

DUTY FIRST!

JUNE 2010

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families | www.riley.army.mil

The Big Red One TURNING 93!

**Trace Division's heritage throughout
key moments in history**

THE BIG RED ONE CREED

TEAMWORK is the foundation of the Big Red One. I shall never fail my team, for I maintain the standard. My conduct and self-discipline set the example for others to follow.

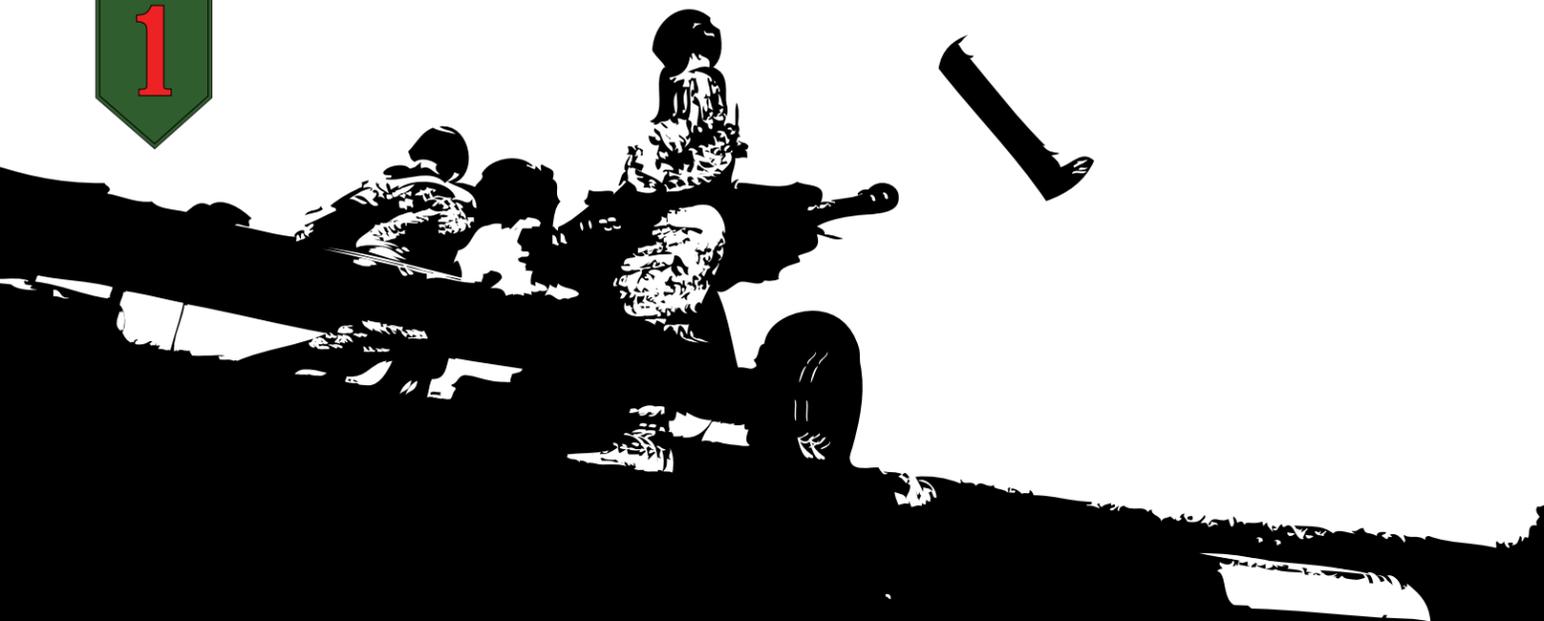
HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain of command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

I have learned to **ENDURE**, to thrive in adversity. The harsh reality of combat gives me the enthusiasm for realistic training. I am physically and mentally strong to meet the demanding situations my unit encounters.

We are one in the Big Red One. Our **BROTHERHOOD** gives us strength to fight on to any objective and accomplish the mission as our veterans have done before us. I live the legacy of my division.

READINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry and tactical and technical competence.

My **ORGANIZATION** is my strength. The BRO is bigger than any one individual. It gives me purpose, self-confidence, competitive spirit, intestinal fortitude and the desire to fight with all my heart.



Duty **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

June 2010 | www.riley.army.mil

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Cover: The National Anthem plays during the start of the 1st Sustainment Brigade deployment ceremony March 15 at King Field House.

PHOTO BY JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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A history like no other

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

It's no secret that the 1st Infantry Division has a long, storied and illustrious history. On the division's colors you will find the campaigns streamers of Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine and Picardy from the Great War, marking the first chapter of our division's illustrious 93-year history. You also will find the streamers of Tunisia, Normandy and Ardennes-Alsace from World War II, the Tet Counteroffensive in Vietnam, the Liberation of Kuwait from the Gulf War and most recently, Iraq.

The streamers are awarded for the courageous actions of the regiments, brigades and our division. They illuminate the tumultuous history of our nation and the price of freedom. Some battles you might recognize, some are long forgotten. But the legacy of the Big Red One veterans who fought in those battles—and all veterans—can be seen in the continuing freedoms of Americans, in the position America holds as the leader of the free world, and in the stable and prospering democracies throughout our world.

These Soldiers fought for independence and defended America's shores.



They have toppled tyrants and fanatical regimes, confronted and defeated the communist empire, and spread the universal ideals of freedom and democracy throughout the world. They achieved victory as liberators, not conquerors, and shaped a better world, a more peaceful world. The current generation of 1st Inf. Div. heroes are securing our victory and hard-earned peace in a sovereign and free Iraq and resolutely battling Al Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Today's Big Red One Soldiers are at the tip of the spear in an Army that has been at war for nearly nine years. Just as our predecessors led the fight in the two World Wars, Vietnam and Desert Storm, we too lead the way into battle.

We stand on the shoulders of giants and have a remarkable legacy to live up to. Yet we are all bonded by this patch on our left shoulders. This patch stands for words like duty, courage and sacrifice—words that you live and breathe on a daily basis. This patch represents pride, history, esprit de corps—and the blood shed by our brothers and sisters in arms.

Men and women of the 1st Inf. Div., you represent an elite group. You are part of the storied history of the Big Red One. Embrace the legacy of our predecessors which you will read about in the following pages. But I also encourage you to forge your own legacy and write your own pages in our colorful history. And as always, live our division motto. No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Duty First! 

Patch brings pride, duty

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

For one unit, history begins at the very beginning of our country—"Hamilton's Own" 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, traces its ancestry to 1776.

For other 1st Infantry Division units, history was made on the ground of this very country during the Civil War, on European beaches in World War II, in the heat of the jungles of Vietnam, in the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq and on the mountains of Afghanistan.

For 93 years, the 1st Infantry Division's Soldiers have paved the way in combat, kept our country safe and defended the defenseless. The individual acts of Big Red One Soldiers over the past decades have shaped the course of history as the world knows it. Those acts have defined the words bravery, heroism and sacrifice—and all were carried out by a Soldier wearing the audacious, hard-to-miss Big Red One patch on their sleeve.

June marks the birthday of the Big Red One. The division was first called to service in 1917, and that was when



the now-famous patch was created. There are two stories about the patch's history. One says that during World War I, division supply trucks were from an English manufacturer, so the drivers painted a large "1" on the trucks to distinguish their vehicles from others among the Allied ranks. Later, division engineers carried this idea further by sewing a red patch on

their sleeve with a "1" on it.

The second story says the patch was devised when a general officer decided he needed a shoulder-sleeve insignia. He cut a "1" from a suit of flannel underwear. When a young lieutenant saw it, he shouted "the general's underwear is showing!" The general told the young lieutenant to come up with something better and the lieutenant produced a patch, grey in color, from the uniform of a captured soldier, on which was placed the red "1."

Regardless of how the patch came to be, it has been worn with pride on the shoulders of generations of Soldiers. It has changed a little over the years, but little has changed in the meaning it carries with it. The Soldiers who have worn it before us are forever bound with the Soldiers who wear it today.

The Big Red One—first into the fight on many fronts, has always lived true to its motto, "No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, Duty First!"

Now, get after it! 



COURTESY PHOTO

STORIED HISTORY

Battery traces lineage back to Alexander Hamilton & the Revolutionary War

By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

TODAY'S SOLDIERS ARE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY'S SHORES AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. FEW UNITS CAN TRACE THEIR ROOTS BACK TO THE BATTLE THAT DEFINED OUR NATION AND ESTABLISHED ITS FREEDOM, BUT 1ST BATTALION, 5TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT CAN DO JUST THAT.

First Bn., 5th FA Regt., 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, holds the distinction of being the oldest active unit in the U.S. Army. The battalion can link its ancestry back to 1776 and the creation of the Provincial Company of Artillery of the Colony of New York by Alexander Hamilton. The company created by Hamilton is credited with firing the first rounds at the British at Fort George in defense of Manhattan Island during the Revolutionary War. The artillery unit's first shots were fired from the southern tip of Manhattan at two British ships in the harbor.

"Delta Battery traces its lineage back to Alexander Hamilton and the Provincial Company of Artillery of the Colony of New York that fought in the Revolutionary War," said Lt. Col. Keith Casey, battalion commander. "This battalion and this battery just celebrated its 234th birthday."

The battalion's first recognized battle is the Battle of Long Island, which took place in August 1776. The Continental Army eventually would have to withdraw, making the battle a British victory. The Soldiers of what is now known as "Hamilton's Own," would still be acknowledged for their artillery expertise during the battle that provided sufficient security for the Continental Army to retreat.

The Revolutionary War began to turn for the artillery Soldiers and the

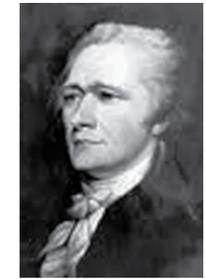
Delta Battery traces its lineage back to Alexander Hamilton and the Provincial Company of Artillery of the Colony of New York ... This battalion and this battery just celebrated its 234th birthday."

— LT. COL. KEITH CASEY, BATTALION COMMANDER

Continental Army following a surprise attack Dec. 25, 1776, by the Continental troops at Trenton, New Jersey. Gen. George Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River during the night and defeated the British Army in the town, marking the American's first victory in the war.

The Soldiers of Hamilton's artillery unit were recognized for their victorious efforts during the battle. The victory is noted with lifting the morale of the American Army and gaining support from the Continental population. The recruitment and reenlistment efforts received following the battle are additionally noted with providing the American Army the strength it required to eventually win the war and our country's independence.

The success of Hamilton and his Soldiers eventually would lead to a



HAMILTON

very successful political career for Hamilton and the unit later would become the only company not deactivated following the war.

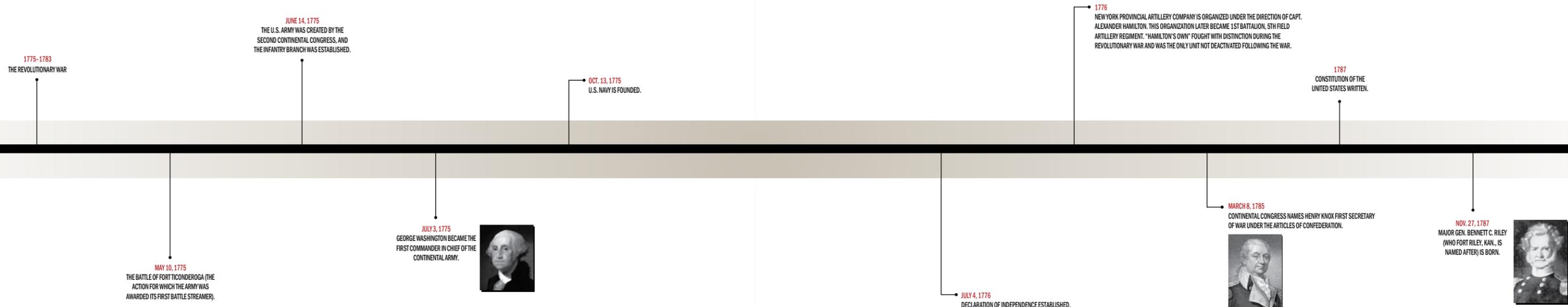
More than 200 years later, the Soldier's of "Hamilton's Own" continue to recognize the unit's rich history by firing their historical cannon during post ceremonies and nicknaming their M109A6 (paladin) howitzers by battles the unit has fought in.

Soldiers of Battery D, 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt., conducted the battalion's first live-fire exercise with a M109A6 (paladin) howitzer in more than four years on March 23 at Training Area 94.

In recognition of the unit's history, the paladin nicknamed "Long Island" fired the first live round.

"Long Island was the first battle that Alexander Hamilton fought in as an artillery company," said Capt. Jacob Moulin, the battery's commander. "We thought it would be appropriate for "Long Island" of Delta battery to fire the first round in over four years for the battalion."

"This battalion has such a rich history and we try to instill that in the Soldiers in the unit today," Casey said. 





JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Soldiers with E Troop, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment stand in formation next to an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter at Marshall Army Airfield during a ceremony that joined the regiment with its parent headquarters, the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers of the 6th United States Cavalry tend to their horses while at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., in the 1930s.

TAKING FLIGHT

Cavalry regiment moves from Civil War mounts to modern-day chariots in the sky

By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

AS THE WORLD GROWS MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, SO DOES WARFARE. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THE MACHINE GUN HAS REPLACED THE MUSKET, UNMANNED REMOTE AIRCRAFT AND SATELLITES HAVE TAKEN OVER SCOUTING, TANKS AND ARTILLERY HAVE MADE THE CANNON OBSOLETE AND HELICOPTERS CAN FLY FASTER THAN ANY HORSE COULD EVER DREAM. UNCHECKED ADVANCEMENT, THOUGH, DOESN'T MEAN WE FORGET THE GLORIES OF YEARS GONE BY. (continued on page 8)



1790
REVENUE MARINE (LATER RENAMED REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE) CREATED WITHIN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. THIS DEPARTMENT LATER BECOMES THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

APRIL 30, 1798
DEPARTMENT OF NAVY ESTABLISHED.



FEB. 12, 1809
ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN IN SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY.



JAN. 29, 1813
THE 28TH REGIMENT IS FIRST CONSTITUTED.

JAN. 8, 1815
GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON AND 5,000 TROOPS WIN A VICTORY OVER THE BRITISH IN THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.

1789
CONGRESS ESTABLISHES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF WAR. HENRY KNOX SERVES AS FIRST SECRETARY OF WAR IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FIRST CABINET.



APRIL 27, 1798
1ST BATTALION, 6TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT IS CONSTITUTED AS A COMPANY IN THE 3RD BATTALION, 2ND REGIMENT OF ARTILLERISTS AND ENGINEERS. THE UNIT IS NOW PART OF THE 3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM.

JAN. 19, 1807
ROBERT E. LEE BORN IN VIRGINIA. DURING THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR, LEE SERVES AS LIEUTENANT IN THE 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION.



1808
THE 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT IS CONSTITUTED AS A COMPANY IN THE 6TH INFANTRY. TODAY, THIS UNIT IS A PART OF THE BIG RED ONE'S 3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM.

1812-1815
WAR OF 1812.



(continued from page 7)

The connotation of the word “cavalry” has changed a lot for the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment since the Civil War. The technology may have changed, but the valor and courage present in today’s Soldier was ever present in the minds and hearts of Union Soldiers long past.

Company A of the 6th Cavalry Regiment served in 16 campaigns during the Civil War and engaged frequently in bitter battles against Confederate troops.

One of the unit’s most outstanding feats occurred in 1863 in Fairfield, Pa., where about 400 troopers assaulted two Confederate cavalry units in an effort to take back wagons full of Union supplies. Neither side was completely successful.

Events leading up to the battle began to transpire at noon July 3, when Brig. Gen. Wesley Merritt’s Reserve Brigade left Emmitsburg, Md., and headed for Gettysburg.

During a rest-stop on the road, Merritt took on an unofficial assignment after hearing reports from a Unionist citizen that a Confederate forage train seven miles to the northwest, near Fairfield, contained wagons bulging with provisions confiscated in Pennsylvania and was guarded by few men who seemed “unprepossessing.”*

Eager to reclaim some material and supplies looted from Union military or towns, he detached the 6th Cavalry with Maj. Paddy Starr at its head.



Soldiers of the 6th United States Cavalry attend a ceremony at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., in the 1930s.

For eight miles the troopers rode unhindered, until Starr realized he was marching toward Gen. Robert E. Lee’s rear and rear guard, which also were on their way toward Gettysburg.

Upon reaching Millerstown, the road to Gettysburg met a trail that cut sharply left into the mountains. Starr decided to split up his forces, sending two companies under the command of Capt. George Cram and Lt. Nicholas Nolan on the

westward track while he took the northern road in hopes of flanking the wagons and their escort.

After splitting up, Starr’s advance squadron, commanded by Lt. Christian Balder moved to within a half mile of Fairfield and spotted a few forage wagons on which he “spurred” forward, but was caught unawares as he did so by the Confederate 7th Virginia Cavalry, the lead unit of Gen. William “Grumble”

Jones brigade, who opened fire on Balder without delay.

A squadron of Regulars was able to come to Balder’s aid and push the Virginians back.

After learning of the situation, Starr did not lead his main force head-on into a force that he did not know the strength of, but rather pulled his men off the road, dismounted and set up quick battlements in an apple orchard and others behind a “post-and-rail fence from which they could not easily be dislodged. From these positions the squadrons opened fire on the head of the Rebel regiment, inflicting several casualties.”*

It is here noted that the confederate Lt. Col. Thomas Marshall, 7th Virginia Cavalry commander, admitted his outfit “did not at this place and time close up as promptly as it should ... making our loss greater than it would otherwise have been.”

Though the 7th took a hard hit, they still could have fought if they weren’t soon after routed by Cram and Nolan, who came charging with their own men from the westward path, effectively scattering the 7th cavalry.

It was only by the words of Jones himself that halted the 7th’s retreats. “Shall one damned regiment of Yankees whip my whole brigade,” he reportedly shouted as they were passing by the next regiment in his column, the 6th Virginia.

Civil War journals describe the Confederates answering back, “Let us try them!”

With Jones at their lead, the 7th Cavalry rebounded and charged ahead with such haste that they reached the regulars before they were ready, at which point Starr realized how badly outnumbered he truly was. However, he still remounted for a counterattack, effectively offering his force up to be cut to pieces.

“In minutes, the Virginians swarmed over it, hacking and slashing in wild abandon.”*

During the close quarters fighting, Starr’s right arm was mangled by a pistol ball, after which he was captured, and was later traded back to the Union. Balder was mortally wounded before he could free himself from the battle and died.

A total of 242 members of the 6th United States Cavalry were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Jones suffered 44 casualties, feeling he was successful in parrying a blow against Lee’s rear and in securing an emergency route for Lee in the event of a retreat.

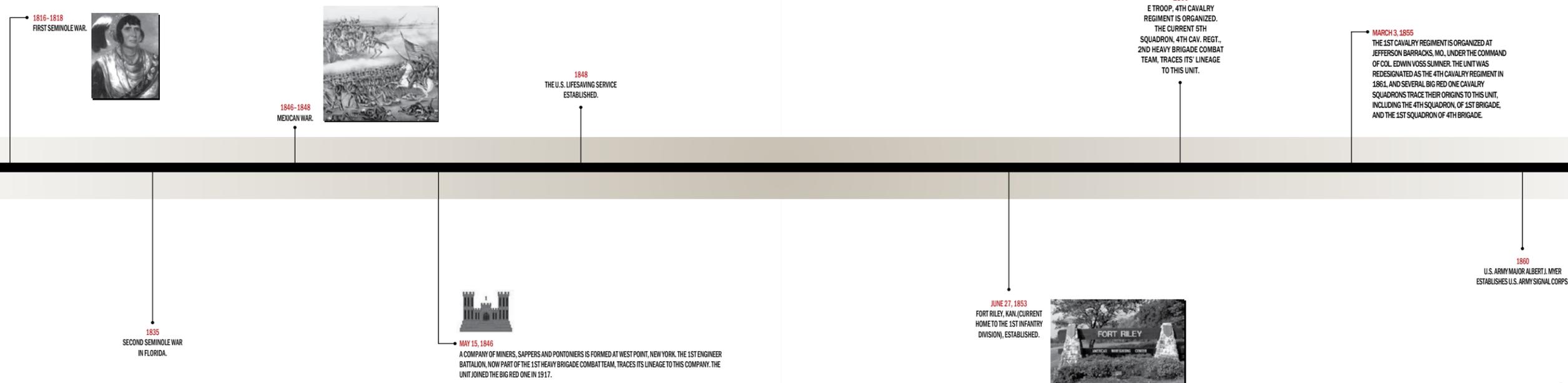


Soldiers of the 6th United States Cavalry hold ranks for a photo during or around the Civil War years.

Union forces felt they too had scored a victory, reasoning that they had prevented the Confederates from turning their Army’s southern flank as well as created havoc in its rear at a critical time.

The 6th Cavalry Regiment fashioned their Coat of Arms, at the time, from this particular battle. On the shield is pictured a Unicorn, symbolizing knightly virtues and, in the rampant position, a symbol of fighting aggressiveness, combined with speed and activity. The shield is blue, the color of the Federal uniform during the Civil War.

*Text taken from “The Cavalry at Gettysburg” A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations during the Civil War’s Pivotal Campaign 9 June – 14 July 1863. Pages 19, 235–237. C. 1986





Leading the Charge

Rangers led way at Gela assault and helped turn tide at the Battle of Troina

By Anna Staatz | *Duty First! Magazine*

THE 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT WAS CONSTITUTED IN 1861, AS PART OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY. THE "RANGERS" WERE TESTED IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND PROVEN IN WORLD WAR I, WHEN ON NOV. 3, 1917, IT BECAME THE FIRST U.S. REGIMENT TO FIGHT AND SUFFER CASUALTIES WHILE REPELLING A GERMAN NIGHT RAID. THE REGIMENT FOUGHT HONORABLY THROUGHOUT WORLD WAR I AND NEARLY 25 YEARS LATER WAS CALLED TO DUTY ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME IN NORTH AFRICA, AS WORLD WAR II SPUN TO A CRESCENDO.

In between North Africa and combat in mainland Europe, was Sicily—an often glossed over 38-day campaign in the summer of 1943 which shaped strategy both within the Army and within Allied forces for the remainder of World War II.

In January 1943, Allied leaders began to plan for a campaign beyond North Africa, choosing Sicily as the point at which to pick. If they were able to take control of Sicily, then the island could serve as a launching point for further attacks on Axis forces in mainland Europe. Ultimately, however, Sicily became the rehearsal exercise for an amphibious assault at Normandy less than a year later.

The 16th Regiment was part of the Big Red One's initial beach assault force at Gela. The regiment went ashore on the right side of the beach, with their fellow 1st Inf. Div. counterparts from the 26th Infantry Regiment on their left. The Rangers pushed ashore and inland, quickly encountering an armored counterattack from Axis forces. The unit fought through it, and continued to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM

OPPOSITE: Members of the 16th Infantry Regiment make their way through Troina. **ABOVE:** Pvt. William Saloski, searching for snipers, at Troina in ruins caused by 1st Infantry Division artillery.

advance inward on the island. While the 16th Infantry Regiment fought many battles in the Sicily campaign, perhaps the most well-known for the entire 1st Infantry Division was the Battle of Troina—a battle that became a turning point in the campaign, ultimately forcing Axis forces to decide in favor of a retreat from the island.

The Battle of Troina raged for six days. From July 31-Aug. 6, 1943, 1st Infantry Division units, to include the 16th Infantry Regiment and the 26th Infantry Regiment, engaged the German 15th Panzer Grenadier Division and the Italian 28th Infantry Division Aosta. The original plan by General Terry Allen was to take Troina with a two-pronged attack. However, when nearby Cerami was taken with relative ease, Allen decided to send the 39th Regiment, attached to the Big Red One at that time, into Troina. The unit was stopped by small arms fire and a heavy artillery barrage.

Next, the 26th Regiment was sent north toward Monte Basilio to cut off the German **(continued on page 12)**

1861-1865
CIVIL WAR.



DECEMBER 1861

A BATTALION OF ENGINEER TROOPS IS ORGANIZED IN WASHINGTON, DC. THE 6TH ENGINEER BATTALION, CURRENTLY PART OF THE 4TH MANUEVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE, TRACES ITS LINEAGE TO THIS UNIT.



APRIL 1865

GEN. ROBERT E. LEE SURRENDERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA TO GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT AT APPOMATTOX.

JAN. 26, 1880

GENERAL OF THE ARMY, DOUGLAS MACARTHUR BORN IN LITTLE ROCK, ARK.



DEC. 31, 1880
GEORGE C. MARSHALL BORN IN UNIONTOWN, PENN.



MAY 3, 1861

18TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CONSTITUTED IN THE REGULAR ARMY. THE UNIT IS OFFICIALLY ORGANIZED ON JULY 22, 1861, AT CAMP THOMAS, OHIO.

1861

1ST SQUADRON, 6TH CAVALRY REGIMENT CONSTITUTED AS COMPANY A, 6TH CAVALRY REGIMENT.



JULY 12, 1862

THE MEDAL OF HONOR WAS ESTABLISHED BY A CONGRESSIONAL ACT.

MAY 3, 1861

THE 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT IS CONSTITUTED IN THE REGULAR ARMY AS 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY.

(continued from page 11)

supply route to Cesaro. The 16th Regiment was sent up the middle of the “Blue Spaders” going north and the 18th Regiment flanking Axis forces on the south side. Big Red One Soldiers were working over steep slopes, well exposed to a dug-in enemy, but still they continued to fight. For days it seemed there was little or no advancement in the midst of heavy fighting. However, the commander of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Div. realized on Aug. 5 that his men could not withstand another day of fighting the 1st Infantry Division, and the unit withdrew that night.

The Soldiers of the 16th Regiment realized resistance was weakening and in the early morning hours of August 16th, made their way towards town. Troina rested in the hands of the regiment’s third battalion by mid-morning.

The victory at Troina came at a heavy cost to 1st Inf. Div. units. One such loss was Private Harry Wayne Nelson. Nelson was born April 22, 1911, in Jamestown, Kan. His family moved to Kansas City, Mo., when he was 4. Nelson enlisted in the Army on Nov. 28, 1942, at the age of 31. He fought with the 16th Infantry Regiment, first in North Africa, then in Sicily as part of the regiment’s invasion force onto the island.

On August 4, 1943, during the fierce battle to claim Troina, Nelson crossed several hundred meters of fire-swept



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM

ABOVE: A 16th Infantry Regiment medic attends a wounded German prisoner. **OPPOSITE:** The tough hills around the city of Troina which the 1st Infantry Division fought over in the battle named after the city. The 16, 18th, and 26th Regiments fought in this battle, along with other units attached to the 1st Infantry Division at that time.

terrain to repair the remaining communication lines for his battalion. He repaired these lines under severe machine gun and mortar fire and was mortally wounded before he could reach a place of cover. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart medals.

Soon after Troina, the Big Red One went to England, where it trained with other elements of the Army, passing on lessons learned. The Rangers used their experience in Sicily to help them as they waded ashore on Omaha Beach in June

1944. The regiment fought through vicious combat on the beach, often hand-to-hand, paving the way for the units that followed them onto the beach.

The regiment was commended for their actions in World War II by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said, “You are the finest regiment in our Army. I know your record from the day you landed in North Africa, and through Sicily. I am beginning to think that your regiment is a sort of Praetorian Guard, which goes along with me and gives me luck.”

Battlefield study serves broader purpose

By Anna Staatz
Duty First! Magazine

To know where you’re going, you have to know where you’ve been. It’s an often repeated phrase when it comes to history, especially in the military.

About 15 students and soldiers spent eight days in Sicily doing just that—understanding where their armies had been. The group, composed of representatives from the United States and Canada, spent April 29-May 8 retracing the steps of Allied Forces’ soldiers across the battlefields that became a turning point in World War II.

The battlefield study has been an annual event since 2006, evolving out of a partnership between the Canadian Battlefield Foundation and the Cantigny First Division Foundation. Lee Windsor, deputy director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick, was tagged as the tour leader, because of his extensive background researching and writing about the Italian Campaign during

World War II. In recent years, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., also has become involved in the battlefield study.

Paul Herbert, executive director, Cantigny First Division Foundation, said that supporting battlefield tours such as this helps to preserve and to promote history.

“We use the history of the Big Red One for a broader purpose,” Herbert said. “To pass on to young citizens the knowledge of our military heritage and awareness of our responsibilities as citizens for the country’s defense. There’s no better way than to immerse young people in a great event like this. It can be life-changing.”

Windsor said the program and study questions focus on three areas: the current state of historical writing on the campaign, curriculum goals at the CGSC and Canadian Forces College—such as how Sicily is useful as a professional development case study for today’s militaries, and current research on World War II in Sic-

ily and Italy—which often challenges and updates prior beliefs and understandings about how and why things happened during this part of the Allied campaign.

The study retraced the path of battle, from the Allied landings on the southern part of the island, to the Strait of Messina, where Axis forces retreated from the island. After each segment on the battlefield locations, students participated in discussion seminars pertinent to what they had seen and covered that day.

“Walking the ground and understanding how it influences decision making and event outcomes is part of our aim,” Windsor said. “That’s why we run this event in Sicily instead of a lecture hall in North America.”

Besides covering the details of the battles in Sicily, the study also covered such areas as the role of naval and air support, the role of civil affairs and how they were utilized during the Sicily Campaign, and the breakdown of Italy and why the country eventually joined the Allied Forces.

ANNA STAATZ, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- 1883** THE PENDLETON CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ACT ESTABLISHED.
- NOV. 11, 1885** GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON BORN IN CALIFORNIA.
- NOV. 24, 1888** LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLARENCE R. HUEBNER BORN IN BUSHTON, KAN. HUEBNER WOULD BE COMMANDER OF THE BIG RED ONE IN WWII.
- OCT. 14, 1890** DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER BORN IN DENISON, TEXAS.
- 1898** COMPANY A, 6TH CAVALRY REGIMENT SAILED TO CUBA FOR THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.
- 1899-1902** PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR.
- DECEMBER 1900** THE 1ST BATTALION, 26TH INFANTRY REGIMENT IS ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE 1ST PROVISIONAL BATTALION OF INFANTRY. THE UNIT WAS CONSOLIDATED WITH COMPANY A, 26TH INFANTRY IN 1901. TODAY THE UNIT IS A PART OF THE 3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INF. DIV.
- FEBRUARY 1901** THE PRESENT 28TH INFANTRY REGIMENT IS CONSTITUTED. THE “BLACK LIONS” FIRST SAW COMBAT FROM DECEMBER 1901 TO JANUARY 1904 DURING THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION.



COURTESY PHOTO

ABOVE: Bill Moorland's picture of a Sherman M4 tank coming off a landing craft mechanized (LCM) boat in England. **OPPOSITE:** A light Stuart tank of Company D, 745th Tank Bn. This is the unit "Bud" Spencer was in before he was commissioned. Spencer is not in the picture.

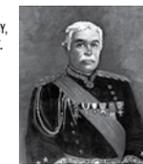
PACKING A PUNCH

Tank battalion signed on with 1st Infantry Division to lend muscle for Omaha Beach landing

By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

ON APRIL 21, 1944, THE 745TH TANK BATTALION, NOW THE 1ST COMBINED ARMS BATTALION, 63RD ARMOR REGIMENT, WAS ATTACHED TO THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION. (continued on page 16)

AUG. 16, 1903
FIRST CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY,
SAMUEL B. YOUNG, TOOK OFFICE.



1917
THE UNITED STATES ENTERS
WORLD WAR I.



JULY 1, 1916
1ST BATTALION, 7TH FIELD
ARTILLERY REGIMENT
(FORMERLY 4TH BATTALION,
1ST FIELD ARTILLERY
REGIMENT) CONSTITUTED.

(continued from page 15)

Just a month and a half later, on June 6, 1944, the same men found themselves off the coast of Normandy within a mass of about 4,000 ships and landing craft carrying 176,000 troops heading straight for the sands of Omaha Beach under the protection of an armada of 600 warships, 7,000 fighters combing the area by air and 2,500 heavy bombers, the crews of which had previously carpet-bombed the terrain with 10,000 tons of explosives.

From amid Company B of the 745th, floating on landing craft mechanized (LCM) boats within the mighty military force treading through the sea, peered a Cpl. Edgar G. "Eddie" Ireland from "Betty," his waterproofed M4A3 tank, a variant of the M4A1 Sherman tank that featured a welded hull.

His unit's mission was to work in conjunction with the 741st Tank Battalion to support the 16th Infantry Regiment upon landing on the beach.

"Turret high is where they would drop us off," Ireland has said in oral history interviews conducted by the 1st Infantry Division Cantigny Museum. "They went right up the shore as far as they could go, but with the heavy tank on there they didn't make the shoreline all the way. We had to ride through water quite a bit," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL MOORLAND

Company B, 745th Tank Battalion, drills in landing maneuvers in England with a Sherman M4 tank in a Landing Craft Mechanized. On April 21, 1944, the 745th Tank Battalion, now the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, was attached to the 1st Infantry Division.

By the time the tanks of the 745th reached the shoreline they found they could not go any farther. The bodies of fallen Soldiers blocked their path.

After having to wait excruciating moments undergoing mortar fire so infantrymen could move the bodies aside

so the tanks wouldn't run them over, a unit of engineers was able to make a roadway for Ireland's unit to make it to the top of the beach and start inland.

"At the top of the bluff, guides from the 16th Infantry led the tanks to positions from which they could engage

German pillboxes. Company B was then attached to the 16th Inf. Regt. for the attack on Colleville-sur-Mer," Ireland said. Ireland's unit soon would be attached to the 18th Infantry. (On Point magazine, Spring 2008, pg. 22)

The 745th was not yet done, though. In September of 1944, the battalion, along with the 1st Inf. Div., destroyed an enemy pocket at Mons, Belgium, capturing more than 5,000 prisoners, including the commander of the German 6th Airborne Division.

The victory forced the withdrawal of German forces and allowed Big Red One forces to move toward Aachen, Germany, to attempt to break through the Siegfried Line to Cologne of the Rhine, and also into the Roer valley.

Ireland and the 745th, still attached to the 18th Inf. Regt., joined 300,000 Allied Soldiers and added "Betty" to 750 allied tanks on the field against an approximate 250,000 Axis soldiers and 500 Axis tanks, with a mission to seize and secure Ravelsberg and Hill 231, a hill-top northeast of Aachen.

"Patrols penetrated a cordon of German pillboxes to link up with the 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division on 16 October 1944, encircling Aachen and cutting the main highway that supplied the city." (On Point magazine, Spring 2008, pg. 23)

It was on Oct. 17, 1944, that Ireland's



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown above is Sgt. Bill Moorland, Company B, 745th Tank Battalion.

company attacked pillboxes in an area defended by the 116th Panzer Division and the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division to defend a fired upon company, whose mission it was to remain in contact with the 119th Infantry.

"We would drive up to the concrete boxes and empty about five rounds point blank into the doorway," Ireland said.

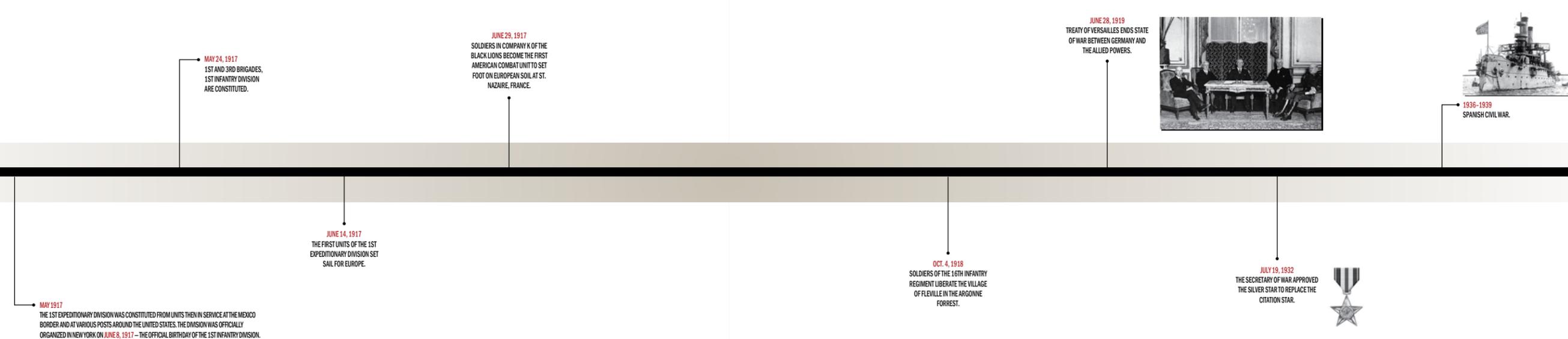
Ultimately, although breaches were affected in the Siegfried Line, the attempt to reach Cologne was abandoned after the failure of the U.S. First Army's attempts to capture the Roer dams near Schmidt.

Casualties reached 85,000 for the Allies and 70,000 for Axis forces.

Ireland was honorably discharged from service after receiving injuries during a battle at Mellerhofen later in the war, just before his unit continued their attack toward the Rhine.

Ireland's tank had been impacted by an 88 mm main gun round from a Tiger tank 300 yards across a field. He lost his right leg below the knee and had a badly burned left leg that was broken in 12 places, but still managed to pull himself to safety in a watery ditch, which is where he was able to douse his fiery leg. He was soon discovered by medics from the 18th Inf. regt., who transported him to the rear.

Ireland was promoted to staff sergeant by the end of the war, and was presented with a Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner, then commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, for his valiant efforts under fire. 





PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS

In this photo, taken one day after the Battle of Ap Bau Bang on Nov. 12, 1965, Lt. Col. Paul Fisher, back to the camera, the then commander of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment shows an armored personnel carrier still in use after damaged by Viet Cong to Lt. Gen. Jean Engler, right, the then deputy commanding general of United States Army – Vietnam.



COURTESY PHOTO

A damaged armored personnel carrier following the Battle of Ap Bau Bang on Nov. 12, 1965 in Vietnam. Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment lost a total of eight APCs during the seven-hour long battle.

THE BEATEN PATH

'Quarter Horse' Squadron has lasting memories of terrains spanning all over the world

By Stephanie Hoff | *Duty First! Magazine*

FOR SOLDIERS OF AN ARMY UNIT ASSIGNED TO FORT RILEY, KAN., SEEING HERDS OF COWS ARE GENERALLY NOT A LIFELONG MEMORY.

However, the memory of a herd of cows observed Nov. 11, 1965, nearly 35 miles north of Saigon in North Vietnam, most likely will remain with Bill Baty.

Baty, who served as the non-commissioned officer in charge for three mortar squads in Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, ponders if the first significant battle for the 1st Infantry Division during the Vietnam War could have been prevented following a miscommunication with a Vietnamese cattleman.

"Just prior to the sun setting, an old man attempting to penetrate our perimeter with a herd of cows, was ordered to stop several times. He either ignored or didn't understand the situation and guards at that site opened up on him with an M60 machine gun not really trying to hit him but to stop him or scare him off," Baty said during unit forums. "Unfortunately one of the rounds grazed his leg and he was promptly patched up by our medics and sent on his way. I have often wondered if we were attacked due to this action as retaliation."

The 1st Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt., commonly known then as "Quarter Horse," was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division and arrived in Vietnam in October 1965. The squadron served as the division's reconnaissance element and primarily utilized armored personnel carriers to conduct area and route clearances. With its vast amount of fire

power, the "Quarter Horse" was recognized as the fire brigade for the division, moving from hot spot to hot spot.

On Nov. 11, 1965, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt. departed its base camp at Lai Khe and proceeded up Highway 13 to the village of Bau Bang.

"Once inside the village our personnel carriers provided security for medical personnel who tended to the sick of the village, mostly women and children. At about 5 p.m., we pulled back just south of the village and set up a perimeter in a peanut patch," Baty recalls.

"Most of the night was uneventful, although there was a very noisy din from the village until late that night, Children crying, dogs barking constantly. I posted my guards and since all the space inside the PC was taken up, I let down the splash guard in front of my PC and slept there. Sometime during the night I was awakened by gunfire across the perimeter from us and roused the mortar crews and prepared our mortars for action. The Battle of Ap Bau Bang had begun."

(continued on page 20)



SEPT. 1, 1939
WORLD WAR II BEGINS.

OCT. 1, 1941
34TH ARMOR REGIMENT IS FORMED AT FORT KNOX, KY. THE REGIMENT'S SECOND BATTALION, THE "DREADNAUGHTS" IS CURRENTLY PART OF THE BIG RED ONE'S 1ST HEAVY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM.

MAY 3, 1942
1ST COMBINED ARMS BATTALION, 63RD ARMOR REGIMENT (FORMERLY 2ND BATTALION, 70TH ARMOR REGIMENT) IS CONSTITUTED AS THE 745TH TANK BATTALION AT CAMP BOWIE, TEXAS.

1943-1945
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIERS FIGHT IN NORTH AFRICA AND SICILY, ARE THE FIRST ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY ON D-DAY AND THE FIRST TO CAPTURE A MAJOR GERMAN CITY - AACHEN.

OCT. 1, 1940
THE "PROUD AMERICANS" ARE REDESIGNATED AS BATTERY B, 32ND FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, AND ACTIVATED AT FORT ETHAN ALLEN, VERMONT, AS AN ELEMENT OF THE 1ST DIVISION. THE 2ND BATTALION, 32ND FA REGT., IS CURRENTLY PART OF THE DIVISION'S 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM.

1941
U.S. ENTERS WORLD WAR II.

NOV. 8, 1942
THE 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT LANDS IN NORTH AFRICA, AND DURING THE NEXT THREE DAYS HELPS TO CAPTURE ORAN AND SECURE A PERMANENT PRESENCE FOR THE ARMY IN NORTH AFRICA.

JULY 10, 1943
THE BIG RED ONE LANDS AT GELA BEACH.



(continued from page 19)

News reports at the time stated a conservative estimate was at least 400 Viet Cong were killed in the seven-hour battle. By noon the following day, U.S. Soldiers had counted 196 Viet Cong bodies. Eight armored personnel carriers were destroyed, including Baty's.

A29, Baty's personnel carrier which he refers to as 'she,' received numerous rounds from rifles but was not significantly damaged until a mortar round entered the hatch, exploded and ignited gunpowder charges. One member of Baty's crew was killed during the explosion and he and one other Soldier were wounded.

"Soon, a medic appeared, gave me a shot of morphine and began wrapping my wounds. He was crying and I probably was too. I told him to go look after my men and he left me laying there on my back. I didn't feel scared; in fact the morphine gave me a sense of peace," Baty said.

Unbeknownst to Baty during the battle, an Army photographer was on the scene during the battle and captured on film the damage inflicted upon A29. Nearly 36 years later, Baty received the

I told him to go look after my men and he left me laying there on my back. I didn't feel scared; in fact the morphine gave me a sense of peace."

— Billy Baty,
Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry
Regiment

opportunity to view the damage inflicted on that unforgettable day.

"I wasn't aware there was a photographer along with us on this action and didn't find out that this series of photos even existed until they were handed to me by a friend at a 2001 reunion in Nashville," he said. "These photos show my vehicle, A29, shortly after she was hit and subsequently blew up. I have to admit that it gave me a jolt when I first looked at (the photos)."

Baty received his second Purple Heart for wounds he received. Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt. also received a Valorous Unit Award for its actions at the battle of Ap Bau Bang.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 1-4CAV.COM

TOP: Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment take a break near their armored personnel carriers to eat while in Vietnam. **ABOVE:** The sign for the headquarters of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment is shown in this undated photo from Vietnam. The unit received a Valorous Unit Award for its actions at the Battle Ap Bau Bang.



OCT. 24, 1945
UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHED.

JULY 26, 1947
NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947
BECOMES LAW, CREATING THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.



AUGUST 1945
WORLD WAR II ENDS.



1945-1955
THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION REMAINED IN GERMANY UNTIL 1955, FIRST AS OCCUPATIONAL TROOPS, THEN AS PARTNERS WITH THE NEW GERMANY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. THE BIG RED ONE REDEPLOYED TO FORT RILEY, KAN., IN 1955.

SEPARATING THE MEN FROM THE BOYS!

VICTORY WEEK 2010 AT FORT RILEY JUNE 15-18

Take part in these and more activities

FLAG FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
TUG OF WAR
SOFTBALL

VOLLEYBALL
GOLF & SOCCER
DODGEBALL
BOXING

WEIGHTLIFTING
COMBATIVES
10-MILE RUN
111-MILE RELAY



For more information about Victory Week and to register for events, contact your unit command.



No Winners

No-win situation at Battle of Ong Thanh put 'Black Lion' Battalion's heart and courage on display

By Anna Staatz | Duty First! Magazine

IT WAS THE BATTLE THAT NO ONE WON. VIETNAM'S BATTLE OF ONG THANH DRAWS ITS NAME FROM A NEARBY RIVER. UNITS FIGHTING WITH THE 271ST VIET CONG REGIMENT — ABOUT 1,200 MEN AND ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED REGIMENTS IN VIETNAM, DUG INTO THE AREA DURING THE WEEK BEFORE THE BATTLE, WAITING FOR FOOD SUPPLIES BEFORE GOING ON TO A LARGER OPERATION.

In October 1967, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Inf. Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, had engaged in search and destroy missions in the area, encountering elements of the waiting 271st VC Regt.

Oct. 16, the Black Lions engaged the Viet Cong, suffering few injuries and a solo casualty. The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Terry Allen, Jr., ordered units into a full attack the next day, believing he had the manpower to engage a small enemy force.

Ray Albin

Ray Albin enlisted in the Army in November 1966 at the age of 19, volunteering for the infantry.

"I don't know why I did that," he said. "I guess I was looking for a challenge. I was very athletic and thought I would do well at it. But I really had no concept of combat outside of movies."

In May 1967, he went to Vietnam, where he was assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt. In July, the battalion added Delta Co., to include a mortar platoon, and Albin was assigned to it.

Albin said he saw his "fair share" of combat in the four months he was in Vietnam before the Battle of Ong Thanh. Usually, much of his job was with the mortar platoon, providing indirect fire support to the infantry platoons.

Clark Welch

Clark Welch enlisted in the Army just days after graduating high school in Durham, N.H.

"I joined the Army to get into whatever was happening in the world outside my little town," Welch said. "And to be a paratrooper and somehow participate in our president's strategy to 'contain communism.'"

He worked his way up the enlisted ranks, becoming the top non-commissioned officer for a special-forces team deployed to several areas around the world. When he received orders to report to Vietnam in April 1967, he had nine years as an NCO and one year as an officer under his belt. He was supposed to report to a special-forces unit in Vietnam, but inexplicably was reassigned to 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., when he arrived in country. Welch was quickly told he would command the yet-to-be-formed fourth rifle company. He had one week to assemble a bare bones staff ahead of the arrival of about 150 men.

After a few perimeter patrols, the company was declared ready and began conducting operations with the battalion. In early October, the battalion left Lai Khe, going west in its entirety except for one company. It set up at a night defensive position and conducted company-sized search and destroy patrols. Each day, Welch said there was more

and more enemy contact. After several days, the battalion marched through hot, wet conditions to a new NDP near the small river of Ong Thanh. Through Oct. 16, Welch said that his company made contact every day.

"The feeling was that we were getting close to something big," Welch said. "We knew that we and everyone else in Shenandoah II were looking for the famed 271st Viet Cong Regiment. We thought we might be getting closer to some of the smaller elements of that regiment."

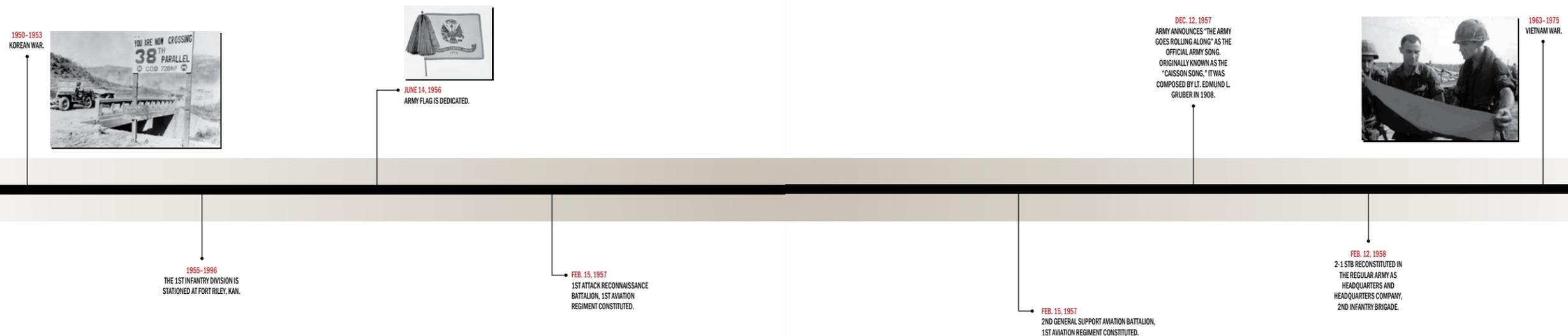
Oct. 16, 1967

The battle plan for Oct. 16 was for Delta Co. to lead, followed by Bravo Co., on a search and destroy mission. Albin and the mortar platoon stayed at the NDP, where they would wait for Welch and the platoon commander to call back coordinates.

The rifle companies left the NDP about 8 a.m., and after moving a few kilometers, sighted the enemy first. Welch said the company quickly gained fire superiority, dealing deep blows to the Viet Cong. They then moved into a fortified area where they found quite a bit of material and weapons.

The units on the field that day lost one casualty, a captain, and had 13 wounded. In terms of battle, everything had gone very well.

(continued on page 24)



(continued from page 23)

"We had contact, but that day, everything worked out," Albin said. "It was a good day for us."

That night, every man slept as he could, knowing the next day would most likely bring a difficult fight.

Oct. 17, 1967

A restless night gave way to an uneasy morning. Because of the contact with the Viet Cong the day before, Albin said everyone was apprehensive.

"Everyone knew it was going to be a very difficult day," Albin said. "I remember one of the commanders saying 'bring all the ammo you can carry.' That was the only time I ever heard someone reiterate that with such force right before a mission."

At 8 a.m., Alpha Co. left the NDP, with Delta Co. following a few minutes later. The battalion's command group, including Allen, was also on the ground with the two companies.

Shortly before 10 a.m., Alpha Co. reported seeing six Viet Cong running down the trail to the West. Welch said he ordered his Soldiers to get into defensive positions around the battalion command group.

"I knew if there was six, then there must be 60," Welch said.

At 10 a.m., Viet Cong forces opened up with devastating fire on the two Black Lion companies. The first wave of

fire was directed primarily at Alpha Co., Welch said. What he could see of the lead company "did not look good."

"There were a lot of bodies on the ground and not much fire from the Americans," he said.

Back at the NDP, Albin could hear the battle, both in the distance and over the radios, which were right next to him.

"It started out as a pop, pop, pop," Albin said. "Then ratchet that up times 10, times 20, times 30. It wasn't very long before it reached a crescendo."

Welch was ordered by Allen to go and find out what happened to Alpha Co. Running forward with one of his lieutenants, Welch quickly saw there was no more Alpha Co.

"I am able to get a few survivors and some weapons from A Co., but the enemy fire is very heavy and there didn't seem to be anyone alive still in the area," he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Inf. Regiment, 1st Infantry Division engaged the Viet Cong in Vietnam's Battle of Ong Thanh in October of 1967.

Welch returned to Allen to report on Alpha Co., and then told his men to dig in and fight, since maneuvering was out of the question with the large number of enemy and the need to protect the battalion command group.

Welch also was frustrated because supporting artillery units had been told only to fire for the lead company and the battalion S3 ordered Albin's mortar platoon to not fire for fear of hitting their own Soldiers.

"There were numerous examples of

unbelievable courage and self-sacrifice shown by my men," Welch said. "They gave each other their last bandage, their last water, their last ammo. Machine gunners, who were special targets, were quickly shot. But another man would crawl over to fire that machine gun until he, too, was shot."

Welch crawled from platoon to platoon along the perimeter and then back to Allen to give reports. He was shot several times, and grew weaker and weaker.

"At one time, I knew I was going to pass out, so I told Lt. Stroup, the third platoon leader, to hold D Co. together and keep them safe," Welch said.

The Viet Cong withdrew from the area about noon, with little remaining of the American forces.

After the Battle

Albin said volunteers were requested to go out to the battle location and bring back the wounded and dead.

"It was the worst thing I've ever seen in my life," Albin said. "Just complete and total devastation. And the loss of vitality. I had just seen all those guys leave a couple hours ago, then I go out there, and there's just nothing."

Albin and other members of the Black Lions spent the rest of the day evacuating bodies. The next day, everyone who was left was flown out of the area and back to Lai Khe.

Albin said after Oct. 17, he never expected to get out of Vietnam alive. He took a mid-tour leave and went to Australia, where he "ate steaks every day." He spent the rest of his tour with the Black Lions' Delta Co.

"Nothing, thank God, was ever like that day," Albin said.

Welch said he does not remember getting out of the battle. He woke up once in Lai Khe, then he went on to a field hospital near Saigon and then to a general hospital in Yokohama, Japan.

"There I became fully conscious, but was badly hurt," Welch said. "I could not get any information about what had happened to my men - who died, who survived and what hospital they were in. That complete lack of information or contact with other Delta Co. survivors about killed me."

Welch stayed in the Army and retired as a lieutenant colonel. After he recovered from the injuries he sustained during the Battle of Ong Thanh, he flew back to Vietnam and reported for duty with the 5th Special Forces Group. He worked with the group on a special project until he was assigned to the Ranger Camp in Florida.

"I always tried to fix things so an Oct. 17, 1967, would never happen again," Welch said. "Gave me headaches. ... I still have headaches."

Albin said since Vietnam, he's been

very thankful for life. He went back to college when he got out of the Army and obtained a master's degree in history, which he taught in junior high and in junior college for 31 years.

Albin, like Welch, had little to do with some of the battle decisions made above them the day of Oct. 17. But they both said they regretted the decisions that had cost so many lives.

"I loved those men," Welch said. "I would give anything to have them back with us. Some say 'they gave up their lives for their country.' Not true. I saw them; they did not 'give up their lives,' they had their lives torn from them as they fought to protect themselves and their friends."

Welch had the opportunity in 2002 to return to Vietnam, where he met with Col. Vo Minh Triet, who commanded the 271st Viet Cong Regt. that the Black Lions battled that day. Triet told Welch how he had hid and dug in about 1,200 members of the regiment between Oct. 12 and 17th, about one kilometer away from the Black Lions' NDP. Welch and Triet retraced their steps on the battlefield together.

"That day," Triet told Welch, "no one won."

Editor's note: This story originally appeared in the October 2008 issue of Duty First. The battle is detailed in the book, "They Marched Into Sunlight," by David Maraniss, and was also made into a film.

1965
THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION IS THE FIRST DIVISION CALLED TO FIGHT IN VIETNAM.



APRIL 1970
THE COLORS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION RETURN FROM VIETNAM TO FORT RILEY.

1973
THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS ARE SIGNED, ENDING U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM.



1981
THE BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE, NAMED AFTER GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY, ENTERS U.S. ARMY SERVICE IN 1981.



1975
SOUTH VIETNAM SURRENDERS TO NORTH VIETNAM.



OCT. 25, 1983
GRENADA OPERATION BEGINS.

JAN. 2, 1964
1ST ATTACK RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, 1ST AVIATION REGIMENT BECOMES ONE OF THE FIRST AVIATION UNITS TO EMPLOY HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTERS IN UNISON TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND DESTROY TEAMS AFTER REDESIGNATING AS HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 1ST AVIATION BATTALION.



MARCH 23, 1966
299TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION (FORMERLY 125TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION) CONSTITUTED.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE
 1st Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Donnie Walker Jr., left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera, case their unit colors during a deployment ceremony in King Field House March 15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Gregory Zemke keeps alert as his battle buddies, Staff Sgts. Jacob Hanson, right, and Kieshu Manning perform first aid on Staff Sgt. Christopher Hilton and Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Cole, all of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, during an IED Lane Training exercise Feb. 5 at Fort Riley.

TAKING THE LEAD

1st Sustainment Brigade off to Kuwait to usher in Operation New Dawn

By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

FROM THE MOMENT 1ST SUST. BDE. COMMANDER COL. DONNIE WALKER JR. AND COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MIGUEL RIVERA ROLLED UP THE COLORS OF THEIR BRIGADE AND SLIPPED THE GREEN COVER OVER ITS HANGING STREAMERS, EACH "DURABLE" SOLDIER WAS COMMITTED IN MIND AND BODY TO COMPLETE THEIR MISSION FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. (continued on page 28)

1985
 TROOP A, 6TH CAVALRY ACTIVATED AS A PIONEER AH-64 APACHE UNIT IN THE ARMY.



JAN. 16, 1991
 OPERATION DESERT STORM BEGINS.



FEB. 1, 1992
 THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA SIGN A TREATY OFFICIALLY ENDING THE COLD WAR.



1985
 HUMVEE ENTERS U.S. MILITARY SERVICE.

FEB. 24, 1991
 THE BIG RED ONE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAJ. GEN. THOMAS RHAME, SPEARHEAD THE ATTACK INTO IRAQ, CREATING THE ALL-IMPORTANT BREACH IN IRAQI UNITS THAT ALLOWED VII CORPS TO PUSH ON INTO IRAQ.

(continued from page 27)

Following the morning of March 15, the men and women of the 1st Sustainment Brigade began their journey to Kuwait, where they would replace the 593rd Sustainment Brigade and set up shop to act as the lead brigade in that area for the responsible drawdown of coalition forces in Iraq, supporting the surge of troops into Afghanistan and to help usher in Operation New Dawn on Sept. 1.

"I'm operating out of Kuwait with transportation missions supporting the entire theatre," Walker has said in previous interviews. "It is a lot of behind the scenes work that a lot of people don't read about, but it is very important."

Walker emphasized that his Soldiers would complete their missions because of the training they completed while at Fort Riley, some of which included the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Lane Training, the NBC Chamber and much more.

Where the NBC chamber allowed Soldiers to familiarize themselves with gas masks and "buddy" first aid when dealing with malicious respiratory chemicals, the HEAT and IED Lane training gave each trooper a hands-on experience with instances occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan on a more regular basis.

"We're training as we are about to

go and fight. We want to do it realistically here and get our Soldiers the proper training so when they get down there, they won't be surprised," said 2nd Lt. Jimmy Plata, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Bde.

"At any time a Soldier can be put on a convoy to fill a slot. Having a basic knowledge of how convoys work is rudimentary to being able to plug in to a convoy," said Capt. Thomas Kober, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"Everyone needs to be prepared," he continued, adding that finding difficult spots along the training mission can still happen even to veterans who have been deployed before, which only makes everyone more prepared when the time to take action comes. "Exercises like this are for building teamwork," he said.

"We all know our mission is important. We have travelled a long road in



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Sgt. Corey Wood, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, jumps out of the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) Feb. 5, training for his unit's deployment in the coming months.

preparing for this challenge and we are ready to execute," Walker said during an uncasing ceremony held in Kuwait on April 29.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the men and women before you are up to this task," said Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division - Rear

and Fort Riley during the deployment ceremony.

Day in and day out Walker and his "Durables" assist in missions supporting units throughout Iraq, intent on success.

Their deployment does not mean sustainment operations on Fort Riley are at a standstill, though.

Task Force Durable continues to provide oversight for the brigade's four battalions, command and control, and the brigade's Sustainment Operation Center (SOC), the most advanced of its kind in the United States Army.

Becoming fully operational on Sept. 10, 2009, the SOC synchronizes, optimizes and makes more efficient the sustainment network at Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division battle rhythm at home while at the same time harboring capabilities of instantly relaying detailed information to deployed units overseas.

JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

TOP: Staff Sgt. Jorge Oyola, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, apprehends a mock civilian after his convoy was struck by a mock Improvised Explosive Device during IED Lane Training Feb. 5 at Fort Riley. RIGHT: Oyola, front, and Malachi Bickle, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, hook up a vehicle to be towed after it had been struck by a mock IED.



JUNE 12, 1999
BIG RED ONE UNITS DEPLOY AS PART OF THE TASK FORCE FALCON PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN KOSOVO.



OCT. 2001
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM BEGINS.



MARCH 19, 2003
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BEGINS.

JAN. 12, 2006
THE 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM IS ACTIVATED AT FORT RILEY, KAN., AS PART OF THE ARMY'S NEW TRANSFORMATION AND MODULARIZATION.

OCT. 16, 2008
THE 4TH MANUEVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE IS ACTIVATED AS PART OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AT FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO.

NOV. 10, 1996
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ASSUMES AUTHORITY OF TASK FORCE EAGLE IN BOSNIA.



SEPT. 11, 2001
TERRORISTS ATTACK THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND THE PENTAGON.

2001-PRESENT
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION BRIGADES HAVE DEPLOYED AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE PAST 9 YEARS IN SUPPORT OF BOTH OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.



AUGUST 2006
THE BIG RED ONE RELOCATES HEADQUARTERS TO FORT RILEY, KAN.

2008-2009
299TH BSB SERVES IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

2010
1ST INF. DIV. DHHB, COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE AND SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE DEPLOY TO IRAQ.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIG **RED** ONE?

- www.riley.army.mil
- www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision
- twitter.com/fightingfirst
- www.flickr.com/photos/firstinfantrydivision
- www.facebook.com/FortRiley

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