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A Message From the ADJUTANT GENERAL

I take great pleasure in introducing the inaugural issue of the Arkansas Military Journal, a publication of the Arkansas Militia Heritage Preservation Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving the military history of Arkansas. This publication is intended to aid in the effort to preserve and record the rich military tradition that forms our heritage. The annals of our history are filled with moments of honor, with actions of great sacrifice and with years of dedicated service. What a travesty, if we, the beneficiaries of this remarkable heritage, should allow these moments to be lost in time.

The task of preserving our history is a challenge to all soldiers. It is a huge challenge, but one in which great strides towards meeting the task are already being made. A plan has been developed to create a historical museum and archive at Camp Robinson that few facilities will rival. Lloyd England Hall has been proposed to house our collection of artifacts and historical documentation. In future years this facility holds the promise of being a center for historical education and to serve as a functional memorial to the military achievements of our forebearers.

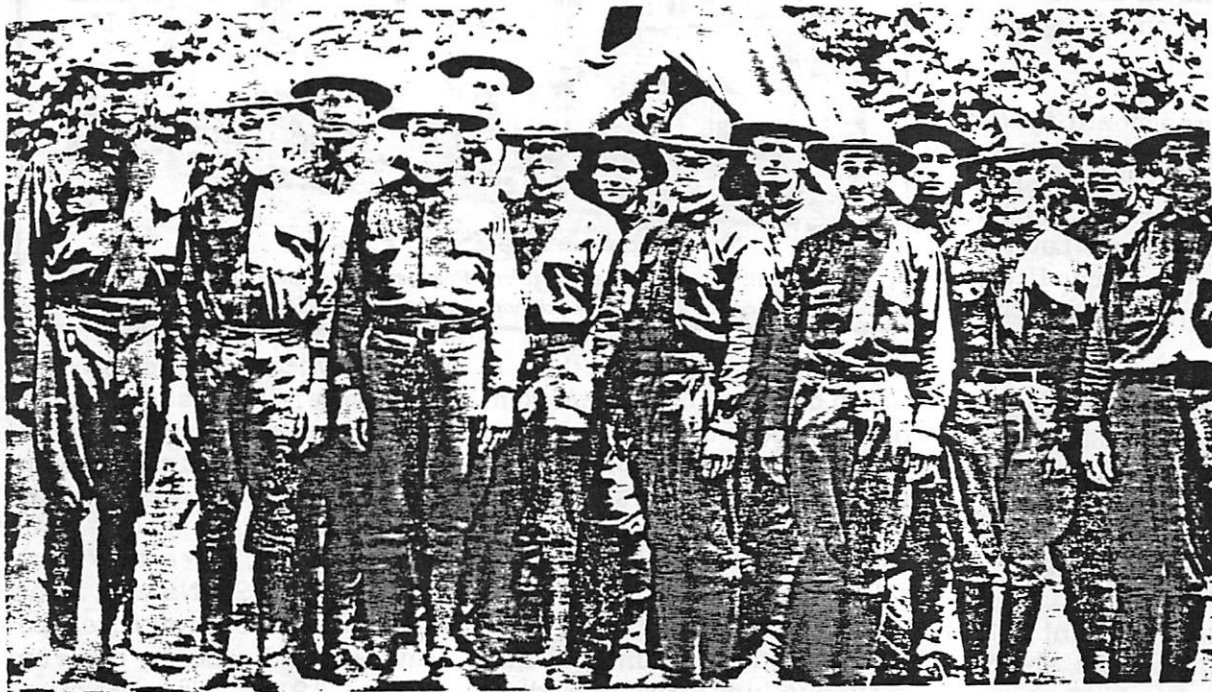
I invite each of you to help in this notable effort to ensure that future generations will know and cherish the accomplishments of Arkansas' citizen soldiers. Ours is a story worth telling.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Ryan".

JAMES A. RYAN
Major General
The Adjutant General

The Arkansas Military Journal is an unofficial publication of the Arkansas Militia Heritage Preservation Foundation. The purpose of the journal is to aid in the preservation of Arkansas' military history. Comments and materials for publication are invited. Correspondence should be addressed to: The Adjutant General, TAG-AZ-HSC, P.O. Box 2200, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-2200.

142nd FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT: The Early Years



The 2nd Arkansas Infantry was reorganized into the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment on 27 September 1917 at Fort Logan H. Roots, Arkansas. Pictured are the officers, 1st Battalion, 2nd Arkansas Infantry at Fort Logan H. Roots, circa 1916.

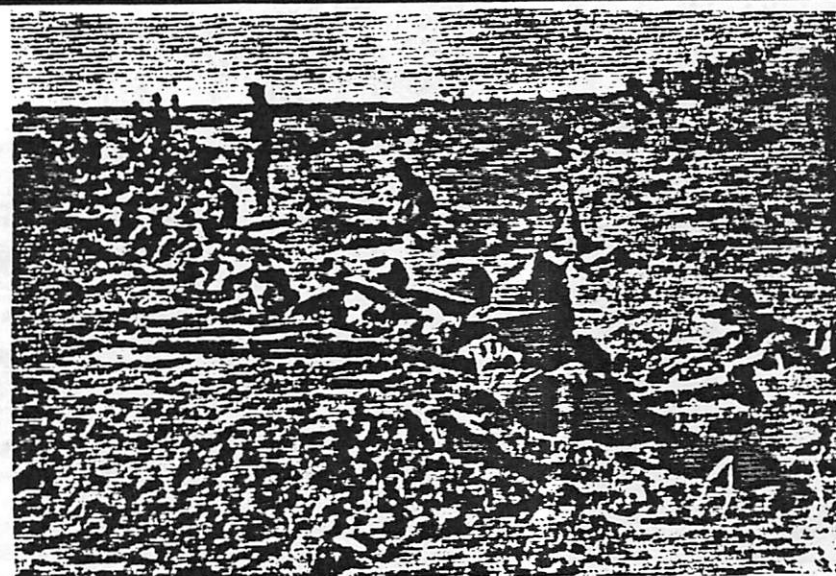
Extract from *Historical Annual National Guard of the State of Arkansas* 1938.

Cloudy skies and cool temperatures greeted the soldiers at Fort Logan H. Roots on 27 September 1917. A day not unlike any other early autumn day, except that this date marked the opening of a new chapter in Arkansas military history. This day would stand as the inauguration of the membership of the newly reorganized 142nd Field Artillery Regiment. While the Regiment might be newly reorganized, the soldiers who comprised its ranks were seasoned troops of the Second Arkansas Infantry, who had recently returned from service on the Mexican border. The Second Arkansas Infantry dated its origin to 25 May 1898, when it was organized from selected units of the Arkansas State Guard. President Woodrow Wilson had called the Second Arkansas Infantry into federal service on 19 June 1916,

to serve as border guards at Camp Deming, New Mexico under the command of Colonel Henry E. Stroupe. The unit was mustered out of federal service during March 1917 and resumed state duty.

State duty was short lived, however, because the Regiment

was again mustered in during April and May of 1917. President Wilson called the unit back to federal service under Presidential Proclamation dated 3 July 1917. The Regiment was federalized on 5 August 1917 at their home stations, where they remained until 9 September 1917 when the unit

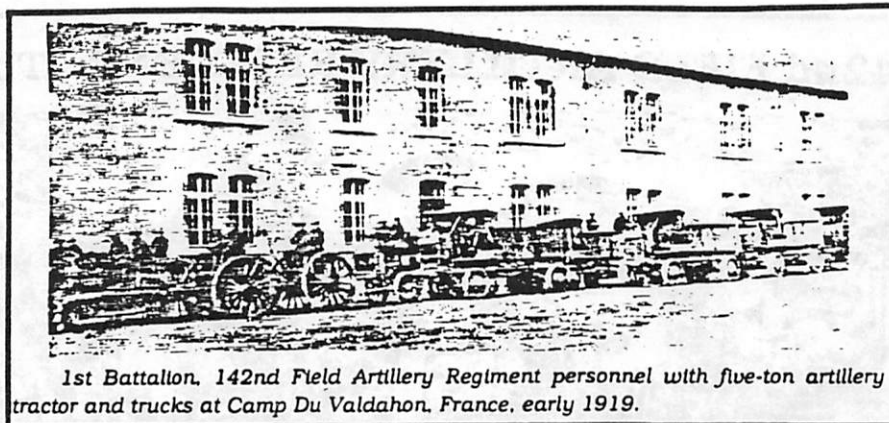


Company B, 2nd Arkansas Infantry at Camp Deming, New Mexico, circa 1916.

was mobilized at Fort Roots. Here, the Regiment remained until it was redesignated as the 142nd Field Artillery on 27 September 1917.

In just over a month, the Regiment left behind the scenic hill-tops along the Arkansas River at Ft. Roots and proceeded with other troops from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana on 2 November 1917.

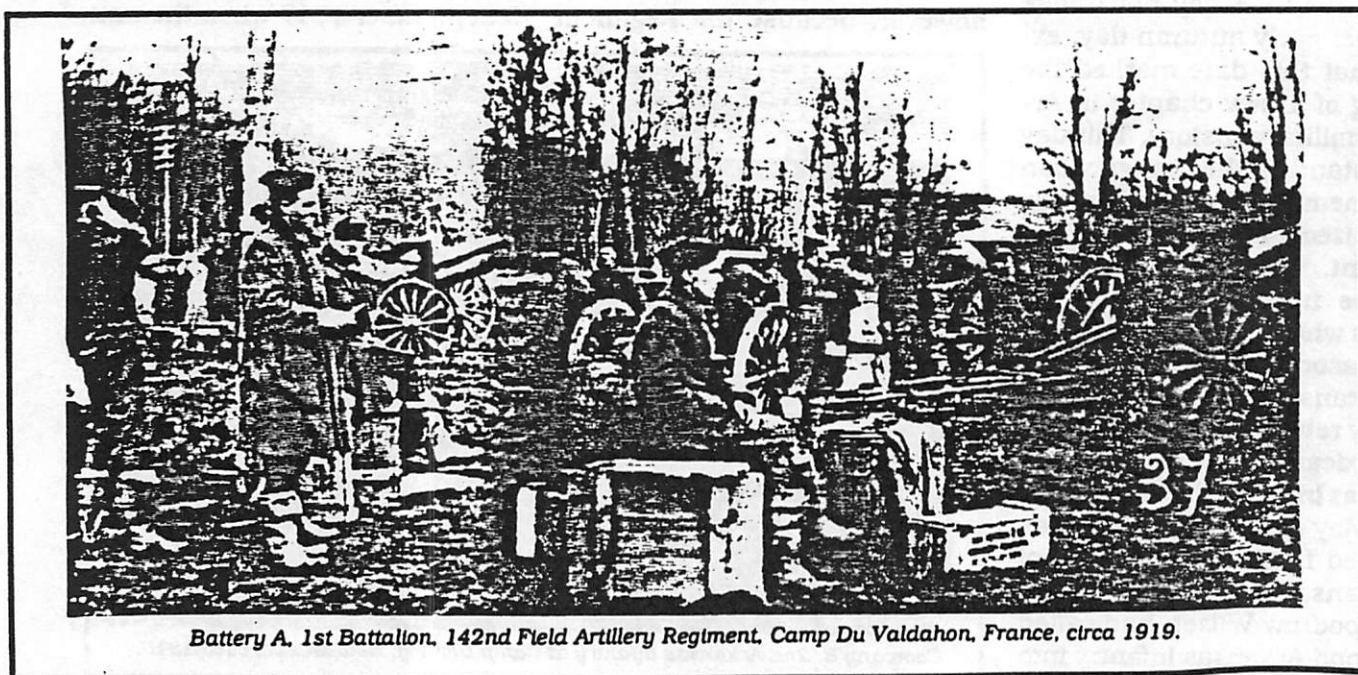
At Camp Beauregard, the Regiment formed a part of the Sixty-fourth Field Artillery Brigade, which also consisted of two other regiments, the 140th Field Artillery from Mississippi and the 141st Field Artillery from Louisiana. Here, the Regiment underwent preparations for shipping out to Europe to take part in the Great World War. The unit left for overseas duty on 14 August 1918. Sailing on the Leviathan with about 10,000 other troops, the unit was assigned all guard duty on board ship by the shipboard Commander of Troops, Colonel William G. Ownbey. Embarking from a successful voyage on 7 September 1918 at Brest, France, the Regiment was moved to Camp



1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment personnel with five-ton artillery tractor and trucks at Camp Du Valdahon, France, early 1919.

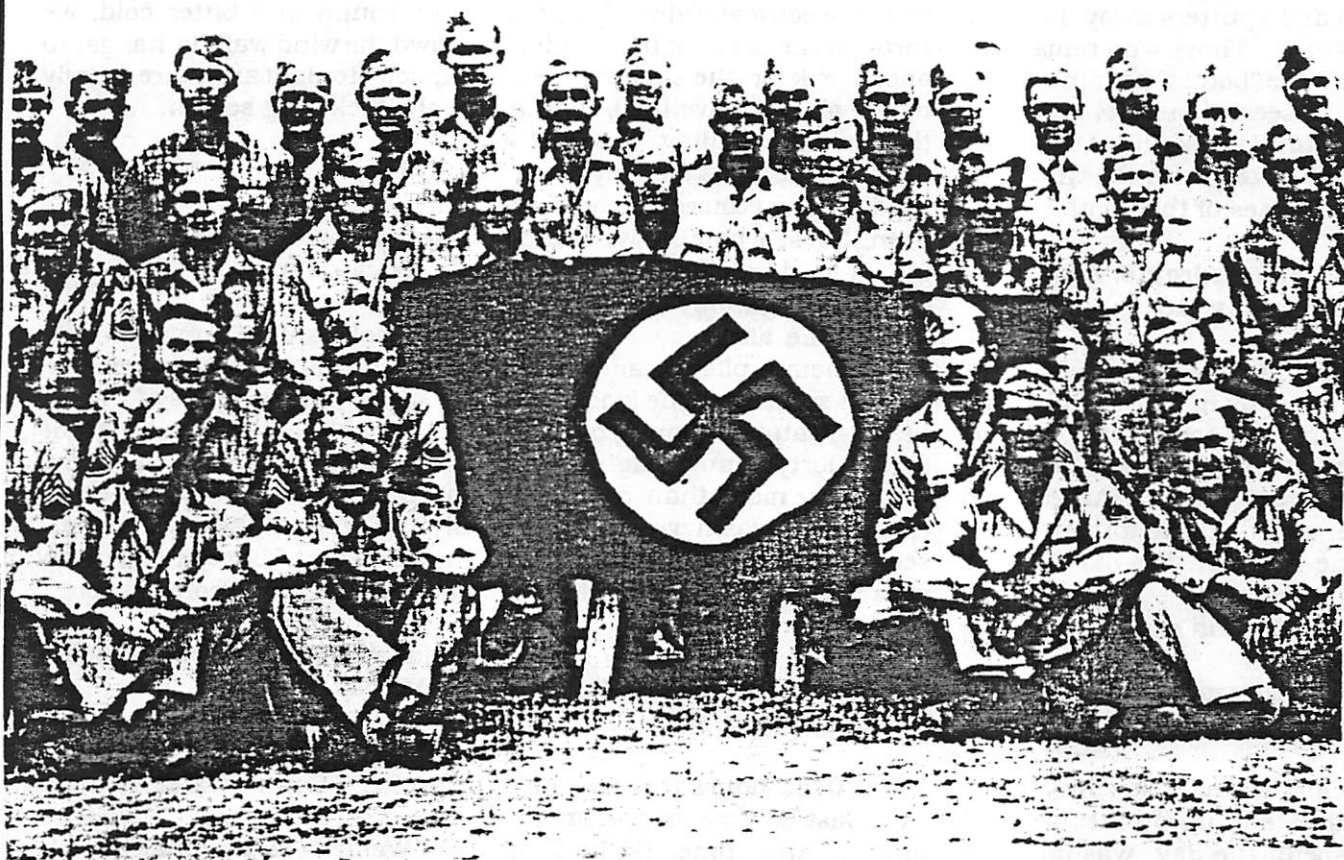
Bain-de-Bretagne and then to Camp de Coetquidan, near Rennes, France in the Department of Morbihan. Arriving on 27 September 1918, the first anniversary of the unit's reorganization as the 142nd Field Artillery, the soldiers found the hum of urgent activity, for Camp de Coetquidan was an artillery training center preparing units for immediate service at the front lines. Training lasted until 18 November 1918. The unit passed as being ready for service and was awaiting orders for the front when the Armistice was signed. After the Armistice, the Regiment was divided. The First Battalion went with Regimental Headquarters to Camp Du Valdahon, in the Department of Doubs, near the Swiss

border, where they helped conduct an artillery training center for the Army of Occupation. The other two Battalions remained at Camp de Coetquidan performing duty with artillery schools until 27 April 1919, when they were reassigned to St. Nazaire. The Battalions were reunited on 25 May 1919 and sailed for home on 3 June 1919. The Regiment docked at Newport News, Virginia on 15 June 1919, but wasted little time with the celebrations going on there, because the soldiers were back home in Arkansas at Camp Pike on 20 June 1919. By the end of the month, the Regiment was disbanded until it was reorganized again by the War Department in June, 1931.



Battery A, 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Camp Du Valdahon, France, circa 1919.

The 154th Observation Squadron in North Africa



154th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron personnel with captured German flag, Nouvion, North Africa, 1943.

From materials contributed by
MSgt Paul E. Schlaf.

The 154th Tactical Airlift Training Squadron (154th TATS) traces its history to the very beginning of our Nation's air power during World War I. Experience gained in England and France during this conflict when the unit was designated the 154th Aero Squadron and the later training gained when the unit was reactivated by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 as the 154th Observation Squadron helped prepare the unit for the frenzied years of World War II. The Squadron was among the first of the air units of the National Guard to be called to

active duty on 16 September 1940 in anticipation of World War II. When the call came, the 154th anxiously made preparations for the coming action.

Shortly after the unit engaged in its last full scale maneuvers during the summer of 1942 near Winston Salem, North Carolina, a message arrived—"prepare for overseas shipment". The ensuing weeks and months that resulted have been captured in striking detail in the work of Frederick W. Gillies, "The Story of a Squadron, An Illustrated Overseas War Diary-Album." This incisive work portrays the day by day life experiences of the Squadron with all

of the human feelings and emotions embraced by its members. To read this chronology is to know how it really was.

Extracts from Gillies' work are presented here to provide the reader a window into a small portion of this distinguished unit's history during their service in North Africa during World War II.

1942

Aboard HMS "Letitia", in the Gulf of Arzew; N. Africa-Nov. 9

As darkness comes on tonight and the seas wildly slap the sides of the ship, a small advance

group of our Squadron dons full pack and climbs down crazily swaying rope ladders to a lurching barge below. After the slow tortuous job of loading is completed, the barge is freed from our ship and sputters away into the darkness. Those who remain on Board the "Letitia" peer in toward the unseen shoreline, listen intently until the sound of the small boat is mixed with the wind and water noises of the night.

**Tafaraoui Airdrome, Algeria,
N. Africa-Nov. 18**

After two uncertain days here, spent mostly in just waiting, eating British compositions and sleeping on the ground, we head cross-country toward Algiers; this time, we ride those torture boxes of the last war, the old French freight cars, "the 40 and 8's!" (Forty men and eight horses!)

**Blida Airdrome, Algeria,
N. Africa-Nov. 22**

Our clothes so dirty they "could stand up by themselves," we spend the day washing and cleaning up-"where'd we ever collect so much dirt?" we ask looking at the murky wash water.

**Blida Airdrome, Algeria,
N. Africa-Nov. 25**

The silence of men-sleeping is ruptured late tonight as one of our men, experiencing a vivid dream, hollers' out "AIR RAID! AIR RAID!". Immediately, the hangar becomes alive with moving figures and we scramble wildly for the man-made ravines near the hangars, fruitlessly listen for planes which do not come.

**Blida Airdrome, Algeria,
N. Africa-Dec. 3**

Night passes its mid-point. A restless soldier glances sleepily at his watch. It is one o'clock. He

pulls the covers up closer and re-sets his body over the metal bed springs and launches again into sleep. And then, into the stillness of the night cuts the air raid siren. The whole barracks becomes electrically alive. We pour through the doors of the building and streak for the shelters. But before all can leave the building, the piercing, wailing drone of a diving plane bears steadily downward and then comes the ear shattering burst of bombs. We crouch in rain-filled foxholes, lay sprawled out on the gummy fields to the side of the airdrome. All night long, enemy planes, and sometimes it seems just one lone plane, press the attack, coming over the field at forty minute intervals. At daybreak, more than one of us exclaim, "I was never so glad to see the sun in all my life!" Thus passes our most intensive bombing to date.

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa—Dec. 16**

At 0755 hours this morning, we at last become an operational unit. At this time, 1st Lt. Fred Monthei, accompanied by Gunner-Sergeant Gerrel O'Quin, pilots the first Squadron A-20 on combat sub-patrol over the waters in the Oran area. Along one leg of the course, one pilot spots a twin-engine down 18 miles west of Habibas Island. After returning to La Senia airbase, Lt. Monthei leads a flying boat to the wrecked plane's position. "No sub sightings as yet."...(In general, such sub-patrols will be within a 50-mile radius of Oran. Along with other 68th Observation Group aircraft, we will fly a close-knit, overlapping course, thus minimizing the chance of overlooking any enemy sea craft in the area. Four 250 pound depth charges will be the main offensive weapon carried by A-20.)

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa—Dec. 21**

In "Good-bye, Mr. Chips" we see our first American movie since leaving England. Despite the poor sound and bitter cold, we crowd the wind wailing hangar to capacity tonight and stare eagerly at the flickering screen.

1943

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa - Jan. 1**

A cold shiver runs through our body this morning as we wake up to the jarring notes of the six o'clock whistle. Opening the tent flap, we see before us in weird incongruity a thin blanket of SNOW! "Africa, the dark, steaming continent," bites out one man shaking the snow from his tent!

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 2**

Lts. Dowling, Sheehan, Able, Monthei, Capt. Waters, Cpls. Scurlock, Sheppard, Sgts. Rice and Weiner - all up today on sub patrols and radio checks - report: "no incidents; no sightings."

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 5**

Sighting only Allied convoys, Lts. Spradley, Kreslov, Caraway, Capt. Waters, Sgts. Kish, Shehans, Cpls. Galick and Janson return to base without incident.

The always welcome promotion list is posted today and tells of the following advances: to PRIVATES FIRST CLASS: Arnold Christenson, Thomas Crudden, George Flynn, Robert Halboth, William Hall, Glen Hefner, John Hubay, Robert Jennings, Paul Kahanic, Eugene McKenna, James Reynolds, Harold Rich, Ernest Tyree, Paul Wojcik. Sgt. Charles Richard is today relieved of his duties

as First Sergeant of this Squadron.

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa-Jan. 6**

After five days of uneventful flying, our crews (Lts. Sheehan, Foreman, Capt. Kieth and McKinney, Cpls. Wempe and Noel) at last report, "sighted a sub!" Depth Charges are dropped on the suspected enemy sea craft but no definite claims can be made as a result of this attack. All planes return to base.

M/Sgt. Bernard Holstegge today assumes the duties of Acting First Sergeant of our Squadron.

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 7**

From a dawn sub patrol this morning, one Squadron A-20 fails to return and the crew, Capt. Knapp, Lt. Gravestock, Sgt. Pozzi, and Pfc. Reynolds, are listed as "missing in action." Later this day, our planes are up on a search for the missing aircraft, but in their coverage of the area fail to find any traces of this ship.

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 8**

Our A-20's continue on their search for the Squadron aircraft believed to have gone down in the sea yesterday; nothing is sighted in the wide area covered.

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 14**

For the second day running, we rush out of our section buildings and watch with fascinated helplessness as another P-39, being put through its paces by pilots here on the field, spirals earthward and crashes far out on the field... "that's three in the last two days; that ship is becoming a jinx."

**Oujda Airbase, French Morocco,
N. Africa- Jan. 19**

2nd Lts. Theodore Dubois and Horace Finch become part of our flying personnel this day. Lt. Hilliker, until recently on detached service in England, also reports for duty.

Each day, many of us visit the French-Arab town of Oujda, a place of many sights and experiences: private baths where you can loll in a steaming tub-full of soapy water: crowded photo shops offering "gud" portraits; Arab kids pouncing on American soldiers with "shoo-shine?...vay-ree gud ...shooin gum?...bon bon?"; sidewalk cafes peopled with leisurely sprawling soldiers and civilians: white-legged Fifth Army MP's.

**Youks Les Bains, Algeria,
N. Africa- Feb. 17**

Major Dyas, Lts. Killian, Anstine, Pitts, Hilliker, Mayse, Kelsey, Schwab, Howard and Finch amass an impressive claim total this day: destroyed-2 tanks, 8 trucks, 25 personnel: damaged-1 medium tank, 2 half tracks and 8 trucks. All our planes return to base and two ships are marked as "slightly damaged".

**Youks Les Bains, Algeria,
N. Africa- Feb. 28**

The Axis, being constantly hammered from the air and on land, is now paying for the slaughter of Kasserine. Meanwhile, the 8th Army (British) approaches near the Mareth Line and overnight Rommel must divide his forces between two threats-the British in the south, and the Americans, British, and French in the west.

**Nouvion Airfield, Algeria,
N. Africa- July 26**

Each day passes here and all, somehow, manage to slip into one

another. The line functions: bug-like planes stir up clouds of amber dust and then slip into the cradling cushion of the air: mechanics lay down in the shade and drowsily await their return. Cows, sheep, and Arabs wander over the field and runway and have to be chased off by a wildly weaving jeep or a few effective shots from a flare gun. The sun glares down with a yellow blazing eye and sending all but the necessary alert crews up on the hill to an afternoon of siesta. In the nearby fields, the grapes droop from vines in purple heaviness and a jeep stops now and then, soldiers fan out into the fields, and soon return with arms full of the green and purple clusters. Once again, we experience the strange feeling of wanderlust. . . the news from Sicily becomes increasingly good and the Axis is getting ready to do another CapBon in the northeast part of this first pre-continental bastion. Startling, yet wholly understandable, is the news that "Il Duce" (Mussolini) has resigned his position as head of the Fascist Regime and also that King Victor Emmanuel "will carry on the war against the Allies." . . . Such is the news and we look with an anticipating eye toward the lands of Italy.

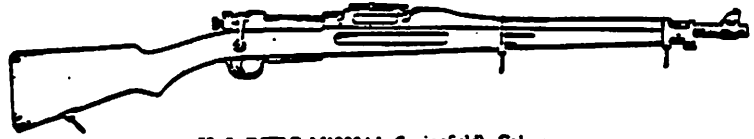
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These are just a few of the examples of the trials of war that the members of the 154th endured during these perilous times. Life was precious and came to be cherished on the field of honor. The members of the 154th exemplified the fighting spirit of the Arkansas National Guard during the days of fighting in North Africa and that same spirit continues today among the members of the 154th Tactical Airlift Training Squadron.

...

"The most successful man is the one who has the best information."
Disraeli

SPRINGFIELD RIFLE MODEL 1903 CALIBER .30



U. S. RIFLE M1903A1 (Springfield), Cal. .30

BY: SGT MICHAEL JEU

The Springfield Rifle Model 1903 .30 caliber superseded in our army the Krag Rifle, which had been the issued service rifle used in the Spanish American War. In that conflict the Spanish Army used a rifle of German design, the MAUSER. Even though our Ordnance Officers at the time considered the Krag to be a more superior and accurate weapon than the MAUSER, we still were not satisfied with the Krag. After several years of development, in 1903 we brought out the Springfield Rifle, the most accurate and quickest firing rifle that had ever come from an arsenal. There was no question concerning the superiority of the Springfield in accuracy or reliability. Altogether, the Springfield rifle defeated the military rifles of 15 nations in shooting competitions prior to the outbreak of the war. This famed arm was adopted as the standard U.S. Rifle of World War I and was not succeeded until c. 1936 by the M1 Garand. The U.S. Marine Corps continued the use of the Springfield rifle in the Sniper variation until the close of World War II.

All the 1903 Springfield rifles, more affectionately known as the '03, share some common features. There are some variations that appear during the development of the '03. Except for the earliest variations which were chambered for the .30-03 cartridge, all models are chambered in caliber .30. The difference in the two cartridges is that the .30-03 used a heavier projectile. A change in the projectile weight and shape was implemented in 1906 that changed the cartridge designation to the .30-06.

The '03 Springfield rifle as we came to know it was a rifle (MAUSER TYPE), bolt action, caliber .30. This rifle was based on the patents of Paul Mauser, Oberndorf, Germany. The chief Mauser features are the bolt, receiver, barrel mounting, magazine system, and charger. The chief differences from the Mauser related to sights, length, cut off, and turned down bolt handle. The weight of the '03 was approximately 8.9 pounds, overall length was 43 inches, with bayonet 59 inches, length of barrel was 24 inches, and magazine capacity was five rounds plus one in the chamber. The '03 was loaded by the use of a charger or stripper clip. The sights utilized a square blade front sight and a rear leaf of the folding type with adjustable slide locked by a binding screw. Windage adjustment was provided by a knob on the right side of the rear sight fixed base. All '03s are equipped with an oil finished, walnut stock, bearing inspector's mark (cartouche) of many varieties. These marks may be found on the left side of the stock opposite the bolt handle. The barrel length is 24 inches as standard on the .30-06 models; the exceptions are on the .30-03 caliber models and the special heavy barrel target models. Stock finishes are varied. The rifle was sighted for ranges up to 2850 yards. The bayonet weighed approximately one pound, 16 inches in length, and was a knife configuration.

There are four types of cartridges issued.

1. The **BALL** cartridge - consisting of the brass case or shell, the

primer, the charge of smokeless powder, and the bullet. The bullet has a sharp point, composed of a lead core and a jacket of cupro nickel, and weighs 150 grains. The bullet of this cartridge, when fired from the rifle, starts with an initial velocity at the muzzle of 2700 feet per second.

2. The **BLANK** cartridge - contains a paper cup instead of a bullet. It is dangerous up to 100 feet. Firing with BLANK cartridges at a represented enemy at ranges less than 100 yards is prohibited.

3. The **GUARD** cartridge has a smaller charge of powder than the BALL cartridge, and five cannellures encircle the body of the shell at about the middle to distinguish it from the BALL cartridge. It is intended for use on guard or in riot duty, and gives good results up to 200 yards. The range of 100 yards requires a sight elevation of 450 yards and the range of 200 yards requires an elevation of 650 yards.

4. The **DUMMY** cartridge is tin plated and the shell is provided with six longitudinal corrugations and three circular holes. The primer contains no percussion composition. It is intended for DRILL purposes to accustom the soldier to the operation of loading the rifle.

All ammunition for the '03 was secured in five round clips to facilitate loading with one motion. Sixty ball cartridges in 12 clips were packed into cloth bandoleers to facilitate issue and carrying. A full bandoleer weighs approximately 3.88 pounds. Bandoleers are packed 20 in a box, or 1200 rounds in all. The full box weighs 99 pounds.

1903 Springfields from their conception until c. 1941 were manufactured only by the U.S.

arsenals at Springfield and Rock Island, Illinois. Manufacture was almost continuous at the Springfield arsenal throughout the era, while at the Rock Island arsenal production was intermittent and ceased in 1918 with no completed rifles produced after that date. Springfield manufactured approximately three times as many '03s as Rock Island. Springfield production figures for .30 caliber '03 rifles of all types was 1,028,634, while Rock Island's total of assembled rifles was 346,779.

The production runs of each arsenal's arms bore individual serial number ranges; Springfield Armory serial numbers run from 1 to 1,592,000+; Rock Island Armory serial numbers run from 1 through 445,000+ with many of the very high numbered receivers made as replacement parts rather than completely assembled rifles. Serial number ranges above 800,000 for Springfield rifles and 285,506 for Rock Island rifles are the more desirable for those acquiring the '03 for shooting purposes. The receivers/actions on rifles under those serial number ranges are of questionable strength because of a double case hardening process causing some brittleness on many. In 1927 all '03s of Springfield manufacture under serial number 800,000 and all Rock Island '03s under 285,506 were removed from service. Stocks on all issued '03s until 1929 were the so called "S" style; that is, with a straight grip and grasping grooves along the sides of the forearm. The change of the stock configuration from the straight stock to a full pistol grip stock ("C" stock) was the only change to the rifle stock. These rifles were made for the Director of Civilian Marksmanship Sales for the Civilian market.

There were few variations of the '03 rifle, however, variations

do exist. Take for example the 1903 rifle stripped for Air Service, a basic '03 rifle modified to accept a 25 round magazine. This particular rifle was designed to be carried aloft and used in observation balloons. Another interesting variation was the '03 Mark I modified for Pedersen device. This '03 rifle was modified by cutting an oval slot through the left receiver wall, acting as an ejection port for the Pedersen device. The trigger and sear assembly had an extra lever to release the firing pin in the device; magazine cut had two locking shoulders machined to lock the device onto the rifle; cut-off screw had a turned down end; cut-off spindle had a spring loaded plunger and screw driver slot at the back end; and the stock had clearance cut by the ejection port. The issue bolt was removed from the receiver and replaced with a special automatic bolt (Pedersen device). The '03 was then transformed from a bolt action rifle into a 40 shot semiautomatic rifle firing a .30 caliber pistol cartridge. Certainly a new concept for a battle rifle. Along the same concept of the Pedersen device emerged the Model 1903 .22 caliber Gallery Practice Rifle "Hoffer-Thompson". This particular variation was full sized but was chambered for the black powder .22 caliber short cartridge. The rifle functioned in the same manner as the .30 caliber rifle except the .22 caliber bullets were inserted into a steel cartridge holder which resembled the .30-06 cartridge. Five cartridges were placed into the magazine and the rifle was fired the same as the .30 caliber. These rifles saw limited use as training weapons.

No rifle family would be complete without the Sniper variation. The '03 Sniper rifle was selected and equipped with telescopic sights. From 1907 until the 1940's such equipped '03s served

the sharpshooter with distinction. The telescopic sights evolved from the 1907 scopes manufactured by the Cataract Tool and Optical Company; 1908 Model Warner-Swasey telescopic musket sight of 6 power magnification; 1913 Warner-Swasey telescopic musket sight of 5.2 power magnification; to the Unertl 8 power target telescope utilized during World War II.

America has always demanded the best from the members of her armed forces. It came as no surprise that the same demand was placed on the soldier's rifle. Prior to the War to end all Wars, America was in search of the best battle rifle available to place in the hands of her capable soldiers. Through hard work, technical advancements, and pure determination, emerged the Model 1903 Springfield Rifle. The rifle that has set the standard for America's battle rifle from 1903 until World War II.

SOURCES:

Flayderman's Guide to Antique Firearms, Norm Flayderman, 1979.

Muzzle Flashes - Five Centuries of Firearms and Men, Ellis Christian Lenz, 1944.

America's Munitions 1917-1918, Benedict Crowell, 1919.

Rifles and Machine Guns, M.M. Johnson, Jr., 1944.

Manual for Noncommissioned Officers and Privates of Infantry of the Army of the United States, War Department Manual, 1918.

Weight:

Approximately 8.9 pounds

Length:

43 inches, with bayonet 59 inches

Length of barrel

24 inches

Magazine Capacity:

5 rounds plus one in the chamber

Sights:

Graduated ladder type to 2850 yds.

Stock: Walnut

Caliber: .30

25TH RAOC WEATHERS THE STORM

By: SSG Nathan L. Barlow

For members of the 25th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) the period between Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 and the actual activation of the unit was a time of uneasiness—a time of doubt. Some members of the RAOC had been preparing for an earthquake exercise, but something was about to shake the lives of the approximately 100 member unit even more than an earthquake.

The call for many came in the late hours of 1 December 1990. All received the word within twenty four hours that the unit was being mobilized for service in Operation Desert Shield. The next few days were spent in processing, organizing and shuffling people. There was equipment to be readied, equipment to be loaded and records to be updated. Early Sunday morning, 9 December 1990, the 25th RAOC left their home station at North Little Rock, Arkansas, amidst fanfare. There were hundreds of friends, family members and well wishers to see them off. A police escort with blue lights flashing led the unit over highways lined with supporters waving flags and wearing yellow ribbons. Babies were crying because "Daddy" or "Momma" had gone off to war.

The time it took to convoy to mobilization station at Fort Hood, Texas, seemed longer than it ever had during training. Upon arrival at the mobilization station, the unit spent several days redoing what had already been accomplished at home station. Everything kept changing. The Commander, LTC Ronald S. Chastain, wrote in his log, "MUST BE FLEXIBLE". It was the "motto" that every guardsman who was



25th RAOC at objective "Red Prime" in the Iraqi desert, February 1991. (objectives of the unit were given names of color).

called up had to keep in mind over the following months.

The vehicles had to receive a new coat of desert camouflage paint. Within a week the equipment was ready for shipment and moved to the port at Beaumont, Texas. The advance party was on their way and over Egypt when Desert Shield became Desert Storm with the Allied bombing of Iraq. The advance party was sent back to Spain for a one day layover. The following day they arrived at Dhahran Airport via military aircraft. They got a first hand view of what the folks back in Arkansas were hearing over the news networks. The main body departed Ft. Hood via commercial aircraft on 6 February 1991 and arrived at King Faud International Airport without incurring any layovers. Upon arrival, the airport was under a SCUD alert. Unit members achieved MOPP 4 in record time. After the alert subsided, the unit moved out to its initial location at

King Khalid Military City and Dragon Base near Dhahran Airport.

The unit was in preparation for the ground war. SFC Gary Drawbaugh stated that, "we went from a RAOC to FAOC", (Forward Area Operations Center—not an official term). Assigned to DRAGON BRIGADE, XVIII Airborne Corps, the unit's missions in Southwest Asia were to provide operations cells, consolidate corps bases and provide base defense. In order to accomplish these tasks it became necessary to split the RAOC into two separate operational cells.

The RAOC cell secured Dragon City Base in Dhahran and conducted base defense operations and force tracking of XVIII Airborne Corps units remaining in the Operation Desert Shield deployment areas. The forward element cell was to accompany elements of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) into Iraq

in the initial stages of the ground war to assist in the establishment of a Log Base which would support the final assault on Iraq's Republican Guard or an advance on Baghdad. This forward element of the RAOC consisted of the Commander, Executive Officer, Operations Officer, four Operations NCO's, Intelligence Officer, Intelligence NCO, two Engineer Officers, two Chemical Officers, Communication Officer, five Communications personnel, two Mechanics, eleven Base Defense Evaluation Team personnel, and one 5-Ton Truck Driver.

The 25th RAOC Forward Element was able to move to a forward assembly area by 21 February 1991. In three days they had managed to offload their vehicles and equipment and traverse more than 300 miles of desert to reach the site where they co-located with the 553rd Corps Support Battalion (CSB) and the 3rd ACR Task Force Bravo. The element had now penetrated more than 120 miles deep into Iraqi territory.

The 25th RAOC was scheduled to move into Iraq on G+1 but the time was moved to the evening of G-Day due to the unexpected rapid advance of the coalition forces. Movement north was so rapid that the unit displaced twice in one week. Three days after the second displacement, the unit moved to AO Cactus in Saudi Arabia. The following day the unit returned to Dragon City in Dhahran.

After the War ended, the unit supported the XVIII ABN Corps during redeployment to CONUS. During this period, the 25th RAOC was reunited with the forward element. The unit members supplemented Corps personnel in the operation of the Rear CP and ground liaison for the Corps at Dhahran International Airfield

and King Fahd International Airfield. They also performed liaison at Corps vehicle wash points and cleared with Saudia Arabian representatives for the return of occupied areas. The advance party departed for return to the United States on 24 May 1991, the main body departed on 28 May 1991 and the rear detachment left Southwest Asia on 11 June 1991.

The members spent the succeeding months settling back into their old routine and readjusting to civilian life. There comes a time in every guardsman life to reflect on experiences and to try to put things in perspective. SSG William F. Boehmer, Jr. stated: "If it wasn't for the support of the families we wouldn't have made it as well as we did. If your family is not behind you then it makes it hard—not only on call up, but just to be in the Guard."

Another soldier reflected: "We got a lot of care packages and letters. There was a great deal of difference in the mail the Guardsman got and what the regular army soldier got. My company sent cases of toothpaste, and other grooming items."

CPT Robert W. Fleming reflected on his involvement in testing the doctrine of the Base Defense Evaluation Team (BDET). CPT Fleming was the leader on one of the first ever combat BDET missions in a hostile country. The team was tasked with the mission of finding an alternate water supply. They moved fifteen miles from their location and found an artesian well. Although the mission was successful there was little need for a fixed water supply due to the rapid movement of the troops.

MSG Michael Lee Craig, Operations Sergeant, appreciated the chance to see that his twenty one years of training could be tested,

and appreciated even more the fact that every one was able to stand the test and return without serious injury. He stated that in many ways it was like a real long annual training (AT) period with routine duties and a daily grind. There was nothing earth shattering, but there was a chance to travel and a chance to experience somethings that one normally would not experience.

The unit members talked about the many duties from transporting camels to operating the world's largest car wash. They were surprised at the open markets and the lack of theft and pilferage from the local inhabitants. They talked about the crazy driving and about how double parking was a norm and triple parking was not unusual. Tea time was a regular practice and everything stopped for the occasion. GOJ (Government owned Japan-vehicles donated by the Japanese government) seemed to be everywhere.

Most of the unit spoke of Iraq as being rocky, nasty, cold, wet, muddy and windy, but all were glad that the 25th RAOC had weathered the storm.

SOURCES:

Chastain, LTC Ronald S.:
Personal Log.
Chastain, LTC Ronald S.:
After Action Review.

Personal Interviews:

MAJ Michael Lee Hampton,
SSG William F. Boehmer, Jr.,
CPT Robert G. Smiley,
SSG William G. Shrigley, Jr.,
SSG Gary Sartin,
CPT Robert W. Fleming,
MSG Michael Lee Craig,
SSG Gary B. Drawbaugh.

Camp Joseph T. Robinson: Brief History

From material compiled by CPT Talmadge Deeter

Camp Joseph T. Robinson, located in the foothills of the Ozarks six miles north of Little Rock, is the training grounds for most members of the Arkansas National Guard. Camp Robinson was first named Camp Pike after General Zebulon Montgomery Pike, the early Western explorer and soldier who discovered Pike's Peak.

During the Spring of 1917, the town of Little Rock and Argenta (later renamed North Little Rock) were bidding for one of the Army's proposed training camps. A military board of inquiry was in Little Rock studying the feasibility of establishing a training camp in the area. Other cities being considered were Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Hattiesburg and Holly Springs, Mississippi and Alexandria and Shreveport, Louisiana.

The Little Rock Board of Commerce (present day Chamber of Commerce) was busy preparing a report which would impress the Army with information on warehouse space in the area, terminal facilities, railroads, the school system, health conditions and available land. To improve the city's chances, private businessmen raised \$300,000 for which 3,000 acres of land north of Argenta was bought and another 10,000 acres leased. Subse-

quently, state and city funds improved the Arkansas bid to one half million dollars.

On June 11, the War Department announced that it would spend approximately \$3,500,000 to build Camp Pike in northern Pulaski County (General Orders, No. 95, War Department, 1917).

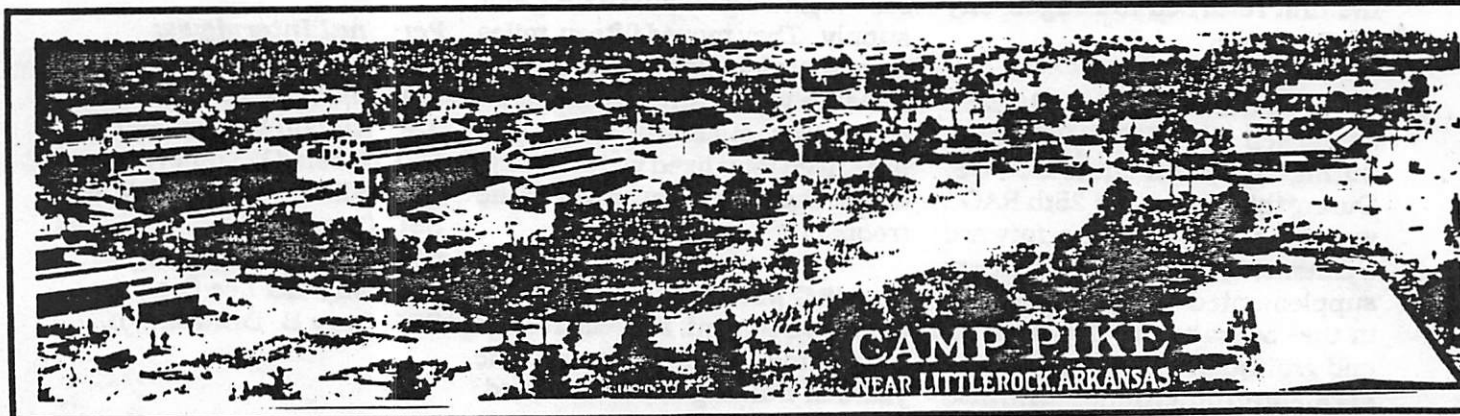
On June 23, 1917 the contract was awarded to James Stewart and Company of St. Louis and New York. The design and supervision of construction went to Black and Veatch, a couple of engineers from Missouri. Black was in charge of engineering during the construction of the camp. The contract called for the construction of 1100 buildings to be completed in 90 days and would accomodate 28,000 men.

The location had been chosen due to the terrain's similarity to that of European battlefields. As perfect as the terrain was for simulation training, it was equally difficult on the men responsible for clearing it. The thick vegetation and marshy lowlands were all cleared by men with the use of horses. The workforce included up to 10,000 men and the payroll "easily exceed" \$300,000 a week. When construction was completed, Camp Pike sported 2,000 buildings including a base hospital, a post office, a bakery, a YMCA,

and its own fire department. The camp was equipped with 30 miles of paved roads.

An enormous amount of resources was required to build and maintain the camp. Forty million feet of lumber costing well over 7 million dollars was required for the initial construction alone. In addition, there were numerous (and costly) additions during the camp's 17 months of activation. During the first three months alone the the quartermaster requested 12,000,000 pounds of hay, 9,800,00 pounds of oats, a million pounds of grain, 2,900,000 pounds of straw, 60,000 gallons of gasoline, 250 tons of blacksmith's coal, 20,000 cords of wood, 36,000 pounds of butter, 36,000 pounds of oleomargarine, 5,000,000 pounds of ice, and 2,000,000 pounds of fresh beef. A substantial amount of these materials would have been bought within the central Arkansas area (especially dairy and meat products). Unfortunately, no records exist to substantiate exactly how much was bought locally.

Camp Pike was reclassified as a Demobilization Center on November 11, 1918. It was abandoned by the war department during July 1921. In 1922 it was transferred to state authority for the use of the National Guard. A part of the reservation was designated Camp McRae. It was returned to federal use in the 1930's, and redesignated Camp Joseph



T. Robinson on August 26, 1937, by War Department General Order No. 8, in memory of the late Arkansas senator who had served his state as legislator, governor and United States representative and senator, and who, at the time of his death, July 14, 1937, was Senate majority leader.

The Citizens Military Training Camp (C.M.T.C.) was held at Camp Pike in 1921, but there appeared to be no subsequent camps until 1931. The C.M.T.C. held its camps at Camp Pike throughout the 1930's. The Civilian Conservation Corps did extensive stone work and improvements during the 1930's. The state's easement was revoked on November 30, 1940, when war engulfed Europe and Asia, and was threatening to reach American shores. The United States launched its defense program.

Detachments of Regular Army troops of the Seventh Corps Area Service Command began arriving in October 1940, to get the camp in readiness in order to receive the 35th Infantry Division, a National Guard division called into Federal service for the emergency.

A tremendous program of expansion was launched, with the camp first taking on the form of a vast tent cantonment. Later, frame hutments replaced the tents, while many other types of construction were ordered to provide administrative buildings,

mess halls, warehouses, a laundry, a station hospital and utilities.

First, through lease, and later through purchase, 40,112.33 acres of land were added to the reservation. Another 1,624.41 acre area was obtained later.

The 35th Division arrived January 3, 1941 and soon was engaged in the intensive program of training. A variety of other units followed. Shortly after the United States' entry into World War II, the 35th Division left Camp Robinson. As the nation rallied its full strength for war, an unending stream of individuals and units poured into Camp Robinson for training, then departed for the battle fronts.

The 66th Infantry Division received advanced training here, as did elements of the 92nd Infantry Division. Ordnance, Engineer, Railway, Signal, Tank Destroyer, Field Artillery, Military Police, Medical, Postal and Quartermaster units were activated at Camp Robinson, or came here for training. Thousands of civilians, called to their country's defense began their military service at the Reception Center which was established here.

A Branch Immaterial Training Center and a Medical Replacement Training Center were activated at Camp Robinson on January 15, 1942. On May 1, 1942,

control of the camp was transferred from the Seventh Corps Area to the Eighth Corps Area, later to be known as the Eighth Service Command, Army Services Forces.

A prisoner of war camp for the internment of German prisoners of war was established at Camp Robinson on July 10, 1943. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps made its debut at the Camp Robinson Reception Center, June 12, 1943. The infantry Replacement Training Center was activated at Camp Robinson on March 10, 1944 and sent trained infantrymen into every war zone.

Following World War II, activities at Camp Robinson decreased. It was in constant use as a training center for the Arkansas National Guard over the following years. In 1975 the National Guard Bureau opened its National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson.

For many Guardsmen, Lloyd England Hall has stood as a focal point during their years of training at Camp Robinson. A proposal has been made to preserve Lloyd England Hall and to utilize this historic landmark as a museum. The Arkansas Militia Historical Preservation Foundation is dedicated to preserving Arkansas' military history and is deeply involved in making this project a reality.



Biographical Sketch:

CPT PAUL RICHARD BLEW

By:

CHAPLAIN James A. Ryan, Jr.

PAUL RICHARD BLEW was born 6 February 1921 in Farmington, Arkansas, the son of C.G. and Vinnie Lee Blew of Fayetteville, Arkansas. He joined Battery A, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard on 4 October 1938 at Fayetteville. With the clouds of war gathering on the horizon, the 142nd Field Artillery was mobilized for federal service on 6 January 1941. Corporal Blew was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for training as a gunner. On 1 December 1941, he became a Section Sergeant for Battery A. While at Fort Sill, Blew attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. On 10 September 1942, he was sent to Camp Beals, California, where he served with Battery C, 497th Field Artillery. A year later he was transferred to the Service Battery of the 757th Field Artillery, where he served as Motor Officer. In March of 1944, Lieutenant Blew was sent to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii to serve as Platoon Leader of Company C, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion. He was serving in this capacity when Japan surrendered. On 6 February 1945, he became the Executive Officer of Battery C, 367th Field Artillery Battalion in the Central Pacific and was assigned occupation duty in Osaka until 30 March 1946.

After the war, Paul R. Blew returned to Fayetteville, Arkansas as a student at the University of Arkansas, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Education in May, 1948. During this time he joined Battery A, 936th Field Artillery Battalion, located in Bentonville, Arkansas. In 1948, he became

Principal of Gentry High School in Gentry, Arkansas.

First Lieutenant Blew became the Adjutant of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Group in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on 20 August 1950. Ten days later the unit was ordered to active duty due to the Korean Conflict. The unit left for Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 7 September. While at Fort Bragg, Blew was promoted to the rank of Captain and received orders to go to Korea. Once in-country, Blew became commander of a firing battery in the 17th Field Artillery. On 21 October 1951, Captain Paul R. Blew was captured by the Chinese Communists. Captain Blew was executed by the communists while a prisoner of war.

Arkansas Military Insignia:

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia:
39th INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Separate)

From:

The History of 39th Infantry Brigade (SEP), The Arkansas Brigade,

By:

MAJ Dan C. Alanis III,
SPC Jesse Pena,
PFC Bonnie J. Bradley;

Updated by:

CPT Floyd T. Richardson, Jr.

The 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) was formed following reorganization on 1 December 1967 of the Arkansas Army National Guard. In 1968, the Bowie knife was adopted as part of the Brigade insignia. The Brigade patch is worn by all members of the 39th Brigade on the upper left sleeve. On it, the Bowie knife symbolizes "The Bowie State", a

nickname used for Arkansas, home station of the Brigade. The knife was originally designed by James Black, a Washington, Arkansas, blacksmith, for Jim Bowie, a principal defender of the Alamo in 1836. The Bowie knife, a weapon used for close-in fighting and implying hand-to-hand combat, is also indicative of the aggressive spirit of the infantry. The Bowie knife is an individual weapon of the Brigade field grade officers and the Commander's aide-de-camp



The shoulder sleeve insignia of the 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) is described as a red shield arched at the top and base two inches in width overall with a blue lozenge surmounted diagonally from upper left to lower right by a white Bowie knife, hilt down, all within a blue 1/8 inch border. The lozenge or diamond refers to the unique aspect of the state as having the only diamond field in North America.

Editors note:

Future issues of the "Arkansas Military Journal" will feature additional biographical articles and insignia descriptions. Historical contributions from our reading audience are invited.

JOIN TODAY

Your contribution to the Arkansas Militia Heritage Preservation Foundation will aid in the effort to preserve Lloyd England Hall. This historical structure was built in 1931 and is one of the oldest remaining building sites on Camp Joseph T. Robinson. Lloyd England Hall is the proposed home of the Arkansas National Guard Museum. This museum will house historical artifacts and documents depicting the story of the Arkansas National Guard from its inception to the present.

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Camp Joseph T. Robinson
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The Adjutant General

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