any significance was on 6 April 1945. No major attacks from the Germans across the Rhine ever occurred, the river, itself, no doubt, being one major reason why.

Among its other accomplishments, the 94th captured a total of 26,638 prisoners.

With the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket, by mid-April 1945, the 94th was assigned military government duties first in Krefeld, and then in Düsseldorf. After V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 94th was sent into western Czechoslovakia, as part of an occupational force. The 94th, as a unit, didn't return to the United States until February 1946, but much of its personnel had already rotated back home much sooner.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—1  
Distinguished Service Crosses—54  
Silver Stars—510

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,172  
Killed In Action—1,009  
Wounded—4,789  
Missing—116  
Captured—619  
Total Casualties—6,533

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Neuf-cats"

SEPTEMBER 1944

11 Sept 11  
 12 Sept 1  
 17 Sept 11  
 19 Sept 1  
 22 Sept 1111  
 23 Sept 11  
 26 Sept 1

13

OCTOBER 1944

2 Oct 11  
 4 Oct 1  
 8 Oct 1  
 9 Oct 11  
 15 Oct 1  
 16 Oct 11  
 19 Oct 1  
 20 Oct 1  
 21 Oct 11  
 22 Oct 1  
 25 Oct 11  
 26 Oct 1

17

NOVEMBER 1944

13 Nov 1  
 15 Nov 1  
 26 Nov 1  
 27 Nov 111111

9

DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 1  
 5 Dec 1  
 8 Dec 1  
 18 Dec 1  
 26 Dec 1

5

JANUARY 1945

13 Jan 1  
 14 Jan 11111  
 15 Jan 11  
 16 Jan 1111111111111111 17  
 17 Jan 11  
 18 Jan 11  
 19 Jan 1111111  
 20 Jan 111111111111 13  
 21 Jan 11111111111 12  
 22 Jan 11111  
 23 Jan 11111111 9  
 24 Jan 1111  
 25 Jan 11  
 26 Jan 11111111111111 16  
 27 Jan 111111111111111111 24  
 28 Jan 11111111111111 16  
 29 Jan 1111111  
 30 Jan 111

147

FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 111111  
 2 Feb 111  
 3 Feb 111  
 4 Feb 11  
 7 Feb 11111111111111111111 23  
 8 Feb 11111111111111 16  
 9 Feb 11  
 10 Feb 1111111111111111 18  
 11 Feb 111  
 15 Feb 111  
 16 Feb 11111  
 19 Feb 11111111111111111111111111111111 36\*  
 20 Feb 11111111111 12  
 21 Feb 11111111111 12  
 22 Feb 111111111111111111 23  
 23 Feb 11111111111 12  
 24 Feb 11111111111 12  
 25 Feb 11111111111 13  
 26 Feb 11111111111 12  
 27 Feb 11111111 9  
 28 Feb 111111111111111111 22

approx.  
 65\*men

247

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Neuf-cats"

MARCH 1945

1 Mar 1111111111 10  
 2 Mar 11111111111111 14  
 3 Mar 111  
 4 Mar 111111111 9  
 5 Mar 111  
 6 Mar 111111111111111111111111 24  
 7 Mar 11111111111111 14  
 8 Mar 11  
 9 Mar 11  
 10 Mar 1  
 12 Mar 11  
 13 Mar 11  
 14 Mar 11111111111 11  
 15 Mar 1111111111111 13  
 16 Mar 111111111111111 15  
 17 Mar 1  
 19 Mar 1  
 20 Mar 11  
 21 Mar 11  
 22 Mar 111111  
 23 Mar 111111111111111111111111 25  
 24 Mar 11  
 29 Mar 1

165

APRIL 1945

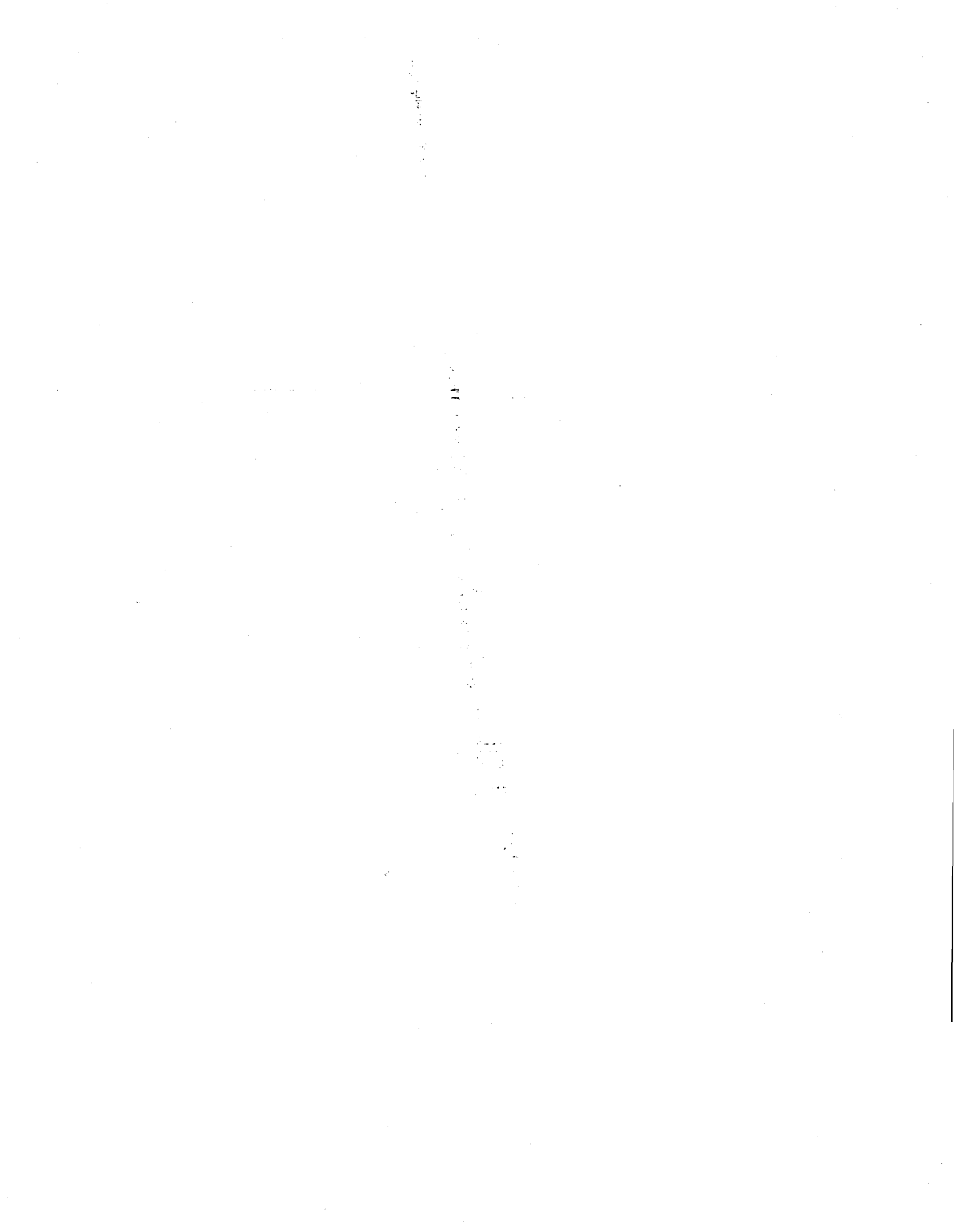
3 Apr 1  
 4 Apr 11  
 5 Apr 1  
 6 Apr 1111  
 7 Apr 1  
 9 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 1  
 11

MAY 1945

2 May 1  
 9 May 1  
 14 May 1  
 3

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----19 February 1945  
 bloodiest month-----February 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----23 March 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----27 January and 6 March 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----1,100  
 617 are listed=56.0% KIA-----950





95TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Victory"

Activated—15 July 1942

Returned To United States—29 June 1945

Inactivated—15 October 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Lorraine-Saar Siegfried Line Rhineland  
Ruhr Pocket

Days In Combat—151

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):  
Maj-Gen Harry L. Twaddle

Commanded the division throughout  
World War II

Combat Chronicle: The 95th Infantry Division, following its drive to the Rhine, had some of its men make a very audacious phone call. "Give us Der Führer in Berlin—and make it collect." That was the command issued to startled German telephone operators. They didn't get hold of Hitler, although the lines to Berlin were still intact, but it is for certain that he knew of the 95th Infantry Division, called the "Bravest of the Brave."

The 95th arrived in England, on 17 August 1944. After receiving additional training, it moved to France, 15 September 1944, and bivouacked near Norroy-le-Sec, early October.

Under the 3rd Army, the Victory Division hit the line on 19 October 1944, south of Metz. It patrolled the Seille River near Cheminot, and repulsed German attempts to cross the river. On 1 November 1944, elements went over to the offensive, reducing an enemy pocket near Maizières.

Then, the 95th took part in one of the most daring and courageous actions of the war—the reduction of the fortress city of Metz. The division crossed the Moselle on 8 November 1944, as part of the 3rd Army offensive to advance into the Saar. The 378th Infantry Regiment established a bridgehead at Thionville, 11 November, and fought for Fort Yutz, 11-13 November 1944. The 377th Infantry Regiment defeated a major German counterattack at its bridgehead, also on the 13th.

To assault the fortress city of Metz head-on would have been suicide. So the 95th set-up a phony front of three rifle platoons, one anti-tank platoon, cooks, clerks, and other rear-echelon personnel. This small force, using loudspeakers and other means of deception, fooled the Germans into thinking that an entire regiment was in front of the strongly-held forts ringing Metz. This ruse enabled the 378th Infantry Regiment to sweep around to the north, and attack from the rear.

Against bitter resistance, the 378th captured several of the outer ring of forts about Metz. At the same time, the 379th Infantry Regiment was battering away at Fort Jeanne d'Arc, at the western approach to the city, while the 5th Infantry Division attacked from the south. A bloody battle followed as the 95th crashed through the main line of resistance, and ran wild through 7 small towns to reach Metz. The city was taken on 22 November 1944, although the Germans in Fort Driant continued to hold out. The 95th's 14-day battle at Metz had cost the Germans over 1,500 men killed, over 3,500 wounded, and 6,082 taken prisoner. The 95th lost some 600 men. The 95th then advanced toward the Saar.

It was during the period between 16-29 November 1944, that a remarkable one-man epic occurred. It was in the person of Staff Sergeant Andrew Miller, Company G, 377th Infantry Regiment, during his company's relentless advance from Woippy, France, through Metz, and to the German border near Saarlautern.

As S/Sgt Miller led a rifle squad on 16 November 1944, in Woippy, he forced 5 Germans in a building to surrender at bayonet point. He then wiped out a machinegun nest with grenades, and took two prisoners.

On the outskirts of Metz, the next day, he exchanged bursts with a machinegun until he silenced it.

On 19 November 1944, Sgt Miller led an attack on a large enemy-held barracks. Covered by his squad, he crawled to a barracks window, climbed in, and captured six German riflemen. His men followed, scouring the building, and taking 75 more prisoners. Sgt Miller then volunteered, with three other men, to capture Gestapo agents who were preventing the surrender of some Germans in another building. He ran through machinegun fire, and was lifted through a window. Although covered by a machine-pistol, he persuaded the 4 Gestapo agents confronting him to surrender. Sgt Miller could speak fluent German.

Early the next morning, with his company under heavy fire, he took on the task of eliminating a well-placed machinegun. He was knocked down by a rifle grenade as he climbed an open stairway in a house, but pressed on with a bazooka. He then discovered a very advantageous spot from which to launch his rocket, from a roof-top, although this could very well draw heavy enemy fire. Facing the risk, he moved out into the open, took aim, and scored a direct hit on the emplacement. This wreaked such havoc that the Germans became completely demoralized, and began to give up by the score.

The following day, in Metz, the intrepid sergeant captured 12 more POWs and knocked out another machinegun nest.

On 29 November 1944, as his company climbed a hill overlooking Kerprich Hemmersdorf, Germany, enemy fire pinned down his unit. Sgt Miller, on his own initiative, pressed forward with his squad past the company's leading element to meet the surprise resistance. His men stood up and advanced deliberately, firing as they went. Inspired by the gallant sergeant's leadership, the entire platoon followed, and then another. The Germans were overwhelmed, but Sgt Miller was killed in this action. His devotion to the attack, superb leadership and fighting skill, and indomitable bravery were a lasting inspiration to his entire company, and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. military. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The 95th crossed the Saar River under cover of a thick fog, without the loss of a single man. Not a shot was fired. Once across the river, the 95th turned to the south toward a main bridge over the river. It was the only one in the area, and the 95th needed it intact. The Americans moved swiftly.

Striking with lightning speed, a German radio operator in an armored car, frantically pounding out a call for help, was bayoneted. A second German, sprinting for the demolition switch on the bridge, was shot dead, five feet short of his goal, by a battalion commander. The men of the 95th then quickly cut the demolition wires on the bridge. There were 6,000 pounds of explosives under it.

Guns from every pillbox within range cut loose as the Germans realized what was happening with their prize bridge, and the 95th withstood no less than 10 counterattacks. But the Victory Division held its ground. Yes, Hitler had heard of the 95th all right. When he received word of this brilliant action, he was furious, and demanded a full report from OKW (German High Command on the Western Front). He just couldn't see how a cherished bridge of his could fall so easily into the hands of the enemy.

Then the 95th began to battle for Saarlautern, and it was one of the most vicious fights of the war in the West. This was part of the Siegfried Line, and massive pillboxes and bunkers were sandwiched in between houses and commercial buildings. And facing the 95th was one of Germany's best divisions, the 21st Panzer, which had also fought in Normandy. A battalion objective for an entire day might be a block, or part of a block. It was house-to-house, bunker-to-pillbox fighting, as the 95th encountered mines and booby-traps,

and 88mm guns firing point-blank. There was a savage hand-to-hand encounter in a ballroom, a dance of death. And the 95th beat back repeated counterattacks by the 21st Panzer.

The 95th was relieved in line on 18 December 1944, as the 5th Infantry Division took over the fighting.

By this time, the Germans had opened their all-out counteroffensive in the Ardennes. But, this time, the 95th got a break, as it didn't enter that huge battle, but was ordered to cover an area south of the Saar-Moselle Triangle. Still, its lines were stretched dangerously thin. Fortunately, no major German attacks occurred on its front while the Bulge battle was in progress, except for one which was defeated on 20 January 1945.

Then, as the Battle of the Bulge was ending, the 95th was transferred up north, near Maastricht, Holland, on 2 February 1945. The division then relieved British units in the line near Meerselo.

Relieved on 23 February 1945, the 95th assembled near Jülich, Germany, 1 March 1945, and was now under the U.S. 9th Army. It cleared the Ürdingen Pocket, by 5 March, and then advanced to the Rhine against heavy resistance as part of the 9th Army offensive.

From 12 March to early-April 1945, the 95th established and maintained defensive positions in the vicinity of the sizeable town of Neuss, on the west bank of the Rhine, opposite the city of Düsseldorf.

Then, after crossing the Rhine, near Rheinhausen, the 95th attacked into the Ruhr Pocket. The division crossed the Lippe River, 4 April 1945, and took Hamm and Kamen against fierce resistance. The 95th then advanced further east over rough, broken terrain and helped the 75th Infantry Division in its battle to take the big city of Dortmund, which fell on 13 April 1945.

The Victory Division then maintained positions on the northern bank of the Ruhr River, and organized German resistance in the Ruhr Pocket ended on 16 April 1945.

The 95th remained in the Ruhr as part of an occupational force, as V-E Day finally came on 8 May 1945. The 95th returned home that following month.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—1  
Distinguished Service Crosses—11  
Silver Stars—752

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,387  
Killed In Action—1,205  
Wounded—4,945  
Missing—61  
Captured—380  
Total Casualties—6,591





## 95TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Victory"

## JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 1111111111 10  
 2 Jan 1  
 3 Jan 1  
 5 Jan 1  
 8 Jan 1  
 9 Jan 1  
 12 Jan 1  
 16 Jan 111  
 18 Jan 1  
 20 Jan 11111111 8  
 21 Jan 11  
 22 Jan 1  
 23 Jan 1  
 30 Jan 1  
 33

## FEBRUARY 1945

13 Feb 11  
 2

## MARCH 1945

2 Mar 1  
 3 Mar 111111  
 4 Mar 11111  
 5 Mar 1  
 6 Mar 11  
 20 Mar 1  
 28 Mar 111  
 31 Mar 11  
 21

## APRIL 1945

1 Apr 1  
 2 Apr 1111111111 10  
 3 Apr 1  
 4 Apr 1111111111 10  
 5 Apr 11  
 6 Apr 11111  
 7 Apr 111111111111 12  
 8 Apr 1  
 9 Apr 11  
 10 Apr 11111111 8  
 13 Apr 1  
 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 1  
 17 Apr 1  
 19 Apr 1  
 23 Apr 1

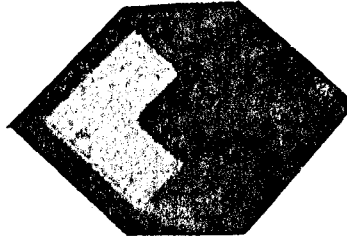
58

## MAY 1945

2 May 11  
 14 May 1  
 3

## 95TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\* bloodiest day—18 November 1944  
 bloodiest month—November 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—10 and 15 November 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day—17 November 1944  
 Total battle deaths—1,374  
 753 are listed=54.8% KIA—1,206



96TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Deadeye"

Activated—15 August 1942

Returned To United States—2 February 1946

Inactivated—3 February 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Leyte Okinawa

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen James L. Bradley

Commanded the division throughout  
World War II

Combat Chronicle: The 96th Infantry Division took as its nickname, the "Deadeye", due to its marksmanship proficiency during its nearly two years of training in the United States.

Activated in August 1942, with a cadre drawn from the 7th Infantry Division, the 96th sailed for Hawaii, in July 1944, and continued training there, and met up with the 7th, which had recently gotten back from Kwajalein.

On 20 October 1944, the 96th helped make the initial assault on the Philippines, hitting the eastern coast of Leyte, with the 1st Cavalry, 24th Infantry, themselves, and the 7th Infantry Divisions, from north to south.

The 96th landed between Tanauan and Dulag. Advancing inland against heavy resistance, the division took San José, and then ran up against swampy terrain and Japanese pillboxes. As soon as this opposition was broken, the 96th attacked Tabontabon, and penetrated into the town, but one battalion was temporarily cut-off by a sudden enemy counterattack. The 382nd Infantry Regiment then took this town, and advanced toward Kiling, and also captured Tigbao, on 22 October. The 382nd then fought for Tatnauan, 26-28 October 1944. The 383rd Infantry Regiment pushed across the Guinarona River, despite supply problems.

On 3 November 1944, the 96th was held up by tenacious Japanese resistance on a hill which became known as Bloody Ridge, but then defeated strong enemy counterattacks on 4-5 November. This region was west of the Dagami area. In one counterattack the Japanese lost over 250 men to concentrated artillery fire. By 10 November 1944, the 96th had secured the Tanauan-Dagami-Tabontabon area.

Advancing deeper into the wild terrain of central Leyte, elements of the 96th then helped defend Buri Airstrip against a Japanese paratroop attack in the first week of December 1944. Other troops in this area were elements of the 11th Airborne and 38th Infantry Divisions. After about a week of hard fighting, the Japanese paratroopers were wiped out.

The 96th then engaged in small unit actions, patrolling, probing, and eliminating pockets of Japanese. Organized resistance was officially declared ended on Christmas Day, 1944.

The 96th continued mopping-up operations, and relieved the 11th Airborne Division on 14 January 1945. On 10 February 1945, the 96th was relieved from all combat operations on Leyte. The 96th had accounted for over 7,000 dead Japanese, while losing 317 men.

The 96th had a good collection of Japanese souvenirs, including one of the largest of the war—a whole Japanese cannon collected by four artillerymen who towed it behind a carabao back to their battery.

The Deadeyes left Leyte on 27 March 1945, for their second, and, by far, bloodiest operation of the war—Okinawa.

Along with the 1st and 6th Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions, the 96th landed on the southwestern coast of Okinawa on "All Fool's Day", Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945. Few of these veterans, however, were fooled into believing that it would be an easy operation, know

ing only too well the type of resistance the Japanese could put up.

The marines, at first, wheeled to the north, while the 96th and the 7th Infantry Divisions, after taking Yontan and Kadena Airfields, pivoted south—and into extremely heavy fighting.

The 96th soon advanced to Kakazu Ridge, on 8 April 1945, in very tough combat. A surprise attack succeeded in storming this ridge on the following day, 9 April 1945, the 96th's bloodiest day in combat of the war. On 10 April, the division was forced back off of this bloody ridge. Another attack by the Americans was resumed on the same day, and the 96th was soon subjected to major Japanese counterattacks, 12-14 April 1945. After this, the division was replaced in line by the recently arrived 27th Infantry Division.

After a few days of rest, the 96th attacked southward against the outer belt of the Shuri Line against the toughest Japanese defenses the Americans had yet met anywhere in the Pacific. The 27th Infantry Division was near the west coast, and the 7th Infantry Division was on the east coast, with the 96th in the center of the line.

From 17-23 April 1945, the 96th assaulted and cracked the fanatically defended Japanese defense line, Tanabaru-Nishibaru. A task force from the 96th was then formed to destroy the Kakazu Pocket. The division then secured the high ground in the Tanabaru-Nishibaru area against decreased opposition by 24 April.

The 96th next attacked Maeda Escarpment, assisted by flamethrowing tanks, on 26 April 1945, and met strong resistance on the reverse slopes. While fighting for this escarpment the 96th was relieved in line by the recently arrived, excellent 77th Infantry Division, and given a rest. (On the next day, 1 May 1945, the 1st Marine Division came down from the north, and relieved the exhausted 27th Infantry Division).

Returning back into the line on 10 May 1945, the 96th relieved the 7th Infantry Division. In extremely hard fighting the 383rd Infantry attacked Conical Hill, 11 May, and held it against a major enemy counterattack on 13 May 1945. This feature was secured by the 15th, and denied the Japanese their last good observation point on Okinawa.

The heavy and bloody fighting continued without let-up. The 382nd Infantry fought for, and eventually took Dick Hill, 11-18 May, while the 381st Infantry took Sugar Hill, 18-21 May 1945. Several more hills were taken in hard fighting by the 96th, with 21 May 1945, being an extremely bloody day for both sides.

By this time, heavy rains had hit the island, turning it into one huge quagmire of mud, muck, and miniature lakes out of some of the larger shell craters. All of this, of course, made the going just that much tougher in this incredible battle.

The 96th resumed the attack again on 30 May 1945. On the next day, one of the truly remarkable one-man epics occurred of the entire war.

Private first-class Clarence Craft, Company G, 382nd Infantry Regiment, was a rifleman, as his platoon spearheaded an attack on Hen Hill, the tactical position on which the entire Naha-Shuri-Yonabaru Line hinged. For 12 days American troops had been stalled with repeated attacks thrown back with heavy casualties.

Pfc Craft and 5 fellow soldiers were dispatched in advance of his company to feel out the enemy resistance. After only a short distance, the group was bombarded by rifle and machinegun fire and a barrage of grenades, and three of the men were wounded.

Then, against odds that seemed suicidal, Pfc Craft began launching a courageous and daring one-man attack. He stood up in full view of the Japs, and began shooting with deadly accurate rifle fire. He advanced steadily up the hill, killing Japanese with rapid fire, and driving others to cover in their trenches. He reached the crest of the hill, where he stood silhouetted against the sky while throwing grenades at the enemy at extremely short range. His extraordinary assault lifted the pressure on his company, and other men began advancing and throwing grenades over the crest of the hill. He left his position, as grenades from both sides were passing over his head, to attack the main enemy trench, as confusion and panic seized the defenders. He pumped rifle fire into the Japs at point-blank range, killing many and causing others to flee down the trench. Pursuing them, he wiped out a heavy machinegun which was still creating havoc in the American ranks.

By this time, the Japanese were in complete rout, and the Americans were swarming over the hill. Pfc Craft continued on to a cave where a satchel charge was brought to him.

Throwing it inside, it failed to explode. With great daring, this courageous soldier retrieved the charge from the cave, relit the fuse, and threw it back in. This time it exploded, sealing the Japs in a tomb.

Pfc Craft, alone, accounted for at least 25 of the enemy, no doubt more. But his contribution to the entire battle on Okinawa was far more important. It was more than just a coincidence that the 77th Infantry and 1st Marine Divisions took Shuri, and Shuri Ridge, at about the same time, for Hen Hill was the key to the entire Japanese defense line.

By incredible luck, extraordinary courage, and superb fighting skill, Pfc Craft had broken a stalemate which had held up two entire regiments for 10 days! He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism, and won nationwide fame.

Yet, still more tough fighting occurred. The 96th eliminated opposition near Chan, on 1 June 1945, and advanced to the southwest.

The 381st Infantry Regiment fought for and took Yaeju-Dake Escarpment, 6-14 June, in more heavy fighting, and then Yuza-Dake Peak, by the 16th. The 383rd Infantry Regiment was engaged in the battle for Yuza, on 11-12 June 1945.

The men of the 96th then cracked the center of the Japanese defenses on 17 June 1945, in still more bitter combat.

The 96th was involved in some rugged fighting right up to the time that Okinawa was finally declared secured on 21 June 1945. The day before, the 96th lost its assistant commander, Brigadier-General Claude M. Easley, by a burst of machinegun fire.

The 96th patrolled until 30 June 1945, and then moved to Kamizato for rehabilitation. The Deadeyes had accounted for some 13,000 Japanese, but the holocaust that was Okinawa cost the lives of 1,849 men in the 96th!

After rehabilitating, the 96th left for Mindoro, in the Philippines, to train for the invasion of Japan. Of course, this never had to take place, and the 96th returned home on 2 February 1946.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—5  
Distinguished Unit Citations—2  
Distinguished Service Crosses—12  
Silver Stars—232

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—2,166  
Killed In Action—1,596  
Wounded—7,281  
Missing—63  
Captured—5  
Total Casualties—8,945

Other 96th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action \*

T/5 Grade Beaufort T. Anderson, 381st Inf Rgt, 13 April 1945, on Okinawa  
Pvt Ova A. Kelley, \* 382nd Inf Rgt, 8 December 1944, Buri Airstrip, Leyte  
Pfc Edward J. Moskala, \* 383rd Inf Rgt, 9 April 1945, Kakazu Ridge, Okinawa  
Capt Seymour W. Terry, \* 382nd Inf Rgt, 11 May 1945, on Okinawa

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Deadeye"

OCTOBER 1944

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141

NOVEMBER 1944

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14 Nov lll  
16 Nov lll  
20 Nov ll  
21 Nov llll  
23 Nov l  
24 Nov ll  
27 Nov l  
28 Nov l  
29 Nov l

85

DECEMBER 1944

7 Dec l  
8 Dec ll  
14 Dec l  
15 Dec ll  
19 Dec l  
26 Dec l  
8



## 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Deadeye"

## JUNE 1945

1 June 1111111  
 2 June 1111111111 11  
 3 June 111111111 9  
 4 June 1111  
 5 June 1  
 6 June 1111111111111111 18  
 7 June 111  
 9 June 1  
 10 June 111111111111 12  
 11 June 111111111 9  
 12 June 11111111 8  
 13 June 1111111111111111 17  
 14 June 1111111  
 15 June 111111111111 13  
 16 June 11111111111111 15  
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 19 June 111111111111111 16  
 20 June 111111111111 13  
 21 June 111111  
 22 June 1111  
 23 June 111  
 24 June 1  
 25 June 1  
 26 June 11  
 27 June 111  
 28 June 1  
 30 June 111

212

## 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----9 April 1945  
 bloodiest month-----April 1945  
 2nd bloodiest day-----19 April 1945  
 3rd bloodiest day-----21 May 1945  
 Total battle deaths-----2,166  
 1,239 are listed=57.2% KIA-1,596

## JULY 1945

2 July 11  
 15 July 1  
 25 July 1  
 4



97TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Trident"

Activated—25 February 1943

Inactivated—31 March 1946 in Japan

Battle Credits, World War II: Ruhr Pocket Central Europe

Days In Combat—41

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Brig-Gen Milton B. Halsey January 1944—September 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 97th Infantry Division originally consisted of men mainly from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The division landed at Le Havre, France, on 2 March 1945, and moved to Camp Lucky Strike.

At the end of March, the 97th took up defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine River, opposite Düsseldorf, engaging in patrol activities. After only a few days in this area, the division was moved down along the Rhine to Bonn.

On 3 April 1945, the 97th crossed the Rhine near Bonn, and took up positions along the south bank of the Sieg River. It crossed the river in assault boats on 7 April, against light resistance, and then helped take Siegburg in fierce street fighting, 9-10 April. 9 April 1945, was the 97th's bloodiest day in combat. The 97th then began to push back toward Düsseldorf, to close the Ruhr Pocket from the south, fighting through difficult terrain and heavy resistance in often densely wooded areas. It was during this phase of the fighting that the 97th had a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc Joe R. Hastings, Company C, 386th Infantry Regiment, at Drabenderhöhe, Germany, on 12 April 1945.

Pfc Hastings fought gallantly against strong German forces defending this town from dug-in positions on commanding ground. As squad leader of a light machinegun section supporting the advance of two platoons, he braved direct machinegun, rifle, 20mm, and mortar fire. Some of this hail of death missed him only by inches, as he rushed forward over 350 yards of open, rolling fields to a position from which he could fire on the Germans. From this point, he killed the crews of the 20mm gun and a machinegun, drove several riflemen away, and so successfully shielded one platoon, that it had time to reorganize and move its wounded to safety. The platoon to the Pfc's right was met by very heavy fire from a 40mm gun and a machinegun. Pfc Hastings ran 150 yards to kill the crew of the 40mm gun. He then spearheaded this platoon's attack, firing from the hip, as bullets cracked past him. The assault carried 175 yards to its objective.

Pfc Hastings, by his courage, outstanding leadership, and determination to wipe out the enemy opposition, cleared the way for his company's advance into Drabenderhöhe. He was killed in action four days later.

The 303rd Infantry Regiment took the I. G. Farben Chemical Works near Leverkusen, and the 386th and 387th Infantry Regiments reached the Berg Neukirchen-Burscheid Railway on 15 April.

The steel city of Solingen was cleared in fairly heavy combat, 16-17 April



1945, and the big city of Düsseldorf fell on the next day as resistance in the Ruhr Pocket collapsed. During the final mopping-up actions in the Ruhr, the 97th took thousands of prisoners. The fighting in the Ruhr cost the 97th over 140 men killed in action or died of wounds.

The 97th then raced across central Germany, and was placed in Patton's 3rd Army. The division relieved the 2nd Cavalry Group in the As-Arzberg Line, 22-24 April 1945. On 25 April, in heavy combat, the 97th attacked Cheb, Czechoslovakia, which was taken the following day, as well as Cheb Airfield on the 28th. This area is just inside northwestern Czechoslovakia. On 29 April, the 97th attacked into a German-held pocket near Weiden, Germany, seeing fairly heavy action on the 30th.

In the 3rd Army's final offensive of the war, the 97th attacked toward the city of Pilsen, 5 May 1945, and had reached Konstantinovy Lazne, Czechoslovakia, 7 May 1945, when V-E Day came on the following day.

The 97th was then redeployed to the Far East, arriving in Cebu, in the Philippines, on 16 September 1945. The 97th then arrived in Yokohama, Japan, for occupational duties on 23 September 1945, and was inactivated there at the end of March 1946.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—1  
Silver Stars—61

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—215  
Killed In Action—188  
Wounded—721  
Missing—9  
Captured—61  
Total Casualties—979

1 WWII

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Trident"

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 11  
2 Apr 11111111 8  
3 Apr 1  
7 Apr 111  
8 Apr 111  
9 Apr 11111111111111111111 20\*  
10 Apr 11111 approx.  
11 Apr 111 33\*men  
12 Apr 11111111 8  
13 Apr 11111111 8  
14 Apr 11111  
15 Apr 111  
16 Apr 111111111111 12  
17 Apr 11  
24 Apr 111  
25 Apr 1111111111111 13  
26 Apr 1111  
29 Apr 1  
30 Apr 1111111  
111

MAY 1945

1 May 11  
2 May 1111  
3 May 1  
5 May 11  
9

JULY 1945

2 July 1  
1

97TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----9 April 1945  
bloodiest month-----April 1945  
2nd bloodiest day-----25 April 1945  
3rd bloodiest day-----16 April 1945  
Total battle deaths-----215  
121 are listed=56.2% KIA--189



**98TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Iroquois"**

**Activated—15 September 1942**

**Inactivated—16 February 1946 in Japan**

**Commanding Generals (Last general During WW II):**

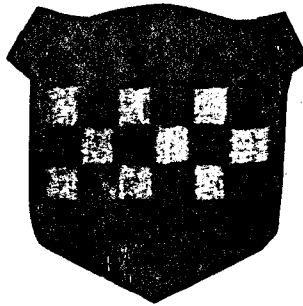
**Maj-Gen Arthur Harper**

**November 1944—Inactivation**

**Combat Chronicle:** The 98th Infantry Division's shoulder insignia derives from the fact that most of its men originally were from the state of New York.

The 98th saw no combat during World War II, but not for any special lack of desire. The luck of war had the division stationed in Hawaii as a security measure, from 19 April 1944, until the end of the war in the Pacific. However, the 98th would have been committed to the invasion of Japan, had that been necessary.

In mid-August 1945, the 98th left Hawaii for occupational duty in Japan, arriving on 27 September 1945.



**99TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Checkerboard"**

Activated—15 November 1942

Returned To United States—17 September 1945

Inactivated—15 October 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Siegfried Line      Ardennes      Rhineland      Ruhr Pocket  
Bavaria

Days In Combat—151

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Walter F. Lauer

July 1943—August 1945

**Combat Chronicle:** The 99th Infantry Division sailed from Boston harbor on 29 September 1944, and arrived in the British Isles on 10 October, just one month after leaving Camp Maxey, Texas. The division crossed the English Channel to Le Havre, France, 3 November, and proceeded to Aubel, Belgium, to prepare for combat.

The 99th got its first combat experience beginning on 9 November 1944. It relieved the 9th Infantry Division and the 102nd Cavalry Group in a sector west of the Roer River between Schmidt and Monschau, and engaged in a rousing artillery battle with the Germans near Wirtzfeld.

A month later, the 99th aided in the defense of the U.S. 5th Corps sector near the Roer. After defensive patrolling, the 99th probed the Siegfried Line against heavy resistance.

Then, on 16 December 1944, the Germans launched their surprise counteroffensive in the Ardennes. On its extreme left flank the 99th was hit by the 246th Volksgrenadier Division of the German 15th Army. But the rest of the 99th caught the full force of the northern prong of the German onslaught.

In the center of the division's line, the dark sky lit up with searchlights and spotlights which the Germans focused on the 99th's snow-covered positions to point out targets for their hordes of attackers. It was weird—fantastic—crazy. Waves of the shouting enemy, madly firing their burp guns, wildly whooped and yelled as they charged headlong at the Americans, only to be mowed down by rifle and machine-gun fire. Other Germans, cloaked in white, sneaked across the snow-covered fields in a vain attempt to get behind our lines. If this was an attempt at German "schrecklichkite" (terror) to over-awe the GIs and to make them flee, it failed miserably. The Germans were chopped down in horrible slaughter.

Outnumbered 5 to 1 all along its line and in some places 15 to 1, the valiant soldiers of the 99th fought the enemy to a standstill. Sustaining very heavy casualties, while inflicting grievous losses on the Germans, the right flank of the 99th withdrew by degrees to Elsenborn Ridge. Here, along with the great-fighting 2nd Infantry Division, the 99th heroically held against violent and repeated attacks by 4 excellent German divisions—the 3rd Parachute, 12th Infantry, 12th SS Panzer, and 277th Volksgrenadier. It was on the very first day of the entire enemy onslaught that the 99th had a Medal of Honor winner, Technical Sergeant Vernon McGarity, Company L, 393rd Infantry Regiment, near Krinkelt, Belgium.

He was painfully wounded, went to an aid station and received treatment, and then refused to be evacuated, choosing instead to return to the front. The men of Company L were

holding on heroically as the fury of the enemy offensive swirled all about them. During the night the Americans frustrated German attempts at infiltration.

That morning, the Germans attacked with tanks and infantry. Sgt McGarity braved heavy fire to run to an advantageous position where he immobilized the lead German tank with a round from a bazooka. He rescued a wounded soldier under fire, and then directed devastating fire on a light cannon which the Germans had brought up. When ammunition ran low, he braved a concentration of enemy fire to replenish his unit's supply.

Then, as the Germans, by a circuitous route, emplaced a machine-gun to the rear of his company, Sgt McGarity unhesitatingly decided to destroy this menace singlehandedly. He left cover and, while under steady enemy fire, killed or wounded all of the German gunners with deadly accurate rifle fire, and prevented all attempts to re-man the weapon. Finally, when his squad's ammunition had been expended, the Germans advanced and captured the intrepid leader and his men.

Thanks to men like Sgt McGarity and his company, episodes similar to this one were repeated many times during the opening phase of the Battle of the Bulge, gaining time for other units to move into position to help stop the German advance.

The 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions' stand on Elsenborn Ridge was one of the most courageous—and crucial of the entire Bulge battle, and earned for the 99th the nickname "Battle Babies."

From 21 December 1944–30 January 1945, the 99th was engaged in aggressive patrolling and re-equipping. As the Germans were slowly forced back into the Siegfried Line, the 99th relieved the heroic 82nd Airborne Division and attacked toward the Monschau Forest on 1 February. To the north was the 9th Infantry Division and to the south the 2nd Infantry Division, three of the finest divisions in the U.S. Army. The 99th was relieved on 13 February 1945 for rest and rehabilitation.

On 2 March 1945, the 99th took the offensive. It assisted the 3rd Armored Division by seizing the dominant heights overlooking the Erft River. Then the 99th took the key center of Bedburg and Delrath, and advanced rapidly east of the Erft to the Rhine against ineffective opposition. This advance permitted the 3rd Armored to swing to the south and, along with the 8th and 104th Infantry Divisions, capture the ruined city of Cologne.

Fierce fighting occurred in Hönningen and Weissfeld, and then the 99th turned south to go into the Remagen bridgehead. The Battle Babies helped hold the bridgehead on the east bank against furious German attacks.

Pushing on somewhat southeast, the Checkerboards took Limburg on the Lahn River, and then continued east along the Lahn, helping to take the sizeable town of Giessen on 29 March. During March, the Battle Babies had actively attacked 24 days out of 31. They captured 495 square miles of enemy territory, took over 200 towns, and captured 8,542 POWs. But the cost was high—354 men killed in action, 1,310 more wounded, and 154 missing.

After capturing Schwarzenau on 3 April, the division swung to the north into the southern side of the huge Ruhr Pocket, encountering heavy resistance. The attack into the pocket started, for the 99th, on 5 April 1945—12 days of day and night fighting. The land was scenic, but rugged—full of high, wooded slopes. Numerous towns including Elspe and Alten were captured as the 99th fought through Iserlohn and to the Ruhr River by 16 April. German opposition collapsed soon after, and the 99th bagged thousands of prisoners, as did just about all of the other U.S. divisions which fought in the Ruhr Pocket. All told, well over 300,000 Germans were captured in the Ruhr!

And then, the 99th was transferred to General Patton's 3rd Army in Bavaria, where the Germans were still full of fight. After a rather lengthy journey of 285 miles into southern Germany, the 99th began an assault on 23 April 1945. It crossed the Ludwig Canal against stiff resistance and established a bridgehead over the Altmühl River on 25 April. On the 25th and 26th, 481 POWs were captured, a miscellaneous group with representatives from the Volksturm, a mountain battalion, and the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier, 352nd Infantry, von Hobe and 38th SS Divisions.

The Danube was crossed at Kienheim and vicinity on 27 April. Once across the river, elements had a sharp fight on their hands in the town of Eining which was cleared by late-afternoon. Following up in the wake of the 14th Armored Division, the 99th captured a training division whose strength had been cut from 10,000 to 3,000 men. The 395th Infantry Regiment helped the 14th Armored liberate Moosburg where there was a large POW camp.

Then, the 99th crossed the Isar River at Landshut, 1 May, after a stubborn fight with the Germans. The attack continued to the Inn River on the Austrian border where the 99th was then pinched out of the attack. Between 23 April-2 May, the 99th had advanced 75 air miles to the southeast and captured 15,455 prisoners.

The Fighting 99th may not have been in the ETO as long as some of the older divisions, but during its time in combat it proved that it was one of the best. The 99th returned home, via the port of Marseille, France, in September 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—2  
Distinguished Service Crosses—16  
Silver Stars—252

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,168  
Killed In Action—993  
Wounded—4,177  
Missing—247  
Captured—1,136  
Total Casualties—6,553



## 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Checkerboard"

## JANUARY 1945

1 Jan 111  
 2 Jan 1  
 3 Jan 11  
 5 Jan 1111  
 6 Jan 111  
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 13 Jan 11  
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 17 Jan 111  
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 21 Jan 1  
 25 Jan 1111  
 26 Jan 111  
 27 Jan 11  
 28 Jan 11  
 29 Jan 1111  
 30 Jan 1111111111 11  
 31 Jan 1111111111111 15

81

## FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb 1111  
 2 Feb 11  
 3 Feb 1  
 4 Feb 1  
 7 Feb 111  
 8 Feb 1  
 9 Feb 11  
 11 Feb 11  
 20 Feb 1  
 23 Feb 1  
 26 Feb 1

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## MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111111111111 13  
 2 Mar 111111111111 13  
 3 Mar 111111111111 12  
 4 Mar 1111  
 5 Mar 11111111 9  
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 20 Mar 1111  
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 24 Mar 11  
 25 Mar 11111  
 26 Mar 1  
 27 Mar 11  
 28 Mar 1

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## APRIL 1945

1 Apr 11  
 3 Apr 1  
 4 Apr 1  
 5 Apr 1111111111111111 20  
 6 Apr 11111111 9  
 7 Apr 11111111 9  
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 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 111111  
 16 Apr 1  
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 19 Apr 1  
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 27 Apr 1111111111 12  
 28 Apr 1

104

## MAY 1945

1 May 11  
 11 May 1  
 18 May 1  
 24 May 1

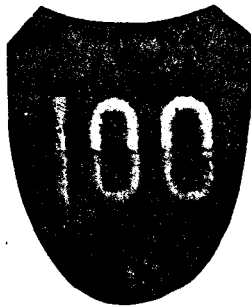
5

## 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----17 December 1944  
 bloodiest month-----December 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----18 December 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----13 March 1945

Total battle deaths-----1,131  
 643 are listed=56.8% KIA-----983





100TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Century"

Activated—15 November 1942

Returned To United States—10 January 1946

Inactivated—26 January 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Vosges Mountains      Alsace      Siegfried Line  
Days In Combat—163      Rhineland      Württemberg

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Withers A. Burress      November 1942—September 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 100th Infantry Division left its staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, at the beginning of October 1944, and left New York harbor, 6 October, in an 11-ship convoy. Also, in this convoy were the 103rd Infantry and part of the 14th Armored Divisions. After a harrowing, storm-filled 15-day voyage, the convoy arrived at Marseille, France, on 20 October 1944.

The 100th was immediately moved northward into the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France, under the U.S. 7th Army. First elements of the 100th saw action at St. Remy on 1 November 1944, and the entire division began relieving the exhausted 45th Infantry Division at Baccarat, on 5 November.

As part of the 7th Army offensive to get through the Vosges, the 100th jumped-off into the attack on 12 November 1944. The mud from the heavy recent rains was shin-deep, and, under the prevailing weather conditions, the assault surprised the Germans. But the deep mud soon slowed the advance to a crawl. The artillery could barely move, and supply problems multiplied by the hour. The men lived on K-rations, and there were early outbreaks of trench foot. Despite these conditions and their inexperience, the men of the Century Division cracked the German line at Bertichaamps and Clairrupt. Soon after, Colonel William A. Ellis, commander of the 397th Infantry Regiment, was killed by machinegun fire.

The 100th then seized the important German supply base at Raon-l'Étape against heavy resistance, amid the steep, heavily wooded slopes surrounding the town. The Germans launched a counterattack, but the 100th held.

Ripping through the Germans' main line of resistance, the 100th took Moyenmoutier, Senones, and St. Blaise. By seizing and holding onto Schirmeck, the division prevented the Germans from advancing down the Saverne Gap.

After regrouping in early-December, the 100th advanced northward and began attacking the small towns on the way to the Siegfried Line area. German opposition was strong. The 100th began the drive on Bitche, 3 December 1944, clearing Meisenthal and surrounding Mouterhouse by 6 December. Wingen and Lemberg were then taken in fierce fighting, 6-10 December, and Reysviller fell 11-13 December 1944.

Then, the 100th encountered fanatical resistance in taking Fort Schiesseck, part of the German defense line below the fortress town of Bitche. There were huge pillboxes with massive concrete walls, 4 feet thick, and 600 pound charges of dynamite were used against these fortifications. The fighting at Bitche was marked by close hand-to-hand encounters. One soldier was jumped by two Germans, but he fought so fiercely, even us-

ing his teeth, that both of them surrendered. Bitche fell, inspite of the fact that the Germans had thundering batteries of artillery to back up their fortified positions. The reduction of the Ensemble de Bitche was a courageous feat of arms, but the Americans sustained heavy casualties, as did the Germans.

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, 1945, the 100th improved its positions, mined enemy approaches, and beat back several large German patrols. The men were issued fleece-lined white coats for winter camouflage in the snow.

Then, on 1 January 1945, the Germans began their furious offensive in northern Alsace, which was strategically linked to their winter offensive in the Ardennes, further to the northwest in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg. The 100th, defending the area around Bitche, was attacked by German infantry screaming, cursing, and shouting, "Yankee bastards" or "American gangsters." They ran in upright positions, disregarding cover, with a bravado that made the GIs think that they had been doped or were drunk. The 100th's well-emplaced automatic weapons cut them down by the scores, and repeated German attacks were beaten back between 1-10 January 1945. During 8-9 January, the 100th had a Medal of Honor winner, Technical Sergeant Charles F. Carey, 397th Infantry Regiment, near Rimling, France.

Sergeant Carey rallied his outnumbered platoon for a spirited defense of Rimling, that broke the back of an enemy attack. He located enemy gun emplacements, and rescued two men under heavy fire. He next knocked out a German tank and killed the crew as they attempted to escape. He also killed two snipers and captured 57 prisoners, with the help of men in his patrol.

When the brunt of the next German attack struck, four of his men were caught in an attic under withering fire. Sgt Carey went behind the building and helped these men escape. Then he set out to rescue a bazooka team which was surrounded in a barn, and, caught in the open, was killed by sniper fire. Sgt Carey's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. military.

The 100th was highly praised for its defensive stand by General Jacob L. Devers, the 6th Army Group commander.

After 10 January 1945, the division's sector was generally quiet, and it rested and recuperated. February was relatively quiet in the 100th's sector of the line. The men remained in their foxholes, fighting boredom, the bitter cold, and trench foot. Occasionally, there was time for a trip to the division rest center in Sarrebourg.

Then, on 15 March 1945, as the spring thaw began, the 7th Army attacked along its entire front in an all-out effort to smash the Siegfried Line. On the 100th's left flank was the 45th Infantry Division, and on the right the 71st Infantry Division. The 100th was met with devastating artillery, mortar, and rocket fire the first two days of the attack, and then was held back in reserve for further exploitation of the attack. Then, after other units of the 7th Army battled through the Siegfried Line in a week of heavy fighting, the 100th fought into the Palatinate. The division took the sizeable town of Neustadt, and then reached the Rhine at the city of Ludwigshafen on 24 March 1945. The city had already fallen to the 94th Infantry Division.

Crossing the Rhine, 31 March 1945, the Century Division advanced south, in the wake of the 10th Armored Division, and then east, running up against very fierce resistance in the Neckar River Valley. The 398th Infantry Regiment crossed the Neckar River at Neckargartach, and established a bridgehead in heavy combat. The 100th then began the battle for Heilbronn, 4-12 April 1945, which only fell after furious house-to-house fighting. It was during this battle that the 100th had the last of its three Medal of Honor winners of the war, Pfc Mike Colalillo, Company C, 398th Infantry Regiment, on 7 April 1945.

Pfc Colalillo's company was pinned down during an attack against strong enemy positions. Heavy artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire made any movement hazardous, when he suddenly stood up, shouted to his company to follow, and ran forward in the wake of a supporting tank, firing a German machine-pistol. Inspired by his example, the men followed inspite of savage enemy fire.

When his weapon was struck by shrapnel and rendered useless, he climbed on top of

the tank, manned an exposed machinegun on the turret, and fired at an enemy emplacement with such devastating accuracy, that he killed or wounded at least 10 Germans and destroyed their machinegun.

Maintaining his dangerous position on top of the tank, Pfc Colalillo blasted three more positions, and killed an SS lieutenant who was attempting to hide in a haystack.. He silenced all enemy resistance in his area of advance, until his gun jammed. He then secured a submachinegun from the tank crew to continue his attack on foot. He then helped a seriously wounded soldier over several hundred yards of open terrain rocked by intense German artillery and mortar fire. By his intrepid and inspiring courage, Pfc Colalillo gave tremendous momentum to his company's attack, and saved a wounded man's life. His actions upheld the highest standards of the U.S. military.

Furious fighting continued. The 398th Infantry Regiment fought the battle for Jagstfeld, 6-11 April 1945, while attempting to expand its bridgehead near Offenau. The 100th then advanced rapidly behind the 10th Armored Division, and captured Loewenstein on 16 April. The 397th Infantry Regiment reached the Murr River at Sulzbach 19-20 April, the 398th Infantry crossed the Murr at Murrhardt 19 April, and the 399th Infantry battled for the heights at Beilstein 18-19 April 1945.

Ranging deeper into the province of Württemberg, the 100th reached the city of Stuttgart on the 21st. The city was already occupied by the French. The 100th was mopping-up along the Neckar, southeast of Stuttgart on 23 April, when it was pinched out of the attack. The 100th then confined its action to patrolling the area east of Stuttgart. Shifting to the sizeable town of Göppingen, 30 April, the 100th engaged in occupational duties as the war in Europe came to an end on 8 May 1945.

The 100th left for home as a unit in January 1946, although many of its men had already rotated under the points system back to the United States much earlier.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—3  
Distinguished Unit Citations—7  
Distinguished Service Crosses—36  
Silver Stars—560

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—997  
Killed In Action—883  
Wounded—3,539  
Missing—125  
Captured—491  
Total Casualties—5,038

Other 100th Infantry Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II:

1st Lt Edward A. Silk, 398th Inf Rgt, 23 November 1944, near St. Pravel, France

## 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Century"

## NOVEMBER 1944

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 23 Nov 1111  
 24 Nov 11  
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## DECEMBER 1944

2 Dec 111  
 3 Dec 11  
 4 Dec 1111111111 10  
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 21 Dec 1  
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 29 Dec 1  
 30 Dec 111  
 31 Dec 1

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## JANUARY 1945

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 23 Jan 11  
 29 Jan 1  
 31 Jan 11

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## FEBRUARY 1945

3 Feb 111  
 5 Feb 11  
 11 Feb 1  
 13 Feb 11  
 14 Feb 11  
 15 Feb 1  
 19 Feb 1  
 27 Feb 1

13

## 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Century"

## MARCH 1945

1 Mar 111  
 4 Mar 1  
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## APRIL 1945

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 17 Apr 111  
 18 Apr 1111111111 11  
 19 Apr 111  
 20 Apr 1  
 21 Apr 1  
 22 Apr 11  
 28 Apr 1  
 122

## MAY 1945

1 May 1  
 4 May 1  
 2

## JUNE 1945

10 June 1  
 1

## 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day-----5 April 1945  
 bloodiest month-----December 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day-----19 November 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day-----5 December 1944  
 Total battle deaths-----944  
 495 are listed=52.5% KIA--847



102ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Ozark"

Activated—15 September 1942

Returned To United States—11 March 1946

Inactivated—23 March 1946

Battle Credits, World War II: Siegfried Line Rhineland North-Central Germany

Days In Combat—173

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Frank A. Keating

January 1944—February 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 102nd Infantry Division was an Organized Reserve division allocated to Missouri and Arkansas. But long before the war ended there were men in the 102nd from all over the United States. Ironically, much of its personnel came from New York State.

The shoulder patch represents a bow superimposed on a circular target, symbolizing marksmanship. Z completes the cryptic design O-Z-arc for Ozark. The gold is for valor and the blue for distinction.

Major-General Frank A. Keating, the divisional commander, served in France in World War I as a lieutenant and captain with the 29th Infantry Division.

After short stays at Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, the 102nd sailed for France, arriving at Cherbourg on 23 September 1944. In late-October, the division assembled in southern Holland, near Heerlen, and prepared to attack the Siegfried Line north of Aachen. On 26 October, elements attached to other units entered combat, and on 3 November, the Ozarks assumed responsibility for a sector running from the Würm River to Waurichen.

On 17 November 1944, crack panzer troops launched a counterattack to seize the town of Immendorf. A fierce battle ensued in which Company C, 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion was cited for knocking out 16 enemy tanks in 4 days.

Then, on 24 November, the 102nd began operating as an integral unit, and on the 29th joined in the 9th Army assault to the Roer in very heavy fighting. Amid miserable autumn weather, the Ozarks captured Apweiler, Gereonsweiler, Welz, and Eieren. Further east, the river towns of Linnich, Roerdorf, and Flossdorf were more difficult strongpoints to crack. Supplied by defiladed routes, dominating the rolling, muddy grain fields, these villages were regular fortresses. The 10th SS Panzer and 340th Volkagrenadier Divisions, their backs to the Roer, were desperately defending the Cologne Plain in the 102nd's sector of assault. Advancing through a maze of bunkers and pillboxes connected by a myriad of trenches, barbed-wire, and minefields, the 102nd forced the elite 10th SS Panzer to withdraw. Terrific skirmishes raged day and night, and armored counterattacks were repulsed. By 2 December, Linnich had been captured, and the Germans, temporarily safe behind their demolished bridges, reorganized their battered forces.

During the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes, begun 16 December 1944, the 102nd was selected to help defend the line along the Roer River. If the Germans had chosen to strike in this area to link-up with the Ardennes attack, further south, it would have imperilled the entire American 1st and 9th Armies' front. The Ozarks held 8 miles of front, thus freeing some other divisions to enter the Battle of the Bulge. On 25 January 1945,

in order to improve defensive positions, the 102nd seized the Brachelen bridgehead to eliminate the last German pocket west of the Roer. In this action 98 pillboxes were captured by aggressive patrolling and brilliant flanking tactics.

Then, on 23 February 1945, the 102nd attacked across the Roer as part of an all-out 9th Army offensive. The 405th Infantry Regiment gallantly led the way, crossing the swollen, rampaging river in darkness in assault boats. The Germans were caught flat-footed.

First across the Roer, the 102nd spearheaded the 9th Army's spectacular drive to the Rhine. It took Lövenich, bypassed the city of Mönchen-Gladbach in heavy fighting, and captured the city of Krefeld on 3 March. Krefeld was a key railroad and communications center. At this city, the Ozarks stored their supplies in caves that the Romans had used centuries before as barracks, and, when taken by the 102nd, were the site of a tremendous rocket factory. Out-led and out-fought, the enemy could only retreat. In a typical day's fighting, prisoners were captured from 7 different German divisions. In the battle to the Rhine, the 102nd overran 86 towns and villages.

In March 1945, the division maintained defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine between Homburg and Düsseldorf, with aggressive patrolling across the large river almost every night. The main purpose of this operation was to tie-down German troops south of the Ruhr which may otherwise have taken part in that huge battle.

Then, in early-April 1945, the 102nd crossed the Rhine and advanced eastward, just to the north of the Ruhr Pocket. Miles of densely wooded area were searched intensively, and over 3,000 prisoners were rounded up. The 407th Infantry Regiment suppressed riots in the large town of Bielefeld and in Gütersloh.

Upon reaching the Wesergebirge, a heavily wooded hill range in Westphalia, the Ozarks encountered fanatical opposition. This region was infested with Hitler Youth and fanatic SS stragglers and they skillfully defended roadblocks and culverts. The veterans of the 102nd struggled hard to capture the small towns of Todenman and Steinbergen. Three days of furious fighting followed, perhaps the bloodiest ever fought by 13th Corps troops, before this resistance was broken. Over 1,600 prisoners were taken while an estimated 600 Germans were killed, many of them bayoneted in their foxholes. American casualties were heavy.

After this, the 102nd raced on eastward in the wake of the spearheads of the 5th Armored Division. The main danger lay from bypassed pockets of enemy troops who were hard to hunt down in the gloomy forests. Every patch of woods, every sheltered crossroads was a potential ambush. Wilsede fell, and then Hessisch-Oldendorf on 12 April. These were followed by the towns of Osterburg and Stendal, the latter place the former German paratroop training center. Resistance was now, for the most part, sporadic and scattered along the 102nd sector of advance. Breitenfeld fell on 15 April, and the division then outposted the Elbe River, only 48 miles from Berlin, its advance halted on orders from higher-up.

The men of the 102nd then got a rare view of a battle going on between Germans and Russians on the other side of the wide Elbe River. Then, many of the Germans managed to escape across the wide river any way they could and surrender to the Ozarks. 18 German generals deserted to the Ozark lines in a single day.

The 102nd patrolled and maintained defensive positions along the Elbe until V-E Day, 8 May 1945, and then moved to Gotha in central Germany for occupational duty.

From the Siegfried Line to the Elbe the 102nd had captured 147,000 prisoners and killed or wounded 4,000 of the enemy. Also, sixty-seven 88mm guns were destroyed, and many tanks, besides 345 German planes being destroyed or captured. As they looked back, the men of the 102nd could well pride themselves on their contribution to the victory in Europe.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—4 \*  
Distinguished Service Crosses—8  
Silver Stars—686

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,088  
Killed In Action—932  
Wounded—3,668  
Missing—185  
Captured—137  
Total Casualties—4,922

\* One to the entire 405th Infantry Regiment—Roar River, Germany

102ND INFANTRY DIVISION "Ozark"

OCTOBER 1944

30 Oct 11  
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3

NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 11  
2 Nov 1  
3 Nov 11111  
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20 Nov 1111111111111111 19  
21 Nov 11111111111111111111 22  
22 Nov 11111111111111 15  
23 Nov 1111111111111 13  
24 Nov 11111111 8  
25 Nov 1  
27 Nov 1111  
28 Nov 1  
29 Nov 11111111111111 15  
30 Nov 1111111111111111111111111111 34

DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 11111111111111111111 22  
2 Dec 1111111111111111111111111111 32  
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7 Dec 11111111 9  
8 Dec 1  
10 Dec 11  
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15 Dec 1  
16 Dec 1  
17 Dec 1  
21 Dec 1  
22 Dec 11  
23 Dec 11111  
28 Dec 1  
29 Dec 111  
105







103RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Cactus"

Activated—15 November 1942

Returned To United States—10 September 1945

Inactivated—22 September 1945

Battle Credits, World War II:    Alsace        Siegfried Line        Rhineland        Central Europe

Days In Combat—160

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Charles C. Haffner, Jr.

November 1942—January 1945

Maj-Gen Anthony C. McAuliffe

January 1945—July 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 103rd Infantry Division was activated at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on 15 November 1942. A good many of its men were from both the midwest and great plains states, hence the nickname "Cactus Division." Its first commander was a Chicago businessman who had first served in the 33rd Infantry Division, the Illinois National Guard. He was tough, stout Brigadier (later Major-General) Charles C. Haffner, Jr.

After extensive maneuvers in Louisiana in 1943-44, the 103rd sailed from New York harbor in early-October 1944, in an 11-ship convoy. Also in this convoy were the 100th Infantry and part of the 14th Armored Divisions. After a storm-filled 15 days at sea, the convoy arrived at Marseille, France, on 20 October 1944.

Soon moved north into the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France, the 409th and 410th Infantry Regiments completed the relief of a large part of the great 3rd Infantry Division on 11 November 1944—Armistice Day—on a line extending from Herbaville to Chevry. The 411th Infantry was temporarily held in reserve.

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Meeting heavy resistance all the way, the GIs, overburdened with equipment, began discarding everything but rifles, ammunition, raincoats, rations, and blankets. At night they shivered from the piercing, damp chill pervading through the hills in this bitter autumn.

The French civilians were wonderful. In lulls in the fighting, they appeared out of almost nowhere and offered the Americans a cup of steaming coffee or a bottle of wine. These mountain French were poor, but endowed with the greatest generosity the 103rd was to encounter in Europe.

After forcing the swollen Meurthe River, St. Dié, a town of normally 23,000 people, was entered on 22 November. The Germans had vindictively turned the town into a flaming ruins as they retreated. Diefenbach was captured on the 29th. The Germans offered fierce opposition, and, altogether the 103rd lost some 200 men fighting out of the Vosges.

Reaching the Alsatian Plain, the other two regiments of the 103rd took villages to the immediate north, while the 409th Infantry entered the northern half of Sélestat. Meanwhile, the 36th Infantry Division had invested the southern half, and the Americans met fierce resistance. The 409th slugged it out with the enemy in bitter house-to-house fighting. After 4 days and nights of battle, the 409th was relieved by elements of the 36th Division, and prepared to move north.

After consolidating its positions in eastern Alsace, the 103rd then advanced into the northeast corner of the province, capturing Griesbach and Glimbach, the latter against very tough resistance.

During 7-8 December 1944, the 103rd relieved elements of the 45th and 79th Infantry Divisions along the west bank of the Zintzel River from Uttenhoffen to Mertzwiller. Facing the 103rd was the understrength but still dangerous 256th Volksgrenadier Division. The 103rd launched a fierce attack which made good headway, and crossed the Lauter River at Wissembour.

The division then crossed into Germany, 15 December 1944, and assaulted the outer defense of the Siegfried Line. Road junctions were always well mined and usually set up as a strong point by the Germans with machineguns and supporting fire. The open ground was also dangerous because the enemy had all likely route of approach covered. On the 22nd, the 103rd moved west to the Sarreguemines area where an active defense was maintained.

Then, on 1 January 1945, the Germans began a large offensive in northern Alsace, and the 103rd saw hard fighting as it helped to stem the enemy tide. This assault was in conjunction with the German Ardennes counteroffensive to the northwest.

At first, the German attack failed to materialize in the 103rd's sector, so on 10 January a limited attack by the 411th Infantry Regiment was commenced in the Sarreguemines vicinity. German strength in this area was greater than anticipated and bitter resistance was encountered. Fighting subsided during the night and action again dissolved into a static situation.

That next day Major-General Anthony McAuliffe, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division during its epic stand at Bastogne in the Ardennes battle, assumed command of the 103rd. General Haffner, who had been ill, returned to the States. McAuliffe soon came to be well-liked and respected among the men.

Shifted back into northeast Alsace, where the situation was more desperate, the 103rd fought its most bitter action of the entire winter at Sessenheim, beginning 19 January 1945. Near here the Germans had forced a dangerous bridgehead over the Rhine and furious combat developed. Mortar shells detonated on the hard-crusting soil and sent shrapnel whining for great distances. The GIs, sweaty and winded, would fall to the ground and feel their clothes stiffen and freeze. The wounded had a very rough time of it. Although the attack carried part of the 103rd into Sessenheim, heavy enemy pressure from the bridgehead across the Rhine north of Strasbourg, caused these men to withdraw to the southeast edge of the Soufflenheim Forest.

Many of these Germans spoke English and some even dressed in GI uniforms. At night, SS troops would yell, "You better give up, Yankee bastards," and other profanities. The GIs would get mad and holler back at them.

Although the 103rd successfully defended its sector, adjacent units on either flank were forced to yield ground. And so, the division was ordered to pull back to the Moder River on the night of 20-21 January.

Then the Germans launched a last final bid to retake Alsace, 23-26 January 1945. The 103rd had a conspicuous role in this battle as it developed in the Mühlhausen-Schillersdorf area. Although, curiously, no Medals of Honor were awarded, there were numerous acts of heroism. One such case was that of Pfc Dennis Bellmore who, armed only with a .45 caliber pistol and at the cost of his own life, held off a sizeable German night patrol for 10 precious minutes—long enough for an aid station and a band of Americans to safely evacuate a crossroads in Schillersdorf. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In the overall battle the 103rd beat the Germans, including crack SS troops, to a standstill. Never again did they assume a major offensive on the U.S. 7th Army front.

There then followed a period of rest and rehabilitation, and many of the men were allowed to visit the rest center in Nancy—and some were even allowed passes to Paris and Brussels. However, in February, there was still a great deal of patrol activity. During January and February 1945, the 103rd lost around another 200 men killed in action.

Then the Cactus Division took part in the eastern side of the 7th Army's all-out effort to break through the Siegfried Line, beginning on 15 March 1945. On its left flank was the 42nd Infantry Division and on the right the 36th Infantry Division. The weather was clear and bitter-cold. Enemy resistance was equally bitter. In fact, 15 March 1945, the first day of the attack, was the 103rd's bloodiest day of combat in the war. The 103rd again crossed the Lauter River, and then again the German border not far from Wissembourg, where it had fought some 3 months earlier. The Germans threw the works at the 103rd—everything from

88mm shells to snipers and mines. But the division, by now, battle-hardened veterans, successfully blasted its way past the concrete pillboxes that the Germans had installed to stop it. But not without heavy loss. In one full week of fighting to crack the Siegfried Line, the 103rd had another 150 men killed in action.

After cracking the vaunted Siegfried Line, the 103rd engaged in clearing the eastern Palatinate, west of the Rhine, and contact was made with the 10th Armored Division of Patton's 3rd Army near Landau. The 103rd collected over 5,000 POWs in less than ten days.

The 103rd was then elected to pull occupational duties west of the Rhine until 20 April. No one in the division complained about this. It was a lot easier to watch the fräuleins go by than face 88s, mortars, and machineguns!

Then the division again resumed the offensive, pursuing the retreating enemy through Württemberg. Öhringen was taken, then Mainhardt, and then Kirchheim. The object was to pinch-off the big city of Stuttgart from the east, while the French surrounded and captured it from the west.

Just south of Kirchheim, Urach became a hub of resistance. After this was overcome, the 103rd took Munsingen, 24 April, and then crossed the Danube near Ulm on the 26th against diminishing German opposition.

Against numerous roadblocks and delaying actions, the 103rd advanced deep into southern Bavaria. While other elements of the division advanced southeast to take Kaufbeuren and Schongau, the 411th Infantry Regiment, after awhile, cut due east and helped liberate the concentration camp at Landsberg where the human skeletons lay out in the open for all to see. It was, to say the least, sickening and enraging.

Continuing on to the south, the 103rd captured picturesque Oberammergau. Germans in opposition were rapidly decreasing in numbers as the division neared the Austrian Tyrol, but they used the terrain to their advantage. Once again, now in the Alps, the weather was discouragingly cold with snow and freezing rain. Furthermore, no one wanted to take unnecessary chances this late in the war.

Famous Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Mittenwald were also captured, but then some die-hard Nazis had to put up a short, but sharp fight in and around Scharnitz, just inside the Austrian border.

Then Austrian partisans seized control of Innsbruck on 2 May 1945, and two days later the 103rd arrived in the beautiful city. The men of the division could hardly believe their eyes. The reception was tremendous. Men, women, and children screamed greetings and threw flowers before the advancing troops. Bottles of wine and cognac were offered the men, puzzled as to whether or not to accept these gifts in view of the non-fraternization laws. But they accepted. Pretty girls climbed aboard the tanks and jeeps to kiss them. Austrian flags fluttered in the town, but there were no white flags. The people seemed to consider it a liberation. Wehrmacht troops still in uniform stood at the curbsides. They still carried weapons but wore "Free Austria" armbands, and shouted, "Heil Americans!"

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Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—12  
Silver Stars—299

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—874  
Killed In Action—720  
Wounded—3,329  
Missing—88  
Captured—421  
Total Casualties—4,558

103RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Cactus"

NOVEMBER 1944

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DECEMBER 1944

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JANUARY 1945

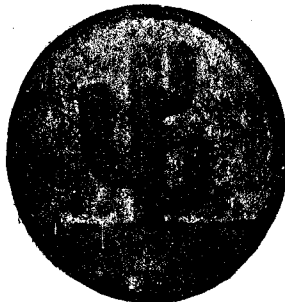
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FEBRUARY 1945

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103RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Cactus"

Activated—15 November 1942

Returned To United States—10 September 1945

Inactivated—22 September 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Vosges Mountains      Alsace      Siegfried Line      Rhineland  
Central Europe

Days In Combat—160

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Charles C. Haffner, Jr.

November 1942—January 1945

Maj-Gen Anthony C. McAuliffe

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Distinguished Unit Citations—0  
Distinguished Service Crosses—12  
Silver Stars—299

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—874  
Killed In Action—720  
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Missing—88  
Captured—421  
Total Casualties—4,558

## 103RD INFANTRY DIVISION "Cactus"

## NOVEMBER 1944

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## DECEMBER 1944

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## JANUARY 1945

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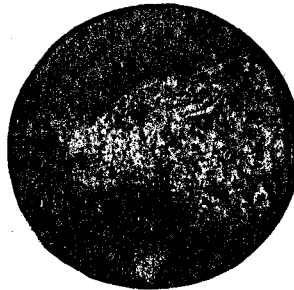
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## FEBRUARY 1945

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104TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Timberwolf"

Activated—15 September 1942

Returned To United States—3 July 1945

Inactivated—20 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II:    Southern Holland    Siegfried Line    Rhineland  
   Ruhr Pocket        Central Germany

Days In Combat—200

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Terry M. Allen

2 October 1943—31 October 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 104th Infantry Division had as its slogan, "Nothing in hell must stop the Timberwolves." Nothing did. From the moment it went into action, the 104th compiled quite an impressive combat record. Under the command of General Terry Allen, who had previously commanded the famous 1st Infantry Division in North Africa and Sicily, the 104th made news by its realistic training in forward areas, which only a short time before, had been cleared of the enemy.

The 104th was formally activated with ceremonies held at Camp Adair, Oregon, on 15 September 1942. After extensive training in the United States, the 104th landed in northern France, on 7 September 1944. It then moved into defensive positions near Wuestwezel, northern Belgium, on 22 October 1944, relieving the British 49th Infantry Division.

The land was flat with an imperceptible slope to the northwest. Under the sandy surface, impervious clay prevented standing water from draining, and necessitated ditching not only of the roads, but of the fields. Elsewhere was rough pasture and small but numerous plantings of pine woods. Vehicular traffic was road-bound. The buildings and steeples of numerous villages provided the only observation.

On 25 October 1944, the 104th attacked with three regiments abreast, and stormed the town of Zundert, aided by British tanks, on the 27th. On the left flank were British and Canadian units, and on the right was the Polish 1st Armored Division. Opposing the 104th was the German 245th Infantry Division.

The 104th gained control of the Breda-Roosendaal Road, and overran some canal defenses, beating back counterattacks. Then the division advanced to the Mark River, 30 October 1944, against stubborn opposition, and then failed in its first crossing attempt the next day. After heavy artillery preparation, the 104th then assaulted across the Mark on 2 November, and established a bridgehead in the Standaardbuiten-Oudenbosch area. This is in extreme southern Holland. The weather was cold, bleak, and windy with intermittent showers, and visibility very poor. It was necessary to use grenades and bayonets in mopping-up cleverly concealed snipers. It was at the Mark River that the 104th had a Medal of Honor winner.

1st Lieutenant Cecil H. Bolton was the leader of the weapons platoon of Company E, 413th Infantry Regiment, which became involved in a pitched battle, following the crossing of the Mark River.

In the moonlight, he directed mortar fire against two German machineguns, until severely wounded in the legs and rendered unconscious by a German shell. After recovering con-

sciousness, he then took a bazooka team with him, and advanced chest-deep in chilling water along a canal toward one of the machineguns. Covered by the bazooka team, he approached to within 15 yards of the gun and then charged it, killing the two gunners with a grenade.

Returning to his men, he led them through intense enemy fire to assault the second machinegun, and dispatched a sniper who attempted to bar the way. They were spotted by the gun crew, but Lt Bolton killed one of the Germans and his two companions shot the others. Although wounded, he and the other two men pressed on toward an 88mm gun. Under the lieutenant's direction, the two bazooka men knocked out the deadly weapon.

On the way back, Lt Bolton was again wounded. He ordered his men back to safety, painfully crawling after them until he reached his own lines, where he collapsed.

Lt Bolton's inspiring leadership and bold attacks contributed greatly in overcoming all enemy resistance in this area. And he lived to receive his award.

After capturing Zevenbergen, the Maas River was reached by 5 November 1944. Most of the division then moved to near Aachen, Germany, where it relieved the 1st Infantry Division. Some elements remained in south Holland, and helped clear the town of Moerdijk, before being relieved on 7 November 1944. In this entire operation in south Holland, the 104th was highly praised by both the British and Canadians. The 104th lost around 270 men in southern Holland.

The 104th took part in the assault to the Roer River, in extreme western Germany, beginning on 16 November 1944, behind the heaviest concentration of artillery yet fired on the western front by the Allies. In the ensuing battles the 104th distinguished itself by skillful and effective night attacks. The division battled through the Eschweiler-Weisweiler industrial complex north of the Inde River, 19-25 November 1944. This region was secured with the fall of Weisweiler, after house-to-house combat, by the 25th. The 104th then mopped-up and reached the Inde River on 28 November. The division took the bridge at Inden, intact, and then fought for Lammersdorf, 28-30 November, and at Inden, 28 November-2 December 1944.

The Timberwolves then forced a crossing of the Inde River, in a brilliant series of night attacks that confused the Germans and upset their defensive plans. This action took place on 2 December 1944, at Lucherberg. The bridgehead was subjected to fierce enemy counterattacks from 3-5 December 1944, but these attacks were all forced back.

The 104th renewed its offensive on 10 December 1944, to clear the west bank of the Roer. The 414th Infantry Regiment fought for and took Pier, 10-12 December, while the 415th Infantry Regiment took Merken, on the 11th. The 104th reached the Roer on 13 December 1944, and defended the Inden-Pier-Schophoven region until 24 December 1944. It was then relieved and took over the zone of the 83rd Infantry Division. This operation to get to the Roer River, was a very costly one for the 104th, as the division lost over 500 men!

During the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes, the 104th occupied a defensive sector on the west bank of the Roer, from 15 December 1944-22 February 1945, with the principal mission of helping to prevent the Germans from attacking in the Aachen area while the Bulge battle raged to the south. As it turned out the Germans didn't have the strength to launch two major attacks at the same time, but the Allies had no way of knowing this at the time. No major actions occurred for the 104th during the above period of time.

Beginning on 23 February 1945, the 104th was one of the mainstays of the 7th Corps, U.S. 1st Army, during the severe fighting from the Roer to the Rhine. The 413th Infantry Regiment took flattened Düren, and captured the marshaling yards northeast of the town on 24 February. The 415th Infantry Regiment fought for Arnoldsweiler, 24-25 February, and then the 104th followed-up behind the 3rd Armored Division, clearing bypassed resistance. The division relieved the tankers on the Erft River, at Sindorf, 28 February 1945.

The 413th and 414th Infantry Regiments assaulted across the Erft Canal, 1 March 1945, and overran Ichendorf. This bridgehead was then held against counterattacks.

This drive to the Rhine culminated with the capture of the big city of Cologne. The city, with its huge twin-spired Gothic cathedral, was mostly a heap of ruins from Allied bombings. Despite fierce resistance in the city from snipers with panzerfausts, burp-guns,

and machine-pistols, working with the 3rd Armored and 8th Infantry Divisions, the city was cleared in just two days.

The 104th crossed the Rhine, at Honnef, 22 March 1945, and attacked to the east of the Remagen bridgehead. The 413th Infantry overran the airfield east of Eudembach, on the next day. Mopping-up scattered points of resistance and consolidating gains in close support of the 3rd Armored Division, the 104th had an important role in the great encircling maneuver which trapped some 330,000 German troops in the Ruhr Pocket, and cut-off this vital industrial region from the rest of Germany.

Advancing northeast with great skill and boldness, the 104th, though stretched out, at times, over a depth of 40 miles, held off vicious enemy counterattacks near Medebach, aimed at cutting the 7th Corps line of communications from Marburg to Paderborn. The great advance of the 3rd Armored Division to Paderborn, was thus made possible largely due to the splendid blocking and mopping-up operations of the Timberwolves. The 104th helped capture Paderborn on 1 April 1945, and took Rimbeck the following day. The 415th Infantry fought for Kuestelberg, 2-3 April, while the 413th Infantry cleared Forst Hardehausen.

With the Ruhr Pocket securely contained, the 104th was relieved by elements of the 3rd Corps, and assembled in the Borgentreich-Liebenau area. Again, in close support of the 3rd Armored, the 104th renewed its advance deeper into central Germany, beginning on 7 April 1945. By 14 April, the division had crossed the Weser River, and blocked the southern exits from the Harz Mountains. It was at Nordhausen, that the 104th saw the depth of Nazi sadism, with 5,000 out of 6,000 inmates there already dead.

After this sickening experience, with the relief of the 104th by the 9th Infantry Division on the southern side of the Harz region, the Timberwolves continued on east to the outskirts of the city of Halle.

On 15 April 1945, the 104th crossed the Saale River, and attacked Halle from the north. It was a bitter 5-day battle.

On the third day of the battle was met the strongest resistance, including hand-to-hand combat. The 4th day was relatively quiet. And then, the Germans tried numerous attacks, but all to no avail. SS troopers and die-hard youths of the Hitlerjugend made German resistance tough, but the aggressive tactics of the seasoned soldiers of the 104th were too much for even the most stubborn enemy troops.

After the fall of Halle, on 19 April 1945, the sizeable towns of Bitterfeld and Delitzsch were captured in rapid succession, and the 104th reached the Mulde River, 21 April.

After vigorous patrolling across the Mulde, in which the Timberwolves took 20,375 prisoners, contact was made with the Russians at Pretzsch, on 26 April 1945. The 104th left for home and inactivation on 27 June 1945.

The 104th Infantry Division—one of the best outfits in the ETO.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1  
Distinguished Unit Citations—9  
Distinguished Service Crosses—14  
Silver Stars—642

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—1,465  
Killed In Action—1,285  
Wounded—5,200  
Missing—96  
Captured—237  
Total Casualties—6,818

104TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Timberwolf"

OCTOBER 1944

25 Oct 1111111111111111 17  
26 Oct 1111111111111111 20  
27 Oct 111  
28 Oct 1  
29 Oct 11111111 10  
30 Oct 111  
31 Oct 11

56

NOVEMBER 1944

1 Nov 11111111 9  
2 Nov 1111111111 13  
3 Nov 11111111111111111111 28  
4 Nov 11111111111111111111 25  
5 Nov 11111111111 13  
6 Nov 11111111 9  
7 Nov 1111  
9 Nov 11  
10 Nov 11  
11 Nov 11  
13 Nov 11  
14 Nov 1  
16 Nov 1111111111111111 20  
17 Nov 1111111111111111 19  
18 Nov 111111111111111111111111 32  
19 Nov 1111111111 12  
20 Nov 1111111111111111111111 28  
21 Nov 111111111111 14  
22 Nov 11  
23 Nov 1111111111111111 20  
24 Nov 1111111111 12  
25 Nov 1  
26 Nov 1111111111 12  
27 Nov 111  
28 Nov 11111111 10  
29 Nov 11111  
30 Nov 1111111111111111 20

321

DECEMBER 1944

1 Dec 111111  
2 Dec 111  
3 Dec 111111111111 14  
4 Dec 11111111111111 18  
5 Dec 1111  
6 Dec 111  
7 Dec 111  
8 Dec 1  
9 Dec 111  
10 Dec 1111111 8  
11 Dec 11111111111 13  
12 Dec 11111111111 13  
13 Dec 111111111111 15  
14 Dec 11  
15 Dec 1  
16 Dec 11  
17 Dec 1  
19 Dec 1  
21 Dec 1  
25 Dec 1  
26 Dec 11

117





## 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Timberwolf"

APRIL 1945

1 Apr 111  
 2 Apr 11111  
 3 Apr 1  
 4 Apr 1  
 6 Apr 111  
 8 Apr 11111  
 9 Apr 111111  
 12 Apr 111111  
 13 Apr 11111  
 14 Apr 1  
 15 Apr 111111111 9  
 16 Apr 11  
 17 Apr 111111111111 13  
 18 Apr 111  
 19 Apr 1  
 20 Apr 1111  
 21 Apr 1111111 8  
 22 Apr 11

78

MAY 1945

12 May 1  
 1

## 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S

\*bloodiest day—23 February 1945  
 bloodiest month—November 1944  
 2nd bloodiest day—18 November 1944  
 3rd bloodiest day—3 and 20 November 1944  
 Total battle deaths—1,465  
 785 are listed=53.5% KIA—1,285



106TH INFANTRY DIVISION "Golden Lion"

Activated—15 March 1943

Returned To United States—1 October 1945

Inactivated—2 October 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Ardennes Rhineland

Days In Combat—63

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Alan W. Jones

March 1943—22 December 1944

Brig-Gen Herbert T. Perrin

22 December 1944—February 1945

Maj-Gen Donald A. Stroh

February—August 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 106th Infantry Division arrived in England on 17 November 1944, and then moved to France on 6 December. Being without any combat experience, the 106th was moved into a supposedly relatively quiet sector of the front, relieving the 2nd Infantry Division in the Schnee Eifel area on 11 December 1944.

Then it happened. The Germans began their furious counteroffensive in the Ardennes 5 days later. The 106th was in a very exposed position, and was hit by overwhelming enemy forces. In a daring maneuver, elements of the 5th Panzer Army encircled and cut-off the 422nd and 423rd Infantry Regiments. For a few ghastly days the 106th fought back, until it could no longer hold out without food, water, or ammunition, and then sent through a last radio message that they were destroying their equipment. Then there was silence.

The two regiments were soon captured by the Germans—almost 6,700 men. It was the worst American defeat since Bataan and Corregidor.

Meanwhile, the 424th Infantry Regiment had managed to slip to the west, and grimly hung on near St. Vith until 21 December. Then it withdrew under constant enemy fire, and pulled back over the Salm River at Vielsalm on the 23rd. On the 24th, the 424th, attached to the 7th Armored Division, fought a delaying action at Manhay until ordered to an assembly area.

From 25 December 1944–9 January 1945, the remainder of the division received replacement and supplies at Anthisnes, Belgium, and then returned to the struggle. It secured objectives along the Ennal-Logbierme line in mid-January 1945, in heavy fighting. After being pinched out of the attack, the 106th assembled at Stavelot, 18 January, for rehabilitation.

On 7 February, the Golden Lion moved to the vicinity of Hünningen for defensive patrols.

In March 1945, the 424th Regiment advanced into the Palatinate along some high ground near the Simmer River, and was again pinched out of the line of advance on the 7th. Following this, a period of patrolling occurred until 15 March 1945.

The 106th was then pulled back to St. Quentin, France, for rehabilitation and the reconstruction of lost units. For the remainder of the war, the 106th handled prisoner of war enclosures and engaged in occupational duties.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0  
Distinguished Unit Citations—1  
Distinguished Service Crosses—6  
Silver Stars—77

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—513  
Killed In Action—444  
Wounded—1,278  
Missing—235  
Captured—6,697  
Total Casualties—8,654



## 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	6th Ranger Bn	99th Infantry Bn
1st Marine Provl Bgde	6th Cavalry Grp	112th Cavalry Rgt
2nd Ranger Bn	13th Amd Grp	147th Infantry Rgt
2nd Cavalry Grp	14th Cavalry Grp	474th Infantry Rgt
3rd Cavalry Grp	15th Cavalry Grp	503rd Parachute Rgt
4th Cavalry Grp	22nd Marine Rgt	517th Parachute Rgt
Marine Raiders	Merrill's Marauders	Mars Task Force
	102nd Cavalry Grp	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	<u>7</u>
	139,990

Philippines	26,428	(Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Samar, Negros, and others)
Okinawa	13,415	(Also, includes Ie Shima, Tsugen Shima, and Kerama Retto)
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	<u>61</u>	
	64,530	

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)

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			In Brittany, France—April 1945	
2nd Inf Dvn	80	170			66th Inf Dvn	12 (exact figure)
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				

## 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	2,234
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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