

Jerome Frederick Thompson

Born 24 NOV 1895 in Farmington, Washington County, Arkansas.

Enlisted 8 MAY 1914, Company B, 2nd Arkansas Infantry, Fayetteville.

Ordered to federal service 9 JUL 1916 for service on the Mexican Border. Discharged 9 MAR 1917, listed as Supply Sergeant.

Ordered to federal service 5 AUG 1917 with the 2nd Arkansas, later redesignated 142th Field Artillery Regiment, a part of the 39th Division. He was discharged 24 JUN 1918 to accept a commission and was assigned to the 64th Field Artillery Brigade (the parent unit of the 142nd and the "DivArty" for the 39th Division).

Served in France with 64th FAB from AUG 1918 to AUG 1919, but did not see combat.

Served in Battery A, 206th CA (AA) in Fayetteville when that unit was established after WWI and later as a Captain and commander of Battery E (Machine Gun), 206th Coast Artillery also in Fayetteville.

In 1934 he was a CPT and commander of Battery B, 1st Bn, 142nd FA Regt.

In 1936 he was a MAJ and commander of 1st Bn, 142nd FA Regt.

In 1938 he was a MAJ and commander of 3rd Bn, 142 FA Regt.

On 5 JAN 1941 he was promoted to Colonel and assumed command of the 142nd FA Regt, vice COL Compere who became Adjutant General.

Ordered to federal service 6 JAN 1941 and would command the 142nd FA Regt and the 142nd FA Group until 25 JUN 1945. His command participated in the following campaigns: Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Northern France and Central Europe. He established the first US Field Artillery Group CP on German soil on 18 SEP 1944.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit (excerpt from citation below), Bronze Star, Purple Heart and French Croix du Guerre avec Palm.

In 1946, Thompson returned to the United States and became assistant manager of the Veteran's Administration Regional Office at Little Rock. He served there until his retirement in 1960. He was also president of the Retired Officers' Association.

He died on May 6, 1980 and was buried in Roselawn Memorial Cemetery in Little Rock.

EXCERPT FOR LOM CITATION FOR COL THOMPSON

“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as commanding officer, 142nd Field Artillery Group, from November 5, 1943 to September 15, 1944, Colonel Thompson expertly prepared and trained his organization for operations on the European continent. In campaigns from the Cotentin Peninsula to the Siegfried Line, he ably directed his organization and coordinated the activities of his staff in delivering accurate and effective fire upon innumerable enemy targets. Throughout all operations, the movement of Colonel Thompson’s battalions has been prompt and aggressive, and morale and efficiency have consistently been sustained at a high level. By his outstanding professional ability and aggressiveness, Colonel Thompson made a substantial contribution to the cause of victory.”

NOTE: This period represents the time from the 142nd arrival in England to when they moved into Germany. They would continue to support VII Corps until VE day.