

The 26th Infantry Division
"The Yankee Division"

The 26th Infantry Division, the first National Guard Division in numerical order, traces its origins back to the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies citizen-soldiers. Made up of New Englanders during World War I, it quickly earned the nickname, "Yankee Division."

Called to Federal service in July 1917, the division was comprised of units from New England, but in a later reorganization in 1920, all units were assigned to Massachusetts. Brought together and sent overseas in January 1918, the division's units were thrown into combat the following month, preceded only by the Regular Army's 1st Division. The early start allowed the 26th to establish the record among National Guard divisions for the most time under fire and for receiving the most awards in WW I. Combat campaigns included Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Muese-Argonne. Released from Federal service in 1919, it was re-activated as a National Guard unit in 1920.

In January 1941, the 26th was again called into Federal service and participated in the 1941 Carolina Maneuvers. One month after Pearl Harbor, 6,700 troops of the 26th were sent to the South Pacific to cadre the Americal Division.

Shipped overseas in August 1944, it landed in France directly from the United States, the First American Division in WW II to do so. Assigned to General Patton's Third Army, where it fought throughout the war, the "Yankees" captured the fortress of Metz in its first major action. Diverted from training reinforcements in Metz, the division was ordered by General Patton to attack the southern flank of the Germans encircling Bastogne.

During WW II, the 26th captured approximately 250,000 Germans. The Division was inactivated 29 December 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

The 27th Infantry Division
"The New York Division"

Originally organized as the "New York Division" in 1912, it served on the Mexican Border in 1916 and was reorganized and re-designated as the 27th upon its induction into Federal service for WW I 16 July 1917, at Camp Whitman, New York.

The 27th Division combat history began in the Summer of 1918, when assigned to the British Second Army in Belgium. One of its proudest accomplishments was cracking the Hindenburg Line in France, while assigned to the British Fourth Army.

Barely had the 27th cleaned up from the First Army maneuvers of 1940, when the division was called into Federal service on 15 October 1940 with the second group of National Guard units inducted for the so-called "emergency" period. They trained at Fort McClellan, Alabama, before shipping to Hawaii in March, 1942.

In its first action, the division took the central Pacific Island of Makin after three days of fighting. Among the first casualties was the Commanding Officer of the 165th Infantry, more widely known from WW I days as the "Fighting 69th." The 27th's next task was the reduction of the Marianas Islands. Here the 27th, along with two Marine divisions, became locked in the bitter battle for Saipan. But more fierce combat lay ahead, with the 27th forced to blast Japanese troops out of their holes and caves on Okinawa. In addition, the 106th Regimental Combat Team was attached to the 7th Division in the Marshall Islands Campaign. After the capture of Kwajalein, the 106th RCT took Eniwetok, and occupied Meijero.

In August, 1945, the 27th was flown to Japan for the occupation.

The 28th Infantry Division
"The Keystone Division"

The modern 28th Division was organized in 1916 while serving on the Mexican Border. In 1917, it was sent to Camp Hancock, Georgia, where it was reorganized and given its present designation. Some nine months later, in May 1918, the division landed in France. After a short period of training with the British, it was sent to a quiet sector. The quiet did not last. The Pennsylvanians found themselves in the direct path of the German's last great offensive of WW I. The Germans struck a terrific blow, but the 28th, along with the 3d Division held stubbornly in this Second Battle of the Marne. The division also holds WW I battle streamers for service in Champagne, Oise-Aisne, Lorraine, and Meuse-Argonne campaigns.

With the approach of World War II, the 28th was called up again at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in January 1941. Here the division trained until shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Other camps and maneuvers followed before the 28th crossed the channel to Omaha Beach, went into battle at St. Lo, and got into the hedgerow fighting in Normandy. The 28th helped liberate Paris.

Paris was no rest stop for the division. It drove across France, Belgium, and Luxembourg to claim the distinction of being the first American organization to enter Germany. In the Hurtgen Forest, the 28th met fierce resistance and paid dearly in casualties. In the Ardennes, nine of Von Rundstedt's best divisions struck the 28th in Germany's bid for victory, but the 28th delayed while the American defenses were being stiffened to hold and eventually reduce the "Bulge." Three weeks later the division was back in action, pushing through the Rhine defenses and into central Germany.

The 28th was deactivated after the war and was reactivated in 1946 as part of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The 29th Infantry Division
"The Blue and Gray Division"

The division was activated in August, 1917, at Fort McClellan, Alabama and arrived in France the first week of July 1918 to begin undergoing its baptism of fire in the trenches on the Alsace Sector with the French Seventh Army. Prior to the Meuse-Argonne offensive, it marched north to Verdun and joined the American First Army. During the Meuse offensive, the 29th captured Malbrouch Hill, Ridge d'Etrayes, Cote 38, Boise d'Ormont, Bois Molleveille, Brahant, Bois de Consenvoye and Grande Montagne.

In the gathering war clouds of WW II, the 29th was called into Federal service and mobilized at Fort Meade, Maryland. It arrived in England in October 1942 where it trained for 18 months before slamming ashore on D-Day at Omaha Beach. It pushed on through Normandy, climaxing its drive in the great battle of St. Lo. Joining the 2d and 8th divisions it captured the port of Brest. Following this mission, it took part in the capture of the first German city of WW II -- Aachen -- and by early December had moved to the Roer River. As part of XIX Corps, Ninth Army, the 29th captured Muenchen-Gladbach, at that time the largest German city occupied by the Americans. Crossing the Rhine it mopped up in the Ruhr pocket and the Klotze Forest before it moved to the Elbe to wait for the Russians.

The division closed out WWII as "Task Force Bremen", part of the Army occupation around Bremerhaven and Bremen.

The 30th Infantry Division
"The Old Hickory Division"

Like most National Guard divisions, the 30th came into being at the time of WW I and was organized at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, 28 August 1917, from National Guard troops from four southern States. It left for France in May 1918. Assigned to the British upon arrival, the 30th fought throughout the war with them. The Division first tasted combat in the canal sector of Ypres, Belgium. After Ypres, it joined with the 27th ("New York") division to break the Hindenberg Line. St. Mihiel offensive was next and finally the great Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 30th received more than half of all British decorations awarded to American troops. In addition, it earned 12 of the 78 Medals of Honor awarded in WW I.

Federalized 16 September 1941 in Macon, Georgia, and sent to Fort Jackson, S.C., it was re-designated the 30th Infantry Division in July 1941. Further training followed at other U.S. camps, and in February, 1944, the 30th was shipped to England. The "Old Hickory" division moved into France nine days after the invasion. It entered bitter fighting immediately and served to spearhead the attack and break out from Normandy to St. Lo.

At Mortain, France, the 30th fought off five German Panzer divisions determined to drive through U.S. lines to the sea and cut off the U.S. Third Army from the U.S. First Army. Despite savage efforts, the Germans could not budge the division. From Mortain, the 30th drove across France, crossed the Albert Canal in Belgium, then captured the fortress of Eben Emael. So tenacious was the division's performance in the battle of the "Bulge" that the Germans bestowed upon it the designation "Roosevelt's SS Troops." The Bulge eliminated, the 30th drove to the Roer River sealing the Ruhr Pocket. The war's end found it in Saalfeld, Germany.

The 31st Infantry Division
"The Dixie Division"

It was inevitable that the 31st Infantry Division should be known as the "Dixie Division." Its roots are Deep South and its traditions are tied inextricably with the land of honeysuckle and magnolias. The 31st adopted the name of "Dixie Division" when it was organized in October, 1917, at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. World War I was almost over when the 31st arrived in France in 1918 and the division did not see combat in that conflict. It was a different story in WW II. In 20 months overseas, the 31st hammered its way from New Guinea to the Philippines.

Federal Service was ordered in November, 1940. The Division assembled at Camp Blanding, Florida, and remained there to take part in the Louisiana Maneuvers of July and August, then took off again for the Carolina Maneuvers in the Fall of 1941. There followed other maneuvers, and other camps and in February, 1944, the 31st left for the Southwest Pacific.

The 31st became part of the Sixth Army and received its baptism of fire in New Guinea. The 124th Regimental Combat Team drew the initial assignment and killed 3,000 Japanese in the bitter fight to take Aitape. Meanwhile, the balance of the division cleared a section of Maffin Bay. Next, the 31st crushed opposition on Morotai, sealing off 40,000 troops on the Island of Halmahera.

The 31st was used defensively initially at the start of the Philippine showdown, but was assigned to the Mindanao operation to split the center of Japanese resistance. The division remained on Mindanao after VJ-Day.

The 32d Infantry Division
"The Red Arrow Division"

The 32d Division came into existence at Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, in the Fall of 1917. By Christmas of 1917, the division was under alert status for overseas movement. The Atlantic crossing claimed lives. Many of its veterans are survivors of the sinking of the Tuscania off the Irish Coast by a submarine. Arriving in France, the 32d was one of the first National Guard units committed. In five months of combat, the 32d lost more men killed and wounded than it lost in more than 600 days in the South Pacific in WW II. Divisions were twice as large in those days, however.

The 32d acquired four WW I battle streamers, and several of the regiments flew the French Croix de Guerre. A famous French General once referred to the division as "Les Terribles" because of the fierceness of attacks and speed in achieving objectives.

In October, 1940, the 32d was called into Federal service. From Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, the division became the second division unit to leave for the Southwest Pacific, arriving in Australia in April, 1942. The "Red Arrow" boys took part in the first Army campaign to recapture Japanese ground. General MacArthur flew the division over the Owen Stanley Mountains. This Buna-Sanananda victory cost the division more than its original strength. It rested and rebuilt until January when it returned to New Guinea -- first at Saidor and then at Aitape. Its presence on Halmahera blocked off the Japanese in the Dutch East Indies from New Guinea. From there, the division entered its major campaign. First, the division took part in the original landings on Leyte, and followed up with two months of campaigning. Later, it joined in the battle for Luzon, crumbling the Japanese resistance in the Cagayan Valley. On February 5, 1946, the division was inactivated in the Philippines.

The 33d Infantry Division
"The Prairie Division"

The 33d Division originally was organized at Camp Logan, Texas, in July, 1917, out of units of the Illinois National Guard. Hurriedly organized and trained, the division arrived in France in May, 1918, and was assigned by units to serve with the Australians at Amiens. After its initial overseas training, the division went into combat on its own, in the Verdun, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne offensives. It took 3,987 prisoners.

It was inducted into Federal service again in March 1941, and trained at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

With the outbreak of WW II, the 33d was rushed to the West Coast, continuing its training while on coastal defense duty until shipping to Hawaii in July, 1943. Subsequently it joined the Sixth Army in New Guinea for its first taste of WW II combat in the Wakde-Sarmi operation. Its next combat assignment was in the second battle of Morotai. Capture of this island gave General MacArthur an additional step toward the Philippines.

In February, 1944, the division entered the Philippine campaign with the mission of taking Baguio, Summer capital of the Philippines. It took a good three months of constant fighting, nearly all of it in mountain jungle land, to accomplish this assignment, and the division's reward was the liberation of many thousands of Japanese-held prisoners. Among those it freed was BG Manuel Roxas, General MacArthur's former aide.

The 33d Division Artillery "struck it rich" on Luzon when its fire churned up a fortune in silver pesos estimated at a possible half-million dollars. Then, several days later, \$70,000 more was discovered while digging-in gun positions. The money presumably had been hidden by the Japanese with the hope of retrieving it later, but it went back to the Philippine government. Mop-up fighting continued until the close of the war, and in February, 1946, the division was inactivated in Japan.

The 34th Infantry Division
"The Red Bull Division"

The 34th Division originally was organized in October 1917 at Camp Cody, New Mexico. In September, 1918, the division was sent to France, but to its disappointment, suffered the fate of becoming a replacement outfit, to train and send replacements on to the other divisions at the front. The 59th Field Artillery Brigade, however, entered combat as corps artillery. After the close of the war, the 34th returned to the United States.

What combat service the division might have missed during the first World War was well made up for in World War II. The division was called into Federal service in February, 1941, and trained at Camp Claiborne, LA. Within a month following Pearl Harbor, the 34th found itself on the water, becoming the first division to go to Europe after the declaration of war.

Taking part in the invasion of North Africa, the division landed near Algiers on 8 November 1942. This action gave the 34th the credit for being the first National Guard division to enter combat in North Africa. Later, the 34th became part of the II Corps, and participated in the Tunisian campaign. The division is especially famed for its capture of Hill 609 in this campaign.

Next, the division prepared for its second major assignment, Italy. The 34th remained in Italy for the entire campaign, and found itself in constant action. Salerno was followed by the crossing of the Volturno. From there the 34th plugged on to the stalemate at Cassino and later was withdrawn for possibly its biggest task in the war, the Anzio beachhead operation. After breaking through Anzio, the division went forward, driving through Italy and capturing many important cities. By September of 1944, the Germans were able to form their "Gothic Line," and the 34th was forced to dig in until the following February. The 34th again started on the march which did not falter. Three months later, the Germans, completely crushed, surrendered. In November, 1945, the Division returned home and was inactivated.

The 35th Infantry Division
"The Santa Fe Division"

The "Santa Fe" Division was organized in August, 1917, at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, now part of Fort Sill. In May, 1918, the division was in France and the following month entered combat, as separate brigades, in the Vosges. After this experience, it was committed as a division in the Gerardmer sector. The 35th participated in the Meuse-Argonne campaign and when that was over, reverted to Army Reserve.

In December, 1940, it was called to Federal service and sent to Camp Robinson, AR. From there, the Santa Fe Division went to Europe in May, 1944, and in July was committed in the Normandy fighting. It threw its weight into the drive for St. Lo, held off an enemy counterattack at Avranches, and went to the aid of part of the 30th Division trapped near Mortain.

The 35th drove across France, entered Germany in December and had just crossed the Bleis River when the Wehrmacht made its supreme bid in the Ardennes. Here the 35th was hit heavily but held back four Nazi divisions and in so doing protected the highway to Bastogne. After the Ardennes, the 35th was shifted to Seventh Army to meet a threatened German attack through the Domaniale Forest.

With the Ninth Army, the division crossed the Roer River, moved north to capture Venlo in Holland, then joined with British and Canadians to stop German units in the Wesel Pocket.

On March 24, 1945, division artillery supported the 30th and 79th Divisions in crossing the Rhine and first elements of the 35th moved over the next day. The division then pushed forward to become part of the Northern flank of the Ruhr Pocket.

Shortly after VE-Day the 35th was transferred to the Fifteenth Army to take up governmental and occupational duties. Thus ended a saga of 1,600 combat miles through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany.

The 36th Infantry Division
"The Texas Division"

The division was assembled for the first time at Camp Bowie, near Fort Worth, in July, 1917. After training there for almost one year, it was sent to France and arrived overseas in July, 1918. The 36th had its first taste of combat with the French Army, participating in the liberation of Rheims. Later it was transferred to the newly-organized American Army and spent the final weeks of World War I in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives.

It was called into Federal service 25 November 1940. After mobilization, the 36th took part in both Louisiana maneuvers of 1941 and Carolina maneuvers of 1942. From Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, the 36th was moved to New York for shipment to North Africa in April, 1943. Few divisions entered combat under more terrible conditions. The 36th accomplished the first landing on the shores of Continental Europe on 9 September 1943 at Salerno, Italy. The bloody and fierce battle hung in the balance for days, but the Texans held the beach-head until reinforcements came in to push the Germans back beyond Naples and the Volturno River.

The 36th distinguished itself on the "Forgotten Front" by breaking the German line at Mount Maggiore and Mount Sammucro; later, it made the ill-fated Rapido River assault. Perhaps the outstanding achievement of the 36th in Italy was its flanking, surprise attack at Mount Artemisio in the Alban Hills. This attack, known as the "Battle of Velletri," helped open the road to Rome. The Texans then pursued the rapidly-retreating Wehrmacht to within sight of the Tower of Pisa before they were recalled to prepare for the invasion of Southern France.

The Texans broke through the Siegfried Line in March, 1945, near Wiessembourg, and after 217 days of continuous contact with the enemy were assigned as occupation troops in the Saar Basin at Kaiserlautern.

The 36th went into combat again at the Danube River in late April, 1945.

The 37th Infantry Division
"The Buckeye Division"

Within six weeks after its arrival in France in 1918, the 37th was assigned to the Baccarat Sector. Its first full-scale operation occurred in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. St. Mihiel came next, followed by service in the Lys and Escaut River operations. The 37th took part in the Flanders fight and when the Armistice was signed had entered Belgium, serving in the Syngem Sector.

The second call to Federal service came in October, 1940. The 37th sailed overseas in May, 1942, and trained for a year on the Fiji Islands and Guadalcanal. The "Buckeyes" received their baptism of fire on New Georgia in the Solomons in July, 1943, and thereafter spent 592 days in combat during which they killed 33,590 Japs and took 2,161 prisoners of war.

In September, 1943, the 37th was moved back to Guadalcanal for rest and rehabilitation, and in November, participated with the Marines in the landing on Bougainville. The 37th landed on the shores of Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, on 9 January 1945. The 37th then swung south in the now-famous race with the 1st Cavalry Division for Manila. The 37th reached Manila a few hours after the troopers. After Manila fell, the 37th was moved to enter the battle of Baguio at the side of Illinois' 33d Division. When the 37th mopped up in Cagayan Valley, the battle of Luzon was over.

The 38th Infantry Division
"The Cyclone Division"

Formed of National Guard troops from Indiana and Kentucky, the 1917 members of the 38th trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

The World War I 38th Division landed in France in October, 1918. At the time of its arrival, however, the most pressing need of the AEF was for trained replacements required by frontline divisions. To meet this need, the 38th was stripped of its men promptly and they were sent to the front as replacements. Thus, the 38th never entered WW I combat as a division.

On 17 Jan., 1941, the division was called into Federal service and again went to Shelby. After training at various camps in the U.S., it was sent to the Pacific Theater in January, 1944.

The division got into combat in December, 1944, during mopping up operations on Leyte.

From Leyte, the division moved to Bataan, landing in the Subic Bay area. The Division hammered constantly to seize Zigzag Pass, key to the mountain defenses.

The 38th accomplished its mission in only 19 days. But those were 19 days of the war's bloodiest fighting.

With Zigzag Pass captured, the 38th was split into several forces. One group made an amphibious attack at Mariveles, sweeping down Bataan Peninsula over the route of the infamous "Death March." Another stormed enemy defenses in the Zambales Mountains; a third took part in the final mop up.

When U.S. troops prepared to retake Corregidor, part of the 38th served in this task force. Other divisions units captured Fort Drum, Caballo and Carabao, thus eliminating Japanese control.

Following these missions, the units were reassembled as a division and the 38th went on to clear the Manila area. When the 38th poured through to the Marakina River and seized the Wawa Dam, the campaign was over.

With the war ended, the 38th remained on Luzon until October, 1945.

The 39th Infantry Division
"The Delta Division"

The division first was assembled at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, in 1917 and was organized of National Guard units from Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. The 39th arrived in France in 1918 and became a replacement division. The only unit to remain intact was its Artillery Brigade. But the 39th did send more than 10,000 replacements to units at the front.

When the National Guard divisions were set up again in their home areas after World War I no provision was made for the 39th. Because the division did not exist between wars, it could not see service in World War II.

But the organizations which collectively comprise the 39th were active on many fronts. Its 156th Inf., for instance, fought valiantly in Europe. So did its 141st F. A. Bn., which received a Distinguished Unit Citation at Colmar and was a tower of strength for months at Anzio.

Elements of the 39th have received the following campaign streamers:

Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Northern France, Normandy, Central Europe, Rhineland, Leyte, Southern Philippines, Northern Solomons, Guadalcanal, Luzon and Aleutian Islands.

The 40th Infantry Division
"The Sunshine Division"

The 40th was formed at Camp Kearney, California, in July 1917. After a year of training, the division was shipped to France where it became the Sixth Depot Division whose main function was to provide replacements at the front. By the end of the war it had sent forward 16,327 officers and men.

In March, 1941, it again was called into Federal service for war.

While in Federal service, it lost two California infantry regiments, the 159th and the 184th, which went to the 7th Division. The 184th was replaced by the 108th from the 27th Division.

The "Sunshine" division was among the first to leave the United States, going to Hawaii in August, 1942. After intensive training in the Islands, the 40th transferred to Guadalcanal, which became the staging area for its first mission -- the conquest of New Britain. In the fight for control of New Britain, the 40th hacked its way through dense jungle growth to capture the Cap Hoskins Airdrome and close a trap which sealed thousands of Japanese troops in the Rabaul area.

With New Britain conquered, the 40th was shifted to Lae, New Guinea, where it practiced amphibious landings in preparation for its part in the recapture of the Philippines.

The division went ashore in the Lingayen Gulf area of Luzon on 9 Jan., 1945. It smashed through enemy resistance and captured Tarlac, an important highway and rail center. From here, the men of the "Golden West" pushed on to Clark Field, and then slogged forward to capture Fort Stotsenberg and Camp O'Donnell.

In March, 1945, the division (less the 108th Inf.) invaded and captured the Island of Panay.

Late the same month, the 40th landed on the Island of Negros and captured the capital, Bocolod. The 108th Regimental Combat Team moved on to Mindanao where it sealed the remaining troops trapped between the 31st and 40th Divisions.

The 41st Infantry Division
"The Sunset Division"

The division was organized originally in 1917 from National Guard units of Washington State, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming.

The 41st was brought together at Camp Greene, North Carolina. After training six months, the division went to France in December, 1917. The 41st did not see action as a division; instead it was stationed at St. Aignan where it became the 1st Depot Division. As a replacement organization, the 41st sent the astonishing number of 295,668 men to the front!

In September, 1940, it became one of the first four Guard divisions called into Federal service. The division went to Australia March, 1942.

In December, 1942, elements of the 41st were flown across the towering Owen Stanley Mountains and committed against the Japs at Sanananda.

After Sanananda, the 41st began the long march through New Guinea. Landing at Nassau Bay, 30 June 1943, the trek advanced through Tambu Bay, Roosevelt Ridge and Scout Track Ridge. The campaign took 76 days, the longest fought in the jungles in World War II. It ended in the capture of vital Salamaua.

After resting a few months, the 41st began a series of drives culminating in the elimination of forces from New Guinea. Landings at Aitape, Hollandia, Wakde and Biak Island were coordinated into a series of blows that ended Japanese control of New Guinea and paved the way for the Philippines Campaign.

The 41st's 186th RCT seized the Island of Palawan. The remainder of the division split up, with elements going into action at Zamboanga, Jolo and Tawitawi. Final action for the 41st came in Central Mindanao, where elements of the division joined in the final phase of liberating that great island.

The 42d Infantry Division
"The Rainbow Division"

Organized 5 September 1917 at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, the 42d was quickly moved to France in November, 1917, only a few months after activation. The division went into the line in February, 1918, in the vicinity of Luneville and St. Clement where it was assigned to the French Seventh Corps. The 42d remained in the line until June, serving most of the time under French control. In July, 1918, it was in action near Rheims and help crush the final German push of the first World War.

In September, 1918, the 42d was cast in major roles, first in the Aisne-Marne drive and finally in the Meuse-Argonne push which had its climax in the end of fighting.

On 14 July 1943, the 42d Inf. Div. was activated for World War II, but not as a Guard division. In order to carry out the "rainbow" tradition, precautions were taken to fill the division with personnel from each State.

The 42d began its move to France for the second time in November, 1944. It was assigned to the U.S. Seventh Army and first elements entered combat as "Task Force Linden" in December in the vicinity of Strasbourg.

In March, 1945, the 42d passed over to the offensive as a whole division, attacking through the Harz Mountains and breaking through the Siegfried Line. Gathering momentum, the 42d took Dahn and Busenberg. Then it crossed the Rhine, went on to Furth, captured Donauworth on the Danube, and liberated some 30,000 inmates of Dachau, notorious Nazi concentration camp. The division passed through Munich and cut across the Austrian border north of Salzburg on 5 May.

The 43d Infantry Division
"The Winged Victory Division"

Although many of its component organizations have military histories dating back to pre-Revolutionary War days, the 43d Inf. Div. of New England did not come into being as such until 1925. But its service in the Pacific in WW II added a glowing chapter to the brilliant history of performance by Guard divisions.

The 43d's first Federal service began in February, 1941, when, with other Guard divisions, it was called to active duty. The "Winged Victory" division was sent to Camp Blanding, Florida, and transferred to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, after Pearl Harbor. From Shelby it was moved to Fort Ord, California, where it underwent amphibious training.

The division went overseas in October, 1942. It entered combat for the first time, taking part in the final phase of the Guadalcanal campaign. The 43d captured the Russell Islands without enemy opposition. The 43d met fierce opposition invading the Rendova Islands and fought a fight that ended in the capture of Munda Airfield.

With the Solomon Islands mission completed, the 43d was transferred to New Guinea where it took part in the Aitape campaign, principally in the Battle of the Driniumore River.

The division's final campaign came in the invasion of Luzon. The 43d took part in the landings at Lingayen Gulf. Pressing on Baguio, Summer capital of the Philippines, and into the Zambales Mountains, the 43d captured Ipo Dam which protected the water supply of Manila.

As the curtain fell on WW II, the 43d was in training as part of XI Corps for the invasion of Japan that never came off. However, it did reach Japan to serve for a short time on occupation duty. fierceness of its fighting and the 43d's losses probably were at least as heavy as those suffered by any American division in a single campaign during the war.

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The 44th Infantry Division

Organized as a National Guard division in 1923, the 44th was located in New Jersey and environs. The 44th was one of the first four Guard divisions called into Federal service in September, 1940 and it was sent to Ft. Dix.

With the shift in location of divisions following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the 44th was moved to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Then it was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington, and still later to Camp Phillips, Kansas. In September, 1944, its training behind it, the 44th was sent to the European Theater where it was assigned to Seventh Army.

The 44th entered combat on 24 October 1944, relieving the 79th Division east of Nancy in France. After 10 days to become acclimated, the 44th jumped off to take the Paroy wood. It was successful and the 44th pushed east to the Vosges Mountains.

It was in the Vosges that the 44th took the brunt of a strong German counter-attack. For this action, the battalion won a Distinguished Unit Citation. In the Fall of 1944, the 44th took up defensive positions along the Saar and Bleis Rivers.

The 45th and 3d Divisions passed through the 44th in the dash through the Siegfried Line to the Rhine. The 44th reduced Mannheim, helped the 45th capture Aschaffenburg, and received the surrender of Heidelberg. Then the 44th turned east and liberated a German prison camp at Bad Orb. The 44th reduced Ulm, crossed the Danube, and stopped on VE-Day at Imst, Austria.

With the war in Europe ended, the 44th became the first National Guard Division to return to the States, arriving here on 20 July 1945.

The 45th Infantry Division "The Thunderbird Division"

Organization of the 45th Division began in 1923. It entered Federal service for World War II on 16 September 1940 and trained at numerous places in this country. The overseas sailing date was 8 June 1943 and the destination was North Africa. On 10 July 1943, the Thunderbirds, invaded Sicily with the U.S. Seventh Army. September, 1943, brought the invasion of Italy at Salerno.

After bloody Salerno came the drive up Italy through Benevento down the Calore River Valley across the Volturno, and up into the mountainous regions in the Venafro-Cassino sector.

In late January, 1944, the Thunderbirds were involved in the order that read: "The VI Corps will land at Anzio and Nettuno, Italy." In late May, with the 3d, 34th, 1st Armd. and 36th Divs., the Thunderbirds surged out of the beachhead in a drive that climaxed in the entry into Rome.

On 15 August 1944, the 45th, along with its inseparable companions, the 3d and 36th, drove ashore in its fourth D-Day on the beaches of Ste. Maxime, Southern France. Late in November the division moved North through Alsace and assaulted the bastions of the Siegfried Line.

On 15 March 1945, the 45th and 3d began a drive through the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Saarguimines, which did not slacken until 30 April when Thunderbirds raised Old Glory in the Koenigsplatz of Munich, birthplace of Nazism. Fanatical resistance was overcome in Aschaffenburg, Bamberg and the Nazi shrine of Nuremberg.

THE FIGHTING DIVISIONS OF THE GUARD

The combat power of an Army is centered around its fighting divisions. For a half-century, between our entry into World War I and the Army-wide reorganization upheaval of the Sixties, most U.S. Army divisions could be found in the troop structure of the Army National Guard.

The Guard sent 17 divisions to duty for World War I, including one -- the 42d "Rainbow" Division -- made up of troops from 26 States and the District of Columbia to symbolize the nation as a whole. All but one (the 39th) were sent to Europe to become a part of the AEF, although several never fought as divisions.

The number of Guard divisions had edged up to 18 by World War II. The 39th had reappeared briefly in the Guard structure between the wars, but disappeared before the call up. The "Rainbow" division had not been reconstituted after World War I. But three new divisions had been added -- the 43d, 44th and 45th. Nine served in the ETO and nine in the Pacific area.

In a real sense, there was a nineteenth division in the thick of much of the Southwest Pacific fighting. It was the heroic Americal Division, created in 1942 in New Caledonia out of Guard regiments and battalions made available by triangularization of the massive old "square" Guard divisions.

One pre-World War II oddity deserves mention in any description of the Guard division structure. Four cavalry divisions were carried on the Guard's rolls between the wars, with troop elements scattered through many States. All were disbanded immediately before the mobilization and their component

elements converted to other missions -- antiaircraft, antitank, armored cavalry, and military police.

When the Guard was reconstituted after World War II, it received its largest allocation of divisions, 27, which evolved into 21 infantry and six armored by 1954. In the massive Army realignment of the Sixties, however, that total was whittled down to eight by 1968.

Capsule histories of the 18 World War II divisions are attached. The eight still in existence include:

- 26th Infantry Division -- Massachusetts, Connecticut
- 28th Infantry Division -- Pennsylvania
- 38th Infantry Division -- Indiana, Michigan
- 40th Mechanized Division -- California
- 42d Infantry Division -- New York
- 47th Infantry Division -- Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois
- 49th Armored Division -- Texas
- 50th Armored Division -- New Jersey, Vermont

The current troop structure also includes 21 combat brigades -- 10 infantry, eight mechanized, and three armored.

over

BATTALION DESIGNATION AND TYPE	FORMED (SOURCE OF UNIT)/INACTIVATION	AUGUST 1945 LOCATION
591st Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D) BPE: 10 Nov 44	England: 17 Nov 44 France-ETO: 6 Dec 44 - 25,32,34 HRPE: 3 Oct 45 (106th Inf Div)	15 Mar 43 Ft Jackson S.C. / 3 Oct 45 Cp Patrick Henry Va
592nd Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D) BPE: 10 Nov 44	England: 17 Nov 44 France-ETO: 6 Dec 44 - 25,32,34 HRPE: 3 Oct 45 (106th Inf Div)	15 Mar 43 Ft Jackson S.C. / 3 Oct 45 Cp Patrick Henry Va
593rd Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trac-D) SFPE: 31 Jan 44 Morotai: 7 Apr 45 - 3,15,16 (93rd Inf Div)	Guadalcanal: 17 Feb 44 Bougainville: 29 Mar 44 Green I: 17 Jul 44 New Guinea: 11 Jan 45	15 May 42 Ft Huachuca Ariz / 3 Feb 46 Cp Stoneman Calif
594th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trac-D) SFPE: 31 Jan 44 Morotai: 11 Apr 45 - 3,15,16 (93rd Inf Div)	Guadalcanal: 17 Feb 44 Russell I: 28 Feb 44 New Georgia: 14 Jun 44 New Guinea: 18 Nov 44	15 May 42 Ft Huachuca Ariz / 3 Feb 46 Cp Stoneman Calif
595th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trac-D) SFPE: 31 Jan 44 Morotai: 7 Apr 45 - 3,15,16 (93rd Inf Div)	Guadalcanal: 17 Feb 44 New Georgia: 12 Mar 44 Emirau I: 7 Jul 44 Blak I: 19 Nov 44	15 May 42 Ft Huachuca Ariz / 3 Feb 46 Cp Stoneman Calif
596th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (155mm How Trac-D) SFPE: 31 Jan 44	Guadalcanal: 17 Feb 44 Treasury I: 21 Jun 44 New Guinea: 16 Nov 44 Morotai: 7 Apr 45 - 3,15,16 (93rd Inf Div)	15 May 42 Ft Huachuca Ariz / 3 Feb 46 Cp Stoneman Calif
597th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trk-D) HRPE: 20 Sep 44	Italy: 4 Oct 44 - 31,33 BPE: 23 Nov 45 (92nd Inf Div)	15 Oct 42 Cp Atterbury Ind / 24 Nov 45 Cp Myles Standish Mass
598th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trk-D) HRPE: 15 Jul 44	Italy: 24 Jul 44 - 31,33,35 BPE: 23 Nov 45 (92nd Inf Div)	15 Oct 42 Cp Breckinridge Ky / 24 Nov 45 Cp Myles Standish Mass
599th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (105mm How Trk-D) HRPE: 20 Sep 44	Italy: 4 Oct 44 - 31,33 BPE: 23 Nov 45 (92nd Inf Div)	15 Oct 42 Cp Joseph T Robinson Ark / 24 Nov 45 Cp Myles Standish Mass
600th Field Arty Bn (Cld) (155mm How Trac-D) HRPE: 12 Sep 44	Italy: 7 Oct 44 - 31,33 BPE: 23 Nov 45 (92nd Inf Div)	15 Oct 42 Ft McClellan Ala / 24 Nov 45 Cp Myles Standish Mass
601st Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) SFPE: 29 Jul 43 NYPE: 23 Oct 45 (nondiv)	Alaska: 4 Aug 43 SPE: 2 Dec 43 HRPE: 2 Feb 44 Italy: 29 Feb 44 France-ETO: 15 Oct 44 - 2,26,29,34,35	16 Apr 42 Ft Bragg N.C. / 25 Oct 45 Cp Shanks N.Y.
602nd Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) SFPE: 29 Jul 43 France-ETO: 15 Aug 44 - 2,26,29,34,35,37	Alaska: 4 Aug 43 SPE: 2 Dec 43 HRPE: 1 Feb 44 N.Africa: 29 Feb 44 Italy: 1 Mar 44 NYPE: 21 Dec 45 (nondiv)	20 Jul 42 Cp Carson Colo / 22 Dec 45 Cp Kilmer N.J.
603rd Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How)	Only Btry A (75mm Pk How) of the 603rd FA Bn was active; raised 10 Feb 42 at Charleston Sub-P/E and inactivated 10 Oct 43 on Guadalcanal.	
604th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) HRPE: 6 Jan 45	Italy: 18 Jan 45 - 31,33 HRPE: 9 Aug 45 (assigned to 10th Mtn Div 15 Jul 43) (10th Mtn Div)	11 Jan 43 Cp Carson Colo / 10 Nov 45 Cp Carson Colo
605th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) HRPE: 6 Jan 45	Italy: 18 Jan 45 - 31,33 HRPE: 9 Aug 45 (assigned to 10th Mtn Div 15 Jul 43) (10th Mtn Div)	11 Jan 43 Cp Carson Colo / 8 Nov 45 Cp Carson Colo
607th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D) NYPE: 26 Jan 45 (71st Inf Div)	France-ETO: 6 Feb 45 - 26,34 NYPE: 9 Mar 46 (75mm Pk How until 19 May 44) (15 Jul 43 asgnd 71st Light Div)	10 May 43 Cp Carson Colo / 10 Mar 46 Cp Kilmer N.J.
608th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D) NYPE: 26 Jan 45 (71st Inf Div)	France-ETO: 6 Feb 45 - 26,34 NYPE: 10 Mar 46 (75mm Pk How until 19 May 44) (15 Jul 43 assigned 71st Light Div)	10 May 43 Cp Carson Colo / 11 Mar 46 Cp Kilmer N.J.
609th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D) NYPE: 26 Jan 45 (71st Inf Div)	France-ETO: 6 Feb 45 - 26,34 NYPE: 8 Mar 46 (75mm Pk How until 19 May 44) (15 Jul 43 assigned 71st Light Div)	14 May 43 Cp Carson Colo / 9 Mar 46 Cp Kilmer N.J.
610th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How)	17 Dec 43 Cp Gruber Okla / 31 Jul 44 Cp Carson Colo (nondiv)	
611th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How)	17 Dec 43 Cp Gruber Okla / 6 Feb 45 Ft Riley Kans (nondiv)	
612th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) LAPE: 25 Jul 44	India: 26 Aug 44 China: 29 Apr 45 - 5,12 (nondiv)	17 Dec 43 Cp Gruber Okla / 25 Aug 45 Kunming China
613th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) LAPE: 22 Oct 44	India: 23 Nov 44 China: 9 May 45 - 5,12 (nondiv)	17 Dec 43 Cp Gruber Okla / 25 Aug 45 Kunming China
616th Field Artillery Bn (75mm Pk How) HRPE: 5 Jan 45	Italy: 23 Jan 45 - 31,33 HRPE: 13 Aug 45 (10th Mtn Div)	15 Jul 43 Cp Hale Colo / 27 Nov 45 Cp Carson Colo