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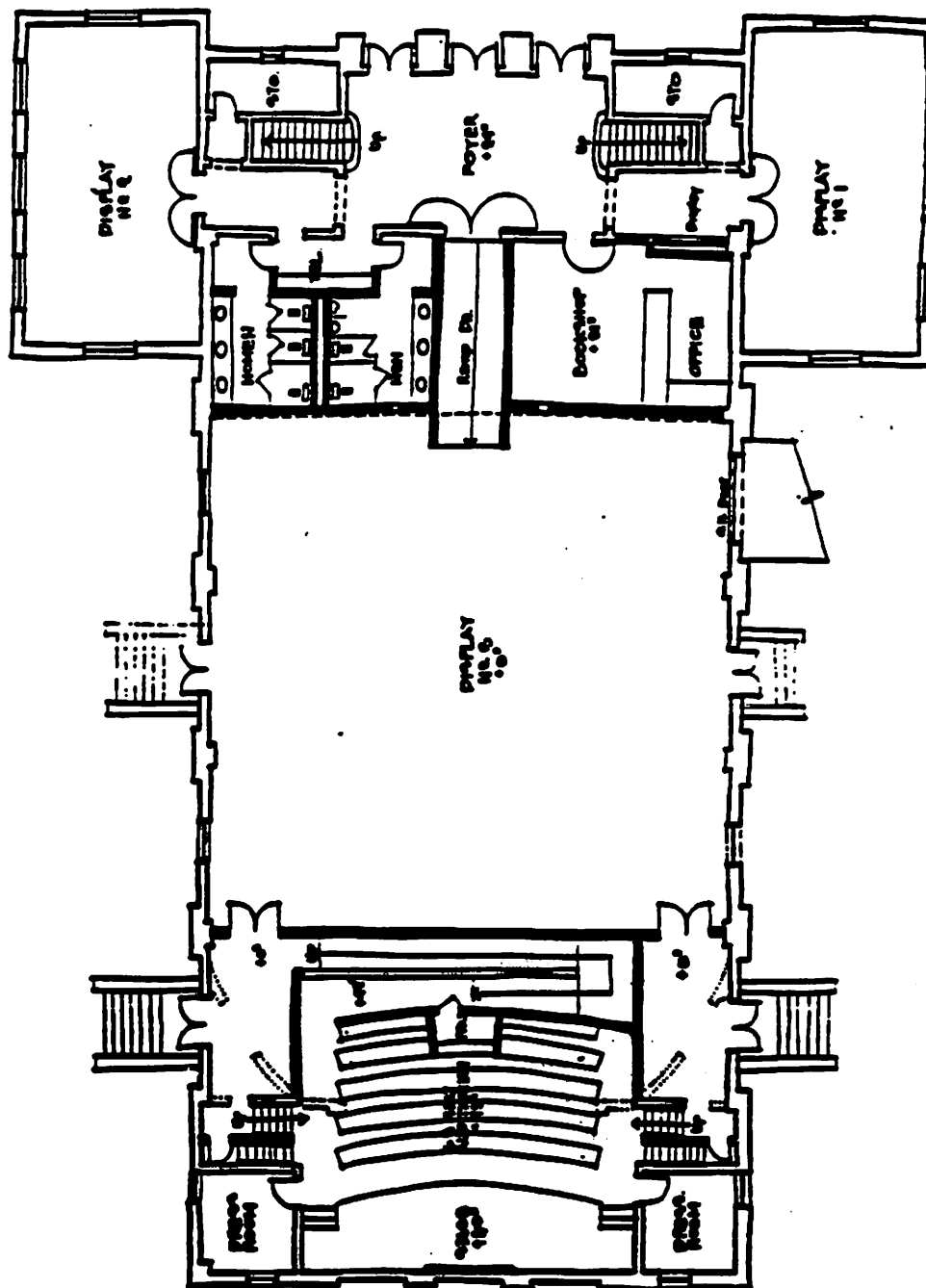
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**RENOVATIONS TO LLOYD ENGLAND HALL
SHOWING PROPOSED FLOORPLAN FOR THE
ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM**



The Arkansas Military Journal is an unofficial publication of the Arkansas Militia Historical 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.

The Role of Arkansas Post in the American Revolution

“The Colbert Incident” Report on the Historical Investigation of ARKANSAS POST Arkansas,

by Ray H. Mattison, Historian

The Seven Years War, known as the French and Indian War, formally ended by treaty in 1763 with France ceding the Louisiana Territory to Spain. Spain, after having secretly aided the Patriots for several years, entered the Revolutionary War on the side of the French and Americans in 1779. In the same year British harassment of the Spanish in the Mississippi Valley began. Jean Blommart, leader of the British volunteers, attacked and took Fort Panmure and the settlement of Natchez, Spanish-claimed at territory on the east side of the Mississippi River. The town of Pensacola had been taken for the British. The Post of Arkansas, used primarily as a fur trading post by the French, gained new significance under Spanish dominance and was moved approximately thirty-six miles up the Arkansas River. It was located on the southern tip of Arkansas Post National Memorial and called Fort San Carlos III. The new location was established to give protection to Spain's interest west of the Mississippi. When Estevan Miro became Governor of Louisiana in 1781, he set about to pacify the Indians east of the Mississippi and between Spanish

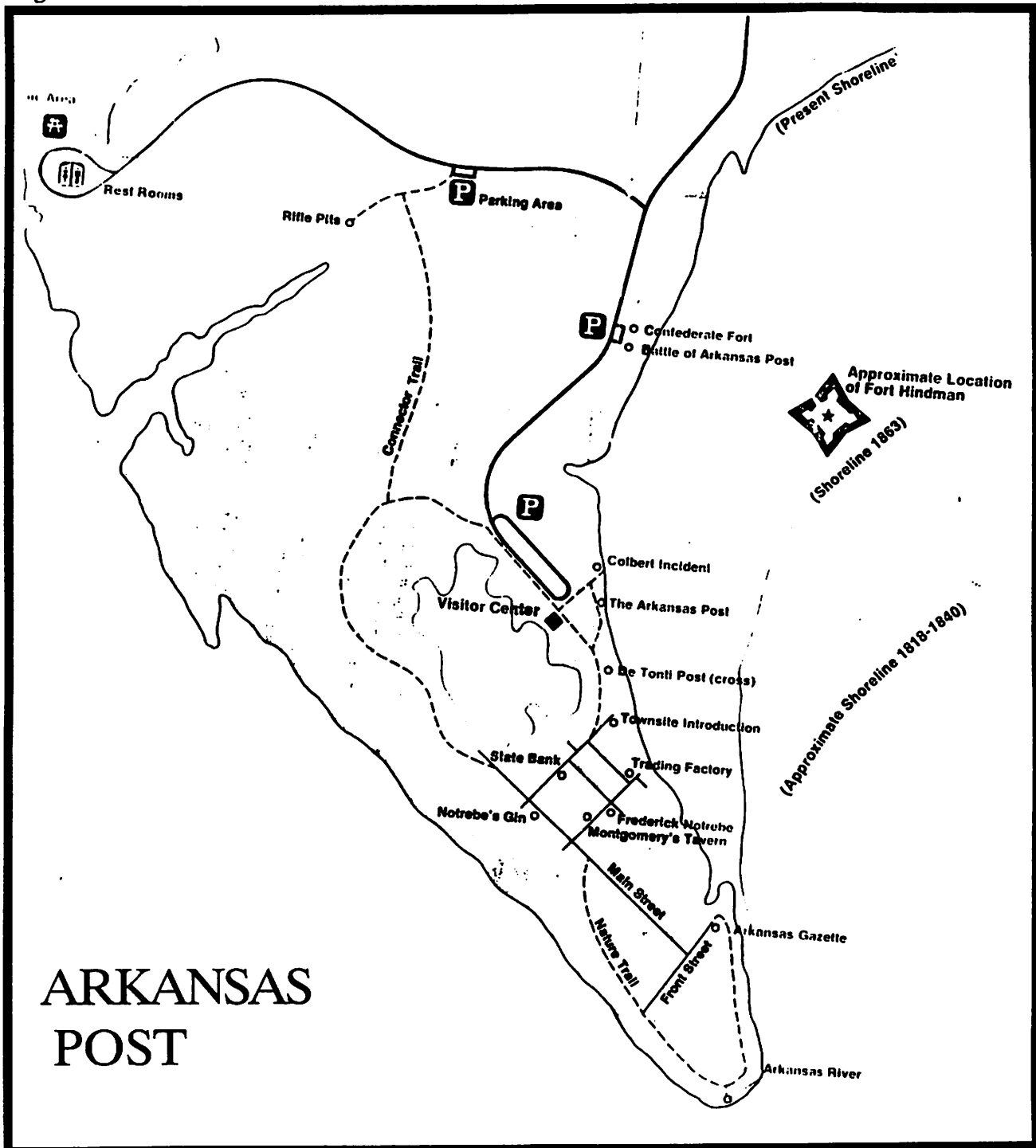
and American territories. Following the Natchez insurrection, a number of rebels fled to the Chickasaw, where they joined with English loyalists and traders of various nationalities. This group united under the leadership of James Colbert, a captain of the British army, who had settled in the Chickasaw country and who had married into that tribe. This group made reprisals against Spanish commerce on the Mississippi. In May 1782, Colbert and his men captured a boat bearing Senora Cruzat, wife of the lieutenant-governor of Spanish Illinois, and her sons. The Spanish endeavored by diplomacy to appease the Chickasaw. Colbert, nevertheless, continued to harass the Spanish. In April 1783, Colbert, at the head of about 100 Englishmen and several Chickasaw, suddenly attacked Arkansas Post. In approaching the Post, the raiding party had found the Arkansas River low and easy to ascend. It had deceived the Quapaw, many of whom were scattered in hunting parties, by traveling up the river by boat and making but little noise. The English first attacked the village near the fort at 2:30 in

the morning when everyone was asleep and captured all the houses. They seized Lieutenant Villars and his family who were temporarily living in the village. The four principal men of the settlement, together with their families, and six others who made up the village, escaped. The wives and children of the absentee hunters fled to the house of the commandant at the fort. The Spanish garrison ran to the lieutenant's house, where the soldiers fought a short battle with the English. Two soldiers were killed and six were captured. A cannon was also taken. The English then attacked the fort, which they could approach within pistol shot without being seen. From three to nine o'clock in the morning, they continued to pour volley after volley from their carbines into the palisades of the fort without effect. The new commandant of the garrison, Jacobo du Briel, then decided to sally forth with his men. At the time, he saw Senora Villiers, wife of the lieutenant, with a flag of truce and bearing a letter to the commandant, and one of Colbert's men approaching the fort. The letter from the English commander demanded the immediate surrender and informed

Du Briel that he had already captured the inhabitants of the village and Lieutenant Villiers and his family. The garrison, shouting loudly, then continued with its sally. The attacking party then began their retreat, taking their prisoners with them to their boats, which were anchored about a league distant, and took several

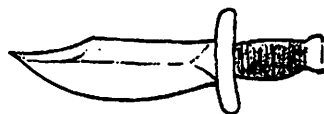
others whom they had seized from the Spanish. They withdrew down the Arkansas River. Later in the day, the Quapaw came to the assistance of the garrison. The chief, Angaska, with a party of Indians and whites, took off in pursuit of Colbert and his men and overtook them three leagues below the mouth of the Arkansas

River. There the chief forced Colbert to release all of the prisoners except three slaves and the son of one of the inhabitants. The English leader later also freed these. By treaties signed in 1782 and 1783, the American Revolutionary War came to an end.



HISTORY OF THE BOWIE KNIFE

BY SGT MIKE JEU



Traditionally when you think of the Arkansas National Guard and its vast array of weapons for the individual soldier, you may envision rifles, machine guns, LAW rockets, or even the Stinger Missile System. Yes, we exist in an age of modern technology and weaponry. Among this array of weaponry exists a weapon that holds its birth here in our great state, The Bowie Knife. Some may consider this piece of equipment as antique or nonfunctional, but this knife has served our troops admirably from the late 1830's to present.

The Bowie knife we have come to know and admire traces its roots back to Washington, Arkansas, in late 1830's. It was first made by the famous blacksmith and knife maker, James Black. As legend has it, James Bowie was travelling through Arkansas and stopped in Washington, Arkansas to see Mr. Black. Mr. Bowie's intention was to have Mr. Black make him a knife of his (Bowie's) own design. Mr. Bowie had selected Mr. Black since Mr. Black was an expert in

tempering steel and was renowned to be the best knife maker in the southwest.

Mr. Bowie left a knife pattern that he had whittled out of wood with Mr. Black for the new knife design. Mr. Black agreed to undertake this request to produce the knife in one month for Mr. Bowie. The knife blade was to be made of the finest material, possess a heavy handguard, and be balanced for throwing.

As the appointed month passed, Mr. Bowie did return to Mr. Black's shop. Mr. Black had made a knife to Bowie's pattern as requested and had also made a similar knife with his own modifications. Both of these knives were single edged, but Mr. Black's knife design had a curved point of two edges. This made it possible to either stab or slash with the knife. Mr. Bowie was pleased with these modifications and took Mr. Black's knife in place of the knife he had designed.

Shortly after Mr. Bowie had acquired this new knife, he had an occasion to use

it. Being attached by three men who had been hired to kill him, Mr. Bowie drew his new knife. Mr. Bowie slashed at the first man, beheading him, utilized an upward stab killing the second man, and the third man attempted to run away. Mr. Bowie gave chase and delivered a downward swing blow to the top of the man's head, killing him. This fight made both Bowie and Black famous.

Soon Mr. Black was deluged with requests from all over the Southwest for knives "like Bowie's".

Mr. James Black was the only man who knew how to make the real Bowie knife.

Mr. Black had developed a secret way of making a fine steel which no one could duplicate. He never divulged this secret and took it to his grave with him in 1872. Mr. Black lies in an unmarked grave in a cemetery at Washington, Arkansas.

Mr. Bowie was considered to be a business man, explorer, and soldier. Mr. Bowie gallantly gave his life in 1836 in the most

famous battle of the Texas war of independence at the Alamo.

Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) was formed following reorganization on 1 December 1967. In 1968, the Bowie Knife was adopted as part of the Brigade insignia and as the individual weapon of Brigade field grade officers, the commander's aide de camp, and recently the Command Sergeant Major and Sergeant Majors.

A distinctive and honored award from the brigade, the knife is modified from the original design to be more suitable for close combat. It is indicative of the aggressive spirit of the infantry.

Only knives that are procured by order of the brigade commander are authorized for wear or presentation. General officers are authorized a knife with an ivory handle. Colonels wear knives with stag handles, while other field grade officers and the aide de camp wear black handles. Warrant Officers of the rank of CW4 are authorized to wear walnut handles.

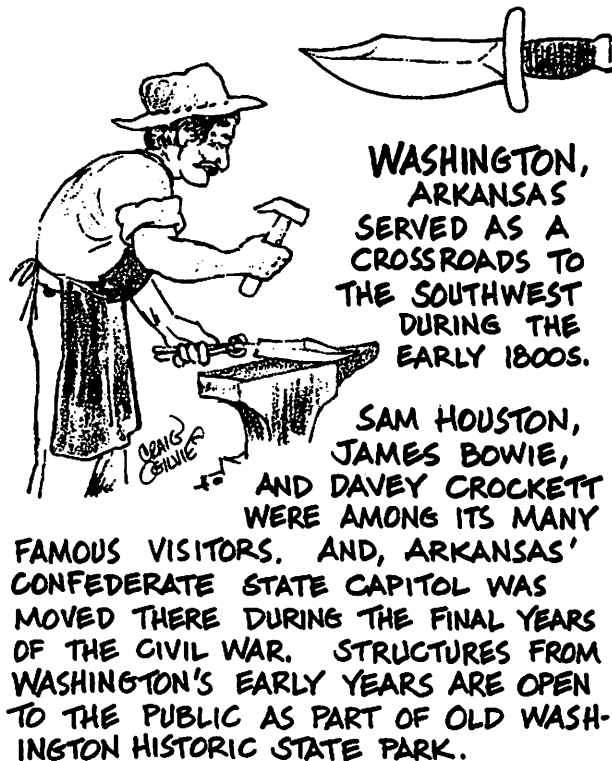
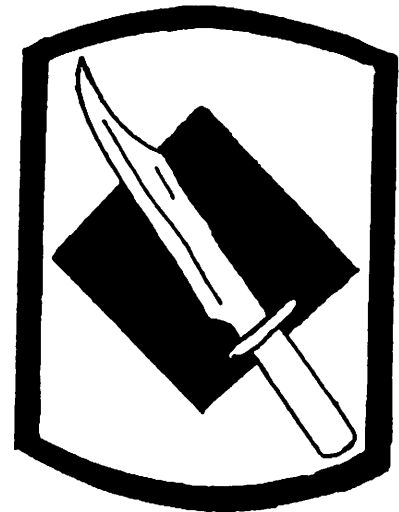
The ranks of Command Sergeant Major and Sergeant Major are authorized to wear the cherry wood handle. Honorees are presented a knife commensurate with their ranks. All former brigade members and persons who have been honored by

the presentation of the brigade Bowie knife may wear it on ceremonial occasions.

Ironically, the Bowie knife was conceived in Arkansas by a native knife maker and in 1993 this knife continues to be produced in Arkansas. Until recently, each presentation grade knife was handmade by Mr. Jimmy Lyle of Russellville, Arkansas. Mr. Lyle was commissioned to build the knife used by Sylvester Stallone in the film "Rambo". The Lyle family continues to build these knives for the brigade. The general public cannot purchase one of these knives, but can purchase a different pattern Bowie style knife.

Each brigade Bowie knife bears the recipient's name, social security number, rank, and branch as well as the maker's name and serial number of the knife.

The Brigade Bowie knife, a work of superb craftsmanship, identifies the bearer as a member of the elite Arkansas Brigade.



INDIAN ENCOUNTERS

Contributed by: Major General James A. Ryan,
The Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard

A Report by Lt. John B. Hood, Fort Clark, Texas July 27th, 1857



Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following detailed report of a scouting party under my command, consisting of twenty-four men of Company G, 2d Cavalry.

On the 5th day of July, I left Fort Mason to proceed to a point some fifteen miles west of Fort Terrett, and examine and

explore a trail reported by Lieut Shaaff to be running north and south. I found no such trail. I then marched for the head of the south Concho, about half way between Fort Terrett and this point. I found a water hole which is a general camp for Indians passing from Fort Terrett to the head of the Concho; avoiding the San Saba. I proceeded from the head to the mouth of the South Concho up the main Concho, to Royal Creek, thence to its source, and from there to the mouth of Kioway Creek, where I struck an Indian trail about three days old, leading south with some fifteen animals in the party. I followed it south, then East, to a water hole two miles south of the head of Lapan Creek. I then followed them due South to Water holes from thirty-five to fifty miles apart, (this line of water holes being their main route from the lower to the upper country) and on the morning of the 20th inst., which was my fourth day in their pursuit, I came to a water hole some seven miles above the head of Devil's River, where a second party had joined them; their camp showed that some thirty or forty had camped there,

I hurried on, although my horses were very much wearied, and trailed over the bluffs and mountains, down the river, but some three miles from it late in the afternoon, from the extreme thirst of my men, I left the trail to go to the river and camp. About one mile from the trail I discovered, some two miles and a half from me on a ridge, some horses and a large white flag waving. I then crossed over the ridge without water, supposing they were a party of Tonkaways, as instructions had been received at Fort Mason that a party of Tonkaways had gone for their families, and the troops on their raising a white flag, were to allow them (to) pass. I cautioned my men not to fire until I ordered it. My fighting force consisting of seventeen men, I advanced upon them about an hour by sun, with every precaution, ready to fight or talk. They were on a very small mound, but only some ten Indians in sight. I advanced and some five of them came forward with the flag, set fire to a lot of rubbish they had collected, and about thirty rose up from among the Spanish Bayonets, in ten paced of us with

about twelve rifles, and the rest with arrows, besides eight or ten attacked us mounted with lances and arrows, my men gave one yell and went right in their midst and fought hand to hand, the Indians, from their heavy fire, beating us back a little until I rallied my men with their six shooters. Our being in four or five paces our shots were so heavy we drove them back. One of my men hung his rifle on the cantle of his saddle to use his six shooter and an Indian took it off. I forced them back until all the shots of my rifles and six shooters were expended. I then found I could not reload owing to their deadly fire and I fell back a short distance to do so. If I had had two six shooters to a man I would have killed and wounded near all of them. The Indians were then busy gathering up their dead and wounded and leaving weeping and moaning over their loss. In the engagement I killed nine and wounded ten or twelve. I regret to be compelled to report my loss. One man killed, one man missing, supposed to be killed, one man dangerously wounded, myself and three men severely wounded. One horse killed and three dangerously wounded. After the engagement, I had but eleven men to protect my wounded men and horses. I then withdrew to water, which I found about ten o'clock at night. I immediately sent an express to Lieut. Fink, 8th Infy, Commanding Camp Hudson, for a wagon to transport my wounded to his camp.

So soon as my wounded were cared for, Lieut. Fink

cheerfully joined me with fifteen men, and we proceeded to the place of action, to bury the dead and make search for the missing man, but no traces of him could be found. From this place the Indians had scattered in all directions. Owing to my small force and the broken down condition of my horses, I was unable to make any further pursuit. I then came to Camp Hudson and from there to this post, where I shall remain a day or two to recruit my men and horses and then proceed to Fort Mason.

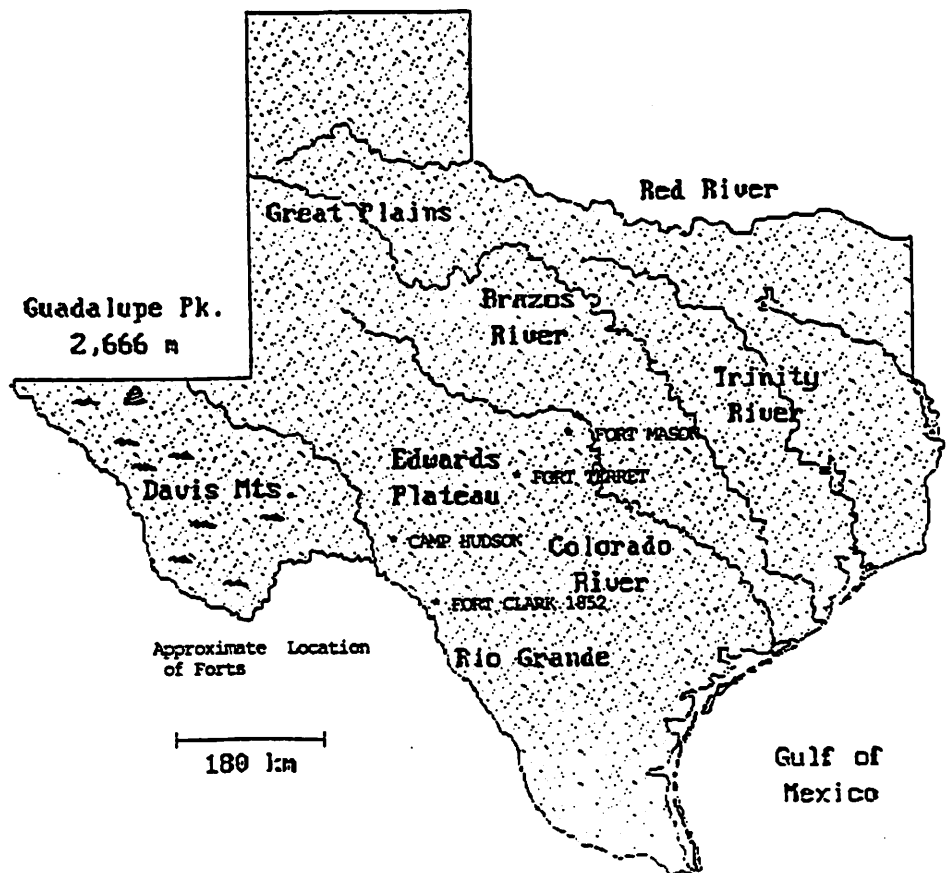
It is due my non-commissioned officers and men,

one and all, to say during the scout in all their suffering for water they did their duty cheerfully, and that during the action they did all men could do, accomplishing more than could be expected from their number and the odds against which they had to contend.

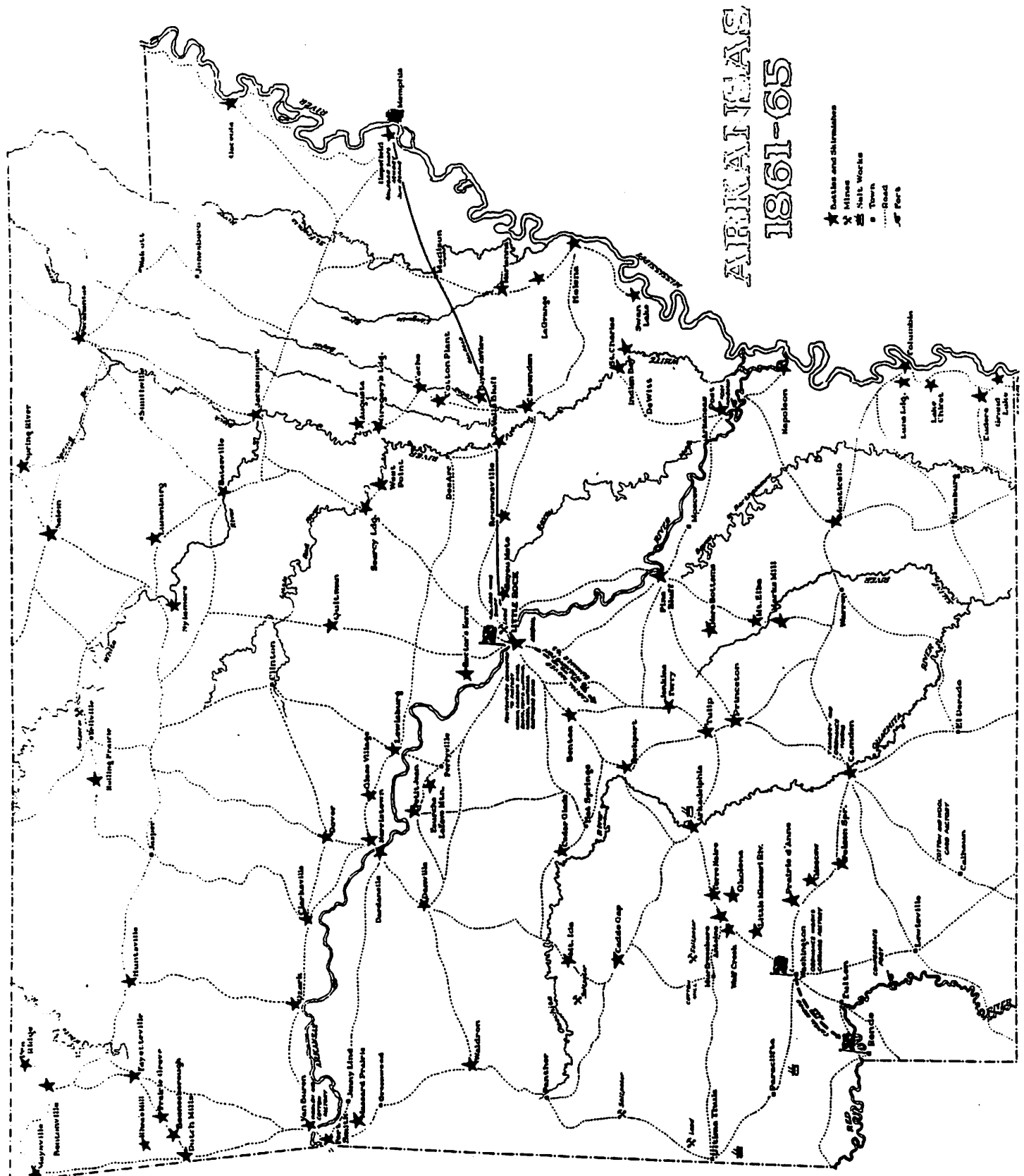
From what my guides says, I suppose they were Comanches and Lipans. There were two chiefs, one was killed by my sergeant.

I am, sir, Very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt. John B. Hood
Lt, 2d Cav

To Lt. Chas W. Phifer, Post
Adjt. Fort Mason Texas



ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BATTLE SITES



THE MAKING OF A SOLDIER AT CAMP PIKE, ARKANSAS

ADAPTED BY SSG NATHAN BARLOW

Recently a group of letters, pictures and other memorabilia were donated to the Arkansas Militia Foundation. The letters give a very vivid picture of the transformation of an inductee into "a seasoned noncommissioned officer" ready to accept his role in Army life and the War. We will let his words speak for themselves:

ORDER OF INDUCTION INTO MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES:

To Thomas H. Wilson:

Order #244 Serial Number
416

You will therefore, report to the local board named below at Sapulpa, Okla at 9 A.M. on the day of August 29, 1918 for military duty. From and after the day and hour just named you will be a soldier in the military service of the United States.

C. C. Taylor

VAN BUREN, ARK
(POST MARKED) AUG 31,
1918

Am here at 1130. Will be there about 8 a.m. Will write later.

Hobart

AUGUST 30, 1918

We left about 430. Arrived at Claremore about 700 p.m. Went from there on the Iron Mountain to Camp. Arrived here about 6 the a.m. Arrived at Camp at 9 a.m. About 2 thousand came in this a.m. This is a real nice place. Think I will get in the office work.

Thomas H. Wilson
Casual Co. 36162 Deport Brigade

SEPT. 2, 1918

Have been real busy. We have had 5 examinations but are still in quarantine and will be for 14 days more. We don't get much to eat. Has been awful dusty and dirty today. We sleep out in the open and eat out in the open. Will get my uniform tomorrow.

SEPT. 3

We are sleeping out of doors in some mule sheds but as soon as we get out of quarantine we will get to sleep in the barracks. We have a cot, a straw mattress and two wool blankets. We have three meals a day but they are not much. This is a real nice place up on a hill. It is not so hot here but awful dusty. This camp occupies 10,000 acres. About 8000 men coming here tomorrow. This camp is an infantry camp, nothing

else. They do not keep men here long. It is just a replacement camp. We get up at 5 a.m., eat at 6:00 and go to bed at 9:00 with the lights out. There is about 275 men in our company. They shipped in about 1500 Mexicans here from New Mexico. There about 100 negro soldiers here.

SEPT. 7

Has been raining here most every day and has been awful cool. It gets awful tiresome when you have to stay in quarantine. Think I will get in doing clerk work or else in the grocery part. This camp is all infantry. Wish I was home today instead of down here but it can't be helped.

SEPT. 14

They have drilled us a little but not much. We go up and do work at different places about every day. One day we moved big rocks all afternoon. We moved some weapons and stacked lumber. A man don't know anything in the army. This army life is not what it is cracked up to be. It is sure a hard life, but alright for one that don't care. The shoes they gave me are work shoes and about two sizes too big.

SEPT. 22

Received your cake today but no letter. Like this life but every day, but like to be home better. Was examined again today. Will be transferred tomorrow. Moving to the 3rd training battalion. Some of the boys that came here with us have got their orders that they will leave some time next week for Camp Dix, New Jersey. I saw two train loads leaving here Saturday. They were 13 coaches long too and full up.

SEPT. 25

Moved to my new home in the barracks Monday afternoon. There was 40 of us transferred at the same time. I am with Company K, 3rd training regiment. Was issued our guns, cartridges, belts and haversacks the same night. The cartridge belts hold 100 shells, 10 shells to the pack, also have our bayonets. I am acting corporal going to the noncommissioned officers school every afternoon from 1 to 230. I like it fine but it is might hard work drilling with the guns. Was out drilling every day since I got my rifle. We have to drill from 7 till 1130 and one till 530. Have not been to Little Rock since I have been here. The whole camp is under quarantine for 7 days.

SEPT. 29

Received letter and carton of cigarettes today. I have full equipment now have rifle, bayonet, cartridge belt, poncho or raincoat, and haversack which we carry our equipment in such as mess kit, toilet articles and one

blanket. Had my first general inspection here Saturday morning.

I am acting corporal and I have a permanent squad. Have been going to the noncommissioned officers training school every afternoon from 1 till 230 and sometimes after supper for an hour or so. Send me a little something to eat once in a while. The same old thing gets a little stale when you get it all the time. I like the life better every day. The model of our rifle is no. 30. It is an Enfield rifle.

OCT. 4, 1918

Have been drilling all day today and it sure is hard work. Has been real warm here the last week. By the time we get all our harness on and wear it all day it gets pretty tiresome before night. I am helping to drill the men and teach them how to do the different things. If I get to be noncommissioned officer chances are I will not get to see any overseas duty. All the noncom's here have been here from 6 to 12 months. Was one of 10 to be recommended for noncommissioned officer. I am a corporal. Have a squad of men to drill every day. Didn't expect this. I will be here for longer than two or three weeks at least. Don't know whether I will be one of the men left here or not. We go out on the drill field every morn at 730 till 1130 and 1 till 530, start retreat at 6 p.m., go to school from 630 till 730, then off for the night. Orders came from headquarterstonight that no men when I was transferred to Camp

could be allowed to leave camp or gather in the picture shows, YMCA or any public gathering.

OCT. 6

Got my stripes Saturday. I am a real corporal now not an acting one. I think we will take a hike out to the rifle range this week and do a little shooting. Each man shoots 60 shots. You are supposed to shoot 10 shots in 1 minute and 20 seconds. 4 or 5 companies go out at a time. I suppose you know how many men are in a company - 250. I think we could be out of quarantine next week although an order has been issued now that no visitors could be allowed in camp. Has been several deaths at the base hospital.

OCT. 13

Did not have any inspection on account of Saturday being a holiday. Our company was out on the field Saturday morning. We played several different kinds of games and the men that won the races received War Savings Stamps. We had news in the regiment last night that peace had been declared. Believe me there was sure some noise made. They had to call the regimental guard to make different company quiet. The major of our regiment leaves for France next week. Some time I certainly do want to go and am trying to go with the next bunch. When one hears all the good news it certainly makes him want to be over there. I suppose there will

be a large # of men leave here as soon as quarantine has been lifted. I think I will be out next week or two. We received our pay last week. I drew \$25.50. A corporal gets \$36.00 a month. The sergeants and corporals don't mix with the privates much.

OCT. 14

Our regiment was out to the rifle range today. I done my first real shooting at the targets. Had to get up at 4 A.M. Arrived there about 7 A.M. It was 4 miles from camp. Each man shot 60 cartridges. Shot 10 shots at each time, some from 100 yds on to 300 yard range.

OCT. 22

Our company was put under guard tonight. They will be guarded until about Thursday and will leave then for an eastern port. I was not lucky enough to get to go but hope I will be when the next bunch goes. There will be about 9000 men leave camp. between now and first of the month.

OCT. 26

The company that was here when I was transfered to Camp Dix. They took all the men except 25 of us noncommissioned officers. Seen about 700 men pass here today on the way to the train. Believe me they are sure shipping them out. This war is not over yet.



CORPORAL THOMAS H. WILSON

PRISONERS MAKE A DARING ESCAPE

Overpower Guard, Seize Rifle, and Flee into the Woods.

Contributed by: COL (Ret) OSCAR G. RUSSELL

(This news item appeared in The Arkansas Gazette on April 6, 1920.)

George M. Nicholls, 24, private, unassigned, held at Camp Pike pending court-martial on a charge of robbery, and a Ben Crowley, also a private and a prisoner at Camp Pike, escaped Saturday morning, according to information given out yesterday by camp authorities. Nicholls was alleged to have participated in a hold-up on the Arch street pike last summer.

Nicholls is regarded at the camp prison as a desperate character. It is said that he has served two or three sentences in federal prisons. At one time he escaped while serving a 10-year sentence when a pardon from the President was on the way.

According to the camp prison officer, Nicholls was being held pending the arrival of information from overseas concerning his case. Nicholls served in France. When he came back to Camp Pike last summer to be discharged, it is said, he participated in a robbery on the outskirts of Little Rock. When he returned to camp he was recognized and arrested.

He was placed in the camp hospital for observation as to sanity. About three months ago Nicholls escaped. Later,

according to officers at camp, he was recaptured near Tulsa, Okla., and taken to the camp prison.

Nicholls had been given duties inside the prison stockade and Saturday was room orderly. He was cleaning the mess sergeant's quarters when he took off his shoes and soaped the shackles around his ankles. He slipped the shackles off his feet and threw them behind a trunk, where they were found about noon Saturday.

He slipped on a mess sergeant's blouse, according to prison authorities, and walked out of the room. On the way to the fence, Nicholls met Crowley and probably asked him if he wanted to escape.

DETAINED AT GATE

The two prisoners went to a corner of the stockade. Nicholls demanded that they be let out, as they wanted to get some rations. The sentry called the corporal of the guard and the corporal of the guard, believing that Nicholls was a mess sergeant, detailed the sentry to guard Crowley, who wore his prison uniform. According to the sentry, Nicholls and Crowley walked

ahead of him until about 400 yards north of the guard house, when Nicholls asked for a match. As the sentry reached to give him a match, he was thrown to the ground and Crowley took his rifle. According to the sentry, he was forced to exchange blouses with Crowley and was marched about three miles north of camp. There Nicholls asked the sentry if he wanted to go with them, but the sentry refused and the two escaped prisoners went north into the woods.

Nicholls is about 5 feet 8 inches tall, weight about 160 pounds, has a reddish complexion, an oval face, with black hair, brown eyes. There is a standing reward of \$50 for escaped prisoners, which will be paid for his arrest or apprehension.



936th FA. BN. USUALLY RUNS AHEAD OF ALL INFANTRY GROUPS IT "SUPPORTS"

From THE STARS AND STRIPES
Thursday, March 1, 1945.

With the 5th Army, Feb. 28—When the 5th Army's 936th Field Artillery Battalion—a 155 mm. howitzer outfit—first went into action near Mignano 15 months ago, it collected its field manuals and put them on a shelf.

The manuals said a 155 howitzer unit would "support" front line troops, but the 936th found that, instead of "supporting" front-line soldiers, it was in the front lines itself. And it has remained there almost continually, as the 5th Army moved up the Italian boot.

Since it went into action on the Italian front, the 936th has established a record few combat units can boast. Out of 450 days in Italy, the unit has been in action 420 days, its big guns firing an average of 300 rounds a day, a total of more than 125,000 shells.

Its big guns can lob a 100-pound projectile nearly ten miles over the highest mountain in the Apennines.

Although its men—about a fourth of them have become casualties—have seen action in dozens of battles and counter-attacks, the men still remember vividly the units' first six week stand near Mignano, where the 936th found itself in the front line,

protected only by one company of 36th Division Infantry.

ENEMY RETURNS FIRE:

Its gun sections then received enemy small arms fire; and the men, armed with carbines and machine guns, dug in along a railroad track like infantrymen. Once an infantry attack moved out through its gun sections and during the engagement, the unit's aid station handled 60 infantry casualties.

During one month of the Mignano battle, the 936th howitzers fired a total of 18,500 rounds. Not infrequently, nine-man crews worked day and night. Once they fired 2,500 shells in 24 hours, and in reply, enemy counter batteries sent an average of 150 shells a day into the battalion area for six weeks, causing nearly 50 casualties.

Since Mignano, many heroic acts have been written into the 936th. At Mt. Maggiore, Capt. Merlin E. Faulkner of Goldthwaite, Texas, crawled 500 yards across open terrain to an observation post just in time to spot German infantry moving out toward the battalion's sector. Immediately he directed a barrage

which killed over 100 Germans and completely broke up the attack.

Since that period, the 936th has served three 5th Army corps, supporting French, British and New Zealand troops and nearly every American infantry and armored unit in the 5th Army. During the spring offensive on Rome in 1944 the battalion moved almost every day to keep on the heels of the 88th and 85th Divisions. Often gun sections rolled into new areas and began firing before advance surveying parties could plot and stake out gun positions. Following the liberation of Rome in June, 1944, the 936th fired over 15,000 rounds in one month on the retreating columns of German transport and troops that jammed highways north of the capital.

In the weeks after the Roman liberation, the battalion worked with the 1st Armored Division as part of an armored task force that moved swiftly up the west Italian coast. Again the big guns were set up as often as three times a day. Once they were strung out along a battalion front of 15 miles, creating some of the toughest communications problems of the Italian campaign.

Since returning to combat last August, the 936th has been in continuous action, supporting infantry units as they push up through the fall rains and mud and now into the snows of northern Italy.

KEY MEN "UPSTAIRS"

Key men in the unit's operation throughout the Italian campaign, have been its pilots and aerial observers—the "eyes" of the battalion. When the 936th worked with the 1st Armored

Division last summer, pilots and observers often flew 16 hours a day. This winter they are circling snow-capped Apennine peaks in temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero. One of the first battalions in the theater to use aerial observation in night firing, 936th gunners have been able to lay concentrations on as many as five different night targets in 15 minutes under the direction of one observer. Men in the unit's air section have been awarded six Air Medals and eight Oak Leaf Clusters, each in recognition of

35 missions over enemy territory.

The 936th Artillery Battalion was activated as a separate unit in February, 1943, at Camp Bowie, Texas, after training for two years in Louisiana and Texas as part of a former Arkansas National Guard regiment. Approximately a fifth of the men in the unit now are from Arkansas. The battalion arrived at Oran in early September, 1943.

The unit is commanded by Lt. Col. David B. Kennedy of Cleveland, Ohio, who has led the battalion for over three and a half years.

The Tools of War

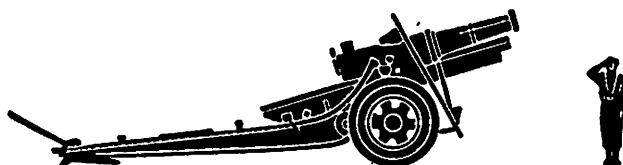


FIG. 41.—155-MM. HOWITZER

Except for its heavier shell (95 lbs.), this "medium" fieldpiece (the sole U.S. Army weapon in this classification) has no advantage over the 105. Indeed, its muzzle velocity is lower (1480 feet per second) and its range only 260 yards greater (12,400 yards). The 155 is based upon the French model of 1918 originally manufactured by Schneider at Le Creusot. Its carriage, now modernized, is equipped with pneumatic tires and puncture-sealing inner tubes, as well as air brakes. The result is that this 4½-ton gun has had its rate of travel stepped up from 10 miles per hour behind a tractor to 50 miles per hour behind a 4-ton truck.

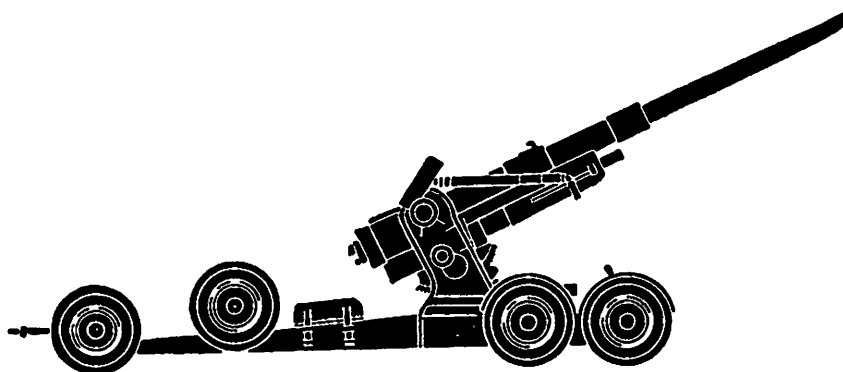


FIG. 42.—155-MM. GUN

The 155-mm. gun, based upon the French model of 1918 (Grande Puissance Filloux), has the longest range of any field-artillery weapon in the U.S. Army. It fires a 95-lb. projectile 26,000 yards at a maximum elevation of 45°. Somewhat lighter than the 1918 model (15 tons), it can be towed about by a "prime mover" on its four sets of truck-size pneumatic tires at 25 miles per hour, and emplaced in 30 minutes if a suitable location has been prepared in advance. Generally emplaced far behind the lines, together with other heavy artillery, the 155 is used against distant ammunition dumps, supply centers, and fortifications, and to "neutralize" enemy batteries. With its new highly mobile carriage, the 155 costs \$50,000.

VIETNAM MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER - SSG NICKY BACON

Nicky Daniel Bacon

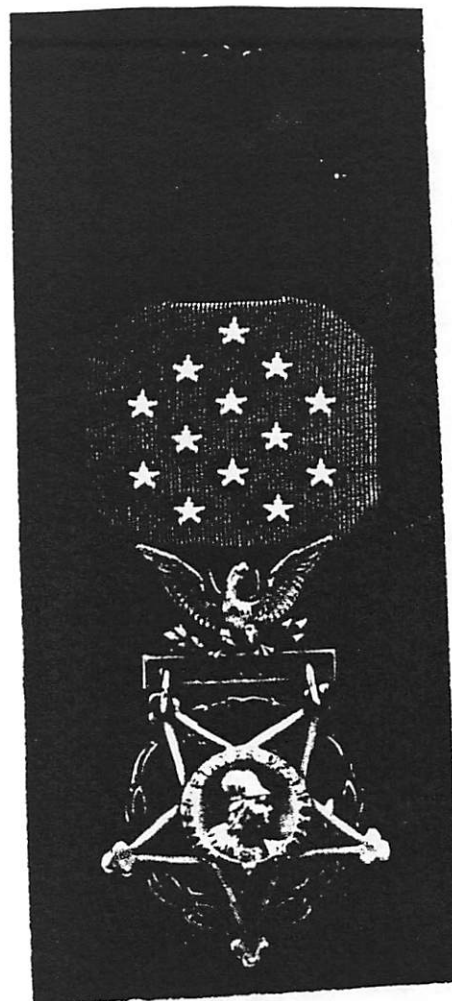
Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, Command B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division

Place and Date: West of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, 26 August 1968.

Entered service at: Phoenix, Ariz. Born: 25 November 1945, Conway, Arkansas.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt Bacon distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the 1st Platoon, Company B, during an operation west of Tam Ky. When Company B came under fire from an enemy bunker line to the front, S/Sgt. Bacon quickly organized his men and led them forward in an assault. He advanced on a hostile bunker and destroyed it with grenades. As he did so, several fellow soldiers including the 1st Platoon leader, were struck by machinegun fire and fell wounded in an exposed position forward of the rest of the platoon. S/Sgt. Bacon immediately assumed command of the platoon and assaulted the

hostile gun position, finally killing the enemy guncrew in a single-handed effort. When the 3d Platoon moved to S/Sgt. Bacon's location, its leader was also wounded. Without hesitation S/Sgt. Bacon took charge of the additional platoon and continued the fight. In the ensuing action he personally killed 4 more enemy soldiers and silenced an antitank weapon. Under his leadership and example, the members of both platoons accepted his authority without question. Continuing to ignore the intense hostile fire, he climbed up on the exposed deck of a tank and directed fire into the enemy position while several wounded men were evacuated. As a result of S/Sgt. Bacon's extraordinary efforts, his company was able to move forward, eliminate the enemy positions, and rescue the men trapped to the front. S/Sgt. Bacon's bravery at the risk of his life was in the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



MEDAL OF HONOR
With Service Ribbon
(Army)

*For conspicuous gallantry and
intrepidity at the risk of life, above and
beyond the call of duty, in action
involving actual conflict with an
opposing armed force.*

100 HOURS WITH LIGHT TACFIRE

**BY CPT RICHARD NEEDHAM AND MAJ RUSSELL GRAVES, 142D FA BRIGADE,
ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

"This is going to be close," announced the 142nd Brigade S-3. "I can't believe it. We've been working on this prep for over a week, and now this." The Brigade S-3 had a good reason for concern. The Prep started in less than an hour. Even if he had it computed, both cannon battalions were moving. They could not be in place for at least 30 more minutes. Deleting the 2 1/2 hour prep, the Brigade operations cell recomputed the fire plan from a completely new target list. The sweat beaded up on the Assistant S-3's forehead as he shouted orders, and coached the operations section to complete the computations. He had a reason to sweat. This wasn't another exercise or ARTEP. This was the Prep for the 1st Infantry Division's breach at the start of Operation Desert Sabre.

A few short weeks ago the task would have been impossible. The Brigade would have manually computed the Prep, and then sent it to the Battalions by voice. The Battalions would then send it to their firing batteries by voice. At the battery Fire Direction Center (FDC), the Battery Computer System (BCS) would compute it and send the data to the guns.

There wasn't enough time for that now. The minutes ticked by too fast. Suddenly the radio broke squelch on the Brigade CF2. It wasn't voice. It was the eerie sound that only digital traffic can make. At 1200 bytes per second the operations section started transmitting the prep to the moving Battalion Tactical Operation Centers (TOC's). The S-3 smiled for the first time in hours. "That has to be the sweetest sound in the world right now," he said as the Acknowledgements (Acks) came resounding back.

Minutes later, a printer came alive in the operations van. AFU:UPDATES from the battalions started coming in. Everyone watched the clock and held their breath. The concussions rocked the vans before the radio announced "Shot Over." The S-3 looked up from his watch. "Right on time," he said. Light TACFIRE (LTACFIRE) had passed the first of many test it would face in the next 100 hours.

When the 142nd (National Guard) Field Artillery Brigade received its mobilization orders on 21 November 1990, it was strictly a manual TOC. Rotations to NTC with the 1st Infantry Division and the 3rd ACR uncovered a serious flaw in the

Army's Total Force concept. Manual TOC's didn't have a place in the digital realm. Heavy TACFIRE equipped units didn't have the time nor assets to interface with manual TOC's. To keep up during NTC rotations, this Brigade would borrow a heavy TACFIRE system with operators to interface with their regular army counterparts. Because of the massive deployment of artillery units to the Persian Gulf, heavy TACFIRE systems with trained operators were not available to borrow.

The Brigade's only hope was to find enough light TACFIRE's (LTACFIRE's) to field the brigade and two Battalion TOC's. The search began immediately. Litton sent instructors to train our operators with loaned LTACFIRE's. Then the miracle happened. On 10 December, the search located the much needed sets. On 28 December, the equipment arrived and the 142nd hand-receipted for them.

The briefcase terminals (BCTs) are very light weight, mobile and self-contained. They require only a printer as a peripheral device. The BCT could operate with either a commercial or a heavy TACFIRE's electric

line printer (ELP). One much needed peripheral device was a separate keyboard. Without the keyboard, operators performed all operations by finger-pushing the screen, much like the Digital Message Device (DMD) device. This slowed most operations, especially plain text messages (PTM's).

The BCT's at the operation's and counterfire cells are a marked advantage over the use of the VFMED used in the heavy TACFIRE system. The BCT's software contains its own message formats and memory storage files. This alleviated the total reliance on the FDC computer for this capability. Their ability to operate independently of the FDC computer added to the total operations. When problems occurred with one BCT, another could do its tasks with minimum loss of operational capabilities. This reduced the likelihood of operating in a degraded mode. At the brigade TOC, each BCT had four modem/net capability, except the counterfire BCT that had only two modems. This gave the brigade TOC the capability to operate on 14 separate digital nets, either directly or through the relay function. We were breaking new ground. To our knowledge there wasn't a brigadesized unit that had experience using LTACFIRE. Initially, we went by trial and error. The first decision we made was to configure the BCT's for TOC operations. The package we received included: 1 dual station and 6 single station BCTs. This young group of soldiers, specialists

through staff sergeant, underwent an intensive training program at Fort Sill to learn and operate the light TACFIRE system. This training consisted of classroom and hands-on instruction.

The first critical problem was to interface with the heavy TACFIRE. Our battery BCS's were using Version 9 tapes, and Litton conducted our LTACFIRE training with Version 9 software. The already deployed VII and XVIII Corps were currently using Version 7, which wouldn't interface with our Version 9 tapes.

The LTACFIRE's Version 7 was inadequate. While it could interface with heavy TACFIRE, it had serious shortcomings in its capabilities. Litton developed Version 8.5, and by deployment time, it was approved for our use. It wasn't as good as Version 9, but it did interface with all the heavy TACFIRE systems. One major shortcoming of Version 8.5 is that it did not provide us with the capability to operate as a Div Arty/Brigade computer system. Therefore, the Brigade FDC had to operate as a battalion computer. The Version 8.5 software did include a Fire Mission (FM; CENTER) file which allowed brigade massing of fires. Another software deficiency for the brigade FDC computer was the lack of an artillery target intelligence (ATI) memory storage capability. This required the total reliance upon a heavy TACFIRE computer for all ATI data storage. Message formats and some terminology within light TACFIRE was slightly different from heavy TACFIRE's,

but posed little difficulty.

The training culminated in two rigorous command post exercises (CPXs) integrating LTACFIRE with BCS, MLRS FDS, Firefinder radar, metro's MDS, and heavy TACFIRE. With III Corps Artillery's help, these CPX's forced digital integration with all these systems. As the CPX's progressed, we found more to do, increasing our proficiency prior to deployment. The decision to fly the LTACFIRE with the troops, instead of shipping it with our other equipment, gave us more time to solve problem areas.

The brigade soldier's knowledge of manual gunnery assisted them in learning LTACFIRE's capabilities. All they needed to learn was the technical aspects of the system. These dedicated soldiers spent additional hours of their own time to hone in their digital skills.

Making changes on a daily basis occurred as the deployment deadline quickly approached. When something didn't work, we made a change. When it did work, we added it to our virgin SOP. By deployment day, we had settled on the following configuration:

1. Brigade TOC: FDC - 1 dual station BCT, Counterfire - 1 single station BCT, Operations - 1 single station BCT.
2. Cannon Battalion TOC: FDC - 1 single station BCT, Operations - 1 single station BCT.

The Brigade FDC would control all fire mission processing along with digital communications to higher, lower and supporting

FDC's. The Brigade counterfire cell would process all fire plans and command and control information to the Battalions. The Brigade counterfire cell would handle the expected high volume of targets generated by Firefinder's Q-36 and Q-37 radars.

All things worked well, providing a highly trained crew and a good light TACFIRE SOP. Now, after shedding their regular professions as college students, farmers, accountants and lawyers to "Answer the Call", these digitally trained civilian soldiers were ready to defeat Saddam Hussain's army.

READY OR NOT, HERE WE COME!

On 8 January 1991, we packed the BCT's for shipment. In less than 30 days, we had done as much as we could. Thanks to LTACFIRE being "user-friendly", we completed the initial training on LTACFIRE in about a month, a feat that normally takes 13 weeks for heavy TACFIRE operator training. The credit goes to the quality of our soldiers, and the assistance from III Corps Artillery and Litton. They did everything in their power to help us acquire the equipment. Also, they provided on short notice the much needed training materials and technical expertise.

The Brigade deployed to Saudi Arabia mid-January 1991. A small band of armed soldiers waited expectantly as the dull, green painted TAT bird, a sleek C-141 taxied up the ramp at King

Faud airport. It was a welcome sight. The BCTs had arrived at the war zone. The Brigade received its wheeled vehicles and other equipment at the Damman Port.

Carefully, the soldiers loaded the LTACFIRE crated on 5-ton trucks and transported them over 300 miles north and west to Field Assembly Area (FAA) HAWG. There they installed the BCT's into the vehicles that would carry them into battle. The installation of the BCT's was not done at Fort Sill since the vehicles shipped out before the unit received its LTACFIRE's.

Never having LTACFIRE mounted in the Expando Vans, installation was from scratch. The soldiers completed the installation process in one day to include establishing the digital link to the VII Corps Artillery heavy TACFIRE via PCM. The establishment of PCM communication provided a challenge. The operators had never seen nor used a PCM, nor were taught about 4-wire communications. Through their persistence, they established and maintained this vital link.

Training with LTACFIRE continued at FAA HAWG. Here the Brigade fine tuned it's digital skills. The training consisted of dry fire missions, fire plans, command and control, and FM and PCM communication troubleshooting. As with heavy TACFIRE, FM digital communication proved to be a difficult task. Through diligent work, these young digitizers, mastered the art of passing digital

traffic consistently over FM and PCM.

The use of multiplexers and the PRM-34 assisted in their efforts to establish and maintain FM communications. By using one 4-pac, and one 5-pac multiplexor, the Brigade TOC needed to erect only two OE-254 antennas. The PRM-34 device made radio troubleshooting quick and easy. At FAA HAWG, we finalized the digital communications net structure.

On 17 February, the Brigade moved forward and linked up with the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. Prior coordination for subscriber information and radio net assignments enhanced the establishment of initial TACFIRE communication. When the Brigade FDC went "on the air", it established instant digital communications with DivArty. Now the Brigade could receive combat intelligence, battlefield geometry, fire plans and command and control information.

At this location, 1ID DivArty delivered a 2 1/2 hour prep fire plan to the Brigade. The DivArty developed the fire plan by using its heavy TACFIRE system. Due to the fire plan's length and the number of fire units, the fire plan exceeded heavy TACFIRE's capabilities. Therefore, DivArty modified the fire plan and provided a draft copy to each supporting artillery brigade. The artillery brigades each entered the fire plan into their TACFIRE computers and computed it for their units.

142nd's knowledge of

manual gunnery and fire planning proved helpful. Entering the 2 1/2 hour prep from scratch into its light TACFIRE, the Brigade computed it within two hours. They produced a clean schedule of fires (TISF), ready for digital transmission to its battalions.

11D DivArty made several revisions of the fire plan. Each revision took the master digital fire planners only about 30 minutes to recompute and produce another clean TISF. The 2 1/2 hour fire plan was actually two fire plans, one for 120 minutes and the other for 30 minutes. This was due to the 120 minute limitation for a fire plan in the software.

On 19 February, the tracked vehicles of the 1-142nd, 2-142nd and 1-158th's arrived at the Damman port. Seventy-two hours later, they were all sitting in FAA HAWG, 314 miles away. Within 12 hours, the cannon battalions installed the BCT's into their command post carriers making the total digital TACFIRE link complete. For the first time ever, the Brigade practiced the fire plan digitally down to the guns. The speed that LTACFIRE could digitally disseminate the fire plan impressed and pleased the Brigade Commander and S-3. It was much faster than the old manual way.

On 22 February, in less than 24 hours after the three battalions arrived at FAA HAWG and journeyed another 70 KM to join the Brigade TOC, they fired in the artillery raids. For the 142nd, it was the first rounds ever fired with the use of light TACFIRE

and the first rounds fired in combat since the Korean War.

On 24 February 1991, at 0300, 11D DivArty finalized the fire plan and the much trained for 100 hours began. As general support reinforcing to the 1st Infantry Division Artillery, the 142nd FA Brigade roared into combat. Digital music soared through the airwaves with command and control information, AFU's, fire missions, MET messages and more. At times, when voice communications failed, the digital link prevailed, providing a continuous link for commanders and S-3's.

The battalions received the fire plan digitally, then the guns and launchers fired. The accurate and deadly fire from the 8-inch howitzers and Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) devastated the enemy's positions and their will to fight. The 1st Infantry Division, aided by the 142nd's cannon and missile fires, rolled virtually unopposed through the breach area.

Upon passing through the breach, the VII Corps Artillery commander task organized the Brigade, with it retaining both 8-inch howitzer battalions and one MLRS battery. The new mission was to reinforce the 1st United Kingdom (UK) Armored Division Artillery. On 25 February, the Brigade continued its offensive march to battle with the 1st UK. The 1st (UK) DivArty did not have TACFIRE, therefore, positioned Liaison Officers (LNO's) inside the FDC van.

The Brigade FDC would receive the fire missions voice from the British LNO's. As the target was being manually plotted, the fire control BCT operator furiously punched in the data. Upon receipt of the fire order from the FDO, the BCT operator then transmitted the fire mission digitally. A clean "Ack" would bring a grin to the Comms BCT operator's face. The distant thunder of the units firing brought smiles to all, for they knew the 142nd's steel on target would quicken the drive in smashing Saddam's army.

"Fire Mission", the LNO would yell in response to the radio message from their famed British Desert Rats. "Plot", cried out the FDO in response. Activity suddenly energized as the BCT operators swung into action. The FDO issued the fire order announcing "Brigade 6 rounds". The BCT operator completed the FM:RFAF and transmitted it to the battalions. "Ack Diamond Fire, Ack Fireball, Ack Gater", shouted the Comms BCT operator as the fire mission printed out on the ELP. Tensely, the seconds pass, until the distant thunder of the two 8-inch cannon battalions roar out with 2 volleys each. The MLRS completed the Brigade mass with the WHOOSH of their rockets. "End of Mission", the FDO announced upon receipt of "Rounds complete". A few minutes of silence prevails in the LTACFIRE FDC van, only to be broken again by "Fire Mission". Moving, shooting and communicating, 24 hours a day,

such went the 100 hour war.

The timely accurate fires from the Brigade's long-range artillery brought high praises from the British. The 142nd's support to them in their drive to and through Saddam's forces enhanced Anglo-American relations. The 1st (UK) Armored Division was able to quickly rout the enemy with minimum casualties to its own forces.

On 28 February 1991, at 0700, the 100 hours ended with the Brigade receiving notification of the cease-fire. In those 100 hours, the Brigade had fired over 1000 rounds of 8-inch and MLRS. It moved twelve times, fighting in three countries, ending in Kuwait. It provided artillery support to both the 1st Infantry Division (TACFIRE equipped) and the 1st (UK) Armored Division (non-TACFIRE equipped). It maintained a 100% operational readiness rating with all digital systems. A key point is that the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade maintained a 100% interface and communications link between its light TACFIRE computers and the heavy TACFIRE digital systems. without the use of light TACFIRE, none of this could have been possible.

Though the 100 hours was short in duration, the perfection of the Brigade's digital execution resulted from the numerous hours of training and determination of its soldiers to make the system work. The 142nd (National Guard) Field Artillery Brigade proved that it was ready to "Answer the Call".

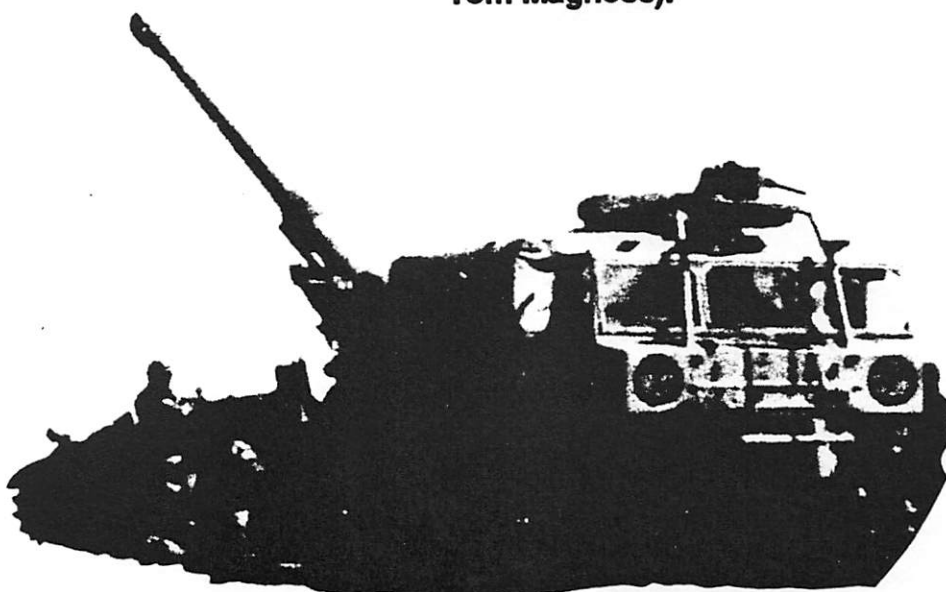
The 142nd FA Brigade

consists of the Brigade headquarters from Fayetteville, Arkansas and two 8-inch self-propelled howitzer battalions, 1-142nd and 2-142nd, from Harrison and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 1-158th (MLRS) FA Battalion, from Lawton, Oklahoma, rounded out the brigade and made the 142nd a heavy artillery brigade. The 1-158th is normally assigned to the 45th Oklahoma National Guard Division. The activation, training, integration and deployment proved a challenging task for these National Guardsmen and women. The dedication and leadership of the officers, NCO's and soldiers enabled them to take the challenge head-on and prove their capabilities as part of the "Total Force" Army.

142nd Field Artillery Brigade



Howitzers of the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, provide intensive fire support for ground operations. (photo by Sgt. Maj. Tom Magness).



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