

# ARKANSAS MILITARY JOURNAL

A Publication of the

ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD  
MUSEUM

VOL 7

SUMMER 1999

No.1

## IN THIS ISSUE

A Brief History - The Medal of Honor

Arkansas Medal of Honor Recipients  
Compiled by SSG Nathan Barlow

"WE COME HERE TO FIGHT SIR!"  
THE ARKANSAS REGIMENT  
OF MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS IN  
THE MEXICAN WAR  
By Travis Cumming

## **ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM**

**The Adjutant General**  
**Major General Don C. Morrow**

**Chief of Staff**  
**Colonel William D. Wofford**

### **Board of Directors**

**Chairman**  
MG (Ret) James Ryan  
**Secretary**  
COL (Ret) Steve Rucker

**Vice Chairman**  
Vacant  
**Treasurer**  
COL George McCulley

### **Members**

COL John Cox  
COL Chuck Henry  
COL (Ret) Frankie Sears  
MAJ Dudley Smith

MAJ Earnest Tate  
CW2 Greg Settles  
CMSGT (Ret) Wayne Cullins  
CSM Debbie Collins

### **Publications Staff**

MAJ Earnest L. Tate    SSG Anthony Rushing  
SGT Leanna Higginbotham    PFC Tiffany Jackson

The Arkansas National Guard Museum is currently under renovation. The museum is scheduled to reopen **September 11, 1999**.

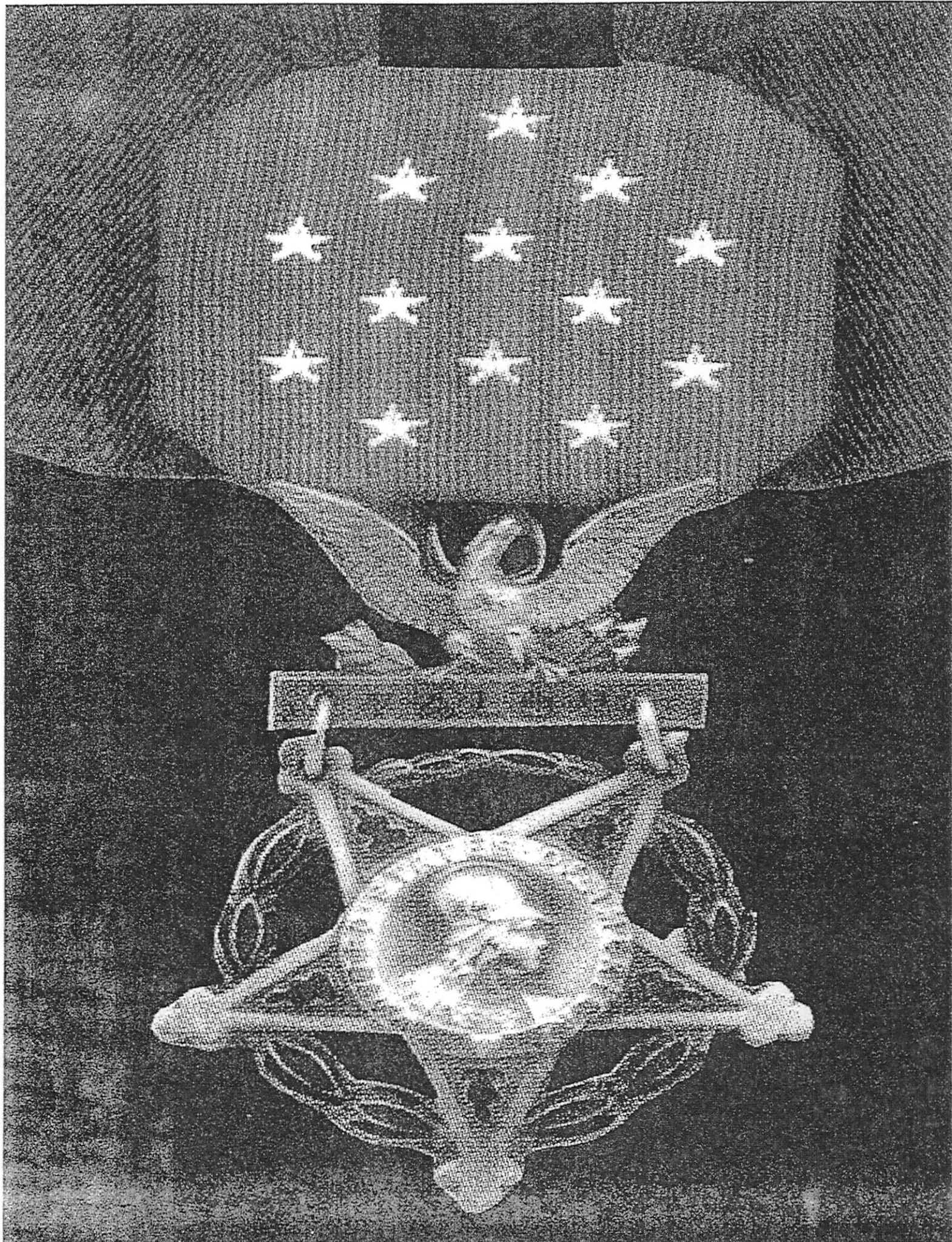
The Arkansas National Guard Museum tells two stories.

The first is the story of the ground that Camp Robinson occupies, with emphasis on Camp Pike, (WW I), Camp McCrae (between the wars) and Camp Robinson (WW II).

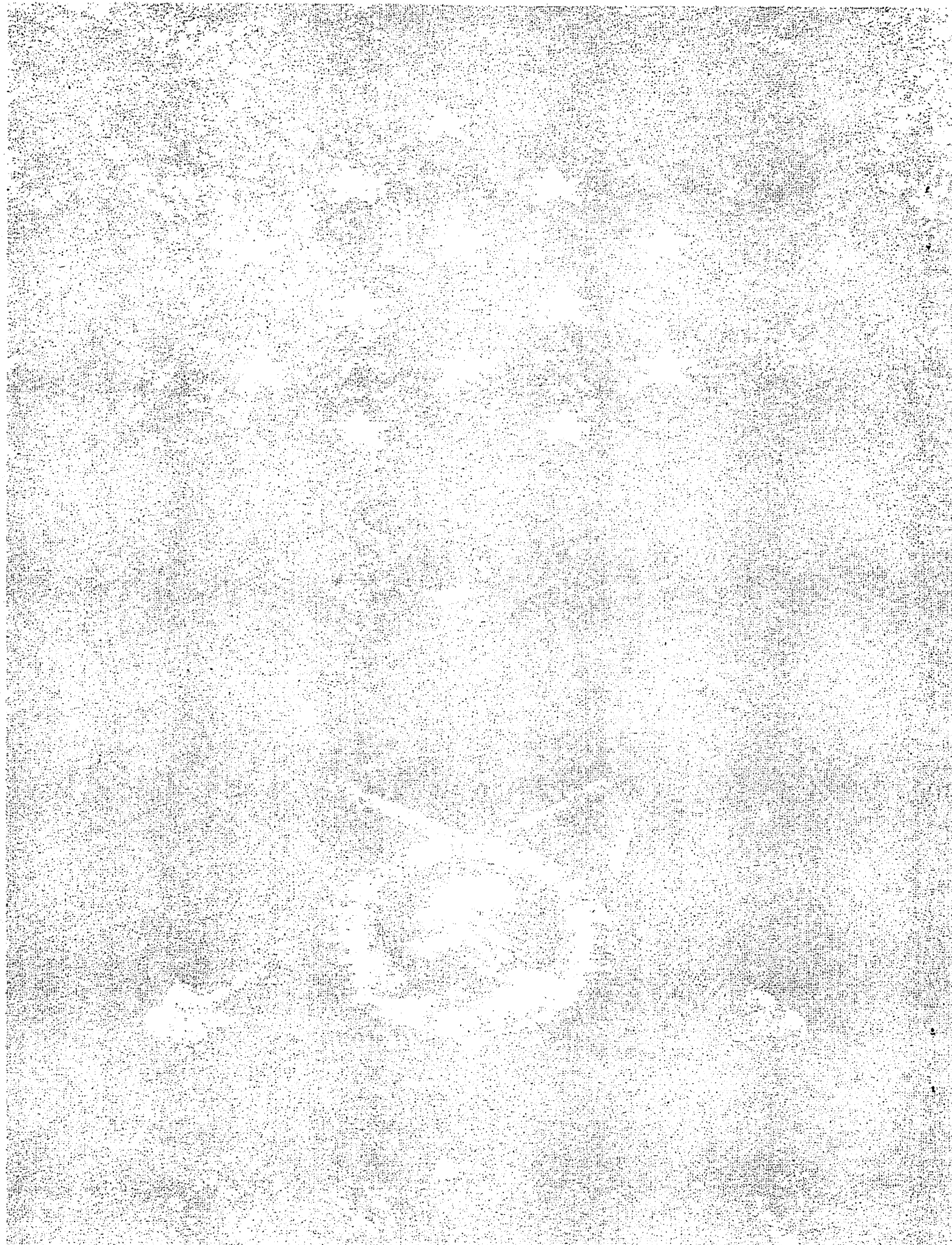
The second is the story of the Arkansas Army and Air National Guard and its historical predecessors, from 1804 to the present.

If you are interested in the museum volunteer program or have items you would to donate or loan for exhibits call 501-212-5215.

The Arkansas Military Journal is an unofficial publication of the Arkansas National Guard Museum. 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, CS-HS, P.O. Box 2301, Camp Joseph Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72199-9600.









## A BRIEF HISTORY – THE MEDAL OF HONOR

The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by the nation's fighting men was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. Designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," the award consisted of a purple cloth heart. Records show that only three persons received the award: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, Sergeant William Brown, and Sergeant Daniel Bissel, Jr.

The Badge of Military Merit, as it was called, fell into oblivion until 1932, when General Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff, pressed for its revival. Officially reinstituted on February 22, 1932, the now familiar Purple Heart was at first an Army award, given to those who had been wounded in World War I or who possessed a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate. In 1943, the order was amended to include personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Coverage was eventually extended to include all services and "any civilian national" wounded while serving with the Armed Forces.

Although the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, the idea of a decoration for individual gallantry remained through the early 1800s. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "certificate of merit" was established for any soldier who distinguished himself in action. No medal went with the honor. After the Mexican-American War, the award was discontinued, which meant there was no military award with which to recognize the nation's fighting men.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed the idea.

The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seaman like qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates soldierlike qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.



## **Arkansas Medal of Honor Recipient**

**Compiled by SSG Nathan Barlow**

Name	Rank	War	Hometown
Bacon, Nicky	SSG	Vietnam	Conway
Britt, Maurice L. "Footsie"	CPT	World War II	Fort Smith
Burke, Lloyd L.	1LT	Korea	Stuttgart
Collier, Gilbert	SGT	Korea	Tichnor
Chiles, Marcellus H.	CPT	World War I	Eureka Springs
Ellis, William	1SGT	Civil War	Little Rock
Factor, Pompey	PVT	Indian	unknown
Franks, William	Seaman	unknown	North Carolina
Gilliland, Charles L.	CPL	Korea	Yellville
Gordon, Nathan Green	LT	World War II	Morrilton
Hendrix, James R.	SGT	World War II	Lepanto
Lloyd, Edgar H.	1LT	World War II	Blytheville
Littleton, Herbert A.	PVT	Korea	Mena
MacArthur, Douglas	GEN	World War II	Little Rock
Miller, Oscar F.	MAJ	World War I	Bryant
Pruitt, John Henry*	CPL	World War I	Fayetteville
Stone, James L.	1LT	Korea	Pine Bluff
Terry, Seymour W.	CPT	World War II	Little Rock
Thomas, William H.	PFC	World War II	Wynne
Ward, John	SGT	Indian	unknown
Watkins, Travis E.	MSG	Korea	Waldo
Watson, Wilson Douglas	PVT	unknown	unknown
Wheeler Henry W.	PVT	Civil War	Fort Smith
Williams, Jack	PM1	World War II	Harrison

\*Also received Navy Medal of Honor



# MEDAL OF HONOR BREAKDOWN

## (By War and Service as of 13 May 1997)

Action	Total	Army	Navy	Marine	Air Force	Coast Guard	Posthumous
Civil War	1,520	1,195	308	17	0	0	25
Indian Wars 1861-1898	428	428	0	0	0	0	6
Korea 1871	15	0	9	6	0	0	0
Spanish American War	109	30	64	15	0	0	0
Philippines Samoa	91	70	12	9	0	0	1
Boxer Rebellion	59	4	22	33	0	0	1
Vera Cruz 1914	55	0	46	9	0	0	0
Haiti 1915	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Haiti 1919-1920	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Nicaragua 1927-1933	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Peacetime 1865-1870	12	0	12	0	0	0	0
Peacetime 1871-1898	103	0	101	2	0	0	0
Peacetime 1899-1911	51	1	48	2	0	0	0
Peacetime 1915-1916	8	0	8	0	0	0	1
Peacetime 1920-1940	18	2	15	1	0	0	4
World War I	124	96	21	7	0	0	32
World War II	440	301	57	81	0	1	250
Korean War	131	78	7	42	4	0	93
Vietnam War	239	155		57	12	0	150
Somalia 1993	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown Soldiers	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	3,427	2,362	745	294	16	1	574

These totals reflect the total number of Medals of Honor awarded. Nineteen (19) men received a second award: fourteen of these men received two separate Medals for two separate actions; five received both the Navy and the Army Medals of Honor for the same action. The total number of Medal of Honor recipients is 3,408.

Total Medals of Honor awarded: 3,427

Total number of Medal of Honor recipients: 3,408

Total number of double recipients: 20

Total number of enlisted personnel: 2,553

As of 13 May 1997, there are 169 living Medal of Honor recipients.

CONFIDENTIAL - EYES ONLY

[illegible]

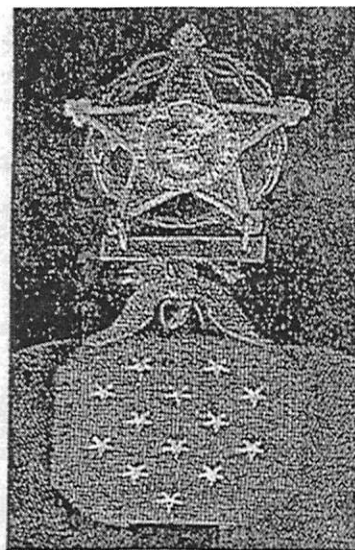
100% beverly "not to drink" too!

8-16 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM - 12:00 PM

SECRET

1. The following information is for your information only:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 08-19-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW

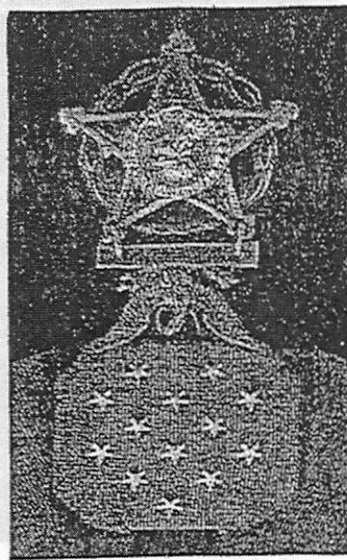


MEDAL OF HONOR  
NICKY DANIEL BACON

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, Caraway, Ark.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon leader, were struck by machinegun fire and fell wounded in a 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 gun crew 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  
MAURICE L. BRITT

Rank and organization: Captain (then Lieutenant), U.S. Army, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: North of Mignano, Italy, 10 November 1943. Entered service at : Lonoke, Ark. Born: 29 June 1919, Carlisle, Ark. G.O.No.: 23, 24 March 1944.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Disdaining enemy hand grenades and close-range machine pistol, machinegun, and rifle, Lt. Britt inspired and led a handful of his men in repelling a bitter counterattack by approximately 100 Germans against his company position north of Mignano, Italy, the morning of 10 November 1943. During the intense fire fight, Lt. Britt's Canteen and field glasses were shattered; a bullet pierced his side; his chest, face, and hands were covered with grenade wounds. Despite his wounds, for which he refused to accept medical attention until ordered to do so by his battalion commander following the battle, he personally killed 5 and wounded an unknown number of Germans, wiped out one enemy machinegun crew, fired 5 clips of carbine and an undetermined amount of M1 rifle ammunition, and threw 32 fragmentation grenades. His bold, aggressive actions, utterly disregarding superior enemy numbers, resulted in capture of 4 Germans, 2 of them wounded, and enabled several captured Americans to escape. Lt. Britt's undaunted courage and prowess in arms were largely responsible for repulsing a German counterattack which, if successful, would have isolated his battalion and destroyed his company.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
LLOYD L. BURKE

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company G, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Place and date: Near Chong-dong, Korea, 28 October 1951. Entered service at: Stuttgart, Ark. Born: 29 September 1924, Tichnor, Ark. G.O. N.:43.

Citation: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Burke, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Intense enemy fire had pinned down leading elements of his company committed to secure commanding ground when 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Burke left the command post to rally and urge the men to follow him toward 3 bunkers impeding the advance. Dashing to an exposed vantage point he threw several grenades at the bunkers, then, returning for an M1 rifle and adapter, he made a lone 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 3 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 3 boxes of ammunition, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 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 2 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Burke's heroic action and daring exploits inspired his small force of 35 troops. His unflinching courage and outstanding leadership reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army.

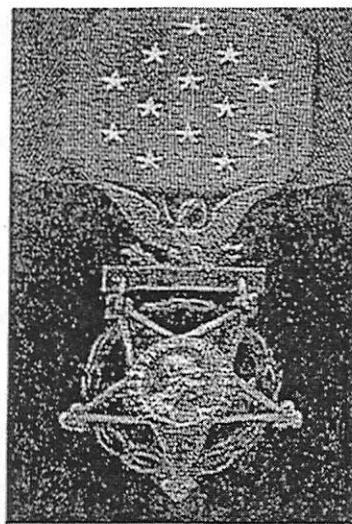


MEDAL OF HONOR  
Gilbert G. Collier

Rank and organization: Sergeant (then Cpl.), U.S. Army, Company F, 223d Infantry Regiment, 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Place and Date: Near Tutayon, Korea, 19-20 July 1953, Entered service at: Tichnor, Arkansas Born: 30 December 1930, Hunter, Arkansas, G.O.No:3, 12 January 1995.

Citation: Sgt. Collier, a member of Company F, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Sgt. Collier was pointman and assistant leader of a combat patrol committed to make contact with the enemy. As the patrol moved forward through the darkness, he and his commanding officer slipped and fell from a steep, 60 foot cliff and were injured. Incapacitated by a badly sprained ankle, which prevented immediate movement, the officer ordered the patrol to return to the safety of the friendly lines. Although suffering from a painful back injury, Sgt. Collier elected to remain with his leader and before daylight they managed to crawl back up and over the mountainous terrain to the opposite valley where they concealed themselves in the brush until nightfall, then edged toward their company positions. Shortly after leaving the daylight retreat they were ambushed and in the ensuing firefight, Sgt. Collier killed 2 hostile soldiers, received painful wounds, and was separated from his companion. Then, ammunition expended, he closed in hand to hand combat with 4 attacking hostile infantrymen, killing, wounding, and routing the foe with his bayonet. He was mortally wounded during this action, but made a valiant attempt to reach and assist his leader in a desperate effort to save his comrade's life without regard for his own personal safety. Sgt. Collier's unflinching courage, consummate devotion to duty, and gallant self sacrifice reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the noble traditions of the military service.

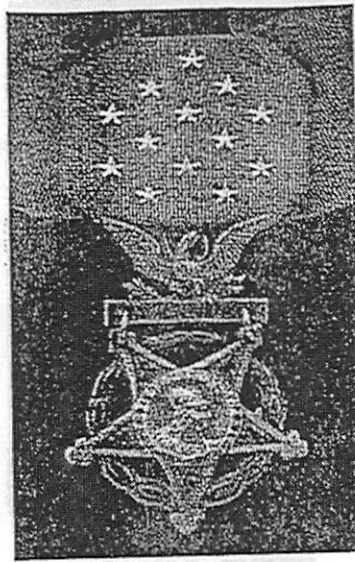




MEDAL OF HONOR  
MARCELLUS H. CHILES

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, 356th Infantry, 89th Division. Place and date: Near Le Champy Bas, France, 3 November 1918. Entered service at: Denver, Colo. Birth: Eureka Springs, Ark. G.O. No.: 20, W.D., 1919

Citation: When his battalion, of which he had just taken command, was halted by machinegun fire from the front and left flank, he picked up the rifle of a dead soldier and, calling on his men to follow led the advance across a stream, waist deep, in the face of the machinegun fire. Upon reaching the opposite bank this gallant officer was seriously wounded in the abdomen by a sniper, but before permitting himself to be evacuated he made complete arrangements for turning over his command to the next senior officer, and under the inspiration of his fearless leadership his battalion reached its objective. Capt. Chiles died shortly after reaching the hospital.



MEDAL OF HONOR

WILLIAM EVANS

Rank and Organization: Private, Company E, 7th United States Infantry. Place and date: At Big Horn, Montana, 9 July 1876. Entered service at: St. Louis, Missouri. Birth: Ireland. Date of issue: 2 December 1876.

Citation: Carried dispatches to Brigadier General Crook through a country occupied by Sioux.



MEDAL OF HONOR

POMPEY FACTOR

Rank and Organization: Private, Indian Scots.

Place and date: At Pecos River, Texas, 25 April 1875.

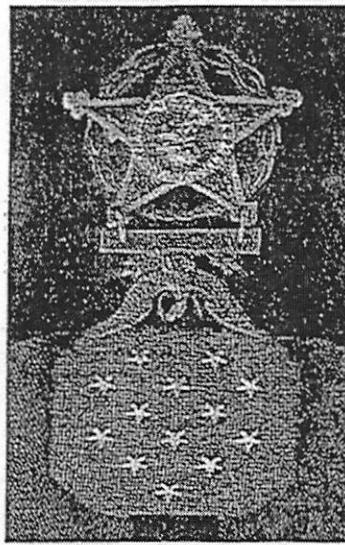
Entered service at: -----.

Birth: Arkansas.

Date of issue: 28 May 1875.

Citation: Gallantry in action.

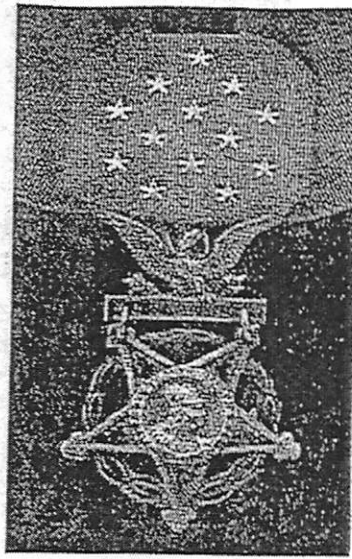




MEDAL OF HONOR  
WILLIAM J. FRANKS

Rank and organization: Seaman, U.S. Navy. Entered service at: Duvalls Bluff, Ark. G.O. No.: 32, 16 April 1864. Birth: 1830, Chatham County, N.C.

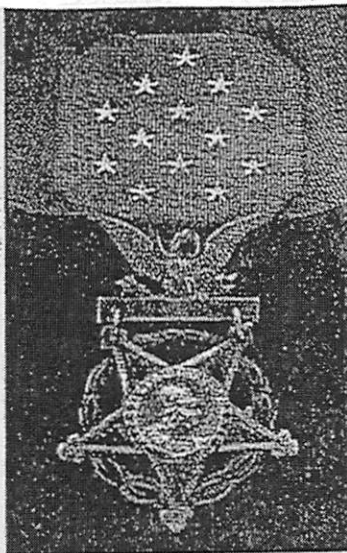
Citation: Served on board the U.S.S. Marmora off Yazoo City, Miss., 5 March 1864. Embarking from the Marmora with a 12 - pound howitzer mounted on a field carriage, Franks landed with the gun and crew in the midst of heated battle and, bravely standing by his gun despite enemy rifle fire which cut the gun carriage and rammer contributed to the turning back of the enemy during the fierce engagement.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
CHARLES L. GILLILAND

Rank and organization: Corporal (then Pfc.), U.S. Army, Company I, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Tongmang-ni, Korea, 25 April 1951. Entered service at: Yellville (Marion County), Ark. Born: 24 May 1933, Mountain Home, Ark. G.O. No.: 2, 11 January 1955.

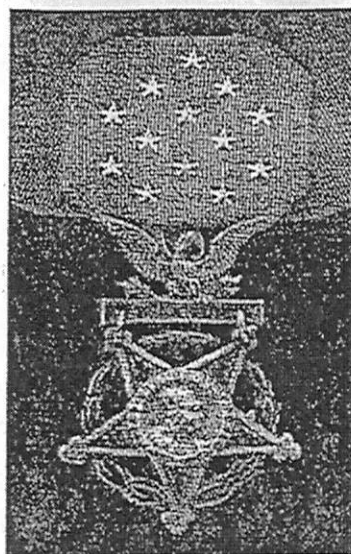
Citation: Cpl. Gilliland, a member of Company I, distinguished himself conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. A numerically superior hostile force launched a coordinated assault against his company perimeter, the brunt of which was directed up a defile covered by his automatic rifle. His assistant was killed by enemy fire but Cpl. Gilliland, facing the full force of the assault, poured steady fire into the foe which stemmed the onslaught. When 2 enemy soldiers escaped his raking fire into the infiltrated the sector, he leaped from his foxhole, overtook and killed them both with his pistol. Sustaining a serious head wound in this daring exploit, he refused medical attention and returned to his emplacement to continue his defense of the vital defile. His unit was ordered back to new defensive positions but Cpl. Gilliland volunteered to remain to cover the withdrawal and hold the enemy at bay. His heroic actions and indomitable devotion to duty prevented the enemy from completely overrunning his company positions. Cpl. Gilliland's incredible valor and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory upon himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
NATHAN GREEN GORDON

Rank and organization: Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, commander of Catalina patrol plane. Place and date: Bismarck Sea, 15 February 1944. Entered service at: Arkansas. Born : September 1916, Morrilton, Ark.

Citation: For extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty as commander of a Catalina patrol plane in rescuing personnel of the U.S. Army 5th Air Force shot down in combat over Kavieng Harbor in the Bismarck Sea, 15 February 1944. On air alert in the vicinity of Vitu Island, Lt. (then LTJG) Gordon unhesitatingly responded to a report of the crash and flew boldly into the harbor, defying close-range fire from enemy shore guns to make 3 separate landings in full view of the Japanese and pick up 9 men, several of them injured. With his cumbersome flying boat dangerously overloaded, he made a brilliant takeoff despite heavy swells and almost total absence of wind and set a course for base, only to receive the report of another group stranded in a rubber liferaft 600 yards from the enemy shore. Promptly turning back, he again risked his life to set his plane down under direct fire of the heaviest defenses of Kavieng and take aboard 6 more survivors, coolly making his fourth dexterous takeoff with 15 rescued officers and men. By his exceptional daring, personal valor, and incomparable airmanship under most perilous conditions, Lt. Gordon prevented certain death or capture of our airmen by the Japanese.

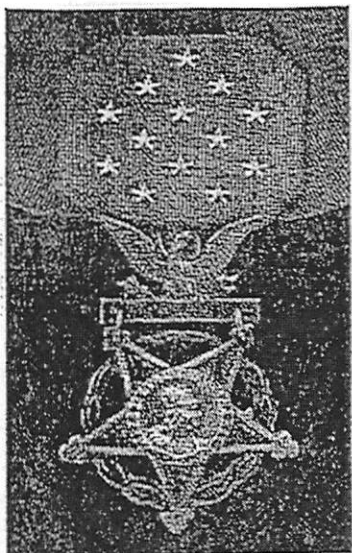


MEDAL OF HONOR

JAMES R. HENDRIX

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company C, 53d Armored Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division. Place and date: Near Assenois, Belgium, 26 December 1944. Entered service date at: Lepanto, Ark. Birth: Lepanto, Ark. G.O. No.: 74, 1 September 1945.

Citation: On the night of 26 December 1944, near Assenois, Belgium, he was with the leading element engaged in the final thrust to break through to the besieged garrison at Bastogne when halted by a fierce combination of artillery and small-arms fire. He dismounted from his halftrack and advanced against two 88-mm guns, and, by the ferocity of his rifle fire, compelled the guncrews to take cover and then to surrender. Later in the attack he again left his vehicle, voluntarily, to aid 2 wounded soldiers, helpless and exposed to intense machinegun fire. Effectively silencing 2 hostile machinegun, he held off the enemy by his own fire until the wounded men were evacuated. Pvt. Hendrix again distinguished himself when he hastened to the aid of still another soldier who was trapped in a burning halftrack. Braving enemy sniper fire and exploding mines and ammunition in the vehicle, he extricated the wounded man and extinguished his flaming clothing, thereby saving the life of his fellow soldier. Pvt. Hendrix, by his superb courage and heroism, exemplified the highest traditions of the military service.

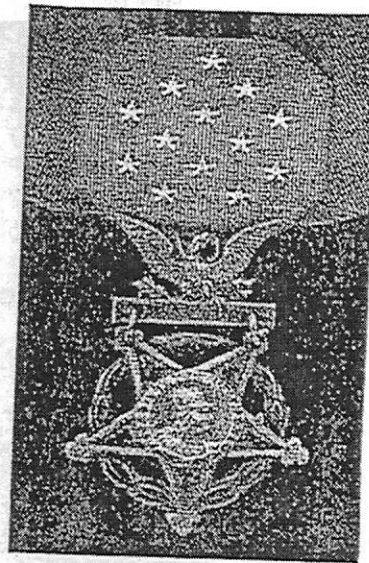


MEDAL OF HONOR  
HERBERT A. LITTLETON

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines Division (Rein). Place and date: Chungchon, Korea, 22 April 1951. Entered service at: Blackhawk, s. Dak. Born: 1 July 1930, Mena, Ark.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio operator with an artillery forward observation team of Company C, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Standing watch when a well-concealed and numerically superior enemy force launched a violent night attack from nearby position against his company, PFC. Littleton quickly alerted the forward observation team and immediately moved into an advantageous position to assist in calling artillery fire on the hostile force. When an enemy handgrenade was thrown into his vantage point shortly after the arrival of the remainder of the team, he unhesitatingly hurled himself on the deadly missile, absorbing its full, shattering impact in his body. By his prompt action and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice, he saved the other members of his team from serious injury or death and enable them to carry on the vital mission which culminated in the repulse of the hostile attack. His indomitable valor in the face of almost certain death reflects the highest credit upon PFC. Littleton and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.





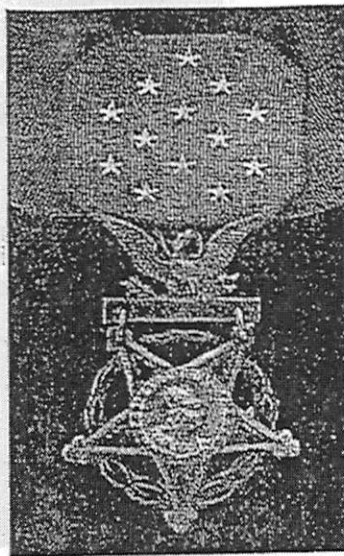
MEDAL OF HONOR

EDGAR H. LLOYD

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company E, 319th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Pompey, France, 14 September 1944. Entered service at: Blytheville, Ark. Birth: Blytheville, Ark. G.O. No.: 25, 7 April 1945.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. On 14 September 1944, Company E, 319th Infantry, with which 1st Lt. Lloyd was serving as a rifle platoon leader, was assigned the mission of expelling an estimated enemy force of 200 men from a heavily fortified position near Pompey, France. As the attack progressed, 1st Lt. Lloyd's platoon advanced to within 50 yards of the enemy position, knocked out the gunner with his fist, dropped grenade, and jumped out before it exploded. Still shouting encouragement he went from 1 machinegun nest to another, pinning the enemy down with submachinegun fire until he was within throwing distance, and then destroyed them with handgrenades. He personally destroyed 5 machineguns and many of the enemy, and by his daring leadership and conspicuous bravery inspired his men to overrun the enemy positions and accomplish the objective in the face on seemingly insurmountable odds. His audacious determination and courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest tradition of the military forces of the United States.





MEDAL OF HONOR  
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

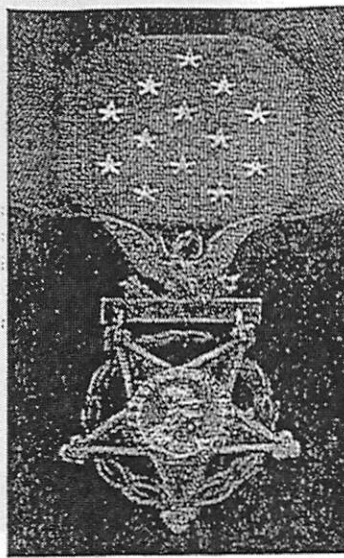
Rank and organization: General, U.S. Army, commanding U.S. Army Forces in the Far East. Place and date: Bataan Peninsula, Philippine Island to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula. He mobilized, trained, and led an army, which has received world acclaim for its gallant defense against a tremendous superiority of enemy forces in men and arms. His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people, and confirmed the faith of the American people in their Armed Forces.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
OSCAR F. MILLER

Rank and organization: Major, U.S. Army, 361<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 91<sup>st</sup> Division. Place and date: Near Gensnes, France, 28 September 1918. Entered service at: Lost Angeles, Calif. Birth: Franklin County, Ark. G.O. No: 16, W.D. 1919.

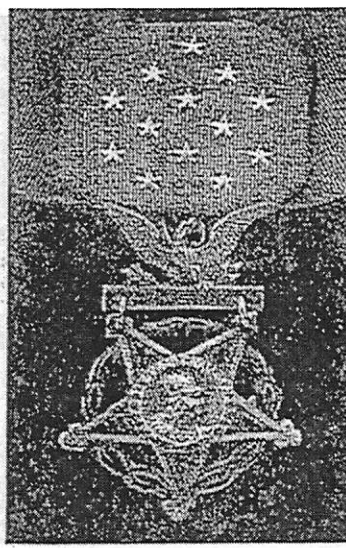
Citation: After 2 days of intense physical and mental strain, during which Maj. Miller had led his battalion in the front line of the advance through the forest of Argonne, the enemy was met in a prepared position south of Gesnes. Though almost exhausted, he energetically reorganized his battalion and ordered an attack. Upon reaching open ground the advancing line began to waver in the face of machine-gun fire from the front and flanks and direct artillery, fire. Personally leading his command group forward between his front-line companies, Maj. Miller inspired his men by his personal courage, and they again pressed on toward the hostile attack he was shot in the right leg, but he nevertheless staggered forward at the head of his command. Soon afterwards he was again shot in the right arm, but he continued the charge, personally cheering his troops on through the heavy machinegun fire. Just before the objective was reached he received a wound in the abdomen, which forced him to the ground, but he continued to urge his men on, telling them to push on to the next ridge and leave him where he lay. He died from his wounds a few days later.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
JOHN HENRY PRUITT

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, 78th Company, 6th Regiment, 2nd Division. Place and date: At Blanc Mont Ridge, France, 3 October 1918. Entered service at: Phoenix, Ariz. Born 4 October 1896, Fayetteville, Ark. G.O. No.: 62, W.D., 1919. (Also received Navy Medal of Honor.)

Citation: CPL. Pruitt singlehanded attacked 2 machineguns, capturing them and killing 2 of the enemy. He then captured 40 prisoners in a dugout nearby. This gallant soldier was killed soon afterward by shellfire while he was sniping at the enemy.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
JAMES L. STONE

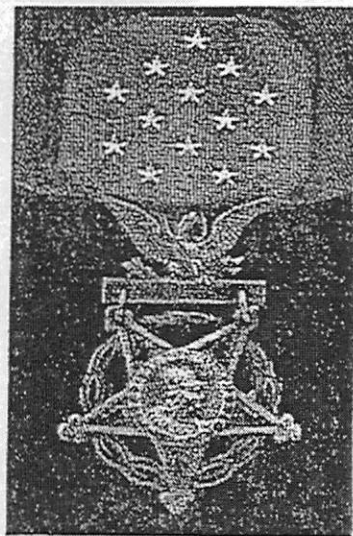
Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company E, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Place and date: Near Sok-kogae, Korea, 21 and 22 November 1951.

Entered service at: Houston, Tex. Born: 27 December 1922, Pine Bluff, Ark. G.O. No.: 82,20 October 1953.

Citation: 1st Lt. Stone, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When his platoon, holding a vital outpost position, was attacked by overwhelming Chinese forces, 1st Lt. Stone stood erect and exposed to the terrific enemy fire calmly directed his men in the defense.

Defensive flamethrower failing to function, he personally moved to its location, further exposing himself, and personally repaired the weapon. Throughout a second attack, 1st Lt.

Stone, though painfully wounded, personally carried the only remaining light machinegun from place to place in the position in order to bring fire upon the Chinese advancing from 2 directions. Throughout he continued to encourage and direct his depleted platoon in its hopeless defense. Although again wounded, he continued the fight with his carbine, still exposing himself as an example to his men. When this final overwhelming assault swept over the platoon's position his voice could still be heard faintly urging his men to carry on, until he lost consciousness. Only because of this officer's driving spirit and heroic action was the platoon emboldened to make its brave but hopeless last ditch stand.



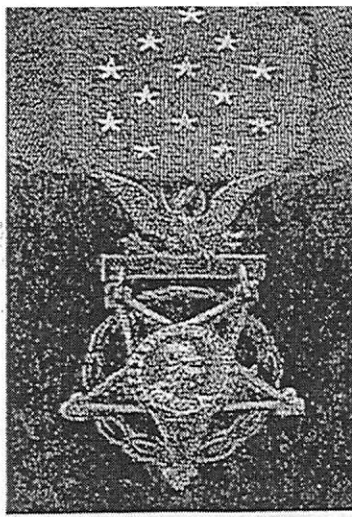
MEDAL OF HONOR

SEYMOUR W. TERRY

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Company B 382nd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division. Place and date: Zebra Hill, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 11 May 1945. Entered service at: Little Rock, Ark. Birth: Little Rock, Ark. G.O. No.: 23, 6 March 1946.

Citation: 1st Lt. Terry was leading an attack against heavily defended Zebra Hill when devastating fire from 5 pillboxes halted the advance. He braved the hail of bullets to secure satchel charges and white phosphorus grenades, and then ran 30 yards directly at the enemy with an ignited charge to the first stronghold, demolished it, and moved on to the other pillboxes, bombarding them with his grenades and calmly cutting down their defenders with rifle fire as they attempted to escape. When he had finished this job by sealing the 4 pillboxes with explosives, he had killed 20 Japanese and destroyed 3 machineguns. The advance was again held up by an intense grenade barrage, which inflicted several casualties. Locating the source of enemy fire in trenches on the reverse slope of the hill, 1st Lt. Terry, burdened by 6 satchel charges, launched a 1-man assault. He wrecked the enemy's defenses by throwing explosives into their positions and himself accounted for 10 of the 20 hostile troops killed when his men overran the area. Pressing forward again toward a nearby ridge, his 2 assault platoons were stopped by slashing machinegun and mortar fire. He fearlessly ran across 100 yards of fire-swept terrain to join the support platoon and urge it on in a flanking maneuver. Stubborn resistance, too, halted this thrust. 1st Lt. Terry began another 1-man drive, hurling grenades upon the strongly entrenched defenders until they fled in confusion, leaving 5 dead behind them. Inspired by this bold action, the support platoon charged the retreating enemy and annihilated them. Soon afterward, while organizing his company to repulse possible counterattack, the gallant company commander was mortally wounded by the burst of an enemy mortar shell. By his indomitable fighting spirit, brilliant leadership, and unwavering courage in the face of tremendous odds, 1st Lt. Terry made possible the accomplishment of his unit's mission and set an example of heroism in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.



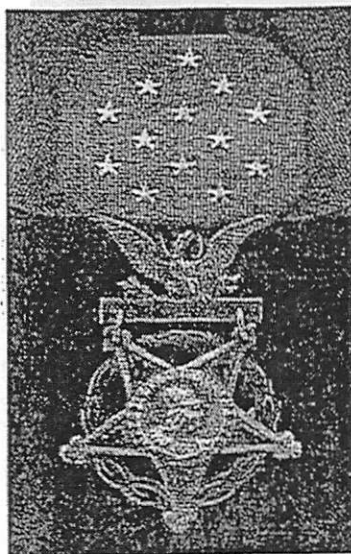


MEDAL OF HONOR  
WILLIAM H. THOMAS

Rank and Organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, 149th Infantry, 38th Infantry Division. Place and date: Zambales Mountains, Luzon, Philippine Island, 22 April 1945. Entered service at: Ypsilanti, Mich. Birth: Wynne, Ark. G.O. No.: 81, 24 September 1945.

Citation: He was a member of the leading squad of Company B, which was attacking along a narrow, wooded ride. The enemy strongly entrenched in camouflaged emplacements on the hill beyond directed heavy fire and hurled explosive charges on the attacking riflemen. PFC Thomas, an automatic rifleman, was struck by 1 of these charges, which blew off both his legs below the knees. He refused medical aid and evacuation, and continued to fire at the enemy until his weapon was put out of action by an enemy bullet. Still refusing aid, he threw his last 2 grenades. He destroyed 3 of the enemy after suffering the wounds from which he died later that day. The effective fire of PFC Thomas prevented the repulse of his platoon and assured the capture of the hostile position. His magnificent courage and heroic devotion to duty provided a lasting inspiration for his comrades.



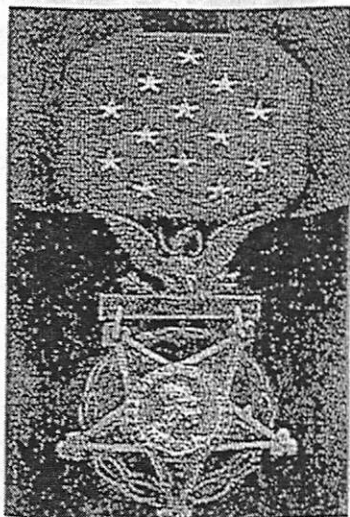


MEDAL OF HONOR

JOHN WARD

Rank and organization: Sergeant, Indian Scouts. Place and date: At Pecos  
River, Texas, 25 April 1875. Entered Service at:-----, Birth Arkansas.  
Date of issue: 28 May 1875.

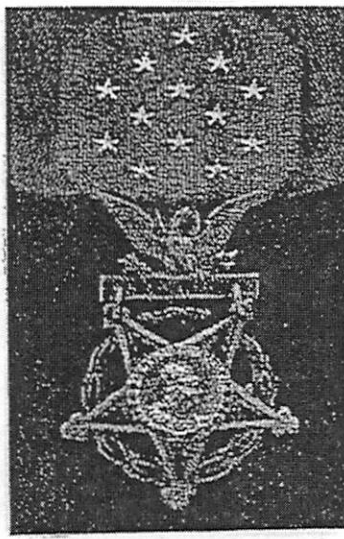
Citation: Gallantry in action with Indians.



TRAVIS E. WATKINS

Rank and organization: Master Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company H, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Yonsan, Korea, 31 August through 3 September 1950. Entered service at: Texas. Birth: Waldo, Ark. G.O. No.: 9, 16 February 1951.

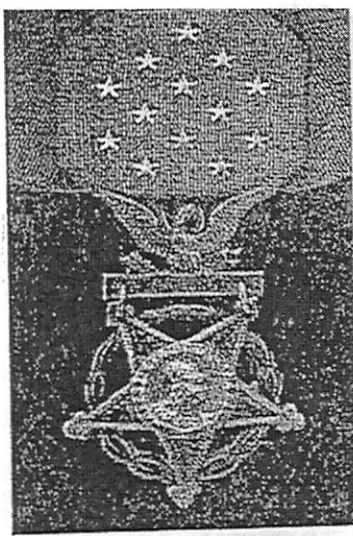
Citation: M/Sgt. Watkins distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When an overwhelming enemy force broke through and isolated 30 men of his unit, he took command, established a perimeter defense and directed action which repelled continuous, fanatical enemy assaults. With his group completely surrounded and cut off, he moved from foxhole to foxhole exposing himself to enemy fire, giving instructions and offering encouragement to his men. Later when the need for ammunition and grenades became critical he shot 2 enemy soldiers 50 yards outside the perimeter and went out alone for their ammunition and weapons. As he picked up their weapons he was attacked by 3 others and wounded. Returning their fire he killed all 3 and gathering up the weapons of the 5 enemy dead returned to his amazed comrades. During a later assault, 6 enemy soldiers gained a defiladed spot and began to throw grenades into the perimeter making it untenable. Realizing the desperate situation and disregarding his wound he rose from his foxhole to engage them with rifle fire. Although immediately hit by a burst from an enemy machinegun he continued to fire until he had killed the grenade throwers. With this treat eliminated he collapsed and despite being paralyzed from the waist down, encouraged his men to hold on. He refused all food, saving it for his comrades, and when it became apparent that help would not arrive in time to hold the position ordered his men to escape to friendly lines. Refusing evacuation as his hopeless condition would burden his comrades, he remained in his position and cheerfully wished them luck. Through his aggressive leadership and intrepid actions, this small force destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy before abandoning their position. M/Sgt. Watkins' sustained personal bravery and noble self-sacrifice reflect the highest glory upon himself and is in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
WILSON DOUGLAS WATSON

Rand and organization: Private, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 2d Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines, 3d Marine Division. Place and Date: Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 and 27 February 1945. Entered service at: Arkansas. Birth: 18 February 1921, Tuscumbia, Ala.

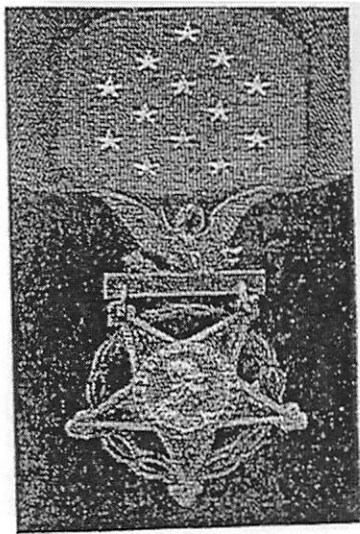
Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as automatic rifleman serving with the 2d Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines, 3d Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 and 27 February 1945. With his squad abruptly halted by intense fire from enemy fortifications in the high rocky ridges and crags commanding the line of advance, Pvt. Watson with his weapon, keeping the enemy pinned down single-handedly until he was in a position to hurl in a grenade, and then running to the rear of the emplacement to destroy the retreating Japanese and enable his platoon to take its objective. Again pinned down at the foot of a small hill, he dauntlessly scaled the jagged incline under fierce mortar and machinegun barrages and, with his assistant BAR man, charged the crest of the hill, firing from his hip. Fighting furiously against Japanese troops attacking with grenades and knee mortars from the reverse slope, he stood fearlessly erect in his exposed position to cover the hostile entrenchments and held the hill under savage fire for 15 minutes, killing 60 Japanese before his ammunition was exhausted and his platoon was able to join him. His courageous initiative and valiant fighting spirit against devastating odds were directly responsible for the continued advance of his platoon, and his inspiring leadership throughout this bitterly fought action reflects the highest credit upon Pvt. Watson and the U.S. Naval Service.



MEDAL OF HONOR  
HENRY W. WHEELER

Rank and organization: Private, Company A, 2nd Maine Infantry. Place and date: At Bull Run, Va., 21 July 1861. Entered service at: Bangor, Maine. Born: 1842, Fort Smith, Ark. Date of issue: 5 April 1898.

Citation: Voluntarily accomplished his commanding officer and assisted in removing the dead and wounded from the field under a heavy fire of artillery and musketry.



Medal of Honor  
Jack Williams

Rank and organization: Pharmacist's Mate Third Class, U.S., Naval Reserve.  
Born 18 October 1924 Harrison, Arkansas.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 3d Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, during the occupation of Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 3 March 1945. Gallantly going forward on the frontlines under intense enemy small-arms fire to assist a marine wounded in a fierce grenade battle. Williams dragged the man to a shallow depression and was kneeling, using his own body as a screen from the sustained fire as he administered first aid, when struck in the abdomen and groin 3 times by hostile fire. Momentarily stunned, he quickly recovered and completed his ministrations before applying battle dressings to his own multiple wounds. Unmindful of his own urgent need for medical attention, he remained in the same fire-swept area to care for another marine casualty. Heroically completing his task despite pain and profuse bleeding, he then endeavored to make his way to the rear in search of adequate aid for himself when struck down by Japanese sniper bullet which caused his collapse. Succumbing later as a result of his self-sacrificing service to others, Williams by his courageous determination, unwavering fortitude and valiant performance of duty, served as an inspiring example of heroism, in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

**"WE COME HERE TO FIGHT SIR!"**

**THE ARKANSAS REGIMENT  
OF MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS IN  
THE MEXICAN WAR**

**BY TRAVIS CUMMING**



Across the nation, people were preparing for battle. It was the spring of 1846 and the United States was at war with Mexico. For months, Brigadier General Zachary Taylor's army had been encamped in southern Texas, and the Mexican government, claiming that Taylor had violated its borders, was demanding the removal of the gringo troops. Years of poor relations had finally come to a head on April 24, when an American patrol led by Captain Seth B. Thornton was ambushed.<sup>1</sup> Eleven Americans were killed, and the incident provided President James K. Polk with an excuse for the United States to go to war.

On May 11, 1846, the United States Congress voted 174-14 that a state of war existed between Mexico and the United States.<sup>2</sup> The *Arkansas Gazette* reported on May 25 that "our country is now engaged in a war with Mexico which is acknowledged by the governments of both nations"<sup>3</sup> War fever swept across the nation, and Arkansas was no exception.

On May 15, 1846, Secretary of War W. L. Marcy sent a letter to Thomas Drew, the governor of Arkansas, asking him to form

---

<sup>1</sup> K. Jack Bauer, *The Mexican War: 1846-1848* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974), 48.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 68.

<sup>3</sup> *Arkansas State Gazette* (Little Rock, AR), 25 May 1846.

one regiment of mounted riflemen and one battalion of infantry.<sup>4</sup> The companies of the cavalry regiment were to meet at Washington, Arkansas, where they were to be mustered into the service of the United States. They would then move south to serve with General Taylor. The infantrymen were meant to replace the regular troops being pulled out of the frontier post at Fort Gibson.<sup>5</sup>

Throughout the state, many prominent men expressed an interest in serving with the cavalry regiment. Despite his Whig reservations against fighting in a Democrat's war, one of these men, Albert Pike, captain of the Little Rock Guards, initially volunteered his militiamen as infantry, then as flying artillery, and finally as mounted riflemen.<sup>6</sup>

Another of the well-known Arkansans to seek service in Mexico was former governor and present member of the House of Representatives, Archibald Yell. Upon learning that Arkansas was raising a regiment for service south of the border, Yell left Congress in May 1846, and enlisted in the regiment.<sup>7</sup> While it is clear that Yell intended to resign his seat in the House of

---

<sup>4</sup> Walter Lee Brown, "The Mexican War Experiences of Albert Pike and the 'Mounted Devils' of Arkansas," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 12 (Winter 1953): 302.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Walter Lee Brown, *A Life of Albert Pike* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1997), 229.

<sup>7</sup> Barbara Mulkey and Timothy Roberts, "The Arkansas Militia in the Mexican War," *Arkansas Military Journal* 4 (Winter, 1995):6.

Representatives, he did not do so right away, an omission which would cause many problems for Arkansas in the months to come as Congress refused to seat Yell's replacement until his letter of resignation arrived.

Other important recruits included Solon Borland, who would one day become a United States Senator, and John Roane, an important Democratic figure in Arkansas. Across the state, lesser known men flocked to the colors, and began making their way south to the rendezvous in Hempstead County.

While Arkansas sent its sons off to war, the state's prominent newspapers were gearing up for a war of their own. William Woodruff, the founder of the *Arkansas State Gazette*, and a vehement enemy of Archibald Yell, used his influence to picture the former governor in the worst possible light. When he started a new paper in the state, the *Arkansas Democrat*, Woodruff filled its pages with articles meant to embarrass Yell.

While it was clear to all who knew him that Yell did not intend to spend his time in the service as a private, Woodruff attacked him for his behavior, claiming that he was not acting in the appropriate manner for an enlisted man. On June 26, 1846,

Woodruff's paper reported that Yell was acting more like an officer than a private, and that he had been seen residing in officer's quarters and eating with the officers at meal time.<sup>8</sup>

Yell's actions are not surprising as he planned to run for the command of the regiment. Only one other man in the regiment posed a serious obstacle to Yell's victory in the election, Albert Pike.

Pike was one of the few men in the regiment who had a military background. He had been unanimously elected as the captain of a company. The day before Pike's company left Little Rock for the rendezvous, the ladies of the city presented him with a banner that contained a wreath with the words "Up Guards, and at 'Em" embroidered upon it.<sup>9</sup> Pike and his men left the state capital on June 20, 1846.

The trip to Washington seems to have gone well until several of his men left without leave to go and see their families. Pike wrote a scathing letter to the *Gazette*, which attacked two

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Brown, *Life*, 229

members of his company who did not return after their unauthorized absence.<sup>10</sup>

After all ten companies of the regiment had rendezvoused at Washington by July 7, Pike was nominated to oppose Yell in the upcoming election for command of the regiment.<sup>11</sup> He was a hard disciplinarian, however, and not like as well as the easy-going and friendly Yell. The men in Pike's company felt that he was a good officer, but the men in other companies did not care for his heavy hand in dealing with minor disciplinary problems.

Josiah Gregg, a well-known author spent some time with the Arkansas regiment. During this period, he kept a journal in which he gave his opinion of the regiment's officers. Yell, he said, "is a very clever pleasant, sociable fellow, but decidedly out of his element—in a sphere so different from the forte of political demagoguery and duties using tact...I fear he may not improve very rapidly, as I think his general talents not greatly to be boasted of."<sup>12</sup> In his description of Pike, he said: "Albert Pike...is the best drill officer of the corps—and stands decidedly 'number one' in point of talent and acquirements. But Pike is too stiff and

---

<sup>10</sup> *Gazette*, June 15, 1846.

<sup>11</sup> Brown, *Experiences*, 303.

<sup>12</sup> Maurice Garland Fulton, ed., *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Southwestern Enterprises, 1840-1847* (Norman Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941), 218

aristocratic in his manner to be popular so I doubt if he could be elected by a general vote to any office in the regiment."<sup>13</sup> Yell was elected by the men as their colonel, with John Roane as lieutenant colonel and Solon Borland as major.<sup>14</sup>

With the election over, the troops were mustered into the service of the United States on July 13 as the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers. The 800 Arkansans left Washington on July 18, and marched south to join the forces currently being organized by Brigadier General John Wool in San Antonio, Texas.<sup>15</sup>

The first leg of the journey took the Arkansans to Shreveport, Louisiana. In response to a request from Captain George W. Hughes, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, Josiah Gregg submitted a report of the march to San Antonio.<sup>16</sup> The Arkansas horsemen, Gregg reported, had to change their original route of march in order to reach supplies that had failed to meet them at the designated point on the Red River at Fulton, Arkansas. Because the supplies did not arrive on time, Yell and his men

---

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 219

<sup>14</sup> Hughes, 91.

<sup>15</sup> Brown, *Life*, 230.

<sup>16</sup> Fulton, *Southwestern*, 204



moved to Shreveport, hoping that they might find supplies there.<sup>17</sup> The regiment covered the 110 miles between Washington and Shreveport in six days.<sup>18</sup> After a brief rest, the troops moved out for San Antonio.

A march of eleven days brought the Arkansans to Robbin's Ferry on the Trinity River where they waited for supplies. The troopers refilled their haversacks, but their departure was delayed for several days by heavy rains. Finally on August 10, the men left their camp at Robbin's Ferry.<sup>19</sup> Gregg's report for August 10 noted that "the roads had become not only very muddy, but miry; so that, though the horsemen made near fifteen miles, most of the 'train' only came about ten-the wagons frequently bogging down...to the very axletrees"<sup>20</sup>

As the troops rode south, they frequently found themselves facing rain-swollen creeks, which they were forced to bridge in order to cross. Conditions along the way were not conducive to good health, and many men became sick after riding in a steady

---

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 206

<sup>18</sup> Hughes, 99

<sup>19</sup> Brown, *Life*, 230

<sup>20</sup> Fulton, *Southwestern*, 208.

rain. The arduous march ended on August 28, when Yell and his troops reached the rendezvous at San Antonio.<sup>21</sup>

The march from Washington to San Antonio provided Colonel Yell little time for training the regiment. When the men reached their destination, they were a poorly trained and ill-disciplined group. Only two of the company commanders, John Preston and Albert Pike, had drilled their men on the way to meet General Wool.<sup>22</sup>

Upon their arrival at the rendezvous point, the bone-weary Arkansans set about bedding down for a badly needed rest. Displaying his lack of military experience, Yell put the companies of the regiment in reverse order while laying out his camp.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, Yell made no attempt to provide sanitation in his camp, a dereliction of duty that further endangered the health of his men, many of whom were still sick from their march south from their home state.

When General Wool came to inspect the camp of the Arkansas volunteers, he was so disgusted that he ordered the

---

<sup>21</sup> Brown, *Life*, 230

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 231.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

regiment out of his camp.<sup>24</sup> After moving to their new campsite, the men found themselves in an area with no water. Albert Pike claimed the camp was "hotter than purgatory." Fit soldiers fell sick, ailing men grew worse, and Pike reported that "My company dwindled to sixteen men fit for duty."<sup>25</sup>

Wool was a stern regular army officer, and was little liked by the volunteers under his command. A citizen soldier from Illinois wrote that he believed the Arkansans would shoot Wool if they were given the chance.<sup>26</sup> Relations between Wool and his "mounted devils" as he called the Arkansans, were made worse by Yell's refusal to train his men. Lacking military discipline, the Arkansans frequently forgot to accord Wool the respect due a general officer. Codifying the feelings of the volunteers under Wool's command, Josiah Gregg wrote that Wool frequently acted in a manner, which was "Old womanish".<sup>27</sup>

On September 26, Wool's march to join General Zachary Taylor in Mexico began. The Arkansas regiment of Mounted Volunteers was split, with one half under Major Borland bringing

---

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 231.

<sup>27</sup> Brown, *Life*, 232

up the rear of the column with the supplies.<sup>28</sup> Along the march, Wool enforced strict discipline. Only Pike's and Preston's companies were well drilled by this point, and when the column crossed into Mexico on October 12, Wool formed the two companies into a squadron commanded by Pike. This squadron was sent ahead of the column with the topographical engineers.<sup>29</sup>

Throughout the march, Wool had had problems with his men, and when he entered enemy territory, some of the troops began to abuse the civilian population. Rape, looting, and sometimes murder occurred with far too much frequency. Those primarily responsible for the depredations were the volunteer troops, but some of the regulars got involved as well. Wool issued strict orders that the civilian population was not to be harmed, but his orders were often not enforced by officers who made a handsome profit in stolen goods.

The situation was made worse when the column received word that an armistice had been signed after General Taylor captured the town of Monterey. Many of the troops felt that they

---

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

had lost their chance for glory, and they took their frustrations out on civilians who were unlucky enough to be in their path.<sup>30</sup>

Because of the terms of the armistice, Wool's column was forced to stop on October 29 at the Mexican town of Monclova. The troops spent nearly four weeks in camp outside of this city of 8000 inhabitants.<sup>31</sup>

Among Wool's men was a young private of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Dragoons, named Samuel Chamberlain. Like many regulars, Chamberlain disliked the volunteer troops, and the Arkansans in particular. "Our little army was rather weakened than strengthened by the two regiments of volunteer cavalry, Colonel Yell's Arkansas and Colonel Humphrey Marshall's Kentucky," he wrote." The material that these regiments were composed of was excellent—none could be better—for the men possessed fine physiques, and strength combined with activity, but they had no discipline, or confidence in their officers....This independence of character and self-confidence was fatal to their efficiency as soldiers."<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>30</sup> Robert Selph Henry, *The Story of the Mexican War* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1950), 182

<sup>31</sup> Hughes, 102.

<sup>32</sup> Chamberlain, 91.

The views expressed by Chamberlain are typical of those harbored by other regular troops. As a general rule, regulars saw the volunteers as hard drinking, undisciplined ragamuffins who could not fight. General William Worth said of his volunteers: "Thirty-three percent are sick and the remaining sixty-six are not worth a straw."<sup>33</sup> Chamberlain told of many nights in which the Arkansans would get drunk on "Whiskey punch" and play poker, carrying on into the early morning hours.<sup>34</sup>

The condition of the Arkansas regiment's mounts and weaponry was also a sore subject with the regulars. When Major Borland was reprimanded by the inspector general of Wool's army for the condition of his command, he replied, "We come here to fight sir!"<sup>35</sup>

Though Chamberlain claims to have been put-off by the drunken exploits of the volunteers, his own diary is full of stories about drunken brawls and court-martials. His criticisms of the Arkansans must be taken in the context in which they were written. Chamberlain shared the prejudice against volunteers that prevailed in regular units.

When Wool's column moved out of Monclova on November 24<sup>th</sup>, Yell's regiment was, as always, treated poorly. In camp each night, Wool placed the devils in the worst possible position.

---

<sup>33</sup> Hughes, 102.

<sup>34</sup> Chamberlain, 91.



Gregg wrote that it had become a saying in the army that to find the camp of the Arkansans, "it was only necessary to look which way the stream upon which we were located run, and go to the extreme lower end."<sup>36</sup> On many occasion, Gregg wrote, Yell's cavalrymen were placed in an area with no grass, "while infantry and others, who do not need pasture, have grassy sites: thus our horses are left to feed on corn alone."<sup>37</sup>

On one occasion, the senior officers in the regiment revolted against Wool's camp plans. After being told to camp in a poor site as usual, Yell:

Resolved to resist the location; and camped the regiment in another place, "upon his own hook." Gen Wool ordered it to be moved to the place allotted – the Col. Refused—and the Gen. Ordered his arrest. Lieut. Col. Roane was then ordered to move the camp, and refusing was also arrested. The command then devolved on Maj. Borland, though without any order to move camp. The gallant Major, however, resolved not to accept the command, as he heartily agreed

---

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 90.

<sup>36</sup> Fulton, Southwestern, 294.

with his arrested predecessors. He wrote a letter to Gen. W. to this effect, during which an "'orderly'" brought him an order from the general, to assume command and act as "'field officer of the day.'" The Major, considering it disrespectful to send an order by a non-commissioned officer, arrested the gen's orderly, and sent him back under guard!—sending by the adjutant at the same time, his refusal to obey. Borland was also arrested, of course, as in truth he was determined to be if possible.<sup>38</sup>

Command of the regiment then fell to the senior captain, Porter, who moved the camp. Five days later, all the officers were released, and none of them were ever charged.<sup>39</sup> After this incident, relations between General Wool and Colonel Yell continued to deteriorate.

When Wool's Column reached its destination of Parras on December 5, Pike's squadron was reunited with the regiment. It remained with the rest of the Arkansans until December 17, when Wool sent the squadron to Brigadier General William Worth in

---

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 292.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 294.

response to a reported Mexican troop movement near the town of Saltillo.<sup>40</sup> Shortly thereafter, it was again reunited with its regiment, where it remained until January 1847.

Before Pike was sent off again, Solon Borland was captured by the Mexicans. In response to an increasing number of reports concerning advancing Mexicans, Wool sent a scouting party of fifty men under Major Solon Borland to search for the enemy on January 18.<sup>41</sup> Borland was ordered to patrol as far as La Encarnacion, fifty-five miles south of Saltillo, and return with a report of what he found. Upon reaching his designated scouting area, Borland made the mistake of ignoring his orders, and staying where he was. He sent back a request for reinforcements, which was denied. A detachment of Kentucky cavalrymen then stumbled onto Boland's position, and joined forces with the Arkansans.<sup>42</sup> On January 22, after reaching the conclusion that there were no Mexican troops in the area, Borland bedded down for the night near Encarnacion. Confident that there was no threat, he failed to post pickets. The next morning, the seventy-one officers and men awoke to find themselves

---

<sup>39</sup> Hughes, 106

<sup>40</sup> Brown, *Life*, 232.

<sup>41</sup> Bauer, 207.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

surrounded by approximately five hundred Mexican lancer. They surrendered without a fight.<sup>43</sup>

Yell led a group of men in an attempt to find and rescue Borland and the prisoners, but was unsuccessful. Other American units in the area were captured, which convinced Wood that the enemy was advancing on his position.

On January 31, Wool ordered Albert Pike's squadron to report to him at Saltillo, where he now had his headquarters. Wool sent Pike and his troops to hold a pass at Las Palomas on February 8.<sup>44</sup>

By this time, Pike had molded his squadron into a crack cavalry unit. He wrote that his men "have all hardened into good soldiers."<sup>45</sup>

As Pike left with his squadron, the rest of the Arkansas volunteers made a horrid discovery. In the first week of February, the Arkansans discovered the body of one of their comrades, Samuel Colquitt. He had been attacked by some Mexican civilians, who had dragged him behind a horse, and tied him to a tree by the neck, where he strangled to death.<sup>46</sup> The Arkansans sought immediate retribution.

---

<sup>43</sup> Ibid..

<sup>44</sup> Brown, *Life*, 233.

<sup>45</sup> Hughes, 102.

<sup>46</sup> Maurice Garland Fulton, ed., *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Excursions in Mexico and California, 1847-1850*, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1944, ), 36.

In what has become one of the most shameful incidents in Arkansas history, several members of the regiment went to the ranch where the attackers were supposed to have been from. At this point, it becomes unclear what happened. Some sources say that the Arkansans killed at least twelve civilians at the ranch.<sup>47</sup> Samuel Chamberlain, who belonged to the detail sent to stop the vigilantes, wrote that the Arkansans took their prisoners, men and women alike, into a cave, where they killed many of the men, raped the women, and scalped some of their fallen victims: "We found a 'greaser' shot and scalped, but still breathing...soon shouts and cries of women and children reached our ears."<sup>48</sup> Nothing was ever done to punish those responsible for the outrage, primarily because no one was willing to name the criminals. A military commission under Brigadier General Joseph Lane was appointed for the purpose of investigating the incident. The commission reported that four Mexican men had been killed and that the soldiers involved had been from Companies B and G of the regiment, but it was unsuccessful in determining names.<sup>49</sup> Taylor later ordered the two companies to the Rio Grande as punishment.

Already tense relations between the Mexicans and the Americans were worsened by the massacre. American abuses

---

<sup>47</sup> Chamberlain, 87.

<sup>48</sup> Chamberlain, 87.

were having an understandably negative effect on the civilians of Mexico. Captain Franklin Smith of Jefferson Davis' regiment of riflemen wrote in his diary that a regular officer told him: "All the glory which the Americans first gained among these people after the great battles of last spring is passing away. The acts of violence the robberies and the murders committed by some of the volunteers are fast destroying all the good name which the Americans had gained."<sup>50</sup>

The Mexicans who had captured Major Borland's command turned out to be part of an army under the command of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Santa Anna's army had marched across miles of wastelands in an attempt to take the Americans by surprise.

Taylor ordered his forces to gather at Agua Nueva, south of Saltillo.<sup>51</sup> Taylor had reports that Santa Anna was advancing, but he did not know how far away the Mexican horde was.

On February 16, a patrol fought a brief skirmish with Mexican cavalry which proved to be the advance force of the oncoming army.<sup>52</sup> It is unclear how large Santa Anna's army was by this point. Along his march, he had lost thousands of troops to fatigue

---

<sup>49</sup> Bauer, 208

<sup>50</sup> Joseph E. Chance, ed., *The Mexican War Journal of Captain Franklin Smith*, (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1991.), 189

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Hushes, 117.



and death. Strength estimates for the size of the Mexican army at this point range from 15,000 to 25,000 effective troops.

On February 20, after receiving reports from his scouts that the main body of the Mexican army was approaching, Taylor ordered his forces to fall back to the ranch at Buena Vista. One of the scouting parties had included Lieutenant Colonel Roane and a hundred troopers of the Arkansas regiment.<sup>53</sup> After arriving at the new position, general Wool ordered the Arkansas troops to accompany an empty wagon train back to the abandoned position at Agua Nueva, in order to get all the supplies which had been left behind. Yell was told that if his force was attacked he was to destroy all the supplies that he could not carry and fall back on the main American position.<sup>54</sup>

Yell and his troops were guarding the supply wagons when a division of Mexican light infantry arrived. In compliance with their orders, the Arkansans burned all the supplies and began an orderly though hasty retreat.<sup>55</sup> When Santa Anna saw the fleeing Arkansans, he mistook them for the entire American army, and instead of giving his exhausted men a much needed rest, ordered them to pursue the Americans.<sup>56</sup>

---

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 118.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., 118

<sup>55</sup> Nathan Covington Brooks, *A Complete History of the Mexican War: 1846-1848* ( Philadelphia: Grigg, Elliot, & Co., 1849,) , 206.

<sup>56</sup> Hughes, 119.

The Arkansas regiment was reunited with the rest of the army before dawn on February 22. The Mexican army was quickly closing on the American position. General Wool ordered Yell's troops to the left of the American lines.<sup>57</sup> The Americans were drawn up in a strong defensive position, and when Santa Anna's forces came upon them, they were surprised to see not a fleeing enemy, but a strongly entrenched one. At this point, Santa Anna reconsidered his options, and sent a letter to General Taylor demanding his surrender. Taylor replied, "Tell Santa Anna to go to hell."<sup>58</sup>

For hours, the Mexicans did nothing. Finally, around 2:00 P.M. on February 22, Mexican light infantry probed towards the left end of the American's lines. To meet this attack, General Wool ordered Colonel Humphrey Marshall and three companies of the Kentucky cavalry, four companies of Indiana volunteer infantry, and Lieutenant Colonel Roane with four companies of dismounted Arkansans to move into the mountains.<sup>59</sup> Marshall was placed in command. Around 3:30, Marshall's men began to skirmish with the Mexican light infantry. Throughout the rest of the afternoon, Marshall and his troops, including the Arkansans, skirmished with the Mexicans. The Mexicans tried repeatedly to

---

<sup>57</sup> Winston George Smith and Charles Judah, eds., *Chronicle of the Gringos: The U.S. Army in the Mexican War, 1846-1848. Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Combatants* (Albuquerque, New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press, 1968.), 100.

<sup>58</sup> Hughes, 123.

move around Marshall's flank, but were stopped every time, as Marshall spread his men out to counter each new threat.<sup>60</sup> As darkness fell, neither side had gained a particular advantage.

Taylor realized that he was badly outnumbered. He knew that there were still some troops at Saltillo, and he went there during the night of the twenty-second to check their defenses, and to bring some of them to the main battle being fought. Among the troops at Saltillo was the squadron of Arkansans under Albert Pike.

Pike had left his position at Las Palomas on February 20, when he returned to Saltillo.<sup>61</sup> On the morning of the twenty-third, Taylor brought Pike and his squadron and Jefferson Davis' regiment of Mississippi riflemen back to Buena Vista with him.<sup>62</sup>

When Taylor returned to the battlefield on the morning of February 23, he found that the Mexicans were threatening the left flank of the American Army. Taylor ordered Pike to reinforce the rest of the Arkansans on the left of the American lines, where they were being hard pressed. The four companies under Roane were slowly falling back, and the American flank was being turned.<sup>63</sup>

As the left flank was being hard pressed, some units began to waver. Among these was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, which broke and ran in

---

<sup>59</sup> Bauer, 211.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Brown, *Life*, 235.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

the face of a much larger enemy force.<sup>64</sup> Unintimidated by the oncoming hordes, Captain Braxton Bragg, the future Confederate general, moved his artillery battery against the Mexicans. Unlimbering atop a plateau, he was able to pour a devastating fire down on the advancing enemy, slowing their attack.<sup>65</sup> The Mexicans rallied and continued their advance, however, slipping past Taylor's disintegrating left to threaten the American rear. With Mexican cavalry bearing down on Taylor's supply train, the American general ordered DH Rucker's command of regular dragoons to reinforce the Kentucky and Arkansas volunteer cavalry still holding out on his left flank.<sup>66</sup> When the dragoons arrived at the position, they encountered a curious sight. With Mexican lancers charging them, Colonel Marshall of the Kentucky volunteer regiment and Colonel Yell were arguing over who had seniority.<sup>67</sup> The unfortunate volunteer troops were given conflicting orders by the two colonels, and many of the men did not know who they were supposed to heed. Marshall ordered the men to open fire on the enemy, and Yell ordered them to hold their fire and charge. In the confusion, the Arkansas troops broke and fled. They had been given no clear orders, and they were

---

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> William Seaton Henry, *Campaign Sketches of the War With Mexico* (New York: Arno Press, 1973,),314.

<sup>65</sup> Lester Dillon, *American Artillery in the Mexican War. 1846-1847*(Austin, Texas: Presidial Press, 1975.),33.

<sup>66</sup> Bauer, 215.

<sup>67</sup> Chamberlain, 126.

under attack. Archibald Yell, however, had not looked back to see if his command to charge was being obeyed. Assuming that it was, he rode toward the Mexicans, and was killed by a lance thrust through his chest and another one through his mouth.<sup>68</sup>

Perceiving the dire situation on the left, Taylor had ordered Pike's squadron to reinforce Yell, but Pike could not arrive in time to either stop the flight of the Arkansans or to save Yell's life. Pike's squadron and Lieutenant Colonel Charles May's 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons were, however, able to keep the right flank of the enemy force from extending any farther.<sup>69</sup>

The Mexicans were bedeviled at this point by several artillery pieces, dragoons, and a devastating fire from Jefferson Davis' regiment of Mississippi Rifles.<sup>70</sup> The battered Mexicans lost the heart to continue the fight and fell back. That night, they withdrew from the field.<sup>71</sup>

Buena Vista had been a great victory for the Americans. Severely outnumbered, they had been able to hold out against repeated Mexican attacks, and had repulsed the enemy with heavy losses. In all, 272 Americans were killed and 387 were wounded. The Mexicans lost 591 killed and 1048 wounded.<sup>72</sup>

---

<sup>68</sup> Fulton, *Excursions*, 48.

<sup>69</sup> Henry, William, 319.

<sup>70</sup> Joseph E. Chance, *Jefferson Davis's Mexican War Regiment* (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1991.), 102.

<sup>71</sup> Bauer, 217.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

The Arkansans, now under Roan's command, returned with the rest of Taylor's army to Saltillo. Within the ranks of the Arkansans, there were problems. Many of the troops were upset with Pike and the members of his squadron. The troops felt that Pike and his men had been singled out for special treatment by generals Wool and Taylor. Because of this, the two groups were kept separated while the army recuperated.<sup>73</sup>

After Buena Vista, the war in northern Mexico came to an end. American hopes for a final victory were now pinned on Winfield Scott's invasion of Vera Cruz and his march on Mexico City. American troops in northern Mexico were relegated to holding the ground that they had already gained. Pike and his squadron, however, were not left holding ground for long, and on April 8, he and his men were sent to open communications with Colonel Alexander Doniphan's Missouri troops in Chihuahua.<sup>74</sup> Pike and his Arkansans successfully led Doniphan's regiment across 500 miles of hostile territory to Taylor's command at Saltillo.

When Pike returned to the regiment, he was ridiculed by the officers and men who had fought under Yell at Buena Vista. Much to the dismay of his comrades, Pike had written an account of the battle and sent it home to be published in the *Arkansas Gazette*. Pike was very critical of the manner in which Yell had

---

<sup>73</sup> Brown, *Life*, 237.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.



commanded the regiment, and many of the surviving enlisted men felt that Pike had impugned their conduct. In fact, Pike did not blame the troops at all. He blamed yell and the other officers of the regiment for not training the troops properly. In his letter, Pike had said that if the troops had "possessed that mobility and facility of changing front, which only discipline could give, they could not have been routed as they were."<sup>75</sup>

In response to the resulting criticism, Pike asked General Wool to appoint a court of inquiry. Wool's court found that the problem was a simple misunderstanding.<sup>76</sup>

The Arkansas Troops were marched to Monterey, where they were discharged from service on June 7, 1847. Their enlistments were up, and they were going home.<sup>77</sup>

The Arkansas Mounted Volunteers have long been a source of some controversy. Many tales about the unit still abound today. Conflicting reports made by eyewitnesses to the incident in the cave and the Battle of Buena Vista have served to confuse the truth about what happened. The accounts which are critical of the Arkansans were usually written by enlisted men from other regiments who kept diaries. The more positive accounts were written by officers who might have had political reasons to be kind in official reports. Unfortunately, there are no known diaries

---

<sup>75</sup> Albert Pike, "Buena Vista Letter", March 8, 1847, in *Arkansas State Gazette*, April 24, 1847.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

written by Arkansans who fought at Buena Vista, with the exception of Albert Pike.

When the regiment arrived home it was greeted by cheering crowds, but Albert Pike learned that Lieutenant Colonel Roane had been writing critical letters about him in the newspapers. When he heard about this, he challenged Roane to a duel.<sup>78</sup>

The two men met in the Indian Territory on July 29, 1847, and each fired two shots. Neither man hit the other, which is odd when it is considered that they were both experts with pistols. They agreed never again to speak of the matter, and each man went his separate way.<sup>79</sup>

The Arkansas Mounted Volunteers did not serve with distinction in the war with Mexico. The troops had the potential to fight well when they were well led, which is shown by how Albert Pike's squadron performed throughout its time in service. The enlisted men were brave individuals who answered when their country called, and had the rest of the regiment been and led in the same manner as Pike's squadron, history might look more favorably upon the "Mounted Devils of Arkansas".

---

<sup>77</sup> Brown, *Life*, 239.

<sup>78</sup> Brown, *Life*, 239.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Primary Sources

- Albert Pike Papers. Special Collections, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Arkansas Gazette*. May, 1846-March, 1847.
- Arkansas-Mexican War Index to Servicemen, A-Z*. Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Brooks, Nathan Covington. *A Complete History of the Mexican War: 1846-1848*. Philadelphia: Grigg, Elliot & CO., 1849.
- Chester Ashley Papers. Special Collections, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Chamberlain, Samuel Emery. *My Confession*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1956.
- Chance, Joseph E., ed. *The Mexican War Journal of Captain Franklin Smith*. Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1991.
- Congressional Globe*. 1846.
- Fulton, Maurice Garland, ed. *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Southwestern Enterprises, 1840-1847*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941.
- Fulton, Maurice Garland, ed. *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Excursions in Mexico and California, 1847-1850*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1944.
- Henry, William Seaton. *Campaign Sketches of the War With Mexico*. New York: Arno Press, 1973.
- Smith, Winston George and Judah, Charles, eds. *Chronicles of the Gringos: The U.S. Army in the Mexican War, 1846-1848. Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Combatants*. Albuquerque, New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press, 1968.

### Secondary Sources:

"Arkansas Militia: 1836-1860." *Arkansas Military Journal* Vol. 3 (Spring, 1995)

Bauer, K. Jack. *The Mexican War: 1846-1848*, Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1974.

Brown, Walter Lee. *A Life of Albert Pike*, Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1997.

Brown, Walter Lee. "The Mexican War Experiences of Albert Pike and the 'Mounted devils' of Arkansas." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. XII (Winter, 1953): 301-315.

Chance, Joseph E. *Jefferson Davis's Mexican War Regiment*. Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1991.

DeVoto, Bernard. *The Year of Decision: 1846*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1943

Dillon, Lester R. *American Artillery in the Mexican War: 1846-1847*. Austin, Texas: Presidial Press, 1975.

Henry, Robert Selph. *The Story of the Mexican War*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1950.

Hughes, William W. *Archibald Yell*. Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 1988.

Martin, Amelia. "Mexican War Fort Smith and Van Buren Units of Arkansas Regiment, Mounted Volunteers." *Fort Smith historical Society Journal*, Vol XVII (April, 1993): 2-10.

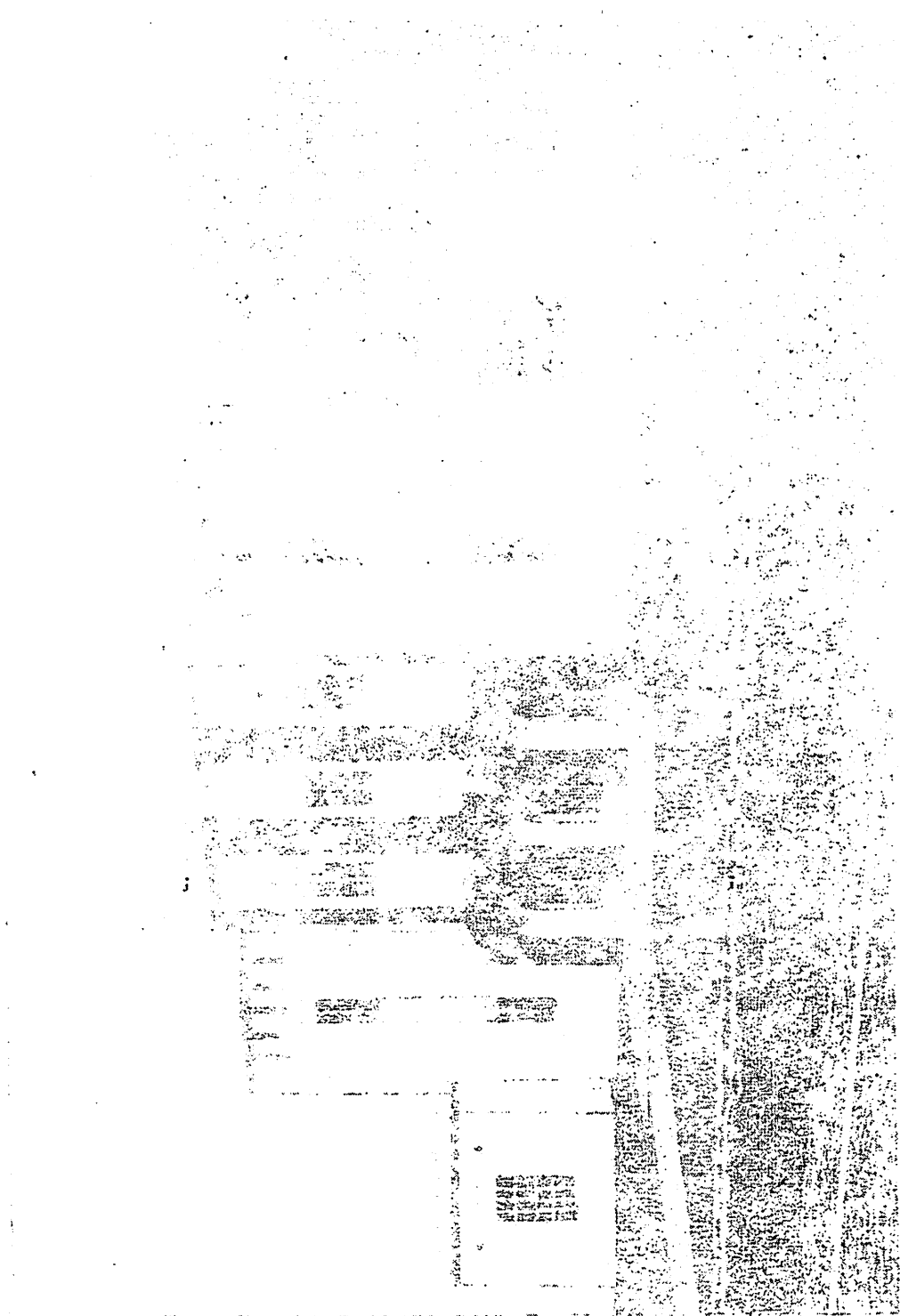
Mulkey, Barbara. "The Arkansas Militia in the Mexican War: 1846-47." *Arkansas Military Journal*, Vol 4 (Winter, 1995).

Ruiz, Ramon Eduardo, ed. *The Mexican War: Was it Manifest Destiny?* New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963.

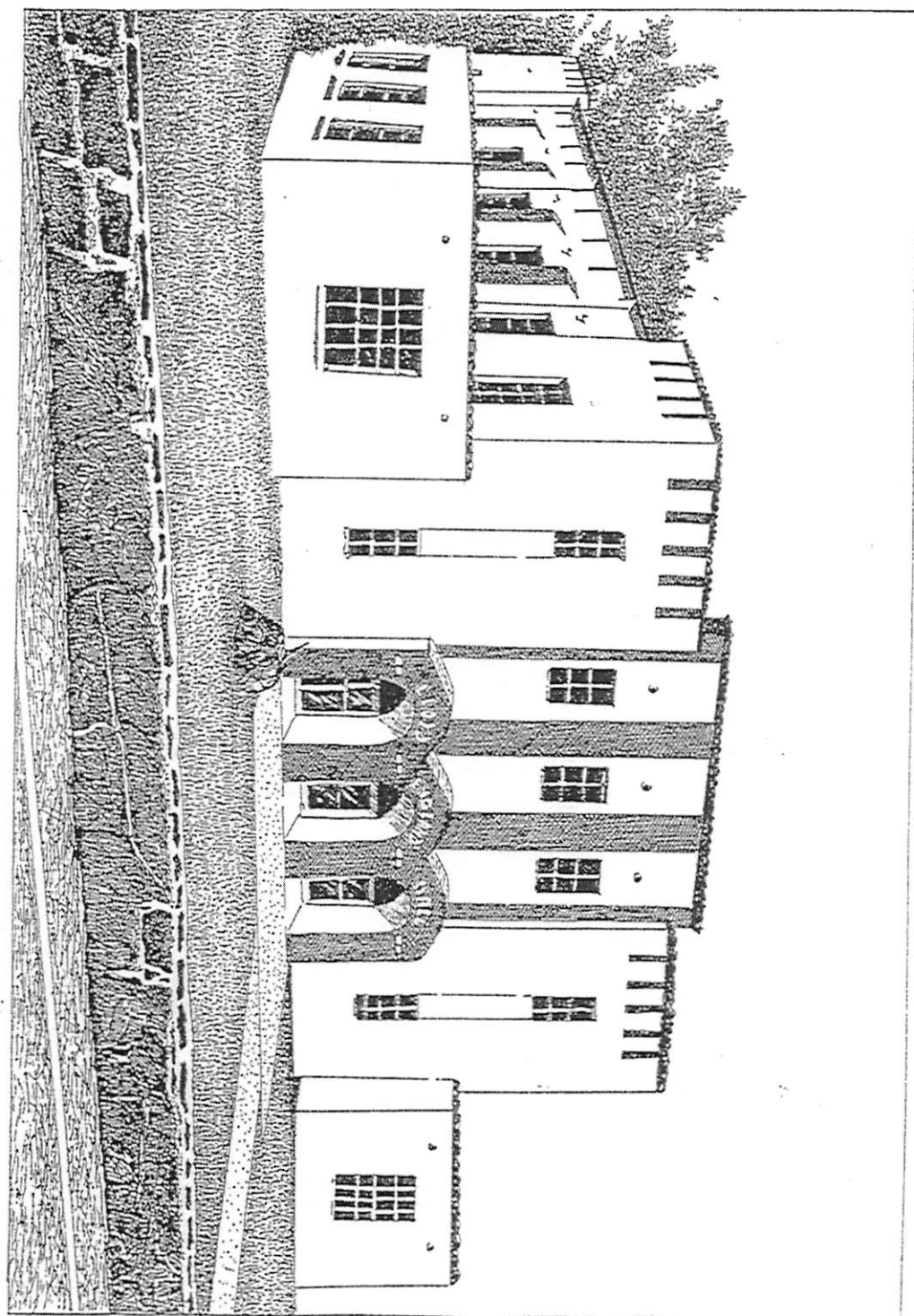
Ryan, Major James A. "Brigadier General Albert Pike Mexican War/Civil War." *Arkansas Military Journal* Vol. 2 (Winter, 1993): 2.

Ryan, Major James A. "Colonel Archibald Yell Mexican War." *Arkansas Military Journal* Vol. 2 (Winter, 1993): 1.

Smith, Robert Benjamin. "Two Bloody Days at Buena Vista." *Military History*, February, 1997.







# **INFANTRY BASIC TRAINING AT CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS DURING WORLD WAR TWO**

## **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE WHO ATTENDED INFANTRY REPLACEMENT/BASIC TRAINING AT CJTR**

Please answer the following questions. This information will be held in the archives of the Arkansas National Guard Museum at Lloyd England Hall at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. This information will assist those who desire to know more about Camp Robinson and its part in training soldiers for service in WWII. We want to know your thoughts and emotions about every aspect of your life during these critical times in our nation's history. We want to understand exactly what all of these experiences meant to you then and now. So please feel free to go into as much detail as you desire with these questions.

1. What is your name?
2. When were you born and where?
3. Where did you grow up before being in the service?
4. When did you enlist or when were you drafted?
5. Were you married or single at the time? Describe how your family felt about your entry into military service.
6. Where were you employed?
7. Why did you enlist or, if you were drafted how did you feel about that incident in your life?
8. When did you arrive at Camp Robinson and how did you get there?
9. Describe this trip.
10. Describe your first impressions, thoughts or memories upon arriving at Camp Robinson.
11. What training unit were you placed in?
12. Describe any officers or NCO's you remember.

13. Who were some of your friends, describe them and what happened to them after leaving Camp Robinson.
14. What were your facilities (barracks, chow hall etc) like? Describe them.
15. Describe your first training as a soldier.
16. Over the time you were at Camp Robinson give an overview of the training you received, what you thought about it, and how it helped or did not help you when deployed.
17. Describe the primary job for which you were trained, any higher ranks you achieved at Camp Robinson or later, and what it was like actually doing that job overseas.
18. Describe any other memories you might have of Camp Robinson or the local area. (what you did for entertainment or fun, did you meet any of the locals, etc.)
19. When did you leave Camp Robinson for your unit?
20. What unit were you assigned to and describe your feelings upon leaving Camp Robinson.
21. Where in the war were you sent and describe your experiences while in active service/combat.
22. When did you get out of the military?
23. Have you been back to Camp Robinson since the war? If so describe what you saw or your feelings and thoughts upon returning.
24. Describe or tell of any other thoughts or comments you would like to add to this questionnaire to provide insight to those who wish to know more about WWII, training at Camp Robinson or combat in general?

# **ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to email your questionnaire answers/story to the following email address as we would like to publish some of these in our Arkansas National Guard Journals. The Email address is:

**higginbothaml@ar-arng.ngb.army.mil**

Or mail to the following address: The Arkansas National Guard  
ATTN: CS-HS  
Camp Robinson  
N. Little Rock, AR 72199-9600

A museum representative can be reached Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 501-212-5025 or 501-212-5222 the first weekend of each month.

We welcome you to stop in at the Arkansas National Guard Museum, Lloyd England Hall. The Museum Director is COL (Ret) Steve Rucker, who can be reached at 501-212-5215.



## **Arkansas National Guard Members of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 206<sup>th</sup> Coastal Artillery and 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery War Service Questionnaire**

Please answer the following questions. This information will be held in the archives of the Arkansas National Guard Museum at Lloyd England Hall at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. This information will assist those who desire to know more about Arkansas National Guard units that have been activated for service during WWII and Korea. We want to know your thoughts and emotions about every aspect of your life during these critical times in our nation's history. We want to understand exactly what all of these experiences meant to you, then and now. Please feel free to go into as much detail as you desire with these questions. If we do not preserve your history directly as you experienced it, it loses some of its impact, in that it is not coming directly from the ones who experienced it, so please help us to preserve YOUR history.

1. What is your name?
2. Where were you born? When? Who were your parents? Where did you grow up?
3. Where did you attend school, including any college?
4. When did you enlist in the Arkansas National Guard?
5. What unit did you enlist in? Where was it located?
6. What type of unit was it?
7. What was your job(s) in the unit?
8. Who were your officers? NCO's?
9. Name as many of your squad members or friend from your unit.
10. Describe the individuals you remember the most, especially any close friends.
11. When were you activated for Federal service?
12. Describe your feelings upon being activated.
13. Where did you go when activated? Include maneuvers, and training sites.
14. Describe these places and what you did there.
15. Describe where your unit was sent, when you arrived, activities there.

1. Describe the place and what you did there.

2. Describe the people you met and what they did.

3. Describe the things you saw and what they were.

4. Describe the feelings you had and what they were.

5. Describe the things you did and what they were.

6. Describe the people you met and what they did.

7. Describe the things you saw and what they were.

8. Describe the feelings you had and what they were.

9. Describe the things you did and what they were.

10. Describe the people you met and what they did.

11. Describe the things you saw and what they were.

12. Describe the feelings you had and what they were.

13. Describe the things you did and what they were.

14. Describe the people you met and what they did.

15. Describe the things you saw and what they were.

16. Describe the feelings you had and what they were.

17. Describe the things you did and what they were.

18. Describe the people you met and what they did.

19. Describe the things you saw and what they were.

20. Describe the feelings you had and what they were.



16. What were your thoughts about your being sent to this location(s)?
17. Did you take part in combat? Describe this part of military life.
18. What campaigns/actions did you participate in?
19. When did you complete this period of service?
20. Where did you go after this period of service? (Another Theater, muster out etc)
21. How did you feel when your active duty service ended? Or the war ended?
22. Did you remain in the Arkansas National Guard upon completing Federal duty?
23. Describe what it was like in your unit after the war.
24. How were the National Guard troops treated by the regular army troops in your opinion?
25. Describe how you feel about your time in the Arkansas National Guard?
26. Describe or tell of any other thoughts or comments you would like to add to this questionnaire, to provide insight to those who wish to know more about your Federal service and state service while a member of the Arkansas National Guard. Feel free to relate any humorous recollections as well as those that touched or affected your life the most.

# **ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please feel free to email your questionnaire answers/story to the following email address as we would like to publish some of these in our Arkansas National Guard Journals. The Email address is:**

**`higginbothaml@ar-arng.ngb.army.mil`**

**Or mail to the following address: The Arkansas National Guard  
ATTN: CS-HS  
Camp Robinson  
N. Little Rock, AR 72199-9600**

**A museum representative can be reached Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 501-212-5025 or 501-212-5222 the first weekend of each month.**

**We welcome you to stop in at the Arkansas National Guard Museum, Lloyd England Hall. The Museum Director is COL (Ret) Steve Rucker, who can be reached at 501-212-5215.**

