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154th Tactical Airlift Squadron
189th Tactical Airlift Squadron

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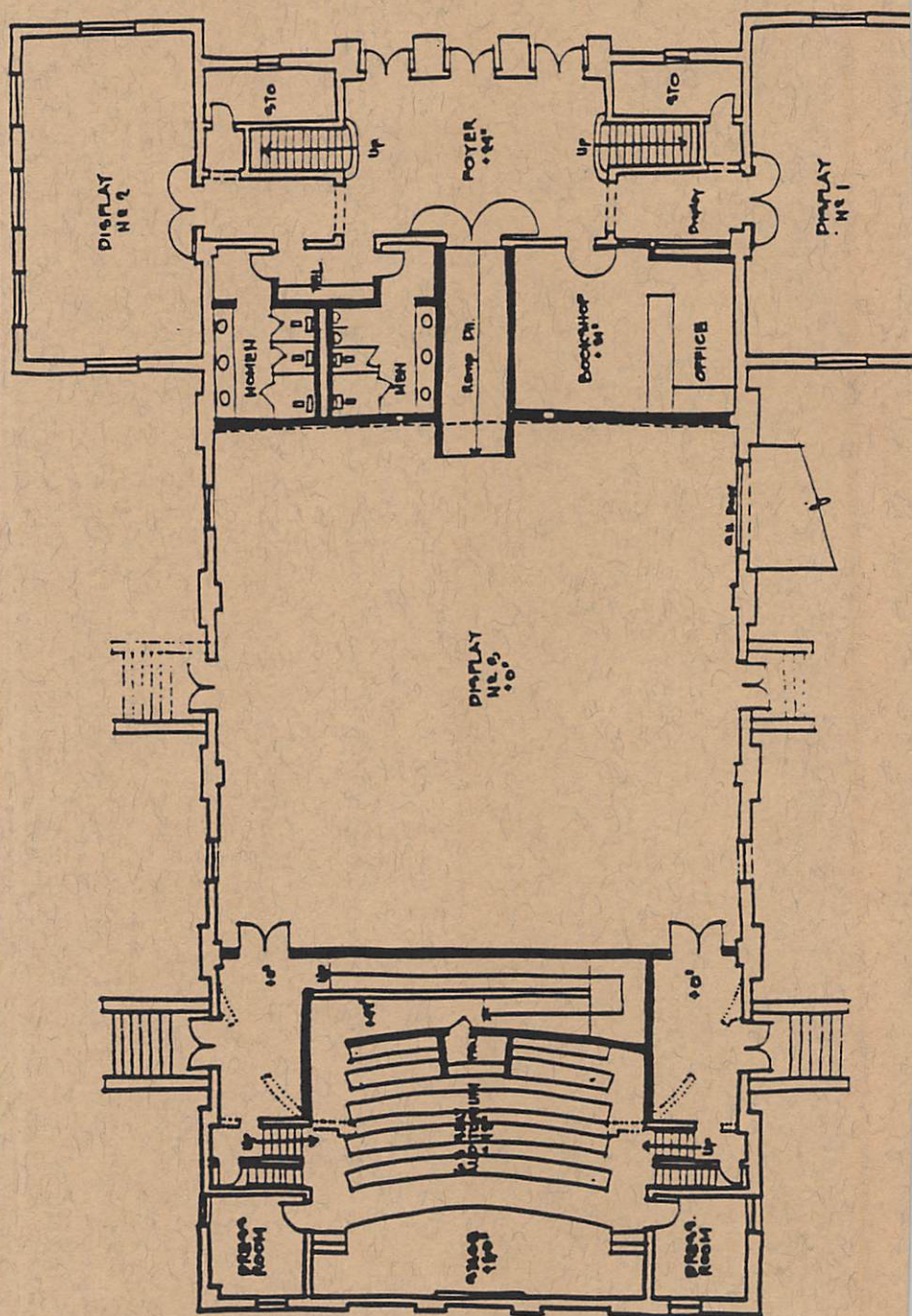
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The Battle of Mount Elba

By: James L. Boney

The expedition to Mount Elba began on March 27, 1864 when the Federal forces under Colonel Powell Clayton left the post at Pine Bluff on its mission to attack the Confederate forces commanded by Brigadier-General Thomas P. Dockery camped at Monticello. The battle of Mount Elba was fought on March 30, 1864.

In 1864 Mount Elba was a post office and a thriving community located near a crossing on the Saline River,

about 25 miles southwest of Pine Bluff. It was located between the road from Pine Bluff to Princeton and the road from Pine Bluff to Warren. After the capture of Little Rock on September 10, 1863 by the Federal army commanded by Major-General Frederick Steele, the Confederate army commanded by Major-General Sterling Price retreated to Arkadelphia and then to Camden where they went into winter quarters. Here, Lieutenant-General T.N. Holmes, returning from sick leave, assumed command

of all Confederate forces in Arkansas.

While the Union army was lying idle in their winter quarters at Little Rock, the Confederates were busy reorganizing their commands. In early December, in and around Camden there were many boys who had reached the age of military service, some men past 45 whom the late conscript law required to be enrolled and quite a number of soldiers who belonged to commands east of the Mis-



PASSING THE CANTEN.

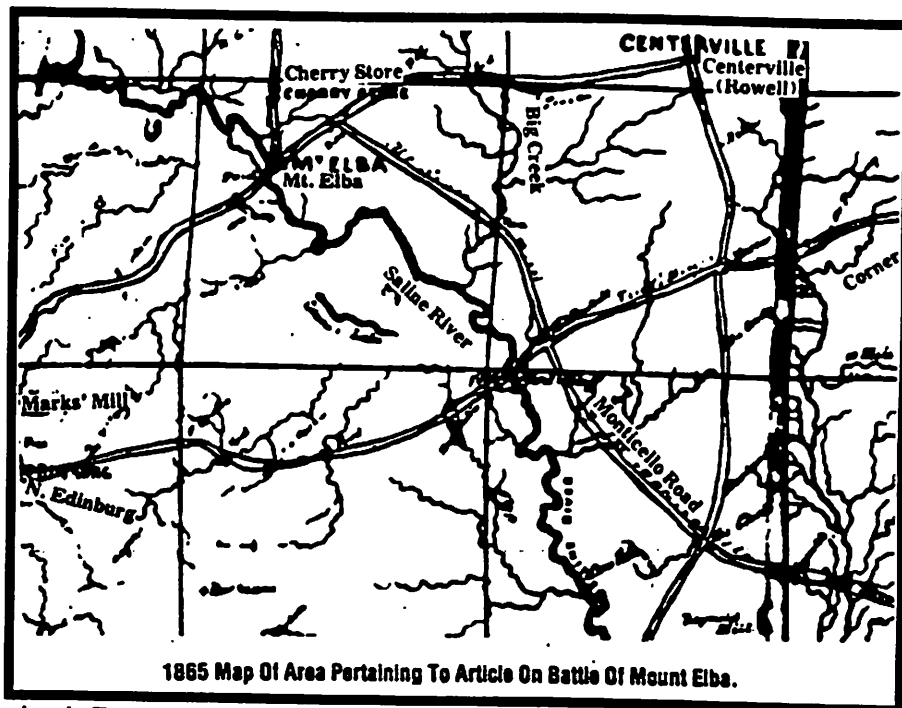
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Mississippi who were home on furlough.

To encourage the enlistment of these men and boys, General T. N. Holmes issued a general order allowing them to form themselves in to new companies and regiments and to elect their own officers. These men were mounted on their own horses and served as cavalry.

Brigadier-General James F. Fagan, formerly of the First Arkansas Infantry, would be in command of this new organization. As soon as the new companies were formed into regiments, they were stationed all over south Arkansas with some as far away as Monticello in Drew County. In February, 1864 the troops that were to become Dockery's brigade were sent to Drew County with their headquarters at Monticello. General Dockery had brought from Camden several partial regiments of soldiers paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson and had in addition to this mounted infantry; the 2nd Arkansas cavalry brigade consisting of Crawford's regiment; Wright's regiment; and Poe's and McMurtry's Battalion for a total of 2,000 effective men.

In early February, Lieutenant-General E. Kirby Smith, the commanding general for the Trans-Missis-



sippi Department had learned that the Federal high command had devised plans to cut the Trans-Mississippi Department off from the Confederacy east of the Mississippi River.

The plan called for a two-phase offensive: the Union army in Little Rock commanded by General Steele would advance south to join the army commanded by Major-General Nathaniel Banks moving north from New Orleans. United, these two armies would then attack the Confederate stronghold at Shreveport. General Smith sent orders to General Richard Taylor to concentrate his army at Mansfield, Louisiana and sent orders to General Holmes in Arkansas to gather his army in Camden to meet the threat from Little Rock.

Early in March of 1864, General Fagan whose headquarters were at Camden and was the ranking general for the cavalry forces in south Arkansas, visited Monticello where he remained a week or so getting the command in readiness for service. On his return to Camden, General Thomas P. Dockery was left in command.

On March 23, General Steele's Union army left Little Rock on its expedition into South Arkansas. On the 24th, Colonel Powell Clayton, the post commander at Pine Bluff received written instructions from General Steele. His orders stated that he was to remain at Pine Bluff to guard the rear of the Union army and to observe the enemy in the direction of Monticello and Camden and if he found them to be

retreating, to press them with all his available force.

In obedience to these orders, Colonel Clayton selected Lieutenants Greathouse and Young of the Fifth Kansas cavalry. Both lieutenants had 40 picked and well mounted men and orders to penetrate the enemy's outer lines, hanging upon the flanks of his camps until they could obtain definite information of the enemy's movements. On the evening of the 26th, Lieutenants Greathouse and Young returned and expressed their opinion that the enemy was preparing to leave Monticello.

Colonel Clayton immediately concluded to act upon this information. After some deliberation, he decided that to march directly against the enemy at Monticello would result in his retreating across the Saline River at Long View possibly having to destroy his pontoon bridge in his rear to make good his escape. He therefore abandoned this plan and adopted one of making a demonstration in the direction of Monticello as if the whole force was advancing. At the same time, he would advance rapidly to Mount Elba, bridge the Saline River leaving infantry and artillery to hold the bridge, and then cross with the Cavalry making

demonstrations in the direction of Camden and Princeton. While this was transpiring, Lieutenants Greathouse and Young were to move with a small force to Long View, a distance of 42 miles from Mount Elba, and destroy the bridge which would prevent the Confederates from escaping. Colonel Clayton would then recross the Saline and attack the enemy with his whole force on the north side of the river.

On the morning of the 27th, Colonel Clayton organized an expedition which consisted of a detachment of the Eighteenth Illinois infantry consisting of seven commissioned officers and 230 enlisted men; a detachment of the Twenty-Eighth Wisconsin infantry consisting of five commissioned officers and 260 enlisted men; a detachment of the First Indiana cavalry, Fifth Kansas cavalry, and the Seventh Missouri cavalry, amounting to 600 men, four mountain howitzers and two steel rifled guns.

The infantry was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Marks of the Eighteenth Illinois infantry and the cavalry was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilton Jenkins of the Fifth Kansas cavalry. In addition to these forces, Colonel Clayton had a small train of eight pon-

toons made for the occasion mounted on wagon wheels.

The infantry and train moved out of the post at Pine Bluff at sunset on the 27th with 100 cavalry commanded by Lieutenants Greathouse and Young in the direction on Monticello. The balance of the cavalry started at daylight the next morning. The whole command, with the exception of the cavalry went in the direction of Monticello, arrived at Mount Elba at 4:00 p.m. on the 28th, drove in the enemy's pickets, killing one and capturing four; and then proceeded with the construction of the bridge across the Saline which was completed near midnight.

Lieutenants Greathouse and Young returned during the night and reported that they had driven in the enemy's pickets at Branchville the night before. At daylight on the morning of the 29th, Colonel Clayton left all the infantry, three pieces of artillery and one squadron of cavalry with the train at Mount Elba under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Marks with instructions to hold the bridge and observe the enemy in the direction of Monticello. He then moved eight miles with the balance of his command across the Saline in the direction of Camden to the vicinity of Marks Mill.

In this neighborhood three roads from Camden, Princeton, Long View and the areas around the Saline River converged. Colonel Clayton made this cross-roads the base of his operations and gave instructions to Lieutenants Greathouse and Young with 50 picked and well mounted men each, to move rapidly by the way of Warren to Long View to destroy the pontoon bridge and the enemy's train. In the meantime to cover the movements of these troops, Colonel Clayton sent a squad of cavalry along the Camden road, the two Princeton roads and up each side of the Saline River with instructions to convey the idea that the whole command was advancing on each of these roads.

These squads of cavalry went out from 10 to 20 miles and returned the same day. Captain Pierce captured six prisoners on the road up the south banks of the Saline River. Captain Young skirmished with a squad of Confederate cavalry on the Princeton road, capturing 10 prisoners and reported Confederate General Joe Shelby was at Princeton.

While the remainder of Dockery's brigade remained in camp at Monticello, Colonel John C. Wright's regiment was on outpost

duty between Pine Bluff and Monticello.

Here, Colonel Wright received orders from General Dockery to move in the direction of Pine Bluff and ascertain whether the enemy had moved or was preparing to move. When within a few miles of Pine Bluff, Colonel Wright learned that the enemy had gone south on the day before in the direction of Mount Elba, Colonel Wright immediately took up the pursuit and overtook the enemy at sundown camped in the town of Mount Elba. At this time his presence was not known. Leaving a strong picket in the enemy's rear, he moved five miles east across Big Creek and went into camp. Earlier he had sent a courier to General Dockery informing him of the condition and asking for re-enforcements.

In a few hours a courier from General Dockery arrived with an order stating, "The General commanding is surprised to learn of your whereabouts; supposed from the orders given you, you would be in the vicinity of Pine Bluff. You will report at once to these headquarters." Colonel Wright's answer to this was, "if I obey this order there will not be so much as a single picket between you and the enemy. I am sure the General commanding does not understand this situa-

tion, hence I decline to obey until further orders." This answer was dispatched in haste and by daylight on the morning of the 30th, General Dockery with his brigade was at the camp of Colonel Wright.

While enroute to attack the Union force at Mount Elba, Colonel Wright informed General Dockery that he had men in his command that knew the country well, who had before sunrise had gotten behind the Federal pickets and captured them without firing a shot, so that when the whole command was within a few hundred yards of the Union camp, their presence being unsuspected.

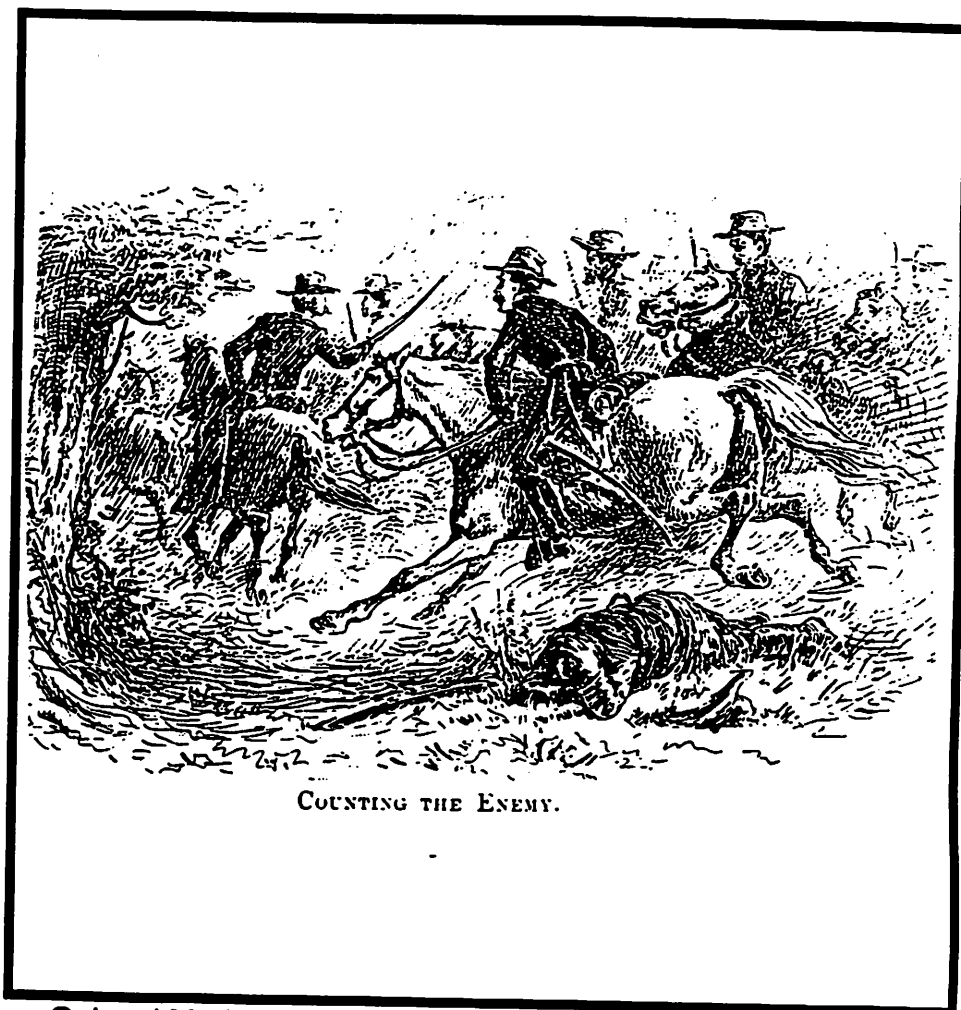
A charge then would have taken them by surprise and the results would be almost certain capture of all north of the river. But, General Dockery would not consent and delayed two hours getting his regiments into position. Meanwhile, their presence had been discovered by Captain Barnes with a squad of cavalry who had been sent on the road toward Monticello to watch the enemy.

About 2:00 a.m. on the morning of the 30th, fearing that Lieutenant-Colonel Marks might not have sufficient cavalry to watch the enemy in the direction of

Monticello, Colonel Clayton sent Captain Barnes with a squad of cavalry to report to him with orders to move at daylight in that direction. About 8:30 a.m. Colonel Clayton received a report that Captain Barnes had met the enemy on a opposite side of the river and had been driven in. Colonel Clayton immediately sent Lieutenant Colonel Jenkins with the Fifth Kansas cavalry to the assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Marks, who was holding the bridge at Mount Elba.

At 9:30 a.m. Lieutenants Greathouse and Young returned and reported the destruction of the bridge at Long View, the burning of a loaded train of 35 wagons, the capture of a large number of arms and ammunition, and bringing with them about 260 prisoners, nearly 300 horses and mules and a large number of contrabands.

When Captain Barnes reported to Lieutenant-Colonel Marks early on the morning of the 30th, he sent him out on the road toward Monticello with instructions to scout the road for some distance and report by night. At 7:30 a.m. Captain Barnes returned and reported that he had encountered a body of the enemy cavalry of 100 men marching in the direction of Mount Elba.



Colonel Marks immediately prepared for their defense. A barricade was formed of rails and logs from some negro huts and companies A, F, G, H and I of the Twenty-Eighth Wisconsin was thrown forward as skirmishers to engage the enemy and watch his movements. Here the skirmishing continued for approximately two hours. At 9:30 a.m., The Federal skirmishers were forced to retreat into their camp, closely followed by the Confederates who made a spirited attack. About the time the Federal skirmishers were driven in, Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins of the Fifth Kansas cavalry

arrived at the Ferry and assumed command of the camp.

Dismounting his men and leaving the horses under the bluff across the river from the camp, Colonel Jenkins sent his men to the front and threw out the line of skirmishers to hold the enemy in check as long as possible enabling them to improve on the hastily constructed barricades from the rails lying scattered around and in the fences nearby. This was done under a heavy fire from the enemy who now appeared in such force that Colonel Jenkins' skirmishers

had to fall back on the main command.

The Union battle line was formed with the right flank held by the Eightieth Illinois infantry, the left by the Twenty-Eighth Wisconsin and two companies of the Fifth Kansas cavalry and the center by three howitzers supported by the dismounted cavalry. The Confederates evidently expecting easy victory, kept moving steadily forward under the cover of the timber keeping up a continuous fire along their whole line. Up to this time only two or three rounds had been fired from the artillery though the firing of small-arms had been severe for some time. The Confederates were now advancing with loud cheers and could plainly be seen through the woods in their front. Colonel Jenkins ordered the howitzers to be fired as rapidly as possible. After 30 minutes of hard fighting, it became evident that the severity of the Union fire was causing the Confederates to fall back in great haste and confusion. Seeing this, Colonel Jenkins again advanced his skirmishers and threw his left flank forward some 300 or 400 yards. Here they found a number of Confederate dead and wounded as well as a number of arms which had been left in their hurried retreat. Colonel Jenkins now had the horses brought across the river and Majors

Walker and Scudder of the Fifth Kansas cavalry with 100 men and one howitzer were sent after the retreating Confederates with orders to harass them as much as possible.

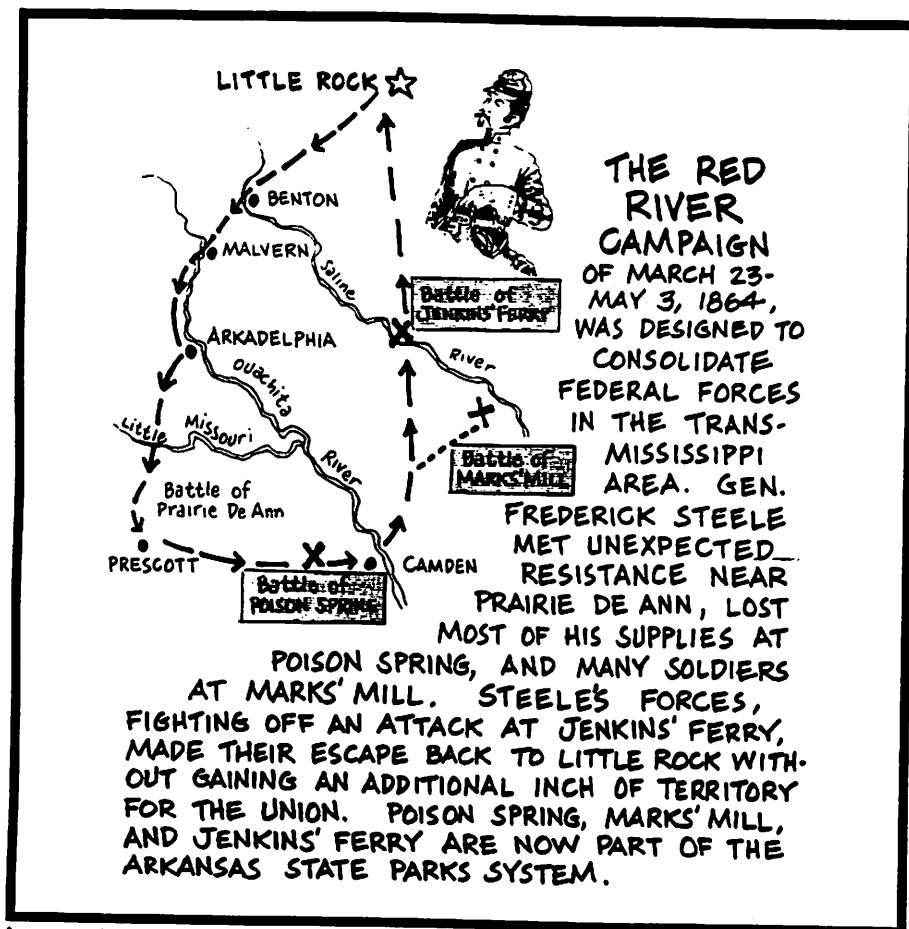
Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins had just issued orders to have the dead collected, the wounded taken into the house, and to have the arms gathered when Colonel Clayton arrived relieving him of command.

When the sound of the artillery firing was heard in the direction of Mount Elba and after a courier from Colonel Jenkins reported an engagement going on at that place, Colonel Clayton, who was still at his camp at Mark's Mill, immediately marched to the assistance of Colonel Jenkins. When he arrived at the crossing, he found that the enemy had been repulsed and had fallen back about one mile, followed by Majors Walker and Scudder with the Fifth Kansas cavalry. He immediately joined the pursuit with all his available cavalry and instructed Colonel Marks to follow with the infantry. After going about one mile, he found the enemy posted in thick timber with an enclosed field and peach orchard between his position. He had the fence thrown down and ordered the charge.

When the artillery opened fire, the Union cavalry charged across the open field into the timber. Here the Confederates broke into the wildest confusion and from this time on, their retreat was a perfect rout. The road and timber was strewn with blankets, saddlebags and guns. Prisoners were being brought in and sent to the rear. The pursuit was kept up until the Union cavalry reached a point about five miles from Mount Elba where the road crosses Big Creek.

Here the Confederate rear guard under the command of Colonel Wright had succeeded in tearing up about 20 feet of the bridge and carrying off the boards. The creek could not be forded, therefore the pursuit was suddenly and effectively halted. By the time the Union forces were ready to move again, it was 5:00 p.m. and by the time they reached Centerville, a point about 12 miles from Mount Elba, it was night.

At this time the greater part of the cavalry that had the expedition to Long View was very much fatigued and unable to move any further. The infantry with the prisoners and train were still somewhere behind. In view of this and the fact that the enemy had obtained four



hours head start by obstructing the bridge and the encumbrance of the prisoners who would be difficult to guard during a night march, Colonel Clayton concluded that to pursue the enemy any further would be a useless tax upon the energy and endurance of his command. He therefore went to camp and the next day; marched the 28 miles back to Pine Bluff.

The Battle of Mount Elba lasted two and one half hours. For the Union forces, the expedition was a brilliant success. For three days they were deep in enemy territory, where they had fought and defeated forces more than twice their num-

ber. By skillful maneuvering, 100 picked men of this small force managed to get behind the Confederate army, capture and destroy his train of 35 wagons loaded with a great value of stores containing their paymasters safe with \$860,000 (Confederate money), destroy their pontoon bridge over the Saline River, captured and brought to Mount Elba 260 prisoners, 300 horses and mules and a large number of contrabands. The Union loss throughout the expedition was only two killed and eight missing.

The Confederate forces at Mount Elba consisted of Crawford's, Crockett's and Wright's regiments or about

1,200 men commanded by General Dockery in person. Their defeat was thorough and complete with a loss in killed, wounded and missing, independent of the 260 captured at Long View, of over 160 men. General Dockery, by not taking advantage of the information sent to him the night of the 29th by Colonel John Wright and by delaying two hours in getting his brigade into position, let slip through his hands the chance to capture the greater part of the Union forces at Mount Elba.

The battle was the first in a series of battles fought in south Arkansas in the spring of 1864 in what is known in the official records as the Camden Expedition. After the battle, the Union forces returned to Pine Bluff and the Confederate forces withdrew to their camp at Monticello and were shortly called across the Ouachita River to help repel General Steele's expedition in south Arkansas.

Mr. Boney, or New Edinburg, who recently wrote this article, used the following references: A sketch of the life of Dr. J.M. Brown, D.D., Tri-County Advocate; the journal of Col. John C. Wright, C.S.A., report of Col. Powell Clayton, official records, report of Lt. Col. Samuel B. Marks, official records, report of Lt. Col. Wilton Jenkins, official records.

WW II POWs in ARKANSAS

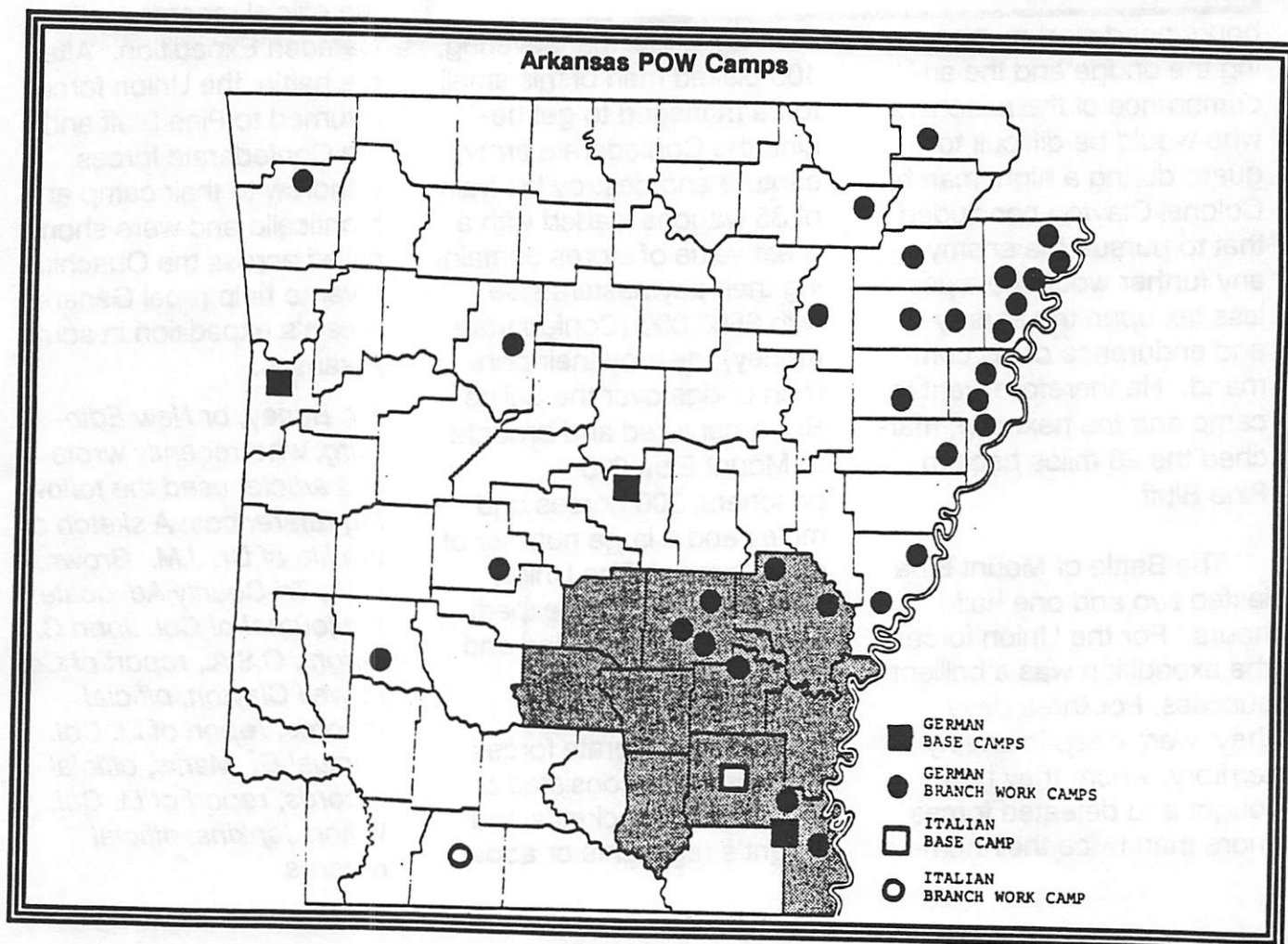
By: SSG Nathan Barlow

One interesting aspect of World War II is the establishment of Prisoner of War Camps within many of the states. There was a heavy concentration of these camps in the sunbelt states such as Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Texas. The establishment of these camps influenced the life in many of the communities in Arkansas. The camps varied in size from

the 94 man camp at Knobel in Clay County to a large military POW camp near Dermott in Drew County. On 1 June 1945, this camp contained 5,402 prisoners.

A 1945 listing shows thirty one camps with 22,540 prisoners. There were also relocation camps at Jerome and Rohwer. These are to be distinguished from the POW camps, because they housed American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Most of the prisoners in Arkansas' German camps- Camp Dermott, then at Jerome and Camp Chaffee located near Fort Smith, and Camp Robinson located in North Little Rock - were captured in North Africa while under the direction of General Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox". They remained in the United States from 1943 to 1945. The last of the prisoners arrived in the spring of 1945. The prisoners performed routine maintenance tasks at



the base camps and did various manual labor tasks at the branch camps. Work assignments included everything from picking grapes to repairing streets. The largest concentration of workers were assigned to agricultural related tasks.

The prisoners were credited with saving the 1944-45 cotton crops by some historians. It is interesting to note that some of the German POW's thought that planting a crop (cotton) in the spring and chopping it down in the summer (to thin it out in order that it might grow better) was stupid. Some of them thought that it was a nuisance invented just to make additional work for them. Not only did

these prisoners work in the cotton fields, but they adapted to the work in the Pine Bluff Cotton compresses. Others were involved in the rice harvest. The International Paper Company also employed some in the forestry industry for the purpose of cutting pulpwood.

As many as 7,000 prisoners were incarcerated at Camp Dermott, at one time the holding place for some of the hard-core Nazi officers of the Gestapo and the SS (Schutzstaffel), an elite guard of the German Army. The officers were more loyal and fanatical than were the enlisted men.

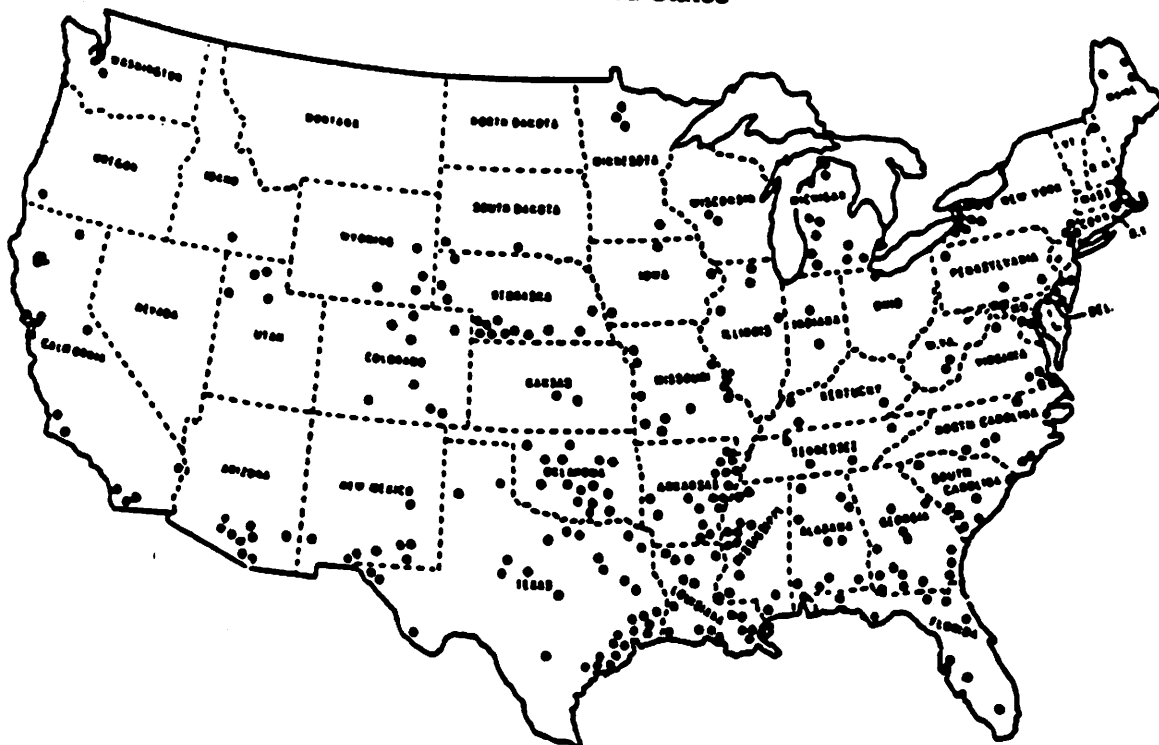
The camps were inspected every two or three

months. Many of these camps employed staff from the communities. Sometimes, camps had items that the outside world did not have such as sugar and chocolate. Prisoners who had relatives in the area were allowed to visit them, and officers were allowed to move freely about the neighboring towns.

Prisoners could spend 80 cents a day in the base canteen. They could write home once a month, take college correspondence courses, and were entertained with plays, symphony music or athletic events.

The barbed wire was removed from around some of the camps in 1944.

POW Camps
In the United States



It is interesting to note that there was more hostility towards the Japanese, including those of American-citizenship, than there was against the Germans or the Italians.

The facilities and equipment from the branch camps were sold at auctions, as the camps were

shut down one by one after the close of the war.

Two of the base camps were on permanent military reservations and these facilities were converted to other purposes over the years or totally dismantled.

Much of the original facilities have disappeared

but for a few of the foundations. What is left is a few memories in the minds of the prisoners and the citizens of the communities. But if you look hard, occasionally you can find a little bit more, such as the daffodils and border rocks I found when I went searching for the Base Camp at Camp Robinson.

ARKANSAS

PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

By Location and Principal Types of Work
As of 1 June 1945

<u>Name of Camp</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Base Camp</u>	<u># of Prisoners</u>	<u>Type of Work</u>
Altheimer	Jefferson	Monticello	418	Agriculture
Bassett	Mississippi	Robinson	588	Agriculture
Blytheville AAF	Mississippi	Robinson	591	Mil. Agric.
Chaffee	Sebastian	.....	3,002	Mil.
Crawfordsville	Crittenden	Robinson	301	Agric.
Dermott	Drew	.....	5,402	Mil.
Earle	Crittenden	Robinson	245	Agric.
Elaine	Phillips	Robinson	392	Agric.
Grady	Lincoln	Monticello	241	Mil. Agric.
Harrisburg	Poinsett	Robinson	295	Agric.
Hot Springs	Garland	Robinson	212	Mil.
Hughes	St. Francis	Robinson	439	Agric.
Jonesboro	Craighead	Robinson	389	Agric.
Keiser	Mississippi	Robinson	293	Agric.
Knobel	Clay	Robinson	94	Agric.
Lake Village	Chicot	Dermott	334	Agric.
Luxora	Mississippi	Robinson	248	Agric.
Marked Tree	Poinsett	Robinson	313	Agric.
Monticello	Drew	.....	2,706	Mil. Forest.
Murfreesboro	Pike	Robinson	244	Forest.
Osceola	Mississippi	Robinson	393	Agric.
Pine Bluff Ars.	Jefferson	.....	554	Mil.
Robinson	Pulaski	.....	2,290	Mil. Agric.
Russellville	Pope	Chaffee	149	Forest.
St. Charles	Arkansas	Robinson	100	Forest.
Simsboro	Crittenden	Robinson	296	Agric.
Stuttgart AAF	Prairie	Robinson	386	Mil.
Turrell	Crittenden	Robinson	294	Agric.
Victoria	Mississippi	Robinson	149	Agric.
West Helena	Phillips	Robinson	498	Agric.
Wynne	Cross	Robinson	684	Agric.

Branch Camp unless otherwise shown under Base Camp.
Information from: ARMY SERVICE FORCES, Office of The Commanding General.
Office of The Provost Marshal General, Statistics and Economics Unit.
Dated 29 Sep 49.

DUTCH HARBOR REVISITED

From an article in the 4 June 1992 edition of the "Arkansas Times" by William E. Maxwell, Jr.

Fifty years ago, some 1,700 Arkansans came to grips with the reality of war. It happened in the most unlikely of places - far to the north in the rugged and isolated Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

On June 3, 1942, Japanese airplanes bombed and strafed the American military bases at Dutch Harbor on Amaknak Island. Among those underneath the falling bombs were the men of the 206th Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft) Regiment, Arkansas National Guard.

The Arkansans arrived in Alaska in August 1941, four months before the United States entered World War II. After the Nazi conquest of France and the Low Countries of 1940, America hurriedly began preparing for war. President Franklin D. Roosevelt obtained congressional authorization to mobilize and deploy the National Guard to defend American interests.

The 206th, stationed in 11 cities and towns was or-

dered into federal service on January 6, 1941. Under the command of COL Elgan C. Robertson of Marianna, the 206th moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, to undergo intensive training. In March, draftees were assigned to the 206th to bring the regiment up to war strength.

In July 1941, the 206th was ordered to Alaska. A persistent tale, worthy of Ozark folklore status, links the fate of the Arkansans with New Mexico's 200th Coast Artillery. According to the story, the overseas

deployment of the two regiments was decided by the mere flip of a coin. Over the years, the coin toss legend has been embellished with detail and "eyewitness" testimony. The loser of the coin toss would be sent to the desolate Alaskan post while the winner drew "glamorous" duty in the Philippines. The Arkansans lost the coin toss. The New Mexico unit was sent to the Philippines, where it surrendered with the rest of the U.S. forces in 1942, only to endure the Bataan Death March.

Arkansans Remember the Aleutian Islands' "Forgotten War."



A Battery 206, Summer of 1941: (Kneeling, from left) Woodrow Little, Woodrow Trimble, Thomas Little, (back, from left) Floyd Halley, Kent Jones, Larry Obsitnik, Donnel Drake, Clyde Hill and Jerald McKinney.

The real reason the 206th went to Alaska and not the Philippines was more mundane. In July 1941 it appeared that the Germans might overwhelm the Soviet Union. American military planners worried that the Japanese might take advantage of the situation to seize bases in the Far North, threatening American defenses. A number of units were immediately dispatched to reinforce Alaska to counter any possible Japanese threat. The 206th was ordered north because it was the best of five anti-aircraft regiments then training at Fort Bliss.

The 206th reached Dutch Harbor on August 16, 1941. The weather was cold and constantly wet. One veteran, Paul "Fox" Conway of Sherwood, recalls that after their arrival in August the sun did not shine until Thanksgiving Day.

The Aleutians also have a wind phenomenon known as a *williwaw*. The winds often exceed 100 mph and can last for minutes or days. The capricious winds can suddenly reverse direction and have the power to beach ocean-going vessels. At least four members of the 206th died as a result of williwaws.

The Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor was a first. It marked the first time that

North America came under aerial bombardment. The raid began shortly before 6 a.m. on June 3, 1942, and lasted about 20 minutes. Eleven bombers and six fighters from the aircraft carrier *Ryujo* participated in the attack, which caused only minor damage but inflicted 52 casualties. Twenty-five men from an Alabama National Guard unit were killed by one bomb.

Thirty-six hours later, the Japanese returned in greater force. Their most spectacular success was the destruction of oil tanks holding more than 750,000 gallons of fuel. The sound of the explosion was heard more than 40 miles away at the new top-secret airfield on Umnak Island. The two air raids did not achieve the Japanese objective to shut down the Dutch Harbor bases. In the two attacks, 43 were killed and about 50 wounded. The 206th lost seven killed in action and nine wounded.

Results could have been far different. Before the first attack, the Japanese commander sought permission to invade Dutch Harbor. Submarine reconnaissance had revealed that Dutch Harbor was defended by only one-third the number of troops expected. Higher authority overruled the invasion idea. Tokyo Rose announced that Dutch Harbor

had been invaded and captured. In fact, the Japanese fleet moved away from Dutch Harbor and invaded two islands at the end of the Aleutian chain. Over the next 15 months the United States assembled a force to repel the invaders while keeping up a constant bombing campaign.

The air raid on Dutch Harbor was the opening move of a giant offensive by the Japanese. On June 4, far to the south near Midway Island, American forces ambushed the would-be attackers. Thanks to a code-breaking secret known as *ULTRA*, the United States knew the Japanese plans. The main event, the Battle of Midway, ended disastrously for Japan. The secondary attack on Alaska met with more success. For 15 months, the soldiers, sailors, and airmen on both sides waged a bitter struggle known as the Aleutian campaign. On May 11, 1943, the United States invaded the island of Attu. The carnage on Attu was second only to Iwo Jima in terms of the number of combatants.

Historians call the Aleutian Campaign the "Forgotten War." Those who were there will never forget it.

The author's father, William E. Maxwell, Sr., served as a corporal with the 206th.

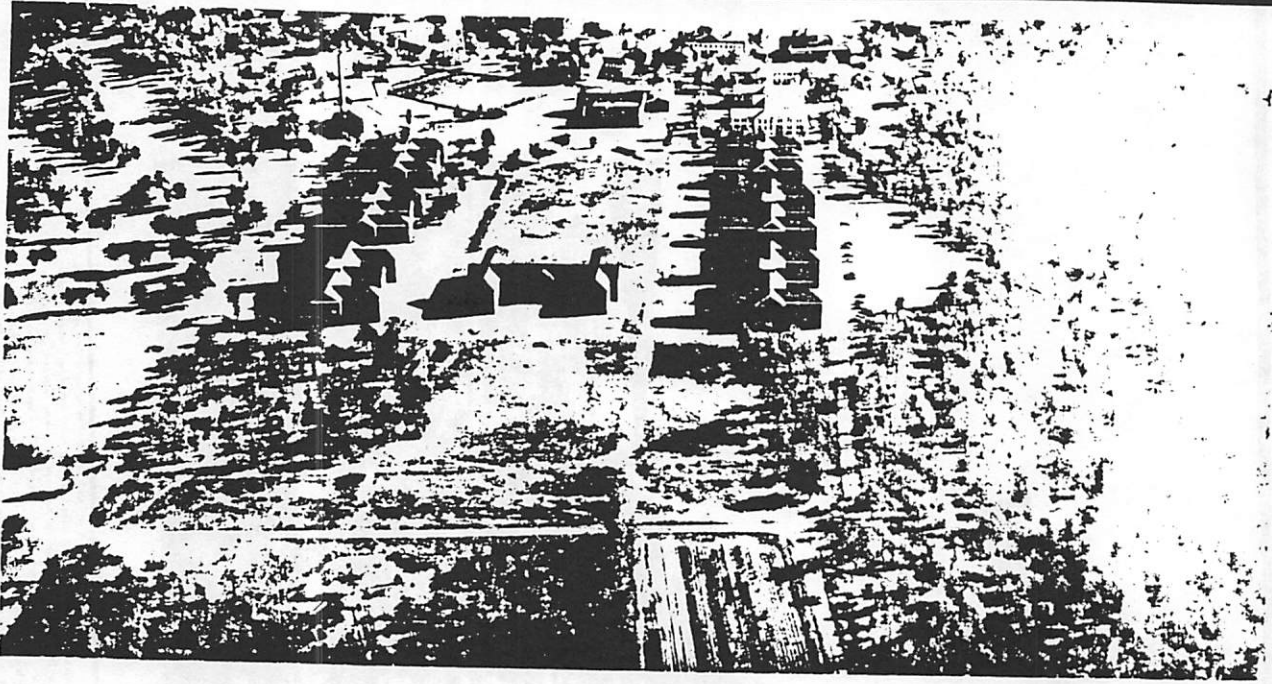
Defense of the Aleutians



Dutch Harbor, Alaska, June 3, 1942

The Japanese realized that in order to win the war in the Pacific, they would have to bring the U.S. fleet into decisive combat. Their plan envisaged a deceptive move in a northern direction, towards the Aleutian Islands and Alaska. It would be a difficult campaign. The climate of the chain of islands that bounds the Bering Sea is not conducive for military operations or bases. It was cold and foggy in the summer, and bitterly cold in the winter. The climate was hard on man and machines. To counter the Japanese threat, the United States planned bases on the Aleutians. Into these bases, throughout the first half of 1942, the nation moved her soldiers, sailors and airmen. Alaska's 28th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-Aircraft) arrived with obsolete V-1 anti-aircraft guns and water-cooled 50-caliber machine guns arrived in Dutch Harbor, the Aleutian Islands as part of the air defense. On the third of May, 1942, a Japanese task force made up of two light

aircraft carriers and supporting ships moved into position 165 miles from Dutch Harbor. Fog shrouded their advance as they eluded the U.S. Navy forces that were searching for them. Half of the first attack group turned back because of the bad weather, but a dozen planes flew on to Dutch Harbor. Although the American forces were surprised, the 28th still managed to provide a thick screen of anti-aircraft fire. The gunners downed one Japanese Zero, but even more importantly, they degraded the effect of the Japanese bombers' aim. Even so, the first attack cost the defenders of Dutch Harbor 25 killed in a 20-minute attack. This was the first Japanese attempt to destroy the new base at Dutch Harbor. Throughout the rest of the 1st of June, weather assisted the defenders. On the 5th the Japanese struck again, damaging a hospital, oil storage facilities and killing more defenders. This was the last attack. Dutch Harbor was blazed, damaged, but still in operation. The 28th served in Alaska from March 1941 until they were deployed in Europe in 1943. The proud heritage of the 28th Coast Artillery is carried on today by the members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 28th 1st Air Artillery Regiment.



Aerial photo of Fort Roots during the 1940's. A time when patients tended a garden.

History of Fort Roots

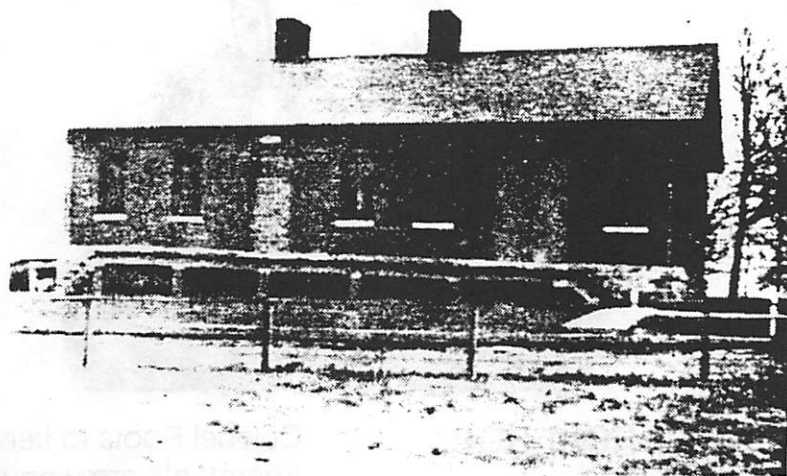
From the Archives of the Arkansas National Guard

The beginning of Fort Roots is intertwined with the history of MacArthur Park in Little Rock. In 1837 the land now occupied by MacArthur Park in Little Rock was acquired by the U. S. Government for a military post. Two years later an arsenal was built on the site. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Confederates seized the Little Rock Arsenal and it remained in Southern hands until Confederate forces were forced to evacuate the capitol in 1863 when federal

troops under the command of Major General Frederick Steele occupied the city.

The Little Rock Arsenal remained a federal post until 1893, when it was traded to the city in exchange for 1,000 acres of land atop Big Rock across the Arkansas River. In that year, construction was begun on buildings around the present parade ground. Construction at the site continued until the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898, when regular troops occupying the fort were ordered to Puerto Rico.

Fort Roots was named in 1897 for Lieutenant Colonel Logan H. Roots (later a General). Logan H. Roots' efforts are credited in starting the movement, which through the action of Congress and the Honorable Stephen B. Elkins, Secretary of War, culminated in the creation of MacArthur Park and Fort Roots. During the early days of the fort and for many years later, an old dirt road up the back of the hill, was the only route of access. Wooden steps rose from about 20th Street in North Little Rock, to the top of Big Rock. One could



Shops (Blacksmith, Carpenter, and Paint Shop), Building 16, completed in 1896

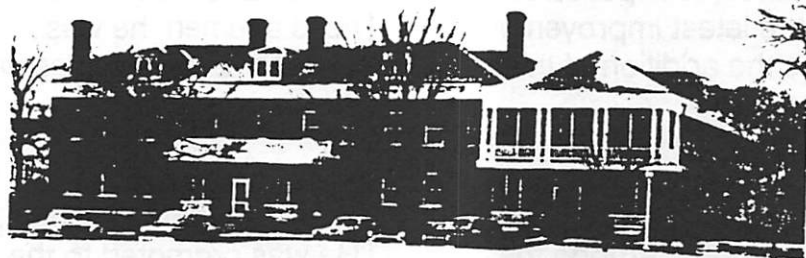
climb what must have appeared as an endless succession of steps or you could hire a horse drawn surrey to drive up the winding course for 25 cents. This sum was quite an item in the budget of a private soldier's pay which was \$12 a month, fifty cents of which was already being deducted for the Old Soldier's Home in Washington, D. C.

All of the brick buildings around the parade ground and the Officers' quarters to the West (with the exception of Building 58) remain today in a remarkable state of preservation. The stoves and fireplaces in common use during the early days of the Fort, long before central heating, account for the great number of chimneys reaching skyward from the period buildings. Building

eleven was the military hospital. The present library was once the guardhouse. The old warehouse has retained

its original purpose and is in use today. The horse and mule barn and the coach house still stand just north of the present fire station.

There was no central mess hall. Each company, troop, or battery, has its own kitchen and dining space behind the barracks. These are the small one-story structures now numbered 36, 38 and 39. Fort Roots was garrisoned by small units of field artillery (horse drawn), infantry, and cavalry, at various times. It must be remembered that up to the beginning of World War I, the U. S. regular army was small. After the Civil war the army was reduced to where, at times, the total en-



Bachelor Officer Quarters, Building 41, completed in 1907

rollment for the entire army numbered less than the present day New York City police force.

A small number of troops was maintained at Fort Roots until World War I, when Camp Pike was built a few miles away. During that war the fort was used as an officer's training school.

Establishment of a Veterans' Hospital at Fort Roots was authorized March 4, 1924 by an act of the 66th Congress, and in October of the same year the property of the abandoned military post was released to the Veterans Bureau by the U. S. Public Health Service. On July 3, 1930, the 71st Congress changed the Veterans Bureau to the Veterans Administration. The hospital's physical plant has undergone a drastic change in appearance over the years and the building program has included many projects which have directly affected the welfare of the patients. One of the latest improvements was the addition of the new Chapel.

A number of outstanding military leaders served at Fort Roots. Among these was General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army during World War II. **Marshall** was assigned to **duty at Fort Roots** as a First Lieutenant of Infantry in 1912.



LOGAN HOLT ROOTS

Logan Holt Roots was born on March 26, 1841 at Locust Hill, near Tamaroa, Perry County, Illinois. The Roots' were a renowned family, who first came to America in 1634.

At age seventeen, Logan H. Roots entered college at Illinois Normal University where he graduated as valedictorian in 1862. Upon graduation, Colonel Roots enlisted in Eighty-first Illinois Regiment of Infantry Volunteers. Because of his business acumen, he was appointed as quartermaster of the regiment.

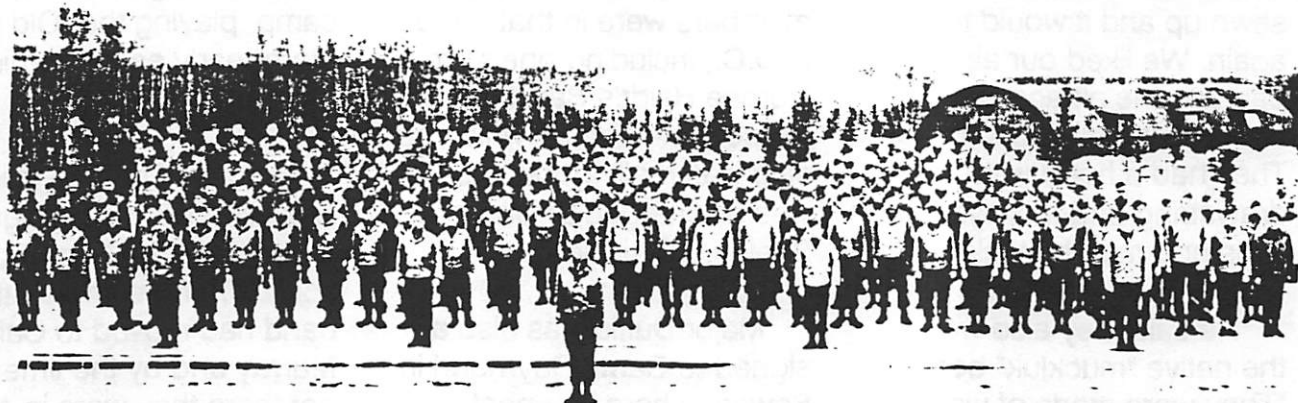
His energy and ability brought rapid promotion. He was promoted to the staff of General Sherman and accompanied him on the march from Atlanta to the sea. As General Sherman accomplished this campaign without established lines of supply, the ability of

Colonel Roots to keep Sherman's army equipped in the field stands as written testimony to his ingenuity and dedication to his cause.

After the war, Colonel Roots settled in Arkansas where he was a prominent landowner and statesman. He was elected a Member of Congress, being the youngest member of the Fortieth and Forty-first Congresses.

In 1872, Logan H. Roots purchased a controlling interest in what became the First National Bank of Little Rock. He was elected president of the institution and held the position continuously until 1890.

Logan Holt Roots was instrumental in the movement to acquire MacArthur Park for Little Rock and the location of a military reservation at Fort Roots. He died on May 30, 1893 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery.



Company A, with 1st Sgt. Denman Wylie up front, poses for its last photo in Anchorage on the way home via Mississippi in 1944.

Life in Alaska 'Not so Foreign'

*From a History of the 153D
by the Hempstead County
Historical Society*

"Being a territory of the United States, Alaska is not as 'foreign' as one would imagine. In Alaska are fine airports, up-to-date mercantile houses, picture shows, and every convenience of an American home. But one has to remember that only about 65,000 inhabitants are scattered over an area of 590,884 square miles, a stretch of land one-third greater than that of the Atlantic states to Florida. And the population in that vast amount of space does not even equal that of Little Rock alone.

"The population of "Seward's Ice Box," as Alaska is commonly called, is widely scattered over a total of about 800 towns and settlements, the city of Seward ranking about eighth. About half the population are whites with the other half made up of Eskimos and native Indians, with a mingling of Japanese.

(Terrell Hutson said he learned while in Nome that the Japanese had married Eskimos and were living up and down the coastline and knew all about the channels and their depth. "They were ready for us.")

"Fort Raymond, where the Arkansas band is sta-

tioned is situated about two miles north of Seward. No sooner did soldiers begin arriving than the band struck up lively marches, doing its best as a morale unit."

The article further listed the clothing that had been issued the soldiers, "from ski goggles to sheep-line over coats, and the soldier's big problem now is just what to wear for various occasions."

Commenting on their cold-weather clothing, Wylie said if you had a hole in your glove and went to Nome on Saturday night, when you got back you had frostbite on your fingers. It was just like sticking your hand on a red hot stove.

"We were issued muskrat coats but they didn't hold up. The skin was tender and would tear. We'd have it sewn up and it would tear again. We liked our alpaca parkas.. the alpaca is a fur-bearing animal you know. They had a hood with drawstring and only your eyes and mouth stuck out."

He said they also wore the native "muckluk" boots. "They were made of wolf skin and flat soles like the hand with no heel and you had to be particular or your feet would get out from under you."

Bugle Boys of Company A

Roy B. Lewis was a member of the band of Camp Raymond in Seward. He had joined Company A before he was "of age" so that he could be the bugler as requested by Captain Mac Duffie. (Edwin Dossett was Company A bugler in Nome) Lewis enjoyed his band buddies in Seward, but when he returned to Arkansas to his Dad's bedside in April 1944, he was not sent back to Alaska when his furlough ended. Instead he was sent to play in the band at the Army War College in Washington, D. C.

"We had nothing to do after we practiced every morning, and with a free pass I toured the city, but I

missed the Seward gang," Roy told his twin sister Ruth Lewis recently. He said several big-named band members were in that band in D.C., including one from Horace Heidt's Band. He advanced to 4th chair which he said was really good. He was discharged at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Major Duffie was also assigned to Camp Raymond in Seward where he spent about two years before being sent to the European theater of war. He was captured by the Germans and freed by the French. "He as shot up and never again had full use of one arm," Opal Duffie, his widow said recently.

The band was an all-Arkansas unit with the exception of its Warrant Officer, Wayne E. Tyree, and up to December 23, 1940 was part of the Arkansas National Guard with the home station at North Little Rock. Its members came from all occupations, some college and high school students, others business men, even professional musicians.

After six months of training at Camp Robinson, they first saw "action" in the Tennessee war games. Upon arrival at Fort Raymond they found their chief job was that of morale building through music. This included concerts for soldiers and

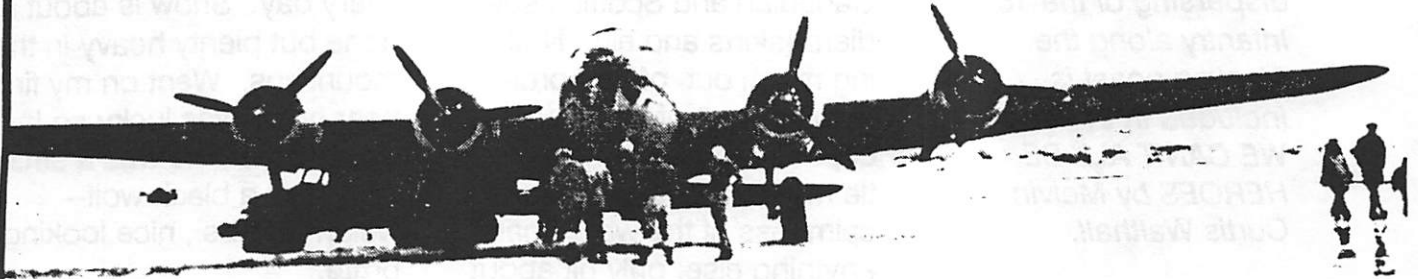
townspeople, peppy marches and retreat ceremonies. Also the band was the "bugler" of the camp, playing the "Old Gray Mare" early each morning for reveille.

Warrant Officer Tyree of Glasgow, KY was assigned to the band at Camp Robinson. When he arrived the band had moved to Camp Murray and by the time he got there they were in Alaska.

The roster is as follows:
T/Sgt Paul R. Cooper, S/Sgt Wally Simmons; Sgts. Gene R. Fair, Ed Henley, J. O. Powell, Cloe C. Yarbrough, Cpls. Clayton C. Bennett, J.L. Adams, Ben Sperry; PFCs Blake Browning, Richard B. Cash, Chester A. Creech, Bert Danham, Warren Funston, Lloyd A. Gathright, Buel M. Moye, Wendel Pedigo, Gerald Johnston, Larry Thomas, Harold Armstrong, Franklin Young, Arman Stringfellow, Charles Pearce, Claude Pearce, James Stanley, Lamar Smith, George Siebert, James Walters, and Roy Lewis.

"The Nome school let the men use their gym for roller skating before we got down to business that first winter, when everything was iced over. I taught most of the 153rd how to skate - talk about a job! It was pretty nice of the town and hard on

COMPANY A



B-29 - either for protection or on the Lend-Lease to Russia.

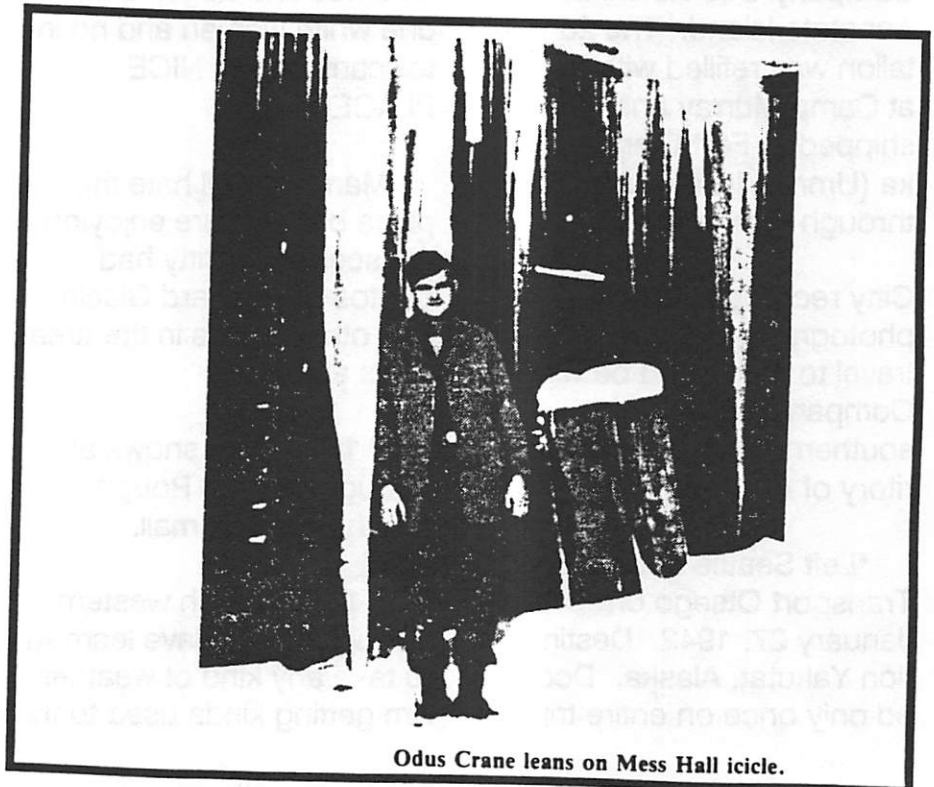
the gym floor. I never learned to ski but many of the men did," McIver added.

During the summer of 1942 several men were sent to St. Lawrence Island 40 miles across from Siberia which you can see on a clear day- but there were only two or three clear days that summer. They were stationed at one of the two villages, Gambell. Some of the men were Dean Parsons, Claude Byrd, A.D. Mitchell, Buck Dickerson, Wallace McIver, and John Wilson. They were to report sighting of enemy planes which occasionally passed over the island. Wylie says that it was just a "vacation," a "pud" for the men.

An agent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs was

stationed there and was able to assist the men and tell them about the island people. The men bartered for ivory carvings and reindeer and fish. They saw whales, walrus, seal, ook-

ruk, and millions of sea birds. "Contact with the mainland was by radio, and we used a seven-year old, the son of the agent who spoke Eskimo fluently, to interpret the code which was in



Odus Crane leans on Mess Hall icicle.

'Eskimo'. Their alphabet has only a few letters and he could read it better than his dad," explained McIver.

A summary of the dispersing of the 153d Infantry along the Alaskan coast is included in the book WE CAN'T ALL BE HEROES by Melvin Curtis Walthall.

"The 1st and 3d Battalions were reorganized with fillers from the 2nd Battalion and departed Camp Murray September 1, 1941 for Alaska. The 3d Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Ivy W. Crawford, guarded Seward and the rail line to Anchorage. Company A was dispatched to Nome, Company D to "Yakutat and Company C to Ketchikan on Annette Island. The 2d Battalion was refilled with men at Camp Murray and shipped to Fort Glenn, Alaska (Umnak Island) January through March 1942."

Citty recorded in his photograph-diary album his travel to Yakutat to be with Company D in the southernmost part of the Territory of Alaska.

"Left Seattle aboard U.S. Transport Otsego on January 27, 1942. Destination Yakutat, Alaska. Docked only once on entire trip.

That once at Prince Rupert B.C. (Canada). The soldiers really took the place over. Beer was 8 percent and whiskey per usual-anyway most of the boys succeeded in getting plastered. Ran around with a bunch of Canadian and Scottish soldiers (skirts and all). Nothing much out of the ordinary the rest of the way except the scenery. Was a little more surprised at the calmness of the water than anything else; only hit about eight hours rough stuff the entire trip. Only a few got sick on the trip.

Docked at Yahutat February 6, 12 a.m. Were greeted by a bunch of B and H: company boys who had been here about six months. Talk about a desolate Place--this is it. Population of town is 198 counting Indians and Eskimos and dogs. Only one white woman and no intoxicants at all. NICE PLACE!?

March 1--Still hate the place but am sure enjoying the scenery. (Citty had photos of Hubbard Glacier and other places in the area in his album).

April 1--Had big snows all through March. Rough weather and no mail.

May 1--Still rough western through April. Have learned to take any kind of weather. Am getting kinda used to the

place but also get homesick for some kind of civilization. Boy, would a hamburger help. Had snow ice cream and was made staff sergeant today.

June 1--Same old thing every day. Snow is about all gone but plenty heavy in the mountains. Went on my first bear hunt. Was lucky so I didn't care if he was a small one. Got a black wolf--weight 115lbs., nice looking brute.

July 1--With bombing going on close by we have field and layout inspections. A helluva way to win a war. When the Japs do come, we'll have to take time out for inspections."

The bombing to which he referred concerned the Japanese landing on Kiska, Agattu, and Attu, the three outer islands of the Aleutian chain, which started on June 3, 1942, the day that the great sea battle at Midway began. They were diversionary moves to distract the United States. The Japanese used a comparatively small number of warships, strafed Dutch Harbor and killed twenty-five men at the army barracks at Fort Mears on Unalaska Island. Over nearby Umnak Island, where the Army engineers had secretly labored for five months to build an airfield, they were surprised by a squadron of P-40's and

several of the enemy planes were knocked down. The next day 40 Japanese planes continued their raids on Dutch Harbor while their ships slipped westward under cover of a heavy fog. A worried radio message flashed from Kiska: 'Unidentified ships entering harbor.' The silence that followed made it clear that Kiska was in enemy hands. The Japanese had lost most of their planes but they had occupied territory in North America."

Wallace McIver told of an incident related to Dutch Harbor bombing told him by one of the men of the 153d stationed there. "The Japs came from the Aleutians where they had established a base at Kiska and Attu and were probably off a carrier. They struck at high noon and our troops were at mess. Several bombs hit the mess hall and several men were killed.

"The Alaska Steamship Line's 'Northwestern,' a large passenger ship used before the war, was grounded at Dutch Harbor, and the troops and the town were using the generator of the ship for their electricity. The Japs bombed the ship thinking it was either a supply ship or a troop carrier, but it had been there for several years.

"On the way back they ran into a group of our fighters coming from the west. This really confused them and some Zeros were shot down. One ran out of gas and landed intact on the beach. This plane was taken to Seattle and dismantled and copied, for our planes were not as fast as the Zeros.

"Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner was in command of the Alaskan troops at the time and had foreseen that the attack was imminent, so he had planes, fighters, dismantled and shipped in the holds of fishing vessels to another Island, probably Adak, along with heavy mesh wire for laying a runway on the strip of land along the beaches. Also under cover of secrecy after that the victory of the Navy at Midway, there's no way they could beat us in Alaska."

Move to Nome

Back to the movement of Company A to Nome, the northernmost part of the sprawling iceland. A single officer, Major Floyd M. Hayes, QMC was the first to arrive at the garrison on September 1, 1942. Two days later Capt. Garnett W. Martin, commanding officer of Company A accompanied by five enlisted men, arrived to make preliminary arrange-

ments and to meet the incoming troops.

The five enlisted men were Terrell Hutson, Denman Wylie, George Delaney, Ruel Petae Oliver and Frederaic Taylor. From Seattle they took the inward passage to Seward, Then the Alaskan Railway to Anchorage, then the Alaskan Railway to Anchorage, then flew to Nome in a bomber.

Hutson says he thinks he and Fred Taylor rode in the cabin with the pilots. It was an exciting experience to them since they had never flown before. Nome was still getting ready for the troops and there was not too much the five men could do. They took a job unloading boats at \$1 an hour and stayed in the old mining camp.

Wylie said they unloaded supplies for the stores in Nome, and if you dropped a case it was insured and would be paid for in full. "We dropped quite a few!" They ate at the Polar Bar and Grill and had hotcakes for breakfast. They refused to pay the \$2.50 for a haircut-it had only cost 35 cents in Emmet-and he gapped George Delaney's hair with scissors provided in the Army Kit.

When Delaney finally looked at himself in a mirror he was aghast, "Wylie, you ruint me!"

The remainder of Company A came through the Aleutians and that experience was recorded in a letter written by Joe Booker to his mother and printed in the ARKANSAS GAZETTE and the WASHINGTON TELEGRAPH.

Sgt. Booker's Account

Sgt. Joe Booker, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Booker of Washington has sent his mother the following description of his trip to Alaska with the 153d Infantry, National Guard, and subsequent reflections of life in America's northern outpost:

This is a little history of my trip as taken from the diary I am keeping: At 4 o'clock Monday morning, September 22, I with 165 other men, all of Company A, 153d Infantry, ate breakfast for the last time on the soil of the good old U.S.A.--that is for some time--at 7 o'clock we loaded into an 18-truck convoy to be brought from Camp Murr(a)y, Washington, to the harbor at Seattle, Washington. As we approached the main entrance gate at the camp the remainder of our regiment which we were leaving behind were in formation waiting to bid us farewell. As we came too within a few yards of them they all came to attention and

rendered the hand salute, holding it until we were out of sight. To a person in civilian life this would probably have meant nothing, but to us soldiers it meant a lot. It meant more to us than all the handshakes that could have been given. It made cold chills run up and down our backs. We knew that we were parting, a parting of friends who had been closely associated. They were also saddened by our departure, since it meant that our regiment which had been together so long, was now being broken up, part to be sent to one place -part to another. We, the men in those trucks, knew what they were saying in their minds--Goodbye Company A and good luck. They as well as we, knew there was a job to be done and we had been chosen to do it.

At 8:30 a.m. we went aboard the David W. Branch, the ship I am now on as I write this enroute to Nome, Alaska. The Branch is a German-built ship, taken in the first World War. We did not sail until the following day at 3:30 p.m. As we left the dock at Seattle and moved away up the sound to the Pacific, every one was standing on the dock watching the big ship leave. I cannot express the feeling that I had as I stood there and watched Mount Rainer in the background gradually fade from sight. We were

like children bidding mother goodbye to see the United States mainland fade away into the dusk.

A Long Voyage

That was our last sight of land for some time as the following morning we awoke to find ourselves many miles away on the ocean. By this time the waves had gotten much larger and this caused the ship to reel and rock. By noon of the following day over half of our men were deathly sea sick. Fortunately, I have not been sick and hope that I am not boasting too soon as we have several days of travel yet.

As I write this it is 6 p.m. September 28, and our sixth consecutive day at sea. There is no land in sight and hasn't been since our first day out. So far we have been lucky and have not run into any storms, but that could happen at any time now as we have taken several detours to miss them and almost ran into one today at 2 o'clock. We missed it by a few minutes and the effects of it rocked our ship.

On September 29 we awoke and were all thrilled at the sight of land many miles away which proved to be Dutch Harbor, which is near the Aleutian Islands. This was to be our first stop since leaving Seattle. At

3:30 p.m. we anchored a few hundred yards from the harbor. We were compelled to wait here six hours for another ship to unload its cargo and move out of the harbor so that we could move in. At 9:30 we docked, but were not allowed to go ashore. We talked to some of the soldiers who were on the dock to see us come in. We learned from them that before the soldiers came the population was only 16 persons and that there was no town there. Now there is a Naval air base and also troops of soldiers. After letting off some nurses, soldiers and civilians, our fun was over for the night.

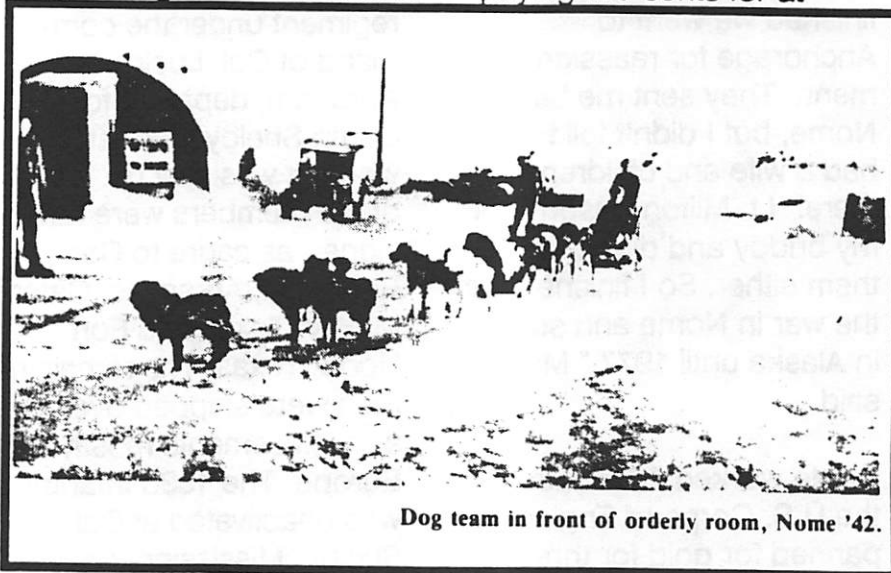
We awoke the following morning to find our ship moving away from the harbor and up the Bering Sea toward Alaska. It would be hard for me to describe the beauty of the mountains before and after we left Dutch Harbor. They were covered with moss and were so high that the clouds hung over them like great veils. Then we moved along up the sea, occasionally seeing fish of various kinds. About noon we began to see a whale now and then and by 2 o'clock we could stand at one place on the deck and see 20 or more at one time. They were huge monsters and would come well up out of the water which enabled us to get a good look at

them. We also saw a few seals, but they were not as plentiful as the whales.

Until 2:15 p.m. on October 2 we were unable to see anything but water, but at this time we came into the waters near Nome, Alaska, our destination. We were unable to dock here for there is no dock at Nome and we had to anchor about a mile from shore. Barges were brought out to unload us and the equipment. Only four barges had been unloaded when the water began to get rough and they were forced to quit unloading. We had a storm and at times it seemed the ship was turning over. We had to

were so sick that they threatened to swim ashore. We remained there for two days and nights and then moved back near Nome and had to wait another day for the water to get calm enough to start unloading again.

On October 6 we started unloading again and on October 7 we came ashore at Nome, which is now our home for a while. We have not learned much about the place except that the population is about 1,500 and Coca-Colas are 25 cents, hamburgers 25 cents and most of the other items we are accustomed to paying five cents for at



Dog team in front of orderly room, Nome '42.

move about 10 miles to an island to find protection from the wind. This helped some but the ship still reeled and rocked and waves were so large that some of the windows in the ship were broken by them. This caused some of the men to get sick again and some

home are 25 cents, so you see a soldier cannot do much going.

It really looks funny to see the Eskimo women carrying their babies on their backs. I will write more when I learn more about the place.

Closing Days of Campaign

"When the troops began to pull out - that is when the 153d left Nome and scattered to different war zones about the fall of 1943, some of us, including Fred Taylor, were chosen to be cadre of Co. B 761st Military Police Battalion. We spent about a year at Juneau checking boats and planes and giving passes for legitimate business - travel control. Then we were shipped to Kodiak Island and that is where I left the company.

"I was dropped at Seward with 26 men to close the camp. When we finished we went to Anchorage for reassignment. They sent me back to Nome, but I didn't tell them I had a wife and children there. Lt. Milton Eason was my buddy and didn't tell them either. So I finished out the war in Nome and stayed in Alaska until 1977," McIver said.

He worked 18 months for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, panned for gold for three years, worked in the Nome hospital he helped to construct for 14 years and 5,000 hours on the big pipeline before retiring to Federal Way just south of Seattle.

Wylie stayed with Company A from its entry into Alaska

until it was deactivated at Hattiesburg, Mississippi - Camp Shelby - on June 30, 1944, as did Robert Mitchell. Wylie said that after Captain Martin was moved out, Captain Koening was his replacement. Finally, Capt. J. James Vannoy came in to stay until June 30, 1944. He had been an all-state basketball player for Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, and Anchorage teams in Alaska.

The 2d Battalion moved to Adak in February 1943 and Companies E, F, and G were a part of the invasion force at Kiska in August 1943. The 138th Infantry relieved the 153d on January 25, 1944 and the regiment under the command of Col. Lucious Abraham, departed for Camp Shelby, Mississippi where it was split up. Most of the members were assigned as cadre to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, Camp Maxey, Texas and Fort Hood, Texas. The remaining men were shipped overseas as replacements mostly to Europe. The 153d Infantry was deactivated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi on June 30, 1944."

Wylie was shipped back to Camp Robinson to be a part of the cadre in charge of rookies for the Infantry Reserve Training Center (IRTC) until the war ended.

Wylie received a letter from his Nome host family Ma and Pa Yenney dated December 12, 1943 as follows:

Dear Tuff: We were sure glad to hear from you and sorry that you are gone from Nome. We shall miss you, the good times we used to have and the big laughs in the kitchen especially when you got to wash dishes. We had a big time Thanksgiving. Ten of the old boys were home but there was nothing like having them all. Had a big drink of grape juice and Dad gave a toast and, of course, you know me, I had to shed a few tears.

We had a letter from Ollen and he is back in school...Hope that Huck doesn't feel unnecessary through Christmas. Is Dean and all of the boys there? Claud and Keith?...Had a letter from Captain Vannoy...I had a letter from Sonny and he sure hates it where he is at and wishes he was back in Nome. .. Day says that the M.P.'s are nothing like the old ones. They are new boys that took the old boys place. They opened an NCO club at the post and I have made drapes for it for twenty-five windows... We had a big letter from Sammy (Smith) and of course you know he is a Lieutenant now. He is in Florida. Merry Christmas to all of you and tell them all so.

Charles B. Huckabee drove his jeep into Nome one day where he met Mayor Venney. "How are you, Huck? the Mayor asked. " I feel so unnecessary!" Huck replied, and forever after he had to live with that reply.

A complete story of the men of Hempstead County in Alaska will never be compiled, but perhaps those interviewed for this history represent some of them. Theirs was a war of waiting and watching, nerve wracking and miserable cold. But, being young, they made the best of it and their memories are filled with thoughts of their friends.

Perhaps Thomas C. Franks, always good-natured as a youth, said it best of all: "In Nome you always had eight or ten you knew to go talk to or borrow some money from. We had a good time and knew what a rough time others were having."

John L. Wilson came out of Alaska in 1943 to enter OTS but was rejected because of an old football injury. He was discharged and early in 1944 he was the second person in Arkansas to use the G.I. Bill. He enrolled at the University of Arkansas to complete his degree and also to earn his law degree.



Hempstead County men: Sgt. H. B. Citty, Sgt. J. L. Cook; top (unknown) and Sgt. Edward Bader in Yakutat, Alaska.



Men "fall out" in Nome.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

From the Official Citation for the Award of the Medal of Honor

Lloyd L. Burke (Col, USA Ret.) Lives in Burke, VA

First Lieutenant, United States Army Company G, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Place and date: Near Chong-dong, Korea, 28 October 1951.

Entered service at: Stuttgart, Ark. Birth: Tichnor, Ark.

G.O. No.: 43.

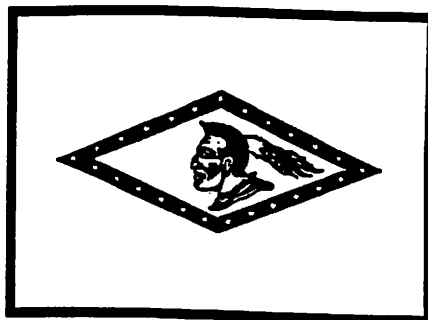
Citation: First Lieutenant Lloyd L. Burke, O61246, Infantry, Company G, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Chong-dong, Korea, on 28 October 1951.

Intense enemy fire had pinned down leading elements of his company committed to secure commanding ground when Lieutenant Burke left the command post to rally and urge the men to follow him toward three bunkers impeding the advance. Dashing to an exposed vantage point he

threw several grenades at the assault, wiping out the position and killing the crew. Closing on the center bunker he lobbed grenades through the opening and, with his pistol, killed three of its occupants attempting to surround him. Ordering his men forward he charged the third emplacement, catching several grenades in midair and hurling them back at the enemy.

Inspired by his display of valor his men stormed forward, overran the hostile position, but were again pinned down by increased fire. Securing a light machinegun and three boxes of ammunition, Lieutenant Burke dashed through the impact area to an open knoll, set up his gun and poured a crippling fire into the ranks of the enemy, killing approximately 75. Although wounded, he ordered more ammunition, reloading and destroying two mortar emplacements and a machinegun position with his accurate fire. Cradling the weapon in his arms he then led his men forward, killing some 25 more of the retreating enemy and securing the objective. Lieutenant Burke's heroic action and daring exploits inspired his small force of 300 troops. His unflinching courage and outstanding leadership reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the United States Army.

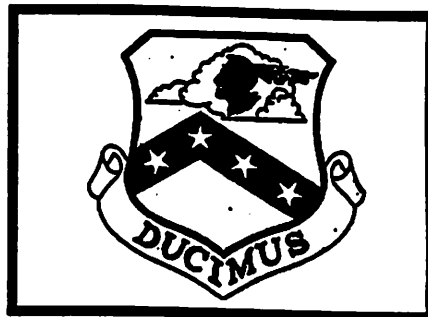
Arkansas Military Insignia



**154 TACTICAL AIRLIFT
TRAINING SQUADRON**

Arkansas Air National Guard

On a white diamond, short axis vertical, an Arkansas Indian warrior in full war paint, face copper red, paint red, shadows and hair black, and on his neck, a necklace of white animal teeth, nine in number. (Approved 29 April 1954)



**189 TACTICAL AIRLIFT
GROUP**

Arkansas Air National Guard

The yellow background is traditional for the unit. The Arkansas Indian symbolizes bravery in war and peace and the stars and segment of diamond are from the Arkansas flag and represent the association of the unit with its home state.

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