



First West Virginia

History of the 201st Regiment

Infantry and Field Artillery
Since 17 February 1735



17 February 2001

Foreword



*Let me plant my banner in West Augusta and I will surround
it with fighting men who will drive the invaders from our land.
-- General George Washington, 1775.*

The Regiment



The DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Lineage and Honors records and the United States Army Institute of Heraldry recognizes the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery as the oldest unit in the U.S. Army with continuous active service since the 17th of February 1735. While other units were formed well before that time (1635), they did not join the Continental Army in 1775. Moreover, the Institute of Heraldry also recognizes the Regiment as the only surviving unit that formed the U.S. Army in 1775.

Dedication:

... to those, who with their lifeblood penned these pages and the history herein included. In grateful memory to the Men of the Mountain land; members of the 201st, and those who maintained the heritage of freedom; we dedicate the following history of the oldest, still active, fighting unit of the United States Army.

Credits:

For the many months of painstaking research in compiling facts with which to publish this history, a special acknowledgement is given to Mrs. Dorothy Comuntzis of Morgantown, West Virginia. "Dottie", wife of Lieutenant Colonel C.G. Comuntzis, a former member of Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 201st Infantry Regiment, spend many hours of her time gathering information, compiling data, and performing research in a tireless effort to make available this complete and factual history. We the members of the 201st, both past and present, express our hearty thanks to "Dottie."

This version was updated to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the first artillery raid on Iraq, 17 February 2001, by Colonel Dennis R. Christian, battalion commander during Operation Desert Storm and historian for the 201st Infantry/Field Artillery Association..



The Regimental Crest ~ Blazonry:

Shield:

On a saltire per saltire azure and gray pere cross counter changed between in chief a rattlesnake coiled to strike vert and in fess a sheathed Roman sword and a fleur-de-lis gules, on a chief azaure two lions combatant of the first.

Crest:

That for the Regiment of the West Virginia National Guard: on a wreath or / and azure a slip of mountain rhodenderon in full bloom and leafed proper.

Motto:

Yes, Sir.

Description:

The chief is blue for Infantry, the two lions representing the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The saltire counter-changed denotes Civil War service in both the Confederate and Federal armies; the snake, Mexican War service; the Roman Sword, Spanish American War service, and fleur-de-lis, service in France during World War I.

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LINEAGE AND HONORS

201st

West Virginia Army National Guard ~ Nation's Oldest ~ West Virginia's Finest

Parent unit organized 17 February 1735 as Captain Morgan Morgan's Company of Volunteer Militia of Orange County, Virginia.

Redesignated November 1738 as Morgan's Company, Frederick County Militia.

Expanded 24 February 1742 to Morgan's Battalion.

Captain Robert Rutherford's Company of Rangers raised from volunteers of the Battalion in early 1758; served through 1759.

Minutemen companies organized 1776 and subsequently, for frontier defense and drafts furnished 1776-1782 for Virginia Regiments of the Continental Line.

Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company of Virginia Riflemen organized 14 June 1775 from volunteers of the region.

Expanded to four companies and consolidated 27 June 1776 with two Maryland rifle companies to form the Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment, Colonel Hugh Stephenson commanding.

Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment captured in part 16 November 1776 at Fort Washington and regimental organization broken up.

Reorganized 22 December 1792 as Volunteer companies of the 10th and 16th Brigades, Virginia Militia (embracing counties in what is now northern portion of state), 18 and 20th Brigades added later.

Captain Cornelius Bogard's company of Volunteer Rangers of Monongalia County in state service in 1794.

Volunteer elements of 10th and 16th Brigades, 3rd Division, mustered into active service September-December 1794 for the Whiskey Rebellion.

Berkeley Artillery, Captain James Faulkner, formed in 1808 at Martinsburg.

Volunteer companies, as follows:

Captain Nathan Ashby's Infantry Company (Monongalia)

Captain William Booth's Infantry Company (Randolph)

Captain Leonard Cupps Rifle Company (Monongalia)

Captain Ephraim Dunn's Infantry Company (Hampshire)

Captain James Morgan's Infantry Company (Monongalia)

Captain John Patton's Infantry Company (Harrison)

Captain Samuel Wilson's Rifle Company (Monongalia)

Combined September 1812 with five Companies from what is now southern West Virginia to form 2nd Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Militia, Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Evans, for service in the Northwestern Army; mustered out in April 1813.

Berkeley Blues, Captain Ephraim G. Alburdis, volunteered for Mexican War service reorganized and mustered into Federal service 21 January 1847 at Richmond, Virginia, as Company H, 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 31 July 1848 at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Berkeley Blues ordered on duty in 1859 at Charles Town in John Brown uprising.

Elements with Union sympathy organized May 1861 as 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Wheeling; reorganized 30 October 1861 for three years service and 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment consolidated with 4th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment (organized June-August 1861 at Grafton and Point Pleasant), and redesignated 10 December 1864 as 2nd West Virginia Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 16 July 1865.

Elements with Confederate sympathy joined various Virginia regiments, C. S. Among these were the Berkeley Blues, Captain Alburdis, which enlisted in the Confederate service for one year on 19 April 1861; reorganized as Company B (Alburdis-Wise Artillery), 1st Virginia Light Artillery Regiment; reorganized 26 April 1862 as James S. Brown's Independent Battery (Wise Artillery); disbanded 4 October 1862.

State forces reorganized 21 November 1863 as Volunteer Companies, 1st Division, West Virginia Militia (covering counties in northern portion of State).

Reorganized in 1878 as 1st Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Militia to contain the following companies:

Berkeley Light Infantry (Martinsburg)

Martinsburg Light Artillery (Martinsburg)

History of the 201st Regiment - West Virginia Army National Guard

Matthews Light Infantry (Wheeling)

Ritchie Light Guards (Harrisville)

Davis Light Guards (Fairmont)

Monongalia Guards (Morgantown)

Consolidated 29 April 1898 with 2nd Regiment to form 1st West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Mustered into Federal service 7-14 May 1898 at Charleston; mustered out 4 February 1899 at Columbus, Georgia.

Continued in State service as 1st Infantry Regiment and reorganized as such in 1899.

Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917 and assigned to 38th Division.

Regiment broken up 15 September 1917 and elements redesignated as follows:

1st Battalion and Machine Gun Company as 137th Machine Gun Battalion.

Headquarters Company, Companies E and F as elements of 113th Engineer Regiment.

Companies G and H as elements of 113th Ammunition Train.

3rd Battalion as 5th-8th Companies, Training Battalion, 150th Infantry Regiment.

Band as 63rd Depot Brigade Band.

Supply Company as 113th Engineer Train.

Elements demobilized separately in 1918 and 1919.

Reconstituted 1 November 1923 as 1st Infantry Regiment, West Virginia National Guard; organized 1924-1926.

Redesignated 11 May 1926 as 201st Infantry Regiment a nondivisional unit.

Inducted into Federal service 6 January 1941 at Morgantown.

Inactivated 26 September 1945 at Camp Rucker, Alabama.

201st Infantry (less 2nd and 3rd Battalions) converted and redesignated 10 July 1946 as 201st Field Artillery Battalion (Concurrently, 2nd and 3rd Battalions redesignated 197th Tank Battalion 'separate lineage').

Federally recognized 19 August 1947.

Redesignated 1 September 1949 as 201st Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1959 as 201st Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of 1st Howitzer Battalion (155 mm) (SP).

Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1968 as 1st Bn, 201st Arty, (SRF II).

The 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, was mustered into Federal service 9-12 December 1990 for Operation Desert Shield at Fort Campbell, KY with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery from Fairmont, A Battery from Elkins, B Battery From Morgantown, C Battery from Keyser, and Service Battery from Kingwood.

The Battalion, under the command of LTC Dennis R. Christian, was deployed to Saudi Arabia on the 2nd of February 1991 with advance elements arriving on the 17th of January, 1991 to participate in Operation Desert Storm to defend Saudia Arabia from Iraqi forces and liberate Kuwait from the Iraqis.

The Battalion participated in combat operations beginning on the 18th of February through the remainder of the ground offensive ending 1 March 1991.

The Battalion was redeployed to Ft Campbell, KY with the advance units arriving on 5 May 1991.

The Battalion was mustered out from Ft Campbell, KY 10 June 1991.

Reorganized to a 3 X 8 Battalion on 1 September 1993 and redesignated C Battery at Keyser as B Battery Detachment 1, Redesignated HOWITZER BATTERY, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, Hinton and Ronceverte, and as C Battery, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, and C Battery Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, respectively. Reorganized and redesignated 193rd Engineer Company (Dump Truck), Oak Hill as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery.

Reorganized to a 3X6 Battalion on 19 September 1995 and redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1 as Service Battery, Detachment 1, Oak Hill.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Boston

New York 1776

WAR OF 1812

Indiana Territory 1812-1813

CIVIL WAR (UNION)

Virginia 1861

Virginia 1862

Virginia 1863

Valley

Manassas

Vicksburg

Chattanooga

Shenandoah

CIVIL WAR (CONFEDERATE)

First Manassas

Peninsula

Second Manassas

Sharpsburg

WORLD WAR I

Without inscription

WORLD WAR II

Aleutian Islands

KOREAN CONFLICT

U.S. 1950-1951

Europe 1951-1955

PERSIAN GULF WAR

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation of Kuwait

Cease Fire

CHAPTER 1 ~ Revolutionary War

The Declaration of Independence was not yet drafted when an army of mountain soldiers was formed. In October, 1705, the House of Burgesses, of the Colony of Virginia passed a law providing for the "settling arming and training of a militia for Her Majesty's service, to be ready on all occasions for the defense and preservation of this, her Colony and dominion". The State of West Virginia had not yet been purchased from Virginia, nor recognized as a separate state by President Abraham Lincoln. The area now known as West Virginia was called Western Virginia or West Augusta.

In 1726, a young Welshman, who had migrated to the Colonies, and had taken himself a bride in Delaware, came with his wife to Orange County, Virginia. His horses were tired when they reached a likely spot adjacent to a fine spring, so they decided to halt and build a cabin there. He was Morgan Morgan and the first white settler of what is now West Virginia. Their cabin was located on Mill Creek, in the community of Bunker Hill, 6 miles from what is now known as Martinsburg, West Virginia. On a Tuesday, the 17th day of February 1735, Morgan Morgan had himself commissioned a captain at the county seat at Orange County Court House. Captain Morgan Morgan then organized a military company in Western Virginia which would become a part of the First Virginia Regiment of the British Colonial Militia and as the centuries passed; become the

longest lived fighting unit in the country to be called the United States of America. The Indian menace made imperative the building of a frontier fort and it followed that a militia, to man the fort was equally imperative. Morgan Morgan led the community in the building of the fort. A frequent visitor at the home of Captain Morgan Morgan, was a guest by the name of Washington. When Morgan became a major the guest often watched with interest, the military company drilling on the green under the command of Captain Robert Rutherford, Washington, a young surveyor, was employed by Lord Fairfax who held mighty land grants in the section, Morgan's cabin) enlarged, became a tavern and it was here that Washington became acquainted with young men of the community. The guest in Morgan's tavern would one day call upon the military company that he observed on the green near the churchyard. The young surveyor would one day command the Continental Army in the American Revolution and be revered in later centuries as "The Father of Our Country", the First President of the United States, Morgan Morgan's foresight in establishing a fort and a unit to defend it against the Indians, was fortunate. Not so fortunate were other settlements destroyed during the French and Indian War. Among them Eckerleys on Cheat River at Dunkards Bottom (present site of Camp Dawson near Kingwood, West Virginia) in the County of Preston); and the settlement at the mouth of Decker's Creek, in Morgantown, the county of Monongahalia.

When Washington, a major, was instructed to form a regiment of Virginia riflemen and establish a fort at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, he remembered the splendid Company in the Morgan settlement, Captain Rutherford's unit was among the first to join the new regiment, in the year 1750.

The first years of the organization of Morgan's military unit were spent in defense of settlements against hostile Indians. The presence of the military undoubtedly gave confidence to those hardy pioneers who dared to cross the Alleghenies from Virginia, and settle in the land of almost endless mountains, uncharted, virtually uninhabited, where even the Indians did not permanently reside. The Indians preferred to hunt and fish in the mountains while other tribes, in the abundant land, came to bury their dead. Well-worn trails of travel, made by the Indians, were used primarily to reach other sites in the North, South, East and West. It was this land that drew the strong and those seeking adventure. This was the beginning, the first 15 years of Morgan Morgan's military organization, the organization that would one day have the distinction of being the oldest active unit in the United States

In 1775, gathering Continental troops in preparation for the Revolutionary War, General George Washington called upon the men of the mountains stating "Let me plant my banner in West Augusta (West Virginia) and I will surround it with fighting men who will drive the invaders from our land". Two companies from the western counties were recruited and were among the first southern troops to report to General Washington at Boston. Daniel Morgan raised one company in Frederick County, and Hugh Stephenson raised another in Berkeley County. The hardiness and strength of the men was evident from despite the distance separating Washington from his troops. The mountain men, under Captain Stephenson, marched 600 miles in 26 days, in response to the General's call. Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company of Virginia Riflemen became part of the First Virginia Regiment, American Continental Troops. It was June 14, 1775 that "the American continental army" was formed. Of the descendents of the companies that formed the army that day, only the 201st remains active.

As a young militia officer, George Washington's troops were those of the First Virginia Regiment of the British Colonial Militia. During the first phase of the French and Indian War, he served with gallantry as Edward Braddock's volunteer aide at the battle of Monongahela. Clashes with Indians were frequent along the Western Frontier. These same troops, in 1775, covered the retreat of Edward Braddock, Commander in Chief of British Forces in America, following the disaster of Fort Duquesne. Braddock advanced upon the fort, a French stronghold on the site of present-day Pittsburgh, despite the warnings of his American officers that the enemy might launch a surprise attack. At a point about 7 miles from his objective, Braddock and his men were ambushed by Indians and the French. Less than half of Braddock's command survived. Colonel Washington led these to safety. But for the skillful tactics of Washington, the entire army would have been wiped out. Braddock, wounded, died a few days later. During the 2 years following Braddock's defeat, the colonies were hard pressed. On 15 June 1775, Congress unanimously chose George

Washington as the commander of “all the continental forces, raised, or to be raised, for the defense of American Liberty”. The Indian allies of the French, plundered settlement after settlement.

Lest those of today believe that the Indians were unorganized and ill equipped to battle the Colonists, it is to be noted that:

The terrain was familiar to the Indians.

The tribesman fought from behind trees and bushes in a manner unfamiliar to the white man. The success of tactics has as proof the defeat of Braddock, who paid dearly for his refusal to listen to more seasoned troops such as Washington and his Western County soldiers, from Augusta.

The Indians of the area were not fighting individually, but collectively. The Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, Oneidas and Sepeacas formed the original confederacy known as the Five Nations or the League of Five Nations. Between 1715 and 1722, the League was joined by the Tuscaroras and Iroquoian Tribe. The organized league then became the Six Nations or the League of Six Nations. Other tribes traveled throughout the area, and it was at times the Indians themselves who swayed the balance of power among the white man. The Iroquois allied themselves for the most part, with English interests. The Mohawks and Cayugas, who came under the influence of French Jesuit missionaries, were inclined toward the French. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, when the Six Nations Council declared for neutrality, each nation was allowed to make a decision individually. However, most of the Nations with the exception of the Oniedas and a part of the Tuscaroras, joined the British. The complexity of the Six Nations, a political organization, along with a carefully nurtured skill in warfare, enabled the Iroquois (all the tribes were eventually given the name of Iroquois) to maintain a position of great power during the Colonial Period of American History. So great was the power of the Six Nations that as early as the 16th Century, they had expanded and by 1720 they held the entire territory from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from the St. Lawrence River to the Tennessee.

Fighting along the Western frontier was continuous throughout the Revolutionary period against serious odds. Despite the grueling winters, the mud and disease that claimed many, the citizen soldiers carried the war to the enemy in far-flung Pittsburgh and Detroit. The men from the Western Counties served under George Roger Clark and from their ranks arose such Revolutionary leaders as Generals Horatio Gates, Charles Lee, Adam Stephens and William Dark. In 1792, the old First Virginia Regiment was designated the 67th Virginia Regiment. In 1794, those troops were with Lewis in the bloody battle of Point Pleasant in which Chief Cornstalk was defeated with heavy casualties. Point Pleasant has been called the first battle of the Revolution. The men of the rugged mountains were represented again in December of 1780 at Cowpens, SC, where General Daniel Morgan and his 950 men were attacked by the British Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Morgan's force won an overwhelming victory, January 17, 1781, in the “hit and run” war on Cornwallis. The war against the British progressed with the French sending ships and able men to the colonies to assist. Such men arrived, that would one day share the page of American history books, as Lafayette.

Cornwallis marched northward from South Carolina. Daniel Morgan, under the command of General Nathaniel Greene, retired before the advancing British until they reached Guilford Courthouse, SC. The battle was fought March 15th. Once more the Americans won a strategic victory, while Cornwallis with 500 men killed or wounded, retreated to Wilmington, NC. Cornwallis moved northward successively after each battle, until reinforcements brought his strength up to about twice that of the American troops (Approximately 6,000). It was Cornwallis' plan to trap Lafayette and defeat his. The wily young Lafayette, however retreated swiftly to the northwest, where Wayne (Mad Anthony) came to strengthen Lafayette with about 1,000 men. Cornwallis became fearful of being trapped himself, fled toward the sea to be near the British fleet. Lafayette followed. After a brief encounter, Cornwallis entrenched himself in Yorktown, where the Frenchmen and his troops kept him confined. Lafayette called on Washington for help. In September, Washington and General Rochambeau, Commander of French Land Forces in America, and Admiral De' Grasse, Commander of the French Fleet arrived. De' Grasse' held off the British fleet while Washington, now in command of forces totaling 16,000, began to close the trap. Before any real battle was fought, Cornwallis surrendered his men to Washington. His surrender ended the Revolutionary War.

Lafayette was a real friend of the American Colonies. His beliefs were parallel with those stalwart

men who placed the standard of freedom before them and toward which they marched and fought. Lafayette's love for liberty brought him into the Revolution but more importantly, was his influence in inducing the French Government to sign a treaty of alliance with the colonies in 1778. Without this treaty, America could not have won the war. Lafayette may not have been a great General or great statesman, but his love for freedom lasted a lifetime and so it is fitting that the Marquis De Lafayette, Major General, friend and ally of the Colonist be here included with the recorded deeds of the men of the mountains.

The American Revolution was a great social movement tending toward democracy and equality. It would only be a few short years before the 67th Virginia Regiment would be called upon once more, in the War of 1812.

CHAPTER II ~ War of 1812

The War of 1812 grew out of quarrels over several issues. Most issues were virtually settled before a shot was fired. Fighting was done mostly by the men from the West and South. It was an unusual kind of war, with the most important battle fought after a treaty of peace had been signed. Oddly, the treaty made no mention of the grievance that had provoked the War.

The war began in European affairs. On the sea Great Britain emerged triumphant over the French and Spanish fleets. Napoleon emerged victorious on land, defeating the Austrians and Russians. A fierce commercial struggle arose which involved the United States. Each conqueror believed the strength of the other lay in commerce. Napoleon closed various ports to English goods, hoping to deprive England of its chief markets and thus to force it to sue for peace on his terms. The British government in retaliation, forbade neutral vessels to trade at any port closed to the British flag, unless the vessels first touch a British port and paid duties to the government on cargoes. Both belligerents violated international law by their actions and Jefferson said "England seemed to have become a den of pirates, and France a den of thieves".

The young republic, United States of America, was threatened as commerce was endangered. Commerce vital to the growing country, the prosperity of the nation was menaced

Another cause of The War of 1812 was the impressment of American sailors. Great Britain did not recognize the right of naturalization⁹ believing "Once an Englishman, always an Englishman".

The British sailors were inclined to desert British ships in favor of the higher wages, better food and more kindly treatment they received on American vessels. The British naval commanders accordingly received orders to stop neutral ships and search for deserters. The United States found this practice especially hateful due to the fact that many native born Americans were pressed into service aboard British ships. In fact between 1803 and 1810, it was estimated that some 5,000 native born sons were seized to serve under the English Union Jack.

The third cause of the war was that the British had for years, incited the Indians to attack American frontier settlements. The young republic endeavored to avoid war, and numerous serious and sincere efforts made to prevent it but to no avail. At long last when all else had failed, war was declared. The American leaders anticipated too much; failing to take into account that the government was totally unprepared for war. The New England States opposed the declaration of war and disaster or near disaster followed on land. On sea each side won battles with the British superiority eventually establishing a blockade along the American Atlantic coast. On September 13-14, 1814, the invaders were stopped short of Ft. McHenry. It was during this bombardment at the mouth of the harbor that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star Spangled Banner. British General Ross fell during this battle and the British withdrew.

The War of 1812 with its roots in Europe, resulted in a call to the Western Counties. Once more the men came to serve their country from Canada to the Gulf, at critical points throughout the East. It was Faulkner's Artillery Company of the 67th by their valiant defense of the hastily erected works on Craney Island that turned back the British at Norfolk who attempted to seize and held at that point.

The war gave neither country any military advantage, however it taught both respect for the power of the other. The cost was 100 million dollars to the United States and some 51, 000 soldiers and sailors were killed or wounded.

Indirectly the war of 1812, settled by peaceful negotiation, did result in gains. The British influence was broken over the Indians in the West and forward movement of the Americans moved on. The last decisive battle in New Orleans, which occurred after the peace treaty had been signed resulted in the opening of the vast area of Georgia and Alabama and led to Spain's

surrender of Florida to the United States.

The last battle was a bloody one with the Americans emerging victorious. General Andrew Jackson with his frontier riflemen mowed down the British forcing them to flee to their ships, leaving behind 2,237 killed, wounded or imprisoned. The American loss was 71. Once again the men from the crags and valleys of West Augusta carried the battle to the enemy and emerged the victor.

There was to be little rest for the mountain men. Each war called upon their best to preserve the liberties still being advanced in the young country. There was no time of rest for these stalwart sons who battled so valiantly throughout the years, that the country might grow and prosper under a free flag.

CHAPTER III ~ Mexican War

The Mexican War, 1846-1848, arose from annexation by the US, of the former Mexican territory of Texas and ensuing boundary disputes. The annexation of Texas, a state in 1845 followed a period of strife in the Texas territory and the annexation stands as a monument to brave men from mountains bordering Augusta or Augusta proper. Davy Crockett (killed at the Alamo), Sam Houston, who led his army and captured Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto. Houston, First President of the Texas Republic, worked unceasingly toward the annexation of his republic as a state. He succeeded in 1845. The men from the mountain land came to insure the safety of Texas and maintain the boundaries established as the Rio Grande and the cession of Upper California and New Mexico to the United States. (The Mexican War proved to be a training ground for the leaders of the War Between the States). The Vanguard found mountain men comprising the strength. More volunteered for service than could be used. Two companies of the 67th were incorporated in the First Virginia and quickly joined General Winfield Scott, affectionately called 'Old Fuss and Feathers', because of his love for formalities. Despite the nickname, he was for years the foremost military man in the United States. He and the mountain soldiers were victorious, marching from Veracruz to Mexico City. Other men of the mountain Country were sent to the Eleventh and Thirteenth United States Infantry Regiments and served in the victorious army of General Zachary Taylor. 'Old Rough and Ready' (Taylor) and his troops clashed with the Mexican forces April 25, 1846. Immediately an attack was launched and the Battles of Palo Alto and Resaca De La Palama won. It was of these battles the congress heard, and war declared on Mexico, May 13, 1846. In September Taylor's' forces defeated a large Mexican force at Monterey, Mexico. President Polk then sent General Scott to Mexico. Scott's arrival resulted in a reassignment of Taylor's troops to the new command. Santa Anna, cunning Mexican commander, hearing of Taylor's weakened condition, launched a powerful attack on Buena Vista outnumbered 4 to 1, Taylor and his mountain soldiers won a victory which ended the war in Northern Mexico (February 22, 23 1847) Buena Vista Battle.

The Mexican war, while in actual length of time from declaration to cessation was not long, did serve as a timely, if expensive training period for a far more costly and bitter war already fermenting.

CHAPTER IV ~ Civil War

"Stonewall" Jackson

One of the best remembered of the United States is "Stonewall" Jackson. His deeds in time of crisis, exemplifies the best in the tradition of the Men of the Mountains.

Jackson was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, of Scotch-Irish stock. When but three years of age, his parents died and he went to live with an uncle. At an early age, he learned to rely upon himself and it was through his own efforts that he received an education. So determined was he that upon deciding to attend West Point, he set out for Washington, DC., traveling part of the way on foot. There he presented himself to the Secretary of War and asked for an appointment to the military academy. Impressed by the boy's determination, the Secretary granted his request. He was but a new Second Lieutenant just graduated in 1846 when the Mexican War began. In just 7 months, Jackson rose to the rank of major. After a distinguished record and meteoric rise in rank, and at the end of the Mexican War, Jackson resigned to teach at the Virginia Military Institute. He taught until 1861, when the North and South faced each other across an imaginary line, but one so tightly drawn that it could not be resolved, except through conflict. Jackson wanted to see the Union preserved, but because he felt the South had a just cause, he supported the South. His brilliant record won him a commission as Colonel and rapid promotion to Brigadier General.

It was at the Battle of Bull Run (Civil War) that Jackson earned his title "Stonewall". Here Jackson's troops held fire when others wavered. General Bernard S. Bee, credited with giving Jackson his nickname) is reputed to have said " There is Jackson standing like a stonewall". No leader of the Civil War was more skilled or gallant than "Stonewall" Jackson. His earnestness of purpose, determination to do the right, as he saw it, and his military genius, earned him the admiration of friends and foe. Jackson's troops were driven by their leader to the very limits of their endurance. So swiftly did his troops march that they were known as "Jackson's Foot Cavalry". Men in his command called him "Old Jack" and cheered him whenever he appeared. Union forces learned his military genius as time after time strategy overcame Union Troops. At Chancellorsville, his ability to deploy his men precisely contributed largely to the Confederate victory there. May 1863 General Lee entrusted to Jackson, half the army of Northern Virginia, such was Lee's confidence in the Mountain General. However it was at dusk following the Battle of Chancellorsville, that Jackson and his escort returned from an observation point and one of his own outposts, mistaking them for federal cavalry, fired upon them. Jackson fell mortally wounded. His death dealt a heavy blow to the Confederacy. A religious man, he carried with him two books, one; Napoleon's Maxims of War, the other the Bible. In battle his men observed Jackson move his lips in prayer. Such a man was the gallant Mountain General, to be revered throughout ensuing Centuries by school children and adults. This great man of the mountains – The Mountain General, "Stonewall" Jackson.

As the North and South faced each other in preparation for battle, West Augusta found itself between the two factions. Located between the two, the mountains became the scene of bitter disagreements. Opinions differed and while there is no record that the 201st or any of its companies fought on both sides in the Civil War, the companies that left and fought for the Confederacy, doubtless returned to their homes after their inactivation in 1862, to live quietly letting the stigma of Confederate service subside. The companies that fought with the Union remained in service from 1861 to 1865. Bordering states had units on both sides in the Civil War (i.e. Maryland) but no other unit today appears entitled to display the Confederate and Union streamers except the 623 Field Artillery Battalion in Kentucky. Citizens of Augusta, as war neared, followed their own personal beliefs. Brothers were opposite Brothers, fathers against sons, families torn apart as the mountain people followed principles in which they believed and for which many would die. According to some, the convictions of the mountain people ... for either North or South ... was so strong that an example is here included of the power of those beliefs.

On U.S. Route 19 near Sutton in Braxton County where the highway crosses Birch Mountain and descends, there is a junction with a dirt road. It is on this road where stands the "Young Monument known locally as the "Lonely Grave". Here is buried Henry Young and his wife. It is told that Young, a Confederate sympathizer preferring death to surrender to Union troops

, did single-handedly do battle with the entire advance guard of General William S Rosecrans's Union Army, September 8, 1861.

It is not surprising then to find in the bitterness of the controversy, that the first land battle of the Civil War was fought at Philippi, West Virginia. A provisional regiment under the command of Colonel Benjamin F. Kelley attacked a newly recruited southern force under the command of Colonel George A. Porterfield in the vicinity of Grafton, in Marion County at dawn and routed them. General Garnett with 4 to 6,000 men stood to defend at Beverly in Tygart Valley between Cheat Mountain on the East and Laurel and Rich Mountains on the West. Troops under the command of General W.S. Rosecrans were attacked and defeated part of Garnett's Army at what is called "The Battle of Rich Mountain", on July 11th. Garnett retreated, General George B. McClellan's forces followed destroying the Southern force and killing General Garnett at Carricks Ford near Parsons in Tucker County, July 13th. The first battle of the Civil War at Philippi in Barbour County was often referred to as the "Philippi Races", because of the speed with which the rout was made. The attack occurred because of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the main line of communication between Washington and the West.

While many historical pamphlets and books generally hasten to confine much of the Civil War battles to other states, West Virginia as a separate state is not singled out for geographical recognition. Because the country west of Virginia, was not yet a state, it is left to the reader to establish the state location presently. It would seem that today's historical tomes, revised, would include the geographical facts as they exist. The great battles were not all confined to one specific state, but ranged over a vast

territory. The distances, in view of limited roadways or routes, and the means of transportation presented an incredible obstacle. Supplying the armies and men with mere essentials was a staggering task. Still the war was on of supreme conflict and called upon supreme efforts and endurance. Some towns along the routes of battle were won and lost many times over. Consider the region between the Alleghenies and the Ohio, which was the scene of many strong raids and much destruction. The Eastern panhandle of Augusta (West Virginia) was fought over by both sides during the war. The town of Romney, in Hampshire County, West Virginia, changed hands 56 times. Hampshire County favored forming a new state, but at the outset of the Civil War, they refused to fight against their Mother State of Virginia. In 1861, the citizens of Romney held a meeting and the result was a committee that raised funds to equip volunteers. One month later, the Hampshire Guards and the Frontier Riflemen left to join other Virginia Regiments at Harpers Ferry. By the end of hostilities, scarcely a family in all of Hampshire remained, which had not lost one man or more. Gunfire from both armies had destroyed almost all the bridges and damaged the highways.

The Western Mountain Country knew war well and felt it's full force in many areas. Numerous clashes, called raids, occurred in the mountainous country, and while they were never categorized as full-scale invasions, such raids did result in much hard fighting with accompanying casualties and destruction of property estimated in the millions. The mountain soldiers were thoroughly tried during the Civil War, with their loyalties divided between North and South, the men of the mountains found themselves not confined exclusively to "foreign soil", but participating in over 200 battles in their own area and home territory. The enormity of the Civil War, and its effect upon West Augusta can be illustrated when it is considered that over 30,000 West Virginians or Mountain Soldiers served in the Northern army ... or in comparison, approximately enough men to supply two infantry divisions in World War II. It is estimated that 10,000 men from the mountains served the Southern cause, or in comparison, an equivalent of two-thirds of one infantry division in World War II. These estimates, are merely that, estimates, for records are only partly accurate, due to the time lapse, and it is to be assumed that many Mountain Men enlisted in areas other than Augusta.

During the War Between the States, Captain Hanson McNeil and his son, Jesse, formed and led the "McNeil Rangers". At the outset he joined the Confederate Army as a cavalry Captain but at the Battle of Springfield, was taken prisoner. He escaped to Hardy County where he enlisted 200 volunteers for independent service. They daringly inflicted great damage to the Union forces. Familiar with the country, attacks were planned and swiftly carried out. When Confederates lost control of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Union troops, the Rangers destroyed miles of the track, the Rangers destroyed miles of the track, blew up bridges, captured train loads of supplies, and burned cars. Their exploits included daring incursions into Union territory where they captured hundreds of prisoners, horses, cattle and quantities of munitions. Under Jesse McNeill's leadership, following his father's death, the Rangers rode 90 miles through Union occupied territory to Cumberland, Maryland, where they promptly took as prisoner, General Kelly, General Crook and Adjutant General Thayer Melvin. With their prisoners, they made a wild 60-mile dash to the Confederate lines, eluding 2,000 cavalrymen sent to cut off their retreat.

The 67th Virginia Regiment was divided by differing loyalties. Company B was first in the Virginia Volunteers and later was transferred to the 3d Maryland Regiment of the Union Army and remained there to the end of the war. It was present at many of the famous battles of the war including Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Winchester, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Company C became part of the famous Third West Virginia Cavalry, one of the outstanding Union cavalry regiments and was in the thick of the fighting at Winchester, Hagerstown, Moorefield, Front Royal and others.

Five companies of the 67th joined the Confederacy. One company served with Jackson in the famous "Stonewall" Brigade. Two served in the Second Virginia Light Infantry; one of the many famous Virginia Regiments. One company joined the First Virginia Cavalry, which had at one time as Commanders Fitzhugh Lee and JEB Stuart. The remain company was assigned to the Seventh Virginia Cavalry. West Virginians comprised the following forces: The 4th, 7th 16th, 17th, 22nd 23rd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 31st, 36th and 19th Cavalry Regiments.

Stuart; (James, Ewell, Brown) a Major General, was the South's most brilliant cavalry leader. Called "Jeb" because of his initials, he was born on the Laurel Hill Plantation. "Jeb" was General Lee's Aide when John Brown was captured at Harpers Ferry. A graduate of West Point, at the outset of the Civil War, resigned his commission to join the Confederacy.

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To individually list and give credit to those companies and men, participating in every one of the battles of the Civil War is not possible. It suffices to say that the men from the Mountain Land were ably represented, fighting courageously for the cause in which they placed their trust and for which they gave their lives. Leaders of both North and South were adept and capable and among officers and men the fighting Men of the Mountain ranked with the best.

It is herein noted that the tragedy of war, inflicted tremendous cost in dollars. That cost was matched by the incredible loss of life. 359,528 union casualties resulted with some 110,070 killed in battle or dying of wounds. 224,368 died of disease and 24,872 from other causes. Out of the 600,000 to 900,000 Confederate troops, 134,000 were killed or wounded. It has been generally conceded that lesser officers and men of the South as opposed to the northern personnel, was not the cause of the South's defeat, but rather the superior number of men, materials and money of the North.

Interesting highlights of the activities of the Mountain Men follow:

In 1861, when the Civil War cloud darkened our nation, our existing 67th Regiment was divided. Units volunteered for services in the cause they thought was right.

Company B, commanded by Captain Joseph Kerns, and Company C, commanded by Captain Peter Tabler, joined the Union Army.

The historical facts regarding Captain Kerns' Company B are most interesting. It appears that there was born at Bunker Hill, in Berkley County, Ward Hall Lamon, who, upon becoming a young man, engaged in the study of law. He went West to Springfield, Illinois, where he became the law partner of Abraham Lincoln, and when Mr. Lincoln came to Washington, Mr. Lamon returned to his home county. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Lamon called upon his old partner, now President Lincoln, and related that in "Virginia" were a large number of men whose sympathies were with the North and told the President that they should be allowed to enlist in the Union cause. Mr. Lincoln, at the moment, commissioned Mr. Lamon a Colonel and instructed him to form a Union Regiment, to be known at the "Virginia Volunteers".

As a Southern state, Virginia made it hazardous to form this regiment within her confines; hence, Colonel Lamon's decision to cross the Potomac River to Westernport, Williamsburg, West Virginia, and there receive his recruits. Among the first to enlist was Company B, commanded by Captain Kerns. The men of Company B enlisted May 17, 1861. Later the Company was transferred to the Third Maryland Regiment, commanded by Colonel David D. Witt, and finished the war with this organization, taking part during the four years of conflict in the following major engagements: Orleans Crossroads, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Winchester, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Five of the West Augusta units joined the Confederate Army: Captain Alburtus' Company became the Wise Artillery, named for the War Governor of Virginia, and fought with "Stonewall" Jackson through the first two years of the war. Two units joined the Second Virginia Light Infantry, one of the famous regiments of "The Lost Cause". Captain Hammond's Company joined the First Virginia Cavalry and during the war followed the guidons of six colonels, two of whom were Fitzhugh Lee and "Jeb" Stewart. Captain Myers' Company was a troop in the Seventh Virginia Cavalry.

September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued one of the most memorable proclamations ever decreed. "The Emancipation Proclamation" announced to 3,000,000 slaves that if their masters were still in rebellion by New Years day, they should then be free. Lincoln, long pressured to free the slaves by the abolitionists, had refused saying; "My paramount object is to save the Union and not either to save or destroy slavery". On January 1, 1863, the final proclamation was issued which set the slaves free as Northern Armies captured the area. Remaining slaves were freed by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (ratified December 18, 1865), decreeing: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime whereof, the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or nay place subject to their jurisdiction".

General Lee surrendered to General Grant at the Court House in Appomatox, April 9, 1865. Then, with the war drums stilled and cannons quietly rusting away upon deserted fields were battles had raged, the Mountain soldier went home. Back in the Mountain valleys and atop the crags, the winds of freedom which whispered in his ears once more, brought peace of mind and heart, for the mountain soldier had united, beneath one flag, a free country. The future of a growing country was safe. Home at last, the Mountaineer remained alert and ready, but for years, the peace of the mountains would prevail, and the tired soldiers could rest.

General Robert E. Lee

Captain Ephraim G. Alburtus Company of the 67th Regiment volunteered and was accepted when

President Polk called for a regiment for the War with Mexico. The 67th sailed from Old Point Comfort on January 3, 1847 and landed South of the Rio Grande. Proceeding by steamboat to Monterey and from there on foot to Buena Vista, where they took part in all the important battles of the war with Mexico. It was Captain Alburto's and other units of the Mountains that were to quell the John Brown uprising in 1859.

During the Civil War, Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, was the gateway to the Kanawha Valley. In November 1861, General W.S. Rosecrans defeated General John B. Floyd here in the last of a series of battles that left the Union forces in control of the Valley. It was here, at Gauley Bridge, that Union officers William McKinley and Rutherford B. Hayes met at union headquarters established in an old tavern. Destinies of the town, include the President of the United States.

The mountains were beloved by General Robert E. Lee and it was from West Augusta that Lee obtained his horse "Traveler". A bronze tablet on a tree located on Big Sewell Mountain near Rainelle marks the site where the famed horse was offered to the great General of the South. Born and raised in Greenbrier County, the horse was first named "Jeff Davis". It was offered to Lee by Major Thomas L. Broun and Captain Joseph M. Broun but Lee refused the horse as a gift, and instead paid two hundred dollars for the steed which served him throughout the War Between the States. The family of Lee enjoyed many leisurely summers in the Lee cottage, still preserved at White Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier County.

CHAPTER V ~ Spanish American War

1865 saw the homecoming of the Mountain Men. The Civil War was over and the soldiers were paroled from the Armies and sent home. The men from the Regiment who fought for the "Lost Cause", returned to the mountains. However, they returned, not as Virginia parolees, but as West Virginians. President Lincoln had made Augusta a State and the new addition to the Union was swept clean by battle of her native sons. A new state! Now more than an endless chain of hills. The homecoming of Augusta's sons was one of mixed emotions. The shaded valleys, the lofty peaks, were now a part of a new State, the only major land change to emerge from the destruction of the Civil War. The Mountain Soldiers had earned and won the right to rest in peace, still this was not to be. In 1868 the Legislature of West Virginia passed a law continuing the old 67th Regiment in Berkeley County. This legislation prevailed until 1878 when law authorized the formation of the First West Virginia Infantry in the Northern and Eastern sections of the State, embarrassing the territory of the old 67th Regiment. There was little money available for the military proposed, yet in addition to the First West Virginia Infantry (later designated the 201st), the Second West Virginia Infantry (later designated the 150th) was formed in the Southern Sections of the State.

It was fortunate that the new State of West Virginia had seen fit to maintain a military force, for the year 1898 was to bring other battles and other needs for the services of the Mountain Soldier. For years, the United States had tried to buy the island of Cuba from Spain. As early as 1847, President Polk had made Spain an offer. In 1895, after nearly a century of misrule, the Cubans rebelled against Spain. It is needless to list the atrocities committed by Spain against the Cuban people; however, during this period, hundreds starved. As always, when there is suffering, the vultures gather, waiting. The "Yellow" newspapers in New York City and elsewhere proclaimed that intervention was necessary. Americans, exposed to this kind of propaganda, were led away from the traditional "hands off" policy and a wide demand arose to intervene and set Cuba free. Even then, McKinley, President of the United States, attempted to avert war and called upon Spain to ease their Cuban policy and did meet with some success. However, on the night of February 15, 1898, an explosion sank the American Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor, killing 260 men. At once, the yellow press called the Spainards guilty and Americans were incensed. The issue of peace, or war, was decided by the publication of a private letter written by the Spanish Minister in Washington, D.C.; which in content, disparaged McKinley. Though Republican leaders did not want war, McKinley yielded to the cry "Remember the Maine". On April 11, 1898, the President recommended to Congress that Cuba be freed by force. War was declared on April 25, 1898.

Governor George Wesley Atkinson of West Virginia was requisitioned for one regiment of volunteer infantry. The sinking of the Maine and the declaration of War resulted in the mobilization of the First and Second West Virginia Regiments which were consolidated to for the First West Virginia under the command of Colonel B. D. Spillman. Later, the second volunteer regiment and four separate companies were organized, while many West Virginians served with the regular forces and Navy. The Mountain Soldier again volunteered in greater numbers than needed. When the Country needed

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fighting men, the men from the Mountains were ever ready to answer the call to arms. Over 4,000 West Virginians served with the colors.

The war to free the Cubans from Spanish rule was not to be fought solely in Cuba, or the waters surrounding it. The war opened thousands of miles away in Manila Bay in the Philippines. On May 1st, Commodore George Dewey's Squadron destroyed the Spanish fleet.

The United States War Department sent about 16,000 men to Tampa, Florida for embarkation to Cuba. Among the units was the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, raised by Leonard Wood and Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt. This force was called "Rough Riders" because many of the recruits were cowboys.

General William R. Shafter was in Command. Inaccurately the "Rough Riders" have been accredited with taking San Juan Hill, more accurately they attacked the Spaniards at El Caney and on Kettle Hill of San Juan Ridge at the outskirts of Santiago.

Victory was decisive on land and sea. Every Spanish ship was sunk or beached. Santiago, Cuba formally surrendered July 17th and Spain submitted to Armistice August 12th. The only land battle fought in the Philippines took place August 13th, after the armistice, because word had not reached the command there. The Peace Treaty was signed in Paris, December 10, 1898, with Spain giving up Cuba and ceding Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the United States. In return the U.S. paid Spain 20 million dollars.

The number of troops in service during the Spanish American War was 280,564, including 223,235 volunteers. While only about 700 men (Army) lost their lives in action or from wounds, and only one American died in Naval action, a total of 5,423 died of diseases. This toll spurred researchers to greater efforts to conquer yellow fever, malaria and other tropic diseases. It was one thing to fight an enemy that could be seen, but another to combat the unseen enemy.

The Spanish-American War also proved that a faster route from the Atlantic to the Pacific was essential. To join the fleet in the Atlantic, the battleship Oregon made a forced run from San Francisco through the Straits of Magellan to Key West. Fast though it was, it took the Oregon from March 19th to May 26th. The answer to a faster route between the two oceans was the Panama Canal.

The new possessions, Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines made the United States an Imperial power. United States obligations toward the world grew as the Nation accepted its new role. Uprising in the Philippines had to be quelled; because of the Panama Canal, it became U.S. business to maintain peace in Central America and around the Caribbean. The acquisition of the land areas thrust upon the U.S. the new role of Imperial power worldwide.

The Panama Canal resulted from the Spanish-American War and became a reality with the participation of the Mountain Soldier. As the land grew outward into world affairs and as a world power, it was recognized as an active participator in world events.

At the end of the Spanish-American War, the First West Virginia Volunteer Infantry was reconstituted with its former units, the First and Second Regiments, to carry on the fine tradition of the State. Once more the Mountain Soldier returned home to a changing scene. The stature of the country grew and the Mountaineer grew ever more watchful, aware of the changing winds which blew from another sector... and brought the scent of other battles not yet begun. It would be but a few short years before the winds also carried the sound of cannon ... in holocaust such as the World had never seen, but preliminary battles would come before that which the sharp eyes and keen ears of the Mountain Soldiers .. knew to be joust over the horizon. The Mountaineer waited ... and watched ... soldier waited at the ready.

CHAPTER VI ~ Mexican Border Campaign

The history with Mexico includes War, invasion and suffering people. Leaders of the country were not always sympathetic toward the people. Diaz, a dictator who had ruled with strength and determination, but little compassion, was losing his power in the year 1910. At last, aging, and faced with a new era and changing times, Diaz gave up his unyielding grip. As he did so, War clouds began to gather. Francisco I. Madero, son of a rich and powerful family, authored a book, "the Presidential Succession in 1910", in which he mildly criticized Diaz and his regime. From this sprang political clubs, and newspapers were established expressing the views of Madero. This man was to prove to be idealistic, sincere, but a poor executive. His accomplishments ,however, included forcing Diaz to tender his resignation.

The people were demanding land reform during Madero's brief period of power, and his failure to comply with the demands of the people gave rise to rebellion. Madero's enemies sought his destruction and eventually succeeded. A major rift was created in Mexico as there appeared leaders

bent upon easing the burden of the Mexican people. Such names "Pancho" Villa and Zepata have become legends. With Madero's fall, and Diaz' resignation, Victoriano Huerta assumed National prominence. His popularity was reassured when he defied the power of the United States.

The incident, seemingly of little consequence, served to maintain Huerta's popularity which was on the wane. It served to concrete his political aspirations temporarily.

In the Spring of 1914, sailors from the U. S. Gunboat "Do1pbin", who had gone ashore at Tampico for supplies, were arrested by Mexican police. Admiral Henry T. Mayo demanded an apology and a salute to the Flag. Huerta apologized but refused to salute the Flag, undoubtedly he would have been less sure of his actions had not a German steamship been unloading munitions at Varacruz. The incident served the U. S., and afforded an excuse to capture Varacruz and prevent the landing of those munitions which Huerta planned to use against the United States. Thus, Huerta's enemies received the munitions, which reached them. His enemies were Carranza, who would become President, and Pancho Villa. The intrigues of political strife served to make Carranza the now President of Mexico, while turning Villa into a rebel chieftain. It was discovered that during the strange tides which run, in a country beset by, and with internal conflict Germany had proposed that Mexico, with German assistance, invade the United States.

In 1916, Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico and killed a number of Americans. It was 1916 also, that saw the remobilization of the Second West Virginia Infantry for service in the Mexican Border Campaign. It entrained on October 17-18 for Camp Wilson, San Antonio, Texas, arriving October 21st. After months of arduous training as part of the First Brigade, 12th Division, the Border Campaign ended March 24, 1917. The Second Infantry returned to its home station and was mustered out of the Federal Service.

As always, the Mountain Soldier was trained by the fortunes of preliminary events. It came as no surprise when the First West Virginia Infantry was mobilized at Fairmont, March 28th, 1917, only 4 days after the end of the Mexican Border Campaign, for service in the First World War.

CHAPTER VII ~ World War I

The Second Regiment was reassembled in Charleston between the 4th and 6th of April and was in Camp when War with Germany was declared April 6, 1917. April 10th saw the Second Regiment again mustered into Federal Service for duty In the First World Wide War for Freedom. The First West Virginia Infantry was drafted into Federal Service August 5th, 1917 and was assigned to the 38th Division, being mobilized at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The regiment proceeding to Shelby was saddened by the decision to make the First West Virginia Infantry a replacement division. These West Virginians were to fill the various units of the 38th Division.

The following is a personal anecdote from one of those members of the 201st, who was a part of those arriving at Camp Shelby with the First West Virginia Infantry. "We lined up and stood by, waiting for orders. Captain Charles H. Freeland, our Company Commander, returned and stated that the situation didn't look too good. We were to be broken up and assigned to fill various units within the 38th Division. This news, as you can imagine, filled we boys from the mountains with sadness. We had joined together and wanted to serve together. This was not to be. Six or seven of us stood watching the big trucks rumbling by and because we held Chauffeurs licenses, necessary in those days., we soon found ourselves transferred to the 337th Quartermaster Truck Company of the 38th Division. We wheeled those big 3-ton Gramm-Bernstein trucks around, loaded with lumber and supplies. I remember those big solid rubber tires. There weren't too many of those Gramm-Bernsteins around in 1917 at Shelby. Later some of us from the old West Virginia First, were sent to Detroit to Cadre a new Motor Supply Train being formed there, but the Armistice was signed before we could go overseas". The 113th Engineers, 113th Ammunition Train, 137th Machine Gun Battalion and the 150th Infantry arrived in France in October 1918. Under pressure of continuing Allied attack and of public agitation at home, the Germans early on November 8 sent delegates to a railroad siding in the Compiègne Forest west of Soissons to discuss armistice terms. The next day the Kaiser abdicated, fleeing to the Netherlands in exile, and the Germans proclaimed a republic.

Under terms of the armistice, the Germans were to withdraw from all occupied territory, including Alsace and Lorraine; retire all armies to the east bank of the Rhine; provide the Allies with bridgeheads beyond the Rhine; and relinquish specific amounts of military equipment that would preclude their continuing the war.

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The fighting ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918.

The Second Regiment performed security missions in Kanawha Valley until September 1917 when it too entrained for Camp Shelby to assemble with troops from Kentucky and Indiana in forming the 38th Division.

On September 19th, the Second West Virginia Regiment was redesignated the 150th Infantry, 38th Division, retaining this number throughout the War. The 150th Infantry (W. Va.) sailed for the Western European Theatre of War on October 2, 1918. It arrived in Le Harve October 22, 1918 and moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of Chatillon-Sur-Seine. Later it was transferred to Le Mans where it was stationed at the time of the Armistice.

While the old First West Virginia Infantry did not serve as a regiment in the World War (I) and the 38th Division did not arrive in France in time to participate at the front in the great struggle, units from the regiment did play an important part in the participation of the U. S. in the conflict.

Within the 38th Division, units holding personnel of the First West Virginia Infantry were assigned to the 113th Engineers, 137th Machine Gun Battalion, 113th Ammunition Train and the 150th Infantry.

Despite the fact that the First Regiment did not serve as a unit, its many members performed their assigned duties in the spirit of the oldest Military organization in the Country.

The Motor Battalion of the 113th Ammunition Train, composed largely of officers and men of Companies G and H, were retained in the A. E. F. for six months after the 38th Division returned home. It was considered one of the most efficient Motor Units in the AEF.

The 38th Division (Cyclone) was skeletonized shortly after the Armistice and its personnel scattered as replacements throughout the AEF. The remaining Cadre was returned to the States, December 1918. The 150th Infantry was mustered out of Federal Service January 5, 1919.

Many former officers and soldiers of the West Virginia regiment were transferred to other units during World War I, and many enlisted men were selected for training at officer training camps and upon graduation were assigned throughout the Army. 1,120 West Virginians fell on foreign soil, and many were former members of the West Virginia National Guard.

With each conflict the cost of War became a matter of increased concern. The cost of World War I to the United States was 53,407 dead or wounded or declared dead. Illness and other causes brought the total number of deaths to about 126,000 with 204,002 wounded. 'Men died right up to the last, but finally, after more than four grim years, it was over. Of the men of all nations in uniform, more than 8,500,000 died, and total casualties exceeded 37,500,000, a price that would forever invite criticism of the way commanders on both sides fought the war. American casualties alone totaled 320,710'.

The United States estimated by June 30, 1919, our Government had spent \$27,729,000,000 directly for the War and had loaned Allies more than \$9,445,000,000. Loans growing out of the war continued for years and an accurate figure cannot be set, nor can indirect losses be assessed. The tremendous cost of war and the involvement of the World in strife led the Nation to carefully study its military establishments, and in 1920 the basic Rational Defense Act was amended. This brought about a need for the gap to be filled between the small regular Army and the great mass of available manpower. Once more, the Nation looked to the Citizen Soldier to fill that gap.

On July 2, 1921 a resolution was passed by Congress and signed by the President, ending the state of War between the U.S. and Germany and Austria-Hungary. The United States then made treaties with Austria and Germany. These were signed August 21st at Vienna and August 25th at Berlin.

It was also in the year 1921 that the 150th Infantry was again activated as part of the West Virginia National Guard. In 1923, the old First West Virginia Infantry of Northern West Virginia) was reorganized and in 1926 redesignated the, 201st Infantry.

Wars continued throughout the world in the year following World War I. In Asia Minor, between Turkey and Greece; Arab outbreaks caused trouble for the French in Syria; fierce fighting took place in Russia between the Reds (Bolsheviks) and the Whites. The United States was called upon to negotiate and send troops into various areas. There appeared to have been an Armistice but the words of Marshal Foch, Allied Commander-in-Chief seemed to become more and more of an actuality. "This is not the end of the War. It is an Armistice. It will last for 20 years". True to the Marshals words, 20 years later saw the German Wermacht marching into Poland and the armistice had no meaning any longer as the world had plunged into the greatest of wars. Many too, must have recalled the now empty words, which once rang so hopefully... "A war to end all wars".

CHAPTER VIII ~ World War II

The years between the two World Wars saw many officers and men come and go in the ranks of the 201st and the 150th. Armory training, rifle practice, recruit training, summer camps and schools followed throughout the years. When a member fell out, another stepped into his place. The Twenty-years passed and when the Second World War for human freedom blazed forth, the mountains stood silent as once more the men came forth to serve wherever their presence was needed.

If the First World War was costly, the cost of the Second World War was incalculable. It was a war upon which the sun never set. From ocean to continent, across steaming jungle and frozen northland the juggernauts of wax-rumbled. The ruthless savagery of man against man left behind a trail of red, wherever the Axis armies moved. The unbelievable atrocities as they came to light, stunned the free world. This war would leave behind evidences so shameful that generations later would question the sanity of those committing the atrocities. This would be a war that virtually conjured up a hell on earth. It would come to pass, that eventually the Axis powers must be destroyed, one-by-one, wherever they were to be found. However, concern for the war in Europe was not great in the United States. The realization that War can come "home"; that the oceans were no longer a protective barrier; these things had not yet occurred to the American people. The image of World War 1, as a war to end all wars was still a more popular belief. There were those who looked upon war as an insidious growth which could, and would, cross the Atlantic and Pacific as well. Unfortunately, these far seeing individuals were in the minority and a few of those who dared to voice their beliefs were scorned publicly.

Lend-Lease became a common occurrence. U.S. aid to stop the Axis was given to our friends in various parts of the world. The Aries of the "Madman in Germany", continued to roll across Europe, despite millions dumped into the war by our own nation; despite supplies sent to aid those with whom we were now allies. Each day saw new conquests made, new atrocities committed in Europe, and the public sentiment grew. It took more than that, however, to shock the Nation into the realization that we could not remain a helpful, but virtually neutral nation. It took December 7th, 1941, to bring the truth into the light, and to awaken the masses to facts, however brutal.

While the Japanese Ambassador was delivering a message to the U.S., Japanese planes were attacking Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The Japanese had not decided this dastardly attack in moments, but for years had planned and worked for what they called the "New Order in East Asia".

It was a shocked and disbelieving America that heard the news that peaceful Sunday. All eight of our battleships lay broken in Pearl Harbor. Nineteen Ships in all were wrecked or damaged. In that one attack, the United States lost 177 planes, 3,343 service men either killed, missing or wounded. If this news were not enough, the Japanese attacked the Philippines the same day, wrecking most of our planes and airfields in the islands. The lesson was a costly one for this nation. Our semi-neutrality, or perhaps better described as our complacency, had cost us more in a few short hours than we had ever imagined. In a few minutes, the oceans diminished, no longer were they barriers between our peoples and the "enemy". A costly lesson indeed, but it served to unite the American people into one vast army of workers. The solid front of determined Americans resulted in a production record unequalled by any other country on the face of the earth. We were caught unprepared. Our uniformed men were few. Our equipment outdated and much of it useless in this modern war. The few military units in service were called upon to perform feats bordering upon the miraculous. It was fortunate at this time, with the

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Axis enemy prowling the Atlantic and the Japanese sailing the Pacific that such men, as those from the mountains ... were prepared.

In December of 1940, nearly a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 150th and the 201st West Virginia Regiments were mobilized for a year of intensive training in anticipation of the probable involvement of our country in the conflict that raged throughout Europe and North Africa. (Little thought, was given to the enemy quietly stalking the Pacific.) The 150th, as part of the 38th Division, detrained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi late in January of 1941, and started an intensive program of training. During August and September after months of hard work, the 38th Division participated in the 3rd Army maneuvers in Louisiana. The 150th Regiment performed in a highly creditable manner. Upon completion of maneuvers, the 150th returned to its home station at Camp Shelby and, in November, was alerted for overseas. During nearly a year of training, many changes were made in the assignment of personnel of all ranks. Officers had been promoted and many transferred to other formations. The regiment had furnished nearly one hundred officer candidates. These selected individuals were assigned to units throughout the Army and were serving in every theater of operation. Fifteen days after the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the "Powder Horn" Regiment (150th) was enroute to Panama to defend the vital lifeline of the Nation. (The 201st less the 2nd Battalion (Reinforced) had gone to Alaska, leaving August and September 1941 and the 1st Battalion (Reinforced), sailed September 13, 1941 for Kodiak.) Troops from West Virginia were deployed in every hemisphere.

The 28 months that the 150th spent in foreign service saw it assigned to difficult and important tasks throughout the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama. Detachments of this well trained regiment covered a widespread area, providing security for essential installations at Talara, Peru, Salinas, Equador, The Galapagos Islands, and Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Meanwhile, the 201st Infantry Regiment assembled at its home station and proceeded to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana in January 1941, almost a year prior to Pearl Harbor. There followed a period of intensive training and, at this station, the 3rd Battalion was activated by personnel assigned from replacements. August 1, 1941, the 201st was transferred to the West Coast. There, at Fort Lewis, Washington (Camp Murray) it continued training and prepared for movement overseas. Again, many of the mountain soldiers were promoted, transferred and a large number of selected enlisted men were sent to Officers Training Camp. It was while at this West Coast Camp that the Japanese attack was first heard by these men from the mountains of West Virginia. Because they had been trained and prepared prior to the attack, these men know well, that they had only hours before leaving for a new assignment. Men on leaves, or pass, were quickly recalled from neighboring towns and cities. It had been, until that fateful newscast, a peacetime Sunday. Suddenly it was no longer peacetime and wars do not recognize the Sabbath.

The Aleutians first appeared as a Japanese objective in a plan prepared under the direction of one of Japan's most able commanders, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. With help from the Japanese Army, Yamamoto intended to "invade and occupy strategic points in the Western Aleutians" as well as Midway Island on the western tip of the Hawaiian chain. He envisioned these two sites as anchors for a defensive perimeter in the north and central Pacific. His plan also included the final destruction of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. By using the Aleutians and then Midway as bait, he intended to lure the already weakened American fleet from Pearl Harbor and annihilate it before new construction could replace the losses it had sustained on 7 December.

An attack on the Aleutians in early June 1942, Yamamoto believed, would draw the U.S. fleet north to challenge his forces. With the departure of the U.S. warships from Pearl Harbor, he would then move his main fleet to seize Midway. Because of Midway's importance—the island was within bomber range of Pearl Harbor—he concluded that Nimitz would redirect his fleet from the Aleutians to Midway to prevent the loss of the island. Waiting off Midway to intercept that force would be the largest concentration of naval power ever assembled by Japan. After overwhelming the American fleet, Yamamoto would have undisputed control of the central and western Pacific.

Yamamoto commanded an armada of 176 warships and auxiliaries. A portion of that force, the

Northern Area Fleet, with 2 small aircraft carriers, left the Kurile Islands to attack the Aleutians, while the remainder of his fleet, which included 4 large aircraft carriers, 9 battleships, and 12 transports, converged on Midway. The Aleutian attack was a sideshow, yet it would reduce Yamamoto's overall available strength in carrier aircraft during the fight for Midway on 4-5 June, one of the decisive battles of all time and the turning point of the Pacific war.

The 201st Regiment, less the 2nd Battalion arrived in Alaska, September 20, 1941. Security was their duty .. and it must have been a lonely duty to protect this exposed outpost from an invader, just across that strip of water. With little or nothing to protect this outpost .. the men in Alaska and the dangers of Japanese invasion there ... were of concern to the military. The 2nd Battalion joined the Regiment in Alaska in February 1942. Troops of the 201st were deployed throughout the Alaskan Territory with Headquarters of the 3rd Battalion at Sitka; Regimental Headquarters, Special Units and 1st Battalion at Kodiak. The 2nd Battalion Headquarters was also based at Kodiak. Later the 3rd Battalion staged at Kodiak, then went to Amchitka in the late fall of 1942. The 1st Battalion moved to Adak and late in 1942 also went to Amchitka.

One of the most vulnerable and closest to home base areas belonging to the United States was Alaska. For years, the Japanese had had free run of that part of the Pacific and when the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor .. we .. in all that vast Northern sector had only two small army posts and naval bases to protect the island chain. One was on Kodiak Island, the other at Dutch Harbor, on Unalaska. In all of the territory, there was only 6 small army posts. In June, 1942, the Japanese struck at Dutch Harbor. Defeated at Dutch Harbor only because two secret airfields had been built by the U. S. (One at Cold Bay, the other on Umnak Island). The race against time was on. However, the Japanese did not leave the area ... instead they withdrew to Kiska, only some 700 miles to the West. War had come to the Aleutians.

Buildings burning after the first enemy attack on Dutch Harbor, 3 June 1942. (DA photograph)

There were so books written, no rules to guide the men who lived in the North, where seas lurched to mountainous heights; where mud was so deep not even the wide-track cats could move across it; where winds blew 110 miles per hours and more (called Willowa's, the needle on the gauge only measured 110 miles per hour and was known to blow away too); and the enemy sat across the way, planning and waiting to attack. It was a race against time for our men in the Aleutians and Alaska. The area was vital to Japanese conquest of the West. To the Americans, it meant survival of our way of life. Once the Japanese established bases in Alaska proper, it would enable them to bomb the U. S., a US that was not prepared for such an onslaught. It was the 201st Regiment that was thrown into the breach, to hold fast against an enemy who had planned for this day ... for three decades or more.

Airstrips were built on islands such as Adak, Atka and Amchitka. It was not a matter of one group of the military building the strips, the Infantrymen were toiling beside Engineers and Artillerymen. Wading ashore in the icy surf, draining and leveling tide water flats and creek beds, they built docks and roads so that vital supplies could be moved into shore.

Adak was only 200 miles from the Japanese on Kiska. Scouting parties sent to Amchitka hid while Japanese reconnaissance planes circled overhead, searching. Whenever the weather permitted, the Japanese bombed American occupied islands. The news of a new Japanese fighter strip South Salomon Lagoon on Kiska, intensified the race against time. It was evident that US forces must occupy Amchitka. Because it had to ... it was done. The American forces were moving and it was decided that Attu must be taken. On May 11th, 1943, US forces landed on the island. The constant use of "small group" tactics by the enemy forced American soldiers to search every inch of the island. There was scarcely any foliage on the island however, the Japanese expertly camouflaged their positions and lay in wait. The sniping was annoying but the rifle fire never hindered the progress of the US troops. Small groups of Japanese using light machine guns or "Knee Mortars" would pin down the Americans at times. The fanatically reckless, fighting spirit of the enemy was shown when a group of Japanese fell into the hands of American soldiers. It was a desperate stand, with a kill-or- be-killed

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attitude in which every Japanese, whether he be wounded or not, took part ... some with bayonets tied to the end of sticks.

With Attu secured, Kiska was doomed, and the race at last had been won, but, not without the high price demanded by the Gods of War. Good men had succumbed to wind and weather ... and the enemy. The rigors of the far North climate took its toll of men and spirit. It is with justifiable pride that the survivors of the 201st who served there, point to Alaska and the Aleutians ... still, and forever free ... a bright new star among the stars of the red, white and blue. The Mountain Soldier helped add that star, which so easily might have been lost ... along with the other stars of our Banner of Freedom.

The surrender of the Axis and Japanese in 1945 brought the Nations fighting men home once more. Weary of war, he returned with mixed emotions as it had been when the soldiers returned from the Civil War. Changes in living habits had taken place, and there were changes too in the ranks. Faces of friends and family were often missing, some still served with the forces yet overseas, some ... would never return.

The cost of World War II is not yet estimated accurately nor will it ever be. The direct financial cost of the American War effort was \$318,000,000,000, but how can the other costs be tabulated? On land, sea, beneath the sea and in the air, good men gave their lives. The total estimated loss of life of the Axis and Allied military forces is a staggering 14-1/2 million killed. This is by no means correct, inasmuch as some nations cannot even now count those killed in the most costly of wars. Civilian deaths, in estimate, equal almost 13 million. Today, the cost is still rising financially while our Nation's finest sleep forever ... far from home.

The men who served in Alaska and the Aleutians were returned to the United States proper, before the cessation of hostilities, to become instructors and cadre of newly activated units. At Camp Rucker, Alabama, September 26, 1945 it was inactivated and on July 10, 1946, was converted (less the Second Battalion) into the 201st Field Artillery Battalion. It was Federally recognized August 19, 1947, and on September 1, 1949, received the designation of 201st Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

On July 16, 1950, the 201st, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Harry F. Shrader, proceeded to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for the annual two-week field training. During the training period, the following battle streamers were presented to the battalion by Brigadier General Charles R. Fox, then Adjutant General of West Virginia, in the presence of the Governor of West Virginia, Okey L. Patteson:

Revolutionary War, 1776 ~ Boston, New York
War of 1812: 1812-1813 ~ Indian Territory
Civil War (Union) ~ Virginia
1861, 1862-1863 ~ Valley Manassas, Vicksburg,
Vicksburg, Chattanooga

Civil War (Confederate) ~ First Manassas, Peninsula, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg
World War I ~ Without Inscription
World War II ~ Aleutian Islands

The record of service by the 201st is clearly visible in the above, however it cannot tell the complete story for much is shrouded by time which dims the memory, and by the lack of early records which are kept to the minimum. Nonetheless, the 201st, past and present, can be justifiably proud of its record of accomplishments since 17 February 1735.

CHAPTER IX ~ Korean War

'The Soviet-sponsored government of North Korea, having failed to conquer its southern neighbor by less violent means, invaded the Republic of Korea on 25 June 1950. When the United States, with other United Nations, came to the aid of the South Koreans, a 3-year war resulted that cost more than 142,000 American battle casualties. The campaigns set in motion by the invasion of South Korea later were characterized as a "limited war." The fighting was deliberately confined in geographic terms, political decisions placed restrictions upon military strategy, and none of the belligerents, with the

exception of the two Korean governments, used its full military potential. But there was nothing limited about the ferocity of the battles. Erupting from the rivalries of great nations, the Korean War was greatly influenced by domestic conditions rooted deep in the history of Korea, and by the topography of the peninsula where it took place.'

Shortly prior to the 1950 Field Training period, the Korean conflict developed and again the 201st was called on active duty entering Federal Service on September 11, 1950. The Battalion was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia for further training and to receive additional personnel. In August 1951, the organization left the United States for assignment in the Southern area of Germany to strengthen the forces of the Seventh Army.

By the fall of 1952, most of the men had been released from Federal service. September 11, 1952, exactly two years from the date it last entered active duty, the 201st was reorganized within the State under the command of Captain Wilson H. Morris, with units located as follows: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Battery A, and the Medical Detachment in Fairmont; Battery B in Martinsburg; Battery C in Keyser; and Service Battery at Camp Dawson near Kingwood. In 1954, a detachment of Battery C was organized in Moorefield. This detachment was abolished in 1959 and became a part of Battery C in Keyser. In 1959, during the reorganization of the National Guard under the Pentomic Concept of modern warfare, Battery A was relocated in Elkins. At that time, the organization was redesignated First Howitzer Battalion, 201st. Artillery, and was placed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Karl P. Moreland of Huntington. On August 23, 1960, the command of the organization was assumed by Major Leo E. Falkenstein of Fairmont.

The 201st is not idle during the calms that follow the storms of war. There are training periods and assistance to render others. Since reorganization in 1952, units of the 201st aided area residents during a flood in Mannington, deep snow in Preston County, and a search mission for a lost child.

It is fitting that in 1956 the 201st was the first organization in the State to contribute 100 percent for the construction of a National Guard Association of the United States Memorial Building in Washington, D.C.

During a period in 1960 and 1961, units of the 201st furnished personnel and vehicles to distribute commodities to needy families throughout Northern West Virginia.

The men of the 201st from the northern part of the State of West Virginia, have proved repeatedly their ability in time of need. More important, it is not necessarily war that brings them to the aid of their fellow man. Whatever the need ... their services belong to the people, for the Mountain Soldier is the peoples brother-protector, and as such stands ready to serve whenever he is called.

The courage of the Mountain Soldier was recognized long ago and perhaps can be understood when the reader is presented with this example of the kind of people who live in the Mountain Land: George Washington spoke the immortal words "Let me plant my banner in West Augusta and I will surround it with fighting men who will drive the invaders from our land" , (1775). A Mountain Woman prompted George Washington to speak those words when he heard of her courage as she called her sons, age 17, 15, and 13 to her and said "Go, my Children, I spare not my youngest, for the comfort of my declining years. I devote you all to my country. Keep back the feet of the invaders from the soil of Augusta, or see my face no more". Such is the courage that stems from the Mountains.

What does a Mountain Soldier look like? Perhaps in this description you will see him as Washington did, when he spoke of General Andrew Levis; "Upward of six feet high, of uncommon strength and agility, and his form of the most exact symmetry. A stern and invisible countenance of a reserved and distant deportment, which rendered his presence more awful than engaging". The Governor of New York added: "The earth seemed to tremble under him as he walked along".

Now ... you know the mountain soldier, Men all ... who walk tall and with a purpose. Men who find the strength and agility to perform their duties in the interest of their country whenever they are called

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upon. It seems appropriate that the earth trembles when the Mountain Soldier marches in the cause of Justice and Freemen, whenever the need arises. This is the heritage; this is the way of things in the Mountain Land of West Augusta ... By the Grace of God and the Mountain Soldier ... West Virginia.

CHAPTER X ~ Southwest Asia

In December 1990, the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery was mobilized as a part of the United States contribution to the 29 Nation Coalition force of Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf (later designated as Operation Desert Storm). Not since World War II had a West Virginia Army National Guard combat arms unit had been ordered to war. The battalion was stationed in the following locations at the time of the alert for active duty:

HQ and Headquarters Battery, Fairmont, WV
Battery A, Elkins, WV
Battery B, Morgantown, WV
Battery C, Keyser, WV
Service Battery, Kingwood, WV

Each member takes an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of West Virginia against all enemies, foreign and domestic and to obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of West Virginia and the officers appointed over them. Little did we know that we would soon be reminded of this oath and fully understand its meaning. By contrast, one soldier remarked as we were boarding the plane to Saudi Arabia, "I joined this outfit for the college money...".

Since only five other combat arms battalions were deployed from the Army National Guard of the United States, the Mountaineers became a test for the idea of the citizensoldier in the Total Force. Our National security strategy of deterrence requires that the organization, training, and modernization of the National Guard keep pace with the Regular Forces. History will record that the "First West Virginia" not only kept pace, we moved the greatest distance during the attack, in spite of the same claim made by the 82d Airborne Division.

In Saudi Arabia, the battalion moved 510 miles from the port of Dhahran to the initial assembly area in the XVIIIth Airborne Corps sector. The forward tactical assembly area was North West of the town of Rahfa. We shared the area with the 2nd Regimental Estrangier Infantry (REI). During the attack, we moved behind the 2nd REI which was 12 miles West of the 82d Airborne Division (). The 201st was the only U.S. Army unit in the far Western sector of the 6th Light Armored Division (FRENCH).

Those who remember the television predictions of the Iraqi spokesman shall never forget his words "your bones will rot in the desert sand". He probably said a lot more than that, but those words haunted some 201st soldiers and forged our daily thoughts from disbelief to fear; to anger; to determination; to hate; and the tremendous sting of battle. Anyone who studied the faces of the soldiers as they passed the Line of Departure into Iraq, had no doubt that they were making history. Our families watched the daily progress of the war on television and, as we later learned, knew a lot more than we did in terms of the total battle. We fought one emplacement at a time, not knowing the progress, or lack thereof, of the other forces.

Prior to this deployment, the 1-201 FA was removed from the 200,000 list of early deploying units effective 1 October 1990 and had completed mobilization planning for a European POMCUS wartime mission under the 138th FA Bde and VIIth Corp Artillery, Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Fort Pickett was the designated Mobilization Station for all plans in the Mobilization file.

Vigorous efforts were made to firm the CAPSTONE (wartime) relationships and begin training with the brigade and the 1st Armored Division (a wartime tactical mission). According to the 1st Armored Division Artillery S-3, MAJ Ed Fagan, the USAREUR war plans reflected the 1-201 FA under the 196th FA Bde as early as April 1990; however, the change in CAPSTONE assignment had not been approved or transmitted by FORSCOM. This headquarters was not aware of the change until our

arrival with 1AD in Kuwait.

The 1-201 FA was not on the DESERT SHIELD TPFDL prior to the alert. As a result, many critical MTOE items were transferred to other WVARNG units currently on the deployment list or units already alerted to deploy. Some of this equipment was returned along with additional items when we received the alert. The transfer of KY-57 Speech Security equipment (from 60 down to 17) severely reduced our capability to run secure command and fire nets throughout the operation.

Repair parts supply was based on the Reserve Component demand supported criteria. Due to dollar restrictions, two thirds of the parts for the Battery Computer System was turned in as directed by State Maintenance Office. Requests to add repair parts to the Combat PLL (prescribed load list) were denied due to dollar cost of shelf stock. We never received the requested repair parts.

Controlled medical items were not available due to the absence of a trained Battalion Surgeon. All units did not have EMT or Combat Life-Saver trained personnel.

The transfer of numerous items of equipment during the five days prior to mobilization was a monumental task. The State Maintenance Officer, USPFO, and other WVARNG units assisted in the transfer of equipment and required repair parts. We were provided 100% wheel and track vehicles due to the efforts of the West Virginia National Guard.

Maintenance contact teams were provided to install installation kits and other items of equipment prior to and during the mobilization process.

Within four hours of our request to the WVARNG Command Logistics Office, 5 trained supply personnel were dispatched to Fort Campbell to assist in the preparation of, lateral transfers and hand receipts. This team worked almost non-stop for three days, which indicated the overwhelming administrative burden for this short notice mobilization.

Packing and packaging materials were not on hand until after the alert. Shipping containers, banding material and plastic wrap was not on hand at home station until 7 Dec 91. Loaned equipment was not returned in sufficient time to inventory and conduct proper PMCS.

The battalion received the first indication of the alert by telephone from the National Guard Bureau on 2 December 1990 informing us that we were under consideration for mobilization. With little indication of the urgency of the call, we were notified on 3 Dec 90 of a "training meeting" at Fort Campbell, KY with the 196th FA Bde on 5 Dec 90. The alert was received on the morning of 5 Dec 90 during that meeting with an M-Day of 9 Dec 90. Since the battalion commander and Executive Officer were both attending the meeting, the Bn S-3 initiated the alert effective 9 Dec 90.

Selected personnel (10%) were ordered to active duty in advance of the unit on 9 Dec 90. The Adjutant General, State of West Virginia organized a Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) for each unit location on 8-9 Dec 90. Home Station processing was very well planned and executed by the MAT teams. This battalion experienced little difficulty in mobilization station processing due to the efforts of the MAT teams (Medical, ID Cards/Tags, Personnel/Finance, Showdown, Deployment Briefings, and SJA).

The Bn Torch Party (5 personnel) departed after the holiday meal on 9 Dec 90. One soldier was married during this meal. The Advance Party departed for Fort Campbell on 10 Dec 90 and Main Body on 11 Dec 90.

All Track equipment and commercially shipped items were received at Fort Campbell on 12 Dec 90. The Battalion closed at the Mobilization Station on 12 Dec 90 with 100% wheel and track vehicles as a result of transfers from the WVARNG and Fort Knox, KY. Track equipment was received from Fort Pickett, VA on the same date in good mechanical condition. Some tracks were shipped with CARC desert paint already completed. Some M109 Howitzers from Fort Pickett were shipped with shortages

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in Basic Issue Items (BII). The battalion had dedicated a lot of planning and training time on the least likely war in Europe.

Many individual conflicts and emotional stress situations were surfaced in this short notice mobilization. Some soldiers did not have the funds to make such a short notice transition to active duty. Soldiers complained that they could not pay household bills for the month with the reduction in pay. No advance or casual pay was available until arrival at Fort Campbell.

The first problem encountered upon arrival at Fort Campbell was inadequate facilities for quarters, motor pool and administrative buildings. With the exception of the motor pool, these problems were never resolved. Although the 3397th MAT and Installation personnel provided excellent support, the facilities simply were not available. Officers were billeted in BEQ (5th Special Forces) and senior NCOs were forced to remain in the Reserve Component troop billets.

Each unit was required to share a building with another unit for administrative and supply operations. Weapons and sensitive items were stored in the same building. The battalion headquarters was 17 blocks from the barracks and battery administrative areas.

Motor pool space was not available until January, after much effort. We operated in two wood maintenance shops for five units and battalion. The buildings leaked and were unheated. Our maintenance efforts suffered due to the totally inadequate motor pool. The new motor pool was adequate to complete all deployment maintenance operations in less than 20 days. During December and January, maintenance personnel were required to work until 0230 each day on many occasions to meet both field training requirements and preparations for deployment. Fort Campbell had very little track parts to prepare for deployment. Repair parts remained a major problem throughout this operation. Parts for the newly issued M998 vehicles never arrived.

All containerized supplies were initially delivered to a motor pool occupied by HHB, 196th FA Brigade and 1-623 FA. Storage and security of our supplies and equipment remained a problem until mid January. Warehouse space was not made available until much later.

The battalion was issued two busses for the entire battalion to use for 3 runs daily to the mess facility 20 blocks away from the troop barracks. The same busses were used for training requirements and administrative processing. Had it not been for the administrative vehicles from the WVARNG, we would not have been able to accomplish all MS tasks. We were finally issued an adequate motor pool and one warehouse with assistance from the TAG-WV Mob team (MAJ Garrison and MAJ Hammel) and COL Stiner, 2d Army MAT Chief.

Personnel processing at Fort Campbell was accomplished with little difficulty until the arrival of replacements. Much of the personnel processing and all scheduling was completed by our newly formed Personnel Actions Center (PAC). This situation caused the personnel in the section to miss or reschedule shorter makeup CINC training. To form, train and equip a PAC Section, as a part of the mobilization process was almost an impossible task. The Battalion Supply Section encountered the same problem until a supply assistance team was dispatched from TAG West Virginia. Both Battalion PAC and Supply sections had to integrate new equipment training on the TACCS computer system in addition to the otherwise tremendous workload.

Preparations for the CINC directed training, Battalion validation and brigade validation started immediately upon arrival as MS. The Fort Campbell MAT team did an excellent job of coordinating the training activities. The 196TH Brigade was tasked to concurrently coordinate mobilization activities and all installation support. The lack of support in the area of transportation, radios, range equipment, and copy machines caused incomplete coordination between brigade and battalion. The 3397th MAT routinely provided this support for smaller units.

New Equipment training was integrated for the TACCS computer (personnel and logistics), Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT), HUMWV, Digital Fax, NBC tents, and KG-31 equipment for the Battery Computer System. Closing the COMSEC account at home station, although according to regulations,

delayed the receipt and training with COMSEC equipment and materials.

A Battalion Live Fire Exercise was conducted during the period 15-20 December 90 with excellent results. The planned brigade field exercise was changed to a Command Post Exercise (CPX without troops) from 27 Dec - 31 Dec 90 due to bad weather. The remaining time at Fort Campbell was devoted to CINC directed individual training. Combat Life-Savers were trained in each unit. Medics received little training on the NBC protective tents. In retrospect, a lot of this training should have been conducted in SWA and entirely too much time was wasted at MS on previously validated tasks.

Since the SWA operation was classified, few details could be released to the unit leadership to guide their training. The fact that we were scheduled to support the French under the XVIII Airborne Corps would have been a significant training incentive. All training activities prior to the first of January was directed to supporting the VIIth Corp. The change in mission to the XVIII Airborne Corps caused significant changes to SOPs, equipment plans and task organization. This change in mission was never posted to the WWMCCS file and the 138th FA Bde was still reflected as our higher headquarters.

The battalion was to be "validated" before deployment to Saudi Arabia. Too much time was wasted to determine what was already recorded on numerous reports (FORSCOM Forms 1-R).

We would not have been able to complete all logistics tasks without the assistance team provided by TAG-WV. We completed in excess of one million dollars of requests in very short order.

MTOE, SSSC, CTA items and repair parts only authorized AC units consumed much of the funds. Not understanding that ARNG units did not have all customary AC supplies, all requests had to be signed by the battalion commander because of the high dollar cost of the requisitions.

The Battalion Surgeon was not assigned until two weeks prior to deployment. This delay prevented us from obtaining controlled medical supplies (e.g. morphine). We were not successful in obtaining these supplies in SWA. The MAT informed the Surgeon that all necessary supplies would be available in country. Two casualties (shrapnel wounds) would have benefited had narcotics been available. The fact that the troops knew of this lack of analgesia proved to be a morale problem.

Each unit was required to request the difference between the RC and AC CTA clothing authorization at the mobilization station. This requirement caused one more delay because of RC resourcing. The Advance Party to SWA was deployed on 12 Jan 91. Defense Switch Network Communications (DSN) between the Fort Campbell and Saudi Arabia was restricted. Most of the information gained from the advance party was via commercial telephone using private, armory or US Government credit cards. The advance party waited a week before any guidance was given concerning the details of how or where to order supplies. This information was not finalized until two days of the arrival of the main body.

The main body departed MS with information that we would land at Dhahran and the Seaport would be Al Jubayl. We arrived at King Fahd Airport and the ship arrived at Al Dammam.

We were processed by the XVIIIth Airborne Corps Personnel Services Company and billeted at the Saudi Arabia National Guard Compound #9. The XVIIIth Airborne Corps retained the POR personnel packets, which were later sent to Fort Bragg in error. Since emergency data was not made available to us in country, we relied on Family Support and TACCS information. We established supply and local purchase accounts, established a battalion aid station and began preparation for the move to our Tactical Assembly Area (TAA) in AA PINE. We continued to receive filler personnel in country (IRR and RA) until we crossed the Line of Departure. We crossed the LD at 102% strength without time to acclimatize, as did the regular Army units.

Lack of maps presented a problem from arrival in SWA to departure to the Redeployment Assembly Area. Corp was informed that Brigade had the maps and Brigade reported that all maps were distributed to Battalion, and so forth. We conducted the entire operation with 25 1:1,000,000 maps and

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four sets of 1:250,000. 1:50,000 maps were of no value since so many sheets were missing.

Due partially to the confusion of our higher headquarters (VII or XVIII Corp), the TRANSCOM support from the port to the initial assembly was poor. Milvans secured by the port authority were later moved to the VIIth Corp yard as "abandoned". The convoy briefings were presented with few strip maps and the instructions were incomplete. The convoy commanders were required to sign a statement that a strip map was available for every vehicle. The Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) operators had no idea of the final destination.

Request for supplies (all classes) submitted at the port area were rejected with the reason that all support was well forward in "Log Bases". Upon arrival at LOG BASE CHARLIE, we were informed that the supplies were in Daharan. The supply support system was not adequate for ARNG units not assigned to a TOE brigade or division. As we were attached to a variety of units, the supply system worsened each with a different reason for not providing support to our battalion or brigade.

By the time the battalion completed the 510-mile move to the initial tactical assembly area, we had no room left on our vehicles, even after drawing two civilian trucks and two sedans. With the addition of the ammo, food and water requirements, we could not carry all repair parts and bulky equipment. Some items were left in the designated area in the brigade support area. Milvans left at the SANG compound and port were pilfered and 'captured' by other units.

TACTICAL SUMMARY ~ Ground War.

10 February 1991. The 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery deployed from the Saudi Arabia National Guard (SANG) Compound Number 9. The initial area was Assembly Area (AA) PINE. We were attached to the 18th Field Artillery Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery. The Battalion Commander met with COL Freddie E. McFarren, commander, 18th FA Bde, and was assigned the tactical mission of reinforcing the 11th Regimental Artillery Marines (RAMA) of the 6th Light Armored Division (FRENCH). The French Prime Minister was scheduled to visit the area on 14 Feb 91.

14 February 1991. Intelligence reports reflected that the 45th Iraqi Infantry Division had occupied OBJECTIVE ROCHEMBEAU. The unit was evaluated as a good force armed with RPG-7's, D30's and M46's. OBJ ROCHEMBEAU was designated as an Air Force ordinance dumping ground for the Coalition Forces. All artillery preparation fires from the 18th FA BDE were planned to occur simultaneously. Each 155mm Battalion was to prepare to fire Copperhead on their assigned targets on the escarpment, which marked the Line of Departure (objective NACHEZ). The 11th RAMA was moved to grid LT 658 908 prior to the attack referred to as "G Day" or GO day. G-DAY was set for 24 Feb 91. The battalion formed the field trains and maintenance contact teams in preparation for the attack. Insufficient Signal Operating Instructions (SOI) were available in the XVIII Airborne Corps to provide to each operator.

15 February 1991. The battalion was given the mission of drawing preparation ammunition in Combat Configured Loads (CCL). The only High Explosive (HE) on hand as of this date was rocket-assisted projectiles (RAP). Preparation ammunition was to be delivered by flat bed trucks. The 226th Maintenance contact team was added to the combat trains in order to be well forward in the attack.

16 February 1991. The Battalion Commander met with the 11th RAMA Commander (LTC Novaq), the 6th Lt Armored Division Fire Support Officer (COL Peter) and Commander 6th Lt Armor Div (MG Janvier). The Battalion Liaison Section was dispatched to the 11th RAMA Headquarters on 17 February 1991. This task organization was to be in effect until the successful taking of OBJ WHITE (Grid MV 6083) at which time we would return to the General Support Reinforcing (GSR), 18th FA Bde. The 18th FA Bde Support Area (BSA) moved to LT 718 859. The 18th FA Bde instructed the battalion not to take any Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW). EPWs were to be given water and directed South for the French EPW teams.

17 February 1991. The Battalion moved forward to fire our portion of the artillery raid on PL NACHEZ. The artillery raid was a part of the deception plan in the Western sector. The 3d REI cleared Passage Points NACHEZ and FALCON by ground. Additional friendly patrols were scheduled this evening along the LD. Iraqi MIG-23s were reported operating in our AO. Intelligence reports indicated that Iraqi ground forces were moving civilians out of the town of As Salmon (OBJ WHITE).

18 February 1991. At 0615 hrs 17 Feb 91 EST, (18 Feb in Iraq) at 0110 hrs LOCAL, this Battalion fired 227 rounds in its first fire mission. A Battery, located at Grid LU70830472, AZ of fire 0800, fired 59 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements at Grid LV83301265. B Battery, located at Grid LU70480453, AZ of fire 0800, fired 85 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements at Grid LV83201284. C Battery, located at Grid LU71370446, AZ of fire 0800, fired 83 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements at Grid 83801249. After firing this mission, the Battalion moved to firing positions with the 2 REI (Regimental Infantry Legionnaires) awaiting the assault on OBJECTIVE NACHEZ, ROCHEMBEAU and WHITE. Later Captain Legnell, Regimental FDO, relayed information received from their intelligence section to our LNO that the French 1REI captured elements of an Iraqi Infantry Battalion. EPW's of this Iraqi Battalion stated they had been fired upon by artillery fire on 17 Feb 91 causing heavy casualties and their departure 20K North of PL NACHEZ.

19 February 91. The battalion commander met with the commander of the 2REI (French) (LTC Derville) to coordinate the LD passage points and the attack on both objectives. The 2REI had detailed sketches of the airstrip on OBJ WHITE. The 45th Iraq Inf Div was reported at 73% combat effective following artillery and air attacks. PL RAM was designated as the FSCL. The assault to OBJ WHITE was planned as a three-phase operation. The first phase was to take PL NACHEZ, which was a 30-meter high escarpment marking the LD (Line of Departure). 1-201 FA was assigned to support the 2REI for their dismounted ground attack. The next phase was to move and take OBJ ROCHEMBEAU (VIC Grid MU1030). The 6th Light Armored Division would then turn NE and take OBJ WHITE. Second Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division started deep operations along MSR TEXAS to our northeast. The corps sector had 30,000 personnel and 10,000 vehicles ready for offensive operations. We received guidance to destroy all Iraqi weapons. The Iraqi 45th Infantry Division Tactical Operations Center was located by recon patrols from information gathered from EPW's. The 45ID was kind enough to leave a sign on the main road marked with an arrow which read "45 ID TOC". The Iraqi 17th INF (Border Guards) were ordered to fall back twenty kilometers (XVIII EPW report).

20 February 1991. Intel reported that the Iraqi 45th ID had four brigades in our sector. The Iraq 842 Bde is reported to be at OBJ ROCHEMBEAU. The USAF dropped leaflets on OBJ WHITE and ROCHEMBEAU. The 12th AVN BDE (US) was placed on strip alert. 1-201 FA received replacements to bring the battalion strength to 102%. The battalion received no fire missions on this date.

21 February 1991. At 0940 hrs, we received two targets to engage with RAP, but the fire order was never transmitted to engage these targets. Intel reported 13 tanks at OBJ ROCHEMBEAU along with one D30 Artillery Battalion (3 guns per btry) and one D46 Artillery Battalion in the Iraqi 45th ID Sector. One 400mm MRL was reported in the 24th ID Sector. A 152-meter minefield was reported between OBJ WHITE east to OBJ ROCHEMBEAU along MSR VIRGINIA at MSR COLORADO. Iraqi C&C vehicles were reported to be bearing red flags as identification and using civilian vehicles for resupply purposes.

22 February 1991. The battalion received movement times for G Day and was instructed by Cdr, 18th FA BDE to discourage any more artillery prep fires in our sector. All FM frequencies and call signs were scheduled to freeze on H-hour of G-day for 72 hours. Passage Points were established for NACHEZ at Grids LU 7224 and LU 7718. The 18th FA BDE requested 4 Stinger and 1 Vulcan teams to be attached to the battalion. BG Halley, Commander, XVIIIth Airborne Corps Artillery, visited the battalion. He confirmed that the battalion would be authorized the 18th Airborne Corp Shoulder Sleeve Insignia following the battle.

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On 23 February 1991, at 0914 hrs, expansion of bridgeheads went on hold, linked by National Command authorizing Iraq to withdraw by 2000 hrs, 23 February 1991. Expansion past MSR OHIO was not authorized. The battalion went to MOPP Level 1 at 1035 hrs, when enemy forces shot down a French Pilotless Recon Drone. Due to bottleneck of 2nd RES at OBJ NANCHEZ, the battalion moved forward at 1730 hrs. The final occupation was at night. All firing units occupied short of the plotted grids because of the friendly tank traps and ditch on the Saudi border. This position allowed fire support for friendly maneuver elements moving into Iraq.

24 February 1991. At 1530 hrs, C Battery, located at Grid LU 85694108, AZ of fire 0800, fired 6 Rap rounds at enemy emplacements, Grid LV 08904845. A Battery, located at Grid LU 85014102, AZ of fire 0800, fired 11 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements, Grid LV 93735961. B Battery, located at Grid LU 85134038, AZ of fire 0800, fired 9 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements, Grid LV 93735961. C Battery conducted a simultaneous mission from Grid LU 85694108, AZ of fire 0900, fired 3 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements, Grid LV 93735961 and fired 10 RAP rounds at enemy emplacements, Grid LV 93735961. The Battalion then moved at 1630 hrs to VIC Grid LU 976562.

25 February 1991. On 25 Feb 91 at 1000 hrs, we moved to VIC Grid LU 1775 6783. At 1430 hrs, A Battery, located at Grid LU 42758207, AZ of fire 1000, fired 30 HEA rounds at an Ammo Dump, Grid LV 57458164. B Battery, located at Grid LU 42118155, AZ of fire 1000, fired 30 HEA rounds at an Ammo Dump, Grid LV 58208120. C Battery, located at Grid LU 42758207, AZ of fire 1000, fired 30 HEA rounds at an Ammo Dump, Grid LV 60208117. From the same location this battalion had another fire mission at 1640 hrs, AZ of fire 1000. A Battery fired 18 HEA rounds, Grid LV 57409200. B Battery fired 30 HEA rounds, Grid LV 59219135. C Battery fired 30 HEA rounds, with a 14 round repeat at Grid LV 6553 8220. One Iraq ammunition storage area was destroyed. The shortage of KY-57 units lost at least one mission because command and fire was conducted on one secure net.

26 February 1991. The Battalion moved to Grid MU 47657250. At 1930 hrs, SPC Chadwell and SPC Eastman were AIR MEDIVAC to 93 Evac Hospital after contact with a cluster bomb.

27 February 1991. The Battalion passed OBJ BROWN (NU 1862) and was ordered 110K toward OBJ GOLD.

28 February 1991. The Battalion was delayed by mine fields and was further delayed by 2-1/2 tons unable to traverse through soft sand. Enroute, we were diverted to join the 196th FA. On 28 Feb 91, we were released from attachment to the 18th FA Bde and returned to the 196th FA Bde effective 1 March 1991. We arrived in the 196th FA Area of Operation at 0130 2 March 1991. All 18th FA Bde assets were returned and all units were notified of the cease-fire. The 1-201 FA moved 362 miles cross county from the LD to the cease fire location. This distance was recorded as the greatest distance traveled by any US unit during the ground offensive. The battalion moved from the far Western flank to the northeastern sector. Recon and Command and Control vehicles covered 1,850 miles from the port to the Kuwait border. The battalion fired a total of 447 rounds during Operation Desert Storm.

Following the cease-fire, the 196th FA Bde was attached to the 24th ID, still under the XVIII Airborne Corp Artillery. We received detailed redeployment plans and a FRAG order to move to Saudi Arabia only to be halted for another change in mission within two hours of our SP time.

At 091147C Mar 91, we were "chopped" to the 1st Cav Div, VII Corps (PU 841325) to support screening operations. The 1-201 FA received a DS mission to 1-7 Cav (QU 172638). The battalion commander met with LTC "Skip" Sharp, 1-7 Cav (Old Gary Owens Regiment), and elected to attach the Liaison Section to the 1-7 Fire Support Officer. Coordination was also made with LTC Anderson, 1-82 FA, 1st CAV for fire support coordination.

The flow of information from higher headquarters stopped. We had no idea how long we were expected to remain with VII Corps elements or when we were scheduled to redeploy. Morale was at an all time low. Emotionally and spiritually, this phase was the most difficult time of the activation. The "let down" following combat coupled with physical weariness began to wear down the soldiers.

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Problems with the mail, lack of showers and hot meals had additional impact on the already poor morale. Poor information concerning our future and the numerous "chops" to different units led to a growing resentment.

On 9 March 91, we were attached to the 1st Armored Division Artillery. From 9-13 March 91 we placed emphasis on maintenance operations and coordination with the VII Corp logistics elements. We received B rations and at least two days of fresh eggs for breakfast. On 14 March 91, we received a redeployment briefing from VIIth Corp placing the brigade number 53 out of 63 units to process through the Redeployment Assembly Area (RAA). The published ARCENT priority was the XVIIIth Airborne Corp (with whom we fought the war), Reserve Component Units and VIIth Corp. We distributed TV and VCR units and established athletics & recreation programs.

The published priorities for redeployment remained as XVIII Airborne Corp, Reserve Component units, and VIIth Corp. The 196th Brigade dropped from 53 to 57 out of 63 VII Corp units for redeployment to CONUS.

On 27 April 1991, we received "solid" redeployment dates for the Main Body on 6 May 91 and the Trail Party on 19 May 91. Up to this point, the planning dates were changing almost daily. Coordination with Fort Campbell and our home station was very difficult. We were also informed that our DSN telephone capability would be removed on 29 April 91.

DEMOBILIZATION.

This headquarters received the FORSCOM and First US Army Demobilization Plan on 25 April 1991 at the Redeployment Assembly Area (RAA). Many demobilization tasks were added to the work schedule in order to prepare for our arrival at Fort Campbell (DMS).

CARC painting touch up and stenciling was completed in the RAA. Battlefield identification markings were removed, except for some canvas items (doors).

Partial physical examinations and SWA Demobilization/ Redeployment Medical Evaluations were completed by the Battalion Surgeon (Tine test and Audiogram included).

Separation and Reunion Stress counseling was conducted by the Battalion Chaplain in the RAA.

Final manifesting was completed for the Main Body, Rear Detachment, Trail Party and Super Cargo personnel. All trail party personnel were volunteers and agreed to remain in country until 1 August 1991.

We were not authorized Regular Army filler personnel until our arrival in the forward tactical assembly area. If these soldiers had joined us at the mobilization station, our state of readiness would have been even greater.

ARNG commanders must recruit, train and maintain their force based on strong leadership, unit pride, and image in the local community. If we are to be a part of the TOTAL FORCE, there should be no discrimination with regard to any resourcing. Too many times we were informed that "you are not authorized this item because you are National Guard", or "Under no circumstances will Regular Army soldiers be assigned to a National Guard unit"

The privilege of fighting with the 6th Light Armored Division (French) and the 11th Regimental Artillery Marines was an experience of a lifetime. Our soldiers were extremely proud of the fact that we made the difference on several occasions and the XVIIIth Airborne Corp Artillery trusted us to provide support in the Western sector.

We learned to overcome the language barrier and delivered timely and accurate fires over the heads of attacking French Legionnaires and light armor forces. On one occasion, the Legionnaire Infantry

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(2REI) called a checkfire because their troops were chasing the retreating enemy under our artillery fires. To determine which battery scored a direct hit on an Iraqi ammunition area, the French fired the battalion "right by piece at my command". We then destroyed the storage area.

The French fully expected to be on Objective WHITE by nightfall on the first day; however, the first night we were still firing on Objective ROCHEMBEAU. The field artillery fires from the 11th RAMA and the 1-201 FA made the defeat of the Iraqi 45th Infantry Division (-) possible. We provided fire support on Objective ROCHEMBEAU for three and one half-hours from a single position. Once the French learned to place the battalion well forward in the offense, the attack gained speed.

The lessons learned by our soldiers can not be taught in a classroom. We learned that the spirit of mutual trust, cooperation and teamwork makes the difference between success and failure. Without the tremendous positive mental attitude, dedication, and long work hours by all soldiers and assistance teams, we would not have left the USA.

The accomplishments of the battalion and battery maintenance sections is worthy of special mention. Not only did we travel the greatest distance of any other US Army unit; we completed the move with 16 operational howitzers and an average OR rate of 94%. Repair parts were obtained from enemy howitzers and other vehicles.

If we had one single experience that will always remain in our minds it would have to be the tremendous welcome home in every community to include the National Victory Parade and ticker tape parade in New York. The most noteworthy element of our welcome home was the overwhelming rebirth of patriotism expressed by everyone.

The 201st Field Artillery received the Meritorious Unit Citation and two additional battle campaigns (streamers) for Southwest Asia: Liberation and Defense of Kuwait and Cease-Fire.

History often repeats itself. Although the First West Virginia soldiers arrived in France too late to fight with the 38th Division in World War I, the battalion was fortunate to fight as a unit in Southwest Asia and, exchange regimental honors with the fleur-de-lis. The 11th RAMA commander and the 6th Light Armor Division Fire Support Officer both wear the crest of the 201st next to their regimental crest.

The 201st continues to lead the way. They were the first to receive the new field artillery computer system and howitzer system (Paladin). Since the Army National Guard provides more than 70% of the Army's field artillery, it is likely that the battalion will be called upon in the future. ~ YES SIR!
CHAPTER XI ~ Conclusion and Prayer

The trails the Mountain Men have trod are endless winding trails. Their marks are left upon the countless thousands passed this way. Their blood has fallen upon the hills and valleys, deserts and snow covered lands. They sleep beneath the seas and unmarked are their graves beneath the grasses of meadows a lifetime away from the homes they knew. Yet they are not forgotten ... for in their stead ... stand other Mountain Men atop the windswept hills ... alert and ready. If there be but one cry ... one prayer a Mountain Man might make ... these words said in humility and faith, might well be his

God, grant me courage to be keen of sight, and strong of will, that I might fight forever against the tyranny and the injustice of tyrants! Grant that I be forever ready ... to fight, and if necessary, to die ... in the cause of freedom ... and for those who have preserved our land and left it in our care. Oh Father of us all, lend me your hand, that I ... and my brothers of the mountain land, may keep the mountains free; for so long as the freedom winds blow through the crags and the valleys ... so will our beloved country be free. Let those who sleep ... rest in peaceful slumber assured that the heritage they have left us ... will never be betrayed. Help us, oh God ... to keep the Mountains free, until you call me ... and my brothers, the Mountain Soldiers ... Home, to the House of Peace ... Forever, unto Eternity...

Amen

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Officers, 1963

Officers of the First Howitzer Battalion, 201st Artillery, West Virginia Army National Guard.

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY - Fairmont, West Virginia

LEO E. FALKENSTEIN		LTC	Battalion Commander
WILBUR L. KEESECKER	MAJ		Battalion Executive Officer
LEE R. GREEN		MAJ	Battalion S-3
WILLIAM L. GARDNER	CPT		Battalion Motor Officer
DAVID T. KENT		CPT	Battalion S-2
PAUL R. WALLACE		CPT	Communications Officer
JAMES D. WARD JR.		CPT	Liaison Officer
CARROLL H. LASWELL	ILT		Battalion S-1
BURLEY D. TENNANT SR.	CPT		Headquarters Battery Commander
JAMS A. GLOVER		CPT	Assistant S-3
DENNIS R. JONES		ILT	Recon and Survey Officer
LAWRENCE P. WOODS	2LT		Forward Observer
JACK E. YEAGER		2LT	Forward
Observer			
RICHARD C. MCCANDLESS	CPT		Fixed Wing Aviator
BATTERY A, ELKINS, WV			
PETER E. ZURBUCH		CPT	Battery Commander
JOSEPH J. POLEWAY	2LT		Executive Officer
BATTERY B, MARTINSBURG, WV			
CHARLES N. BOWERS JR.	CPT		Battery Commander
CHARLFS A. SLUSHER	ILT		Executive Officer
BILLY T. O'BRIEN		ILT	Asst. Executive Officer
BATTERY C, KEYSER, WV			
PHILIP L. LEATHERMAN	CPT		Battery Commander
JAMES I. BEAMER		1LT	Executive Officer
CHARLES B. RAVENSCROFT	1LT		Asst. Executive Officer
SERVICE BATTERY, CAMP DAWSON, KINGWOOD, WV			
ROY C. GOFF		CPT	Battery
Commander and S-4			
MAX A. MESSENGER		1LT	Ammunition
Officer			
ROBERT L. BRUMMAGE	CW3		Unit Personnel Technician
WILLIAM R. FULLMER		CW3	Unit Maintenance
Technician			
ROBERT J. ARONHALT	WO1		Unit Supply Technician

REASSIGNMENTS AT CAMP SHELBY MISSISSIPPI

201ST Regimental Headquarters Company	-	Headquarters Co., 113 Engineers
Company A		Company A, 113
Engineers		
Company B		Company B, 137
Machine Gun Battalion		
Company C		Company C, 137
Machine Gun Battalion		
Company D		Company D, 137
Machine Gun Battalion		
Company E		Company E, 113

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Engineers
 Company F Company F, 113
 Engineers
 Company G Company G, 113
 Ammunition Train
 Company H Company H, 113
 Ammunition Train
 Company I, K, L and M served as replacements to the 150th Infantry.

The Motor Battalion 11th Ammunition Train was created by War Department Orders in September 1917 and was originally formed by Company G (Kingwood) and H (Fairmont) of the First West Virginia Infantry.

World War I

The Battalion was trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi between September 1917 and July 1918. Men from this battalion were sent to France as replacements, and recruits filled the battalion on two occasions.

On July 10, 1918 under War Department orders, the battalion was sent to Clintonville, Mississippi for the purpose of conveying trucks to the Atlantic coast of Paritan Arsenal, NJ. These transcontinental trips developed not only high efficiency in the organization, but created an esprit de' corps that made things possible later on.

The Battalion sailed for overseas October 6, 1918, and landed in Liverpool, England., October 17, It landed at Le Harve, France, October 27. On November 12, the battalion entrained for Marcailes, where it was on duty with SOS until December 27 conveying trucks into the intermediate and advance sections.

The battalion arrived at Brest on December 31st, 1918 and was attached to the Motor Transport Corps for duty.

While in France, the battalion did convoy work over almost the entire country, travelling from the English Channel to the Mediterranean and from the Alps to the Atlantic, until the mileage in March 1919 attained the enormous total of over a million miles. Hence the name "Million. Mile Battalion".

Period following World War I ~ FEDERALIZED

The reconstruction of the First West Virginia Infantry following its service in World War I was commenced upon authority of the War Department in 1923 when Company A of Fairmont was authorized. This unit was federalized in 1924, and in 1926 state commissions were issued to the Regimental Commander, the Executive Officer and the authority to complete the first battalion was received. Colonel Earl H. Smith was placed in command of the federalized portion of the regiment on .12 March 1926, but was not federally recognized until 16 July 1928. The first battalion was federalized as follows:

UNIT	COMMANDER	LOCATION
DATE		
Company A, First West Virginia Infantry	Fairmont	28 June 1924
Michael Y Heath		Captain
Company A, 201st Infantry	Fairmont	24 May 1926
Captain Michael Y. Heath		
Company B, 201st Infantry	Clarksburg	19 April 1926
Captain Alfred B. Powell		
Company C, 201st Infantry	Morgantown	10 June 1926
Captain Clyde W. Wellen		
Company D, 201st Infantry	Martinsburg	3 May 1926
Captain Lewis Dew Gerhardt, Jr.		

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First Battalion, 201st Infantry attended Camp John L. Hines, Kanawha City, WV August 7-22, 1926. Battalion Commander had not been appointed at this time, but it is assumed that Captain Heath, who was the senior Captain, acted in that capacity.

Authority was granted to form the Second Battalion, 201st Infantry as follows:

HQ, 2nd Bn, 201st Infantry Major B. Powell	Clarksburg	24 January 1928
Hqs Co, 2nd Bn 201st Infantry Second Lt. George J. Middaugh	Clarksburg	7 October 1927
Co. E, 201st Infantry Captain Clyde Heater	Weston	3 October 1927
Co. F, 201st Infantry Captain Melvin Snyder	Kingwood	4 October 1927
Co. G, 201st Infantry Captain James L. Anderson	Littleton	2 December 1927
Co. H, 201st Infantry Captain Ernest Sutton	Salem	18 October 1927

The Regimental organization was completed as follows:

Regimental HQ and Staff Colonel Earl H. Smith	Morgantown	17 July 1928
Regimental Hq Co Captain Howard P. Shaffer	Terra Alta	10 July 1928
Service Co 1928 Captain Jack Haught	Fairmont	11 July
Regimental Band 1928 WO Forrest D. Fleming	Morgantown	23 July
Howitzer Co. 1930 Captain F. Guy. Ash	Morgantown	16 June

Early in 1929, the Medical units of the Regiment were recruited and later federalized. The first outing of the regiment as a unit, (3d Bn not yet activated) was held at Camp Conley, WV and subsequent annual encampments until induction into the Federal Service 6 January 1941 except 1936 and 1940, which were held at Camp Dawson, West Virginia.

For two weeks in August 1936, the organization commanded by Colonel Charles C. Robison, operated as a motorized regiment with the 1st Mechanized Cavalry which was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (later General) George S. Patton, Jr., during Second Army maneuvers held at Fort Knox, Ky.

December 1 - 15, 1939 found the regiment, participating, by battalion, in winter maneuvers held at Jacksons Mill, WV.

For three weeks in August 1940, the regiment still commanded by Colonel Charles C. Robison, was again taken from its home state to Camp Williams, Wisconsin, where it took part in the maneuvers held at Camp McCoy and vicinity.

PREPARATION FOR THE INEVITABLE ~ World War II

Fall of 1940, the US was breathing more heavily of the atmosphere from the battlefields of Europe and China; our national security had been threatened and the Nation was beginning to gear for the production of war materials. As a result of this, the closing days of that year witnessed the issuing of Executive Order No. 8618, dated 23 December 1940, which ordered the regiment to active military service of the United States on 6 January 1941.

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Colonel Charles C. Robison, regimental commander was physically disqualified for entry into Federal Service, therefore relinquishing his command to Lt. Col. Theron G. Methven., RA, who commanded the regiment until 16 August 1941.

The Regiment, less third battalion, (not activated) departed home stations and arrived at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana 10 January 1941, which became its first permanent station for present tour of active duty,

As a separate regiment under Second Army, the regiment was attached to the 5th.Division for administrative and training purposes and immediately launched an intensive training program. Need of the Third Battalion was foreseen and upon receiving authority was organized as follows:

UNIT	DATE	Commander
Hqs. 3d Battalion	1 Mar 1941	Captain Oral G. Layman, Bn Commander
Hqs Detachment	1 Mar 1941	
Co I	1 Mar 1941	Captain Frank H. Shaffer
Co K.	1 Mar 1941	Captain Playford R. Pomroy
Co L	1 Mar 1941	1st Lt Marble L. Zickefoose
Co M	1 Mar 1941	1st Lt Joseph C. Chedister

On April 26, 1941, the regiment received about 800 "selectees", who entered the service under the Selective Service Act of September 16, 1940. These men were assigned to bring the organization to Table of Organization strength and were to be equipped, trained and retained by the various units of the regiment.

During the summer of 1941, when war with Japan seemed very likely, it became necessary to take defensive measures to guard the Western and Northwestern approaches to North America. The regiment had just completed its training and the 5th Division and Second Army tests, when secret orders were received to move the regiment to Camp Murray, Washington, and to be equipped with clothing and equipment for cold weather.

The regiment moved by rail on seven train serials; first serial departed Fort Harrison 1000, 1 August 1941, and the last serial, departed 0900 the following day. Arrived Camp Murray, Washington 4 and 5 August and immediately, effected the drawing of clothing and equipment for Alaska duty.

Colonel John N. Robinson assumed command of the regiment 16 August 1941, relieving Lt Colonel Methven who was transferred.

The Third Battalion became a wayward child on 15 August, 1941) and went its way to the northlands of Alaska as a separate Battalion and was not to see any portion of the regiment until the spring of 1943.

Commanded by Lt Col. Oral G. Layman, the battalion departed Seattle in two different segments. On the first vessel going northward was the Battalion Hq., the Bn Hq, Detachment, the Bn Section of Medical Detachment, one Transportation section of Service Co, a Communications section of Regimental Hqs., Companies I and M of the third Battalion.

Unit commanders, special staff members and the battalion staff consisted of Lt Col Layman, Lt. Clarence Price, Adjutant, Lt Warren T. Felix, Hqs, Detachment, Captain William P. White, Co I, Capt. Joseph C. Chidester, Co M Lt. George Fisher, Medical Detachment, Lt. Paul W. Wanamaker, Transportation Officer, Lt, Lawrence G. Brown, Communications Officer. This portion arrived in Fort Ray, Sitka, Alaska on the 18th of August 1941.

Arriving on 1 September, 1941, the remainder of the Battalion consisting of the Anti-Tank Platoon for the Bn, Companies K and L and the Regimental Band came ashore at Fort Ray. The principal officers

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of this contingent were Major Benjamin Arnold, Bn Executive Officer, CWO Forrest D. Fleming, Band; Capt. Playford R. Pomroy, Co. K and Captain Marble L. Zickafoose, Co. L, and Lt Daniel Hobbs, Anti-Tank Officer.

By the end of Nov. 1941, this Bn went on an alert status. During their entire tour in Alaska, which was until 17 Mar 1944, the battalion remained on alert status without relaxing their vigilance for an instant, to December 7, 1941, this nation was plunged into World War II.

Shortly after war was declared, Major Arnold was relieved from the organization and assigned, elsewhere. Capt. Pomroy then became Executive officer and Capt. Joe L. Bitonti assumed command of Co. K.

Late in the fall of 1942, Co. L, still commanded by Capt. Marble L. Zickafoose, and with one platoon from CO. M., departed from Fort Ray to take up duties at Excursion Inlet, several miles north of Sitka. This entire company, and one platoon from another company not only defended, but built their homes and assisted in building the new post through the long winter months.

Late in 1942, Lt. Col Layman again left the Bn, to resume command of the post when the post commander departed for another station. This placed Capt. Pomroy, now major, in command of the Battalion and brought Capt. Chedister into the position of Executive Officer and Lt. Robt. J. Pullin became Commanding Officer of Co. M., Another change in the Battalion was the reassignment of Lt. Warren T. Felix to another station, and Lt. Brown assumed command of Hqs. Detachment. In the latter part of December 1942, Capt. Chedister and Major Pomroy were both promoted one rank. The Hqs Detachment in December prepared for reorganization which would take place in January of 1943, and Capt. Bitonti at the end of 1942, became Bn S-3, placing Lt. Daniel Hobbs in command of Co. K and Lt. Frank Cowen commanding Anti-Tank platoon.

1943 was inaugurated by the announcement that the organization was ordered to move west, with staging in Kodiak, and the eventual destination Amchitka in the Aleutians. In April, the entire battalion set sail for Kodiak. The primary mission was to defend the Naval and Airport installations on the island.

17 June 1943. Lt. Col. Pomroy was transferred from the regiment and Maj. Joseph G. Chedister was placed in command of the Battalion. On November 11, 1943, Maj. Chedister was assigned as Regimental S-3 and Lt Col Richard B. Tibbs assumed command. Lt Col. Tibbs was appointed Regimental Executive Officer on 6 March 1941. Major Wm. O. White took command of the Bn.

8 March 1944. The Third Bn Regimental Hqs. Service Co., Anti-Tank Co. and Medical Detachment boarded the USAT Grant and set sail for the US, arriving and disembarking, Seattle Port of Embarkation, Seattle Washington, 17 March 1944. Then to Fort Lawton and quarters until 22 March, when it entrained for Camp Carson, Colo., arriving there three days later.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AND SPECIAL UNITS MOVE NORTH

Regimental HQ, Hqs. Co. (less Bn sections), Service Co. (less Bn sections), Anti-tank Co. N (less Bn Platoon), and Medical Detachment, (less Bn section) embarked at Seattle Port of embarkation on USAT St Mihiel, and set sail 12 September 1941, arrived Kodiak, Alaska 16 September 1941, disembarked and proceeded to area at Devils Creek and Buskin Creek Junction which later became "Tent City".

Regimental Hqs. and Special Units served in their Table or Organization capacities and duties to serve the regiment in the defense of the island.

Advance Detachment of 8 officers and 40 Enlisted commanded by Col. John Robinson departed

History of the 201st Regiment - West Virginia Army National Guard

Kodiak on 8 Feb., 1943 and proceeded to Amchitka, Alaska, to prepare for the arrival of remaining elements of the regiment. Arrived Amchitka 3 March 1943, formed the Hqs. of the Ground Force Combat Team and drew up plans to defend the base.

After the Third Battalion arrived, a composite regiment, commanded by Col. Robinson was formed, consisting of two battalions of the 201st and one Bn. of the 37th Infantry. Later a Bn of the 53rd Infantry, upon its arrival, joined the composite organization.

Col Robinson was transferred to Kiska as Post Commander effective 7 Sept. 1943. Lt Col. Howard F. McManus of the 37th Infantry commanded the regiment from 8 Sept. 1943 to 12 October 1943, when he was relieved by Lt. Col James H. O'Reilley. Col. O'Reilley was relieved by Col C. M. Chamberlain Jr., who commanded the regiment from 9 Nov. 1943 to 22 Nov. 1943, when Lt Col O'Reilley again assumed command. Lt Col O'Reilley was promoted to Colonel March 3, 1944.

Reg. Hqs., and Special Units (less sections attached to other units within regiment) less Regimental Hqs Co. and Band departed Amchitka with the Third Battalion 8 Mar 1944, on USAT Grant, enroute to US; arriving Seattle Wash., 17 March 1944. Quartered at Fort Lawton until 22 March when they entrained for Camp Carson, Colo., arriving there three days later. (see Camp Carson)

EXPERIENCE IN THE NORTH

A severe storm encountered while enroute Northward on the USS Grant was the meeting and greeting the men had to the wind and weather of the North country.

The Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col Clyde W. Wellen, disembarked and moved to Fort Greely. Its first home was a truck shed, where the men slept and ate for three weeks. One of the first assignments was to climb Barometer Mt., a peak rising 2,500 feet from the waters edge. The battalion's second home was "Tent City", and remained its home until May of the following Year.

December 7, 1941 ... a 24-hour guard was placed on the airport, and outposts were manned in numerous places, including Old Woman's Mt., Larson Bay, Pillar Mt., and Cape Chiniak.

In Jan 1942, Major Joseph T. Hodges succeeded Col. Wellen as B CO.

Unloading ships was a familiar assignment ... the men soon were doing the work of stevedores .. outposts had to be supplied and this frequently became a major problem due to weather and terrain.

March 1942. Capt. Harrison M. Markley (later Lt Col) assumed command of the Bn. and retained it throughout the entire stay in Alaska.

In May the Bn, moved into barracks, but not for long, the bombing of Dutch Harbor sent the Bn to live in prepared beach positions. Air raid alarms tumbled the men out at all hours of the day and night.

Training continued ... Platoon, Company and Battalion. Problems were undertaken frequently. Maneuvers against the 2d Battalion of the 201st or the 2d Battalion of the 37th Infantry were continued at Mill Bay, Center Mountain, Bell Flats, Manaska Bay, Piller Mountain, Sharatin Mountain, Buskin Lake and Happy Beach.

May ... and yellow fever shots brought yellow jaundice for the next two months, because of the apparent imperfect serum used.

All was not work however, the large Kodiak bears, while not, hunted, sometimes had to be killed in self-defense. The Kodiak Olympics were held with events including a tug-of-war, a cross country run, a run up and down Barometer Mt., and extended order drill and voice commands. The regiment won the Olympics which was inter-organizational competition.

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October 17, 1942. The Battalion was notified that it would go into the Aleutians. Training continued, but in Nov, it was ordered to move. The USS Chaumonth, which had left Kodiak for Seattle, was ordered to return, its cargo unloaded and the Bn taken aboard.

November 12. Departed Kodiak and headed for Adak. A submarine alert in route was ended when destroyers of the escort dropped depth charges.

November 16. Arrived Adak and moved to assigned areas. A Co. was left on the beach to work on the docks while the rest of the Battalion moved to the north end of the island. Japanese planes had bombed the island a few days before. It took no time at all to dig foxholes!

Everything on Adak was dug in. Pyramidal tents were practically buried. Next the Bn received orders to prepare to construct and move into Quonset huts, By Christmas all companies had mess halls constructed from Quonset huts.

Christmas started out joyously but Maj. Markley announced that the battalion would move to Amchitka and work continued as usual.

January 6, 1943. A Co. boarded the USS Arthur W. Middletown. January 11: departing Adak . January 12: arrived Amchitka. Jan 1: the Destroyer USS Warden ran aground and sank, leaving a thick coating of oil on the beach of Amchitka.

Jan 13. A severe storm blew the USS Arthur W. Middletown aground, changing the plans at Adak. It had been planned for the Middletown to return to Adak and take the remainder of the Bn to Amchitka, instead, they were loaded on the USS St. Mihiel. On 24 Jan., the St. Mihiel left Adak for Amchitka, but not before word was received that Amchitka was being bombed by Japanese planes that same day. Arriving Amchitka harbor, the ST . Mihiel was greeted by another bombing attack. The outfit disembarked and moved to designated defensive areas. Meanwhile, Co. A worked on, in the cold water, and oil, of the beach.

January 27. Once more the area was bombed, but this time the planes also strafed, resulting in the death of Pvt. Clevenger of Co. B. -- the regiments only death due to enemy action. Five more bombing attacks occurred before the arrival of friendly planes on the newly constructed fighter strip.

Amchitka was barren ... no trees for camouflage. Storms were violent. Supplies had to be carried by back across miles of tundra. Infantrymen became engineers operating bulldozers cranes and laying steel runway mats. Later they built warehouses, hangars and helped to construct a hospital.

Men on guard at the airport dragged pilots out of burning planes. Others plunged into icy waters of the North Pacific to rescue pilots who crashed offshore.

Meanwhile, tents had to be dug in, and since the Bn had no permanent area, it frequently was forced to move and dig in again. Roads to the Co. were non-existent until October of that year. Not only outposts but all the companies had to be supplied. Finally in October the Battalion was given a permanent area in which were constructed Pacific and Quonset huts, shower houses, a Bn theatre, and a central electric power system with poles and wire to each Company. A warehouse was converted into a gymnasium,

March 22, 1944. The Reg. Hqs Company and the Band boarded the USS Cushman K. Davis, a converted liberty ship. Arriving Seattle on Palm Sunday, April 2, 1944. The trip down the Puget Sound was spent in drinking in the sight of the US for the first time in 31 months.

This element of the regiment was quartered at Ft. Lawton, Washington until April 7, when they entrained for Camp Carson, Colorado, arriving there 0215, April 10, 1944. The arrival of the contingent completed the migration of the regiment to its first permanent assignment in the U.S. for more than 31 month.

History of the 201st Regiment - West Virginia Army National Guard

THE SECOND BATTALION GOES NORTH

It was necessary for the Second Bn to stage longer at Camp Murray, Wash. due to the limited facilities on Kodiak to accommodate troops. Although Co. E, commanded by Capt. Wm. T. Weber, embarked 28 Aug, 1941 for Kodiak Island, as the advance a for the Regiment (less 3d Bn). Co. E arrived at Kodiak 3 Sept 1941, and set up the first tents in the area which was later to be known as "Tent City" where the Co. spent 9 months through the winter of 1941-42. Moving into barracks, which were extracted in what was known as Cantonment #2, was no doubt one of, if not the first, to be constructed in accordance with Wartime ideas of dispersion and camouflage.

On 17-18 September 1941, the 1st Bn and Special Units arrived at Kodiak to join Co. E, in preparing the initial defenses of Kodiak Island and to build permanent installations

The remainder of the 2nd Bn, commanded by Col Howard P. Shaffer was still staging at Camp Murray, Washington., performing guard duty at Fort Lewis, until 20 Feb, 1942, when they set sail for Kodiak. Arriving there four days later, they joined Co. E, and the other elements of the Regiment which were already there in the assigned mission of establishing beach defenses, and outpostting the bays and inlets of Kodiak as well as construction of the Mobile Tactical Force at Fort Greely.

November 1942. When the 1st Bn, 201st Infantry and 2nd Bn, 37th Infantry were ordered to Adak, the 2nd Battalion, 201st Infantry was the only remaining Infantry at Kodiak.

The Kodiak Olympics were again held in the fall of 1943. The 2nd Battalion was considered, by the scorers, as a very small threat to win due to its strength; however, when the final score was announced, the 2nd Bn had again won for the 201st Infantry Regiment by a wide margin.

Lt. Col Howard P. Shaffer received his promotion to Colonel in December, 1943, and was transferred to command the 153d Infantry, stationed at Umnak, Alaska. Lt Col. Oral G. Layman was assigned to the battalion as CO.

January 1944. The 2nd Battalion received orders for movement back to the U.S. and left Kodiak in two groups. The first group consisting of Co E, Co G, Co H, 2nd Battalion Section of the Medical Detachment, 2d Battalion Section of anti-tank Co., 2d Battalion Section of Service Co., and one platoon of Co. F, departed Kodiak 23 Jan 1944, and arrived Seattle port of embarkation 30 Jan 1944. Quartered at Fort Lawton, Wash. until Feb 5, it departed for Camp Carson, Colo., arriving there two days later. The second group, consisting of Co. F (less one platoon) and battalion Hq. Co., left Kodiak 1 Feb. 1944, and arrived Seattle, Wash. 6 Feb., then departing for Camp Carson, Colo., arriving there three days later.

For the first time in more than 31 months the entire regiment was assigned to one station --Camp Carson, Colorado. Though there had been quite a change in personnel since the regiment was last assembled at Camp Murray, Washington in August of 1941, there still remained enough of the old timers to stage a grand reunion and reminisce the happenings of the past few years.

Upon arrival at Carson, the regiment was assigned to Second Army and was given a training mission whereby men of other branches were converted to Infantry; and/or to train inductees received from the Reception Stations. To accomplish this mission, it was necessary to reduce the strength of each Company from Table of Organization to a training Cadre strength which was from 18-28 men depending upon unit designation. Thus the strength of the regiment was reduced from about 3,000 officers and men to about 650. Losses were transferred to installations throughout the Continental United States.

CAMP CARSON COLORADO RATION ACCEPTABILITY TEST

History of the 201st Regiment ~ West Virginia Army National Guard

A test was conducted by the Quartermaster General, in coordination with the Surgeon General under conditions which would determine the nutritive quality of modified field rations, acceptability by the troops. The proportion of calories and vitamins reaching the men, and reaction of change of rations.

Troops used for the test were from the 2nd Battalion, 201st Infantry. The test was conducted in an area of Pike National Forest lying between Lake George, Colorado and Tarryall Reservoir, Colorado. The test began on or about 11 June 1944, and continued for 60 days. While subsisting on the modified field ration the following training program for the 8 weeks obtained:

1. Program based on 8 hours day, 6 days per Week.
2. Three 24-hour periods spent in foxholes and slit trenches.
3. Combat firing conducted before and after each 25-mile hike.
4. 125-mile hike completed at least three days prior to final test.
5. 7th day, each week, free time.

2d Battalion Staff and Company Commanders for the duration of the ration test were:

Maj. James C. Robison	Battalion Commander
Capt. Austin H. Myer	S-3
1/Lt Max F. Schoening	S-4
Capt. H. M. Gruenberg	Battalion Surgeon
Capt. Lester W. Thompson	Dentist
Capt. Osro Randall	Chaplain
Capt. Joseph B. Joyal	Commanding Officer, Co. E
Capt. Ruppert E, Oldaker	Commanding Officer, Co. F
Capt. Robert J. Pullin	Commanding Officer, Co. G.
Capt. Jay Hunt	Commanding Officer, Co. H
Capt. Homer L. Hadley, Jr	Commanding Officer, Provisional Co. X
Capt. Charles L. Graybill	Commanding Officer, Provisional Co. Y

Rations tested were U. S. Army "C", "K" and "10 in 1" and Canadian Army Mess, Tin Ration. The test was reported highly successful and the Bn. received commendation for cooperation, enthusiasm and diligence displayed.

REDESIGNATION OF THE 201ST INFANTRY BAND

Pursuant to instructions in letter, War Department, the Adjutant General's Office, Wash. DC, dated 12 May 1944, the 201st Infantry Band was redesignated the 109th Army Ground Forces Band, effective 1 June 1944 and assigned to Second Army attached to XVI Corps in order that it could be subsequently attached to the 201st Infantry.

Effective Sept. 5 1944, the Band was relieved from attachment to the regiment and attached to the 90th Infantry Regiment.

14 August 1944: Lt. Col. Leroy W. Austin was assigned to the regiment to command the 2d Battalion relieving Major James G. Robinson.

CHANGE OF STATION

Shortly after the first of Sept., orders were received to move the regiment from Camp Carson, Colo. to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Of the three train serials accommodated the move, the first one departed Camp Carson 12 Sept., the last one the following morning, arrived Ft. Jackson, S.C. 17 and 18 Sept. Still assigned to Second Army and to continue on assigned training mission at new station.

October 7, 1944. Lt. Col. Markley was transferred to Camp Shelby, Miss., leaving the 1st Battalion to the command of Major Harry F. Shrader, who remained in the capacity until 3 Nov., when he was transferred to overseas duty in the Pacific Theatre. Major Charles M. Westrup then assumed command of the Battalion and held it until the 26th of December, when he was relieved by Lt. Col. Tibbs.

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20 Sept, 1944. Lt. Col. Layman was appointed Regimental Executive Officer and Major Robison (promoted to Lt. Col. soon after) assumed command of the 3rd. Battalion 18 Dec. Lt. Col. Robison was transferred to overseas assignment and Major James E. Darr took command of the battalion.

19 Feb. 1945. Lt. Col. Austin, upon being transferred to overseas assignment, relinquished command of the 2nd Battalion to Col Thee Ahrenbeck.

2 March 1945. The regiment was moved from Ft. Jackson, S. C. to Camp Rucker, Ala., where it was relieved from assignment to the Second Army and assigned to replacement and school command. It became one of eight regiments of which an Infantry Replacement Training Center was composed at the new station. As a training regiment, the TO and E of the regiment was modified to create four rifle battalions instead of three; each consisting of four letter companies. To accomplish this, the Battalion Hq. companies and Medical Detachment transferred cadre to other units and remained inactive.

The 4th Battalion organized as follows:

Co. O Cannon Company
Co. R Anti-Tank Company
Co. S Regimental Hqs. Company
Co. T Service Company

April 12, 1945. Lt. Col. Aherbeck was appointed Reg. Exec. Officer and Major Alvin T. Basford assumed command of the 2nd Battalion.

TRAINING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following reveals the number of men and the branches, other than Infantry, from which they were transferred to the regiment to receive six-(6) weeks conversion training to Infantry. This training was conducted over a one-(1) year period commencing March 1944:

BRANCH		NUMBER OF MEN
Anti-Aircraft		3,266
Anti-Aircraft Artillery	1,923	
Tank Destroyer		743
Army Service Force	104	
Others		27
TOTAL:		6,053

In addition to the number of men given conversion training: 335 men were given Basic Infantry Training during the same period. As part of the Infantry Replacement training Center, Camp Rucker A1a., the First Battalion received 801 trainees 26 April 1945 and 2nd Battalion received 924 trainees over a three-day period, 7-8 and 9 June 1945. These trainees predominately "teen agers" were to be subjected to a 17 week training program with possibly nine (9) weeks under IARTC, training program for 18 year olds, who according to Congressional Mandate shall receive six months training before combat.

RECAPITULATION OF COMMANDERS

REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS COMMAND

Col. Earl H. Smith
26 - 11 Feb 30

TOUR OF

12 Mar

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Lt. Col. Charles G. Robison Dec 30	12 Feb 30 - 10
Col. Charles C. Robison Jan 41	11 Dec 30 - 5
Lt, Col, Theron G, Methven. 41	6 Jan 41 - 15 Aug
Col. John N. Robinson 41 - 1942	16 Aug
Lt. Col.. James H. O'Reilly Nov 42	1942 - 27
Lt. Col Howard P. Shaffer Jan 43	28 Nov 42 - .14
Col John N. Robinson 43 - 2 Feb 43	15 Jan
Lt. Col Howard P. McManus Lt Col James H. O'Reilly Nov 43	8 Sep 43 - 11 Oct 43 12 Oct 43 - 8
Col C. M. Chamberlain Jr. Nov 43	9 Nov 43- 21
Lt Col James H. O'Reilly O'Reilly promoted to Col 3 Mar44	22 Nov 43 -
FIRST BATTALION COMMANDERS	
MAJ Michael Y. Heath	8 Dec 26 -
MAJ Clyde W. Wellen	- Jan 42
MAJ Joseph T. Hodges Mar 42	Jan 42 -
CPT Harrison M. Markley 44 (Markley later promoted to Lt. Col.)	Mar 42 - 7 Oct
MAJ Harry F. Shrader - 3 Nov 44	8 Oct 44
LTC Charles M. Westrup Dec 44	4 Nov 44 - 26
LTC Richard B. Tibbs 44 -	27 Dec
LTC Harry F. Shrader	1950
CPT Wilson H. Morris	1952
LTC Karl P. Moreland	1959
MAJ Leo E. Falkenstein 1960 -	23 Aug
LTC David Kent 1975	
LTC Roy Goff 1 Jun 75 - 1 May 77	
LTC Peter E. Zurbuch 77 - 1 Oct 78	1 May
LTC John L. Carline - 28 Aug 80	1 Oct 78
LTC William G. Hartman 80 - 1 Nov 83	28 Aug
LTC John L. McCabe 83 - 4 Oct 85	1 Nov
LTC Edmund F. Roleff - 1 Nov 89	5 Oct 85
LTC Dennis R. Christian	1 Nov

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89 - 1 Nov 91	
LTC Stephen S. Kappa	1 Nov
91 - 5 Jun 95	
LTC Richard E. Holland	1 Dec
95 - 1 Jul 98	
LTC Glen R. Diehl	1 Jul 98
-	

SECOND BATTALTON COMMANDERS

Major Alfred B. Powell	
24 Jan 28 - 15 Jul 35	
Major Lawrence B. Harris	16 Jul
35 - Jun 40	
Lt Col Lawrence B. Harris	Jun 40 -
5 Dec 40	
Major Howard P. Shaffer	6 Dec
40 - 11 Dec 40	
Lt Col Howard P. Shaffer	12 Dec
40 - 25 Nov 42	
Major Richard B. Tibbs	26 Nov
42 - 30 Jan 43	
Major James C. Robison	31 Jan
43 - 4 Feb 43	
Lt. Col. Howard P. Shaffer	5 Feb 43
- 8 Jul 43	
Major James C. Robison	
9 Jul 43 - 1 Aug 43	
Lt. Col. Howard P. Shaffer	2 Aug
43 - 9 Dec 43	
Major James C. Robison	
10 Dec 43 -21 Dec 43	
Lt. Col. Howard P. Shaffer	22 Dec
43 -	
Col. Howard P. Shaffer	
22 Dec 43 -27 Dec 43	
Capt. Austin H. Myer	
28 Dec 43 -14 Feb 44	
Lt. Col. Oral G. Layman	15 Feb
44 -12 May 44	
Major James C. Robison	
13 May 44 -13 Aug 44	
Lt. Col. Leroy W. Austin	14 Aug
44 -18 Feb 45	
Lt. Col. Thee Ahrenbeck	19 Feb
45 -11 Apr 45	
Major Alvin T. Basford	
12 Apr 45 -	

THIRD BATTALION COMMANDERS

Capt. Oral G. Layman	
1 Mar 41 - 1 Sep 41	
(Layman later promoted to Lt. Col.)	
Major Benjamin Arnold	
2 Sep 41 -12 Oct 41	
Lt. Col. Oral G. Layman	13 Oct
41 -18 Aug 42	

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Major Playford R. Pomroy 42 -16 Jan 43 (Promroy promoted to Lt. Col. Dec 42)	19 Aug
Major Joseph C. Chidester 43 -10 Nov 43	17 Nov
Lt. Col. Richard B. Tibbs 43 - 5 Mar 44	11 Nov
Major William T. White 6 Mar 44 -13 May 44	
Lt. Col. Oral G. Layman 44 -19 Sep 44	14 May
Major James C. Robison 20 Sep 44 -17 Dec 44 (Robison later promoted to Lt. Col.)	
Major James E. Darr 18 Dec 44 -	

NOTES ON ALASKA

The morning of February 28, 1942, we, 2nd Battalion, 201st Infantry, arrived at Cape Chiniak, Alaska.. about 10 or 11 AM. There was but one Radar Station... the first. We got a real welcome that night. Tired men sleeping in tents were roused by alerts. Hurriedly dressing, donning full field equipment, the entire group headed for the hills. After three such false alerts we slept in our clothes and gear! It was quite a welcome to the North Country"

EXERPS FROM OFFICIAL ARMY PAPERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (Kodiak) November 1941.

No civilian telephone, but one will be completed by the first of the year to connect the town with the air station and the fort.

Messages may be sent through the U.S. Signal Office via Western Union. Limit, 10 words, at 22 cents a word.

Weather: Rainfall, 1934-1940 - - - 71.49 inches. Precipitation: 1940,---- 86.08

Max. Low Temp.: 5 degrees below zero

Winds of the Williwaw: Hurricane force. (So-called) horizontal rains.

Small flies and gnats bite viciously, and force the wearing of face nets.

Plumbing: Water systems are privately owned. Sewer systems primitive and informal.

Electric: Supplied by small private plants.

Hunting: (Other than the enemy, where open season prevails) Big Game is limited to the Kodiak Bear. These bears are dangerous and grow to enormous size. License fee-\$50.00.

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Meritorious Unit Commendation

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to:

**1ST BATTALION, 201ST FIELD ARTILLERY
WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD**

for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services during military operations against an armed enemy:

During the period 9 December 1990 to 10 June 1991, the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery distinguished themselves while supporting Operation Desert Storm. The Battalion provided superior Field Artillery support for the 18TH Field Artillery Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery and the 6th Light Armor Division (FRENCH). All units earned high praise from the forward combat commanders during the ground offensive. The destruction of the Iraqi 45TH Division was due in large part to the field artillery fires from the battalion. The exemplary performance of 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery is in keeping with the finest traditions of service to our nation, and reflects distinct credit upon itself, the West Virginia National Guard, the National Guard Bureau, and the United States Army.