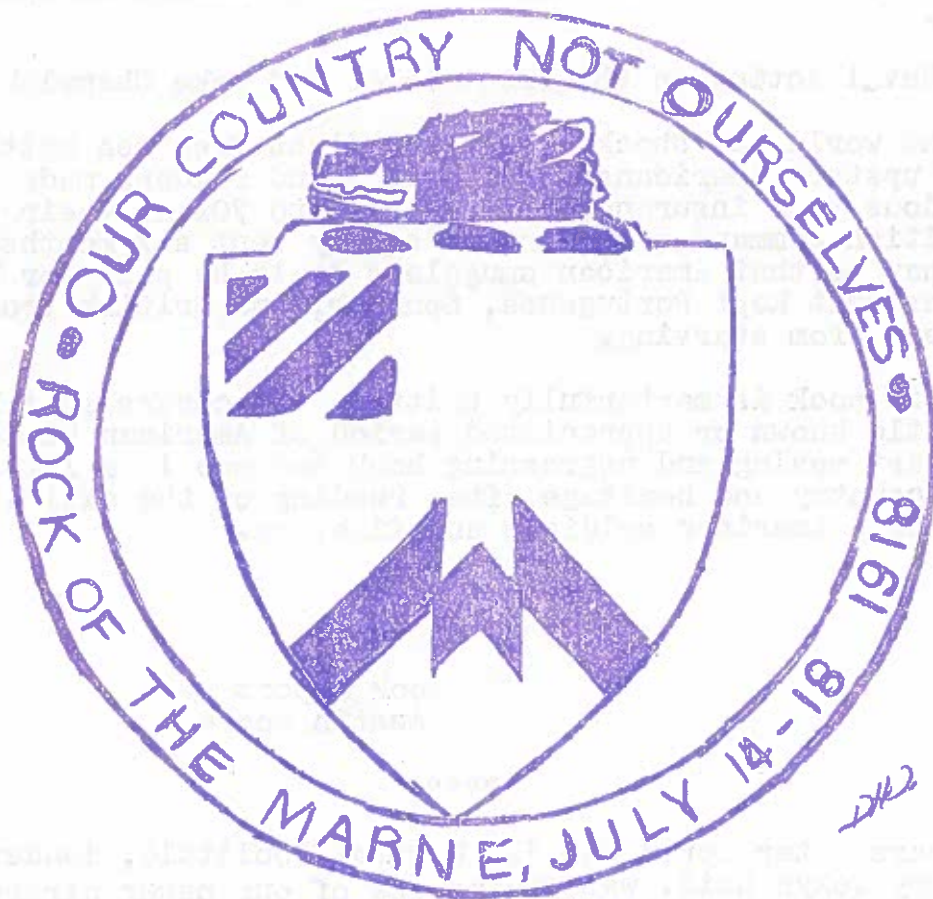


CMH NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS
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30TH INFANTRY

The Age of Fighting Soil

By C.S. Forester

This is the story of the Naval war of 1812 between the fledgling United States and the Mistress of the seas, Great Britain.

This was a war that neither side particularly cared for, and they seemed to just drift apart until opened hostilities commenced. The war, from the start, like the causes, originated on maritime considerations. The 14-year old infant American Navy took on odds of about 50-1. Even the war on land was decided largely on the oceans.

Naval Action on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

The world was shocked when the first free sea battles were won by the upstart Americans. Privateers and raiders made life so hazzardous that insurance rates soared to 70% of their cargo. For British commander Willington's Army went six months without their pay so that American smugglers could be paid for bond and supplies that kept Portugeuse, Spanish, and British troops on the continent from starving.

This book is masterfully written. It covers an illustrious but little known or appreciated period of American history. It is fast moving and engrossing book and one is a little prouder of his country and heritage after reading of the exploits of those early American soldiers and fighters.

Book Report by
Austin Moore

Some years after World War II, General Doolittle, leader of the legendary Tokyo Raid, was flying one of our newer aircraft and, upon landing, demolished it. It was a clear day with no adverse conditions. In filling out the accident report, he came to a blank labeled "Cause of crash". Here the general wrote, "Pilot suddenly ran out of experience."

OUR COUNTRY, NOT OURSELVES

by Dennis Nimm

"...He whom God has spared offer this record of achievement, half humbly, half proudly."

These were the words of Brigadier General F. G. McCarr, a former commander of the 30th Infantry; they form a fitting prologue to a 149-year history of devotion to duty, a devotion to "Our Country, Not Ourselves."

The original 30th Infantry Regiment was organized on January 29, 1813, by an act of Congress to participate in the War of 1812 against the British. The regiment remained on duty until 1815 when it was consolidated with a light artillery regiment.

The second activation of 30th Infantry was ordered by President Lincoln on the 30th of May, 1861, just after the outbreak of the Civil War. At that time, the Regiment was designated as the 3rd Battalion of the 18th Infantry and fought in the War between the States as part of that unit. On September 21, 1866, the 3rd Battalion was officially designated as the 30th Infantry and so remained until it was consolidated as the 4th Infantry Regiment.

The present 30th was formed at Fort Logan, Colorado on February 12, 1901. Two months later, the regiment departed for the Philippines to help stamp out the Aguinaldo insurrection. While in the Islands, the regiment was joined by a brand new second lieutenant taking over his first command. He was George C. Marshall, who served as platoon leader, Company "L".

On June 5, 1901, Colonel C. A. Dempsey, the first actual commander of the regiment, joined his command at Iloilo, Marinduque. Although harried by disease and raider bands, the 30th performed its mission well, and the 32 officers and 500 enlisted men sailed from Manila Bay November 17, 1903. When the regiment arrived at San Francisco, the separate companies were sent to Fort Crook, Nebraska; Fort Reno, Oklahoma; and Fort Roots, Arkansas.

The regiment was again reassembled at the Presidio of San Francisco on July 4, 1907, and soon afterward sailed for Manila Bay to begin its second tour of duty in the Philippines, which would last until 1909. When the unit returned to San Francisco, the first and second battalions remained while the companies of the 3rd battalion were dispersed to Monterrey and Fort Logan, Colorado.

Except for a short tour of duty on the Mexican border, the regiment remained at the Presidio of San Francisco from 1909 until 1912, when it was ordered to Alaska. After a two year tour, the unit returned to its home station.

WORLD WAR I

November 13, 1914, just after the outbreak of the war, the 30th sailed from San Francisco to Hoboken, N. J. and upon arrival moved to Plattsburg Barracks, N.Y. The mission at that time was to train new recruits and build up the Army to meet an emergency.

The regiment then moved from the East to San Antonio, Texas, and trained National Guard units at Fort Sam Houston until January 31, 1917, when it went to the Mexican border for border and guard duty with General Pershing.

On May 9, 1917, the regiment entrained for Syracuse, N.Y. where upon arrival it was broken into three parts to form the 30th and 39th Infantry Regiments and designated part of the 3rd Brigade on the 21st of June. The 30th joined the 3rd Division at Camp Greene, North Carolina upon the activation of that unit, and went overseas to France on April 1, 1918. It was in France that glory for the 30th Infantry was born.

The regiment was sent to the front for the first time against the Germans on May 31, 1918, and in the Aisne Defensive in the early part of June distinguished itself notably. After this action the unit immediately engaged the Germans in the Chateau-Thierry sector during the middle weeks in June.

The next major action for the regiment was to be the greatest battle for the 30th. It happened near Mezy, France, and was called the Champagne-Marne Defensive. Here, in the middle of July, the German Army made its last great attack of World War I. Striking along the route of Paris, the weight of the entire attack fell upon the 30th and the 38th regiments. Although virtually surrounded and blasted by fire and repeated thrusts by superior German forces, the regiment held, and eventually succeeded in throwing the Hun back across the Marne. The checking of this "all or nothing" offensive made the ensuing Allied Offensive successful and earned the title "Rock of the Marne." This battle won the French Croix de Guerre with Palm from Marshall Henri Petain. The records called this action "the most brilliant single defeat by American arms" in World War I, in which General Pershing concurred.

The regiment was then thrown into the Aisne-Marne Offensive during the latter part of July. From there, it moved to the Vesle sector, and then to the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and remained on the front lines until 27 October. The Armistice found the regiment near Stainville. After the war ended, the unit was engaged in occupation duty with the parent 3rd Division near Coblenz until August 1919 when the 30th Infantry was returned to the United States; carrying with it a name, six battle streamers and the inspiration for its regimental crest.

The old 30th Infantry crest was designed soon after WWI. As the regiment was in the 3rd Division, the distinctive divisional insignia was placed in the upper left of the canton. The broken chevron at the bottom of the canton represented the part taken by the regiment in pushing back the point of the German drive at the Marne. The award of the French Government for the campaign was shown by the pendant Croix de Guerre. The boar's head, supported by the iron helmet, represented the subsequent advance of the regiment through German lines and the eventual occupation of German

territory. This crest was used by the regiment in the years between the wars, during WWI and through December, 1948. Later, the motto "Rock of the Marne" was added to "Our country, not ourselves" to recognize the vastly important task so successfully undertaken in the Marne campaign.

The 30th Infantry regiment arrived back in the United States

in August 1919. After several moves, the regiment was finally stationed permanently at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1922. During the 18-year period the regiment became affectionately known as "San Francisco's Own" and developed a reputation as one of the outstanding regiments in the United States Army. Its band was especially known, and played many concerts around the country.

World War II

The regiment rejoined the 3rd Division in April 1941 at Fort Lewis, Washington, and with the outbreak of WWII began preparations for combat operations. After five months of duty, the unit moved to Fort Ord, California, and began training in amphibious operations. Presumably the unit thought it was going to the Pacific, but the Division was sent to Camp Pickett, Virginia, and after one month of additional training, it sailed for North Africa.

November 8, 1942. The 30th Infantry as part of the 3rd Division landed at Fedala, French Morocco. This landing was the unit's first amphibious operation and the beginning of a thirty-one month fight against the Germans. After four days, the 30th had taken all of the assigned objectives and had proved that their training in the States had forged them into a combat team capable of handling any situation. This was later proved time and again.

The end of the Fedala-Casablanca operation found the 30th Infantry stationed around around Fedala, a suburb of Casablanca. The 3rd B attalion was honored by being selected to guard the Casablanca Conference. This was attended by President Roosevelt and the highest Allied officials. Then the 30th moved across North Africa to Bizerte. After several weeks of amphibious training at Tunisia, the regiment embarked for the invasion of Sicily on July 7, 1943. After a three-day, stormy voyage across the Mediterranean Sea, the 30th landed from LCI's near Licata and immediately cut across country to assist in the capture of this key town. The 3rd Battalion established an Infantry march record in combat by moving cross country a distance of 54 miles in 33 hours to reach an assembly area for an attack on San Stefano. The 2nd Battalion made two more landings behind the lines to capture San Agata and Brolo. The Sicilian campaign lasted for 38 days. The regiment now set its lf for the next mission--the invasion of Italy.

16 September 1943. The 30th Infantry loaded the LST's and struck out for Italy. Three days ahead of the 3rd Division the r regiment landed at Paestum. Finding that the enemy had withdrawn to Acerno, the 30th set out for this key town and captured it in a two day fight against the elite Herman Goering Reconnaissance Battalion.

The landing at Paestum began a fifty-nine day fight against the Germans that carried the 30th across the Volturno River and finally to the bloody bath at Mt. Rotundo. Then, back to Naples to begin a fresh stage of training for the Anzio landing. Anzio--four months of the worst hell on earth:

It started out like a charm. The actual landing went well; only two men were wounded. The Germans had no idea of the operation and were caught with only a small beach guard defending the area. But in the next four months the threw every bit they had in an

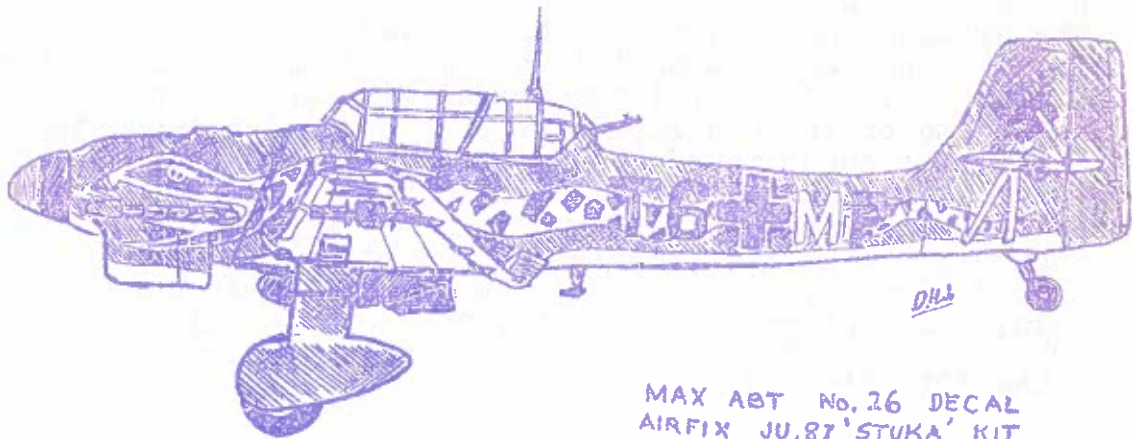
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attempt to knock the Allies out of their foothold.

Historians break the operation into four phases: the landing and the beachhead, the counterattack by crack German forces which cost the unit so many lives, the Anzio stalemate, and the Anzio "Breakout". The 30th Infantry was the first element of the 3rd D Division to reach objectives on the banks of the Tiber River, which led to Rome. After nearly five months of steady combat, the regiment enjoyed a short "Roman Holiday" before starting another training program. This time: the invasion of southern France.

The day was August 15, 1944. The invasion of southern France the most successful of the 30th's amphibious operations and its last. As part of the 7th Army, the 3rd Division and the 30th Infantry spearheaded the drive through the Vosges Mountains, marking the first time any army had been able to cross the rugged range against enemy opposition. Winter was now beginning-- the regiment's third winter in combat. That made the crossing even more difficult. A German general in the first World War had been ordered by the Kaiser to cross the Vosges. After four vain attempts, the General sent a note to the Kaiser, "if you want the Vosges crossed then you come and try it." The General committed suicide. The 30th Infantry crossed the Vosges.

The attack began on the afternoon of 11 September. During the fight through the mountains, Company "L" was awarded the Presidential Citation for repulsing German assaults in a six hour fight at Radon. Company "G" also received the same citation for a similar action at Potato Masher Hill. The battle of the Vosges ended with the capture of Strasbourg.

Hard on the combat boots of the Vosges came Colmar. This campaign began in December 1944 and ended in March 1945. It was bloody and costly for the 30th. The unit suffered 208 killed, 293 missing and 676 wounded in action. During this operation the 30th Infantry as part of the 3rd Division received the Croix de Guerre with Palm, and was recommended for the Presidential Unit Citation.

Across the Rhine River lay Germany and the 30th was the first regiment to breach the Siegfried line. The drive into Germany carried through Zweibruecken, Heppenheim, Bad Kissingen, and Nuremberg. Munich, the cradle of Nazism fell to the 30th on 30 April 1945, followed by Rosenheim, a key Inn River city.

The end of the war found the unit ready to move on Salzburg. 5 May 1945 was a happy day for the unit that had fought on two continents and through eight countries for thirty-one months. The regiment suffered tremendous casualties for a single regiment. From Casablanca to Salzburg it had a total of 8,308 killed, missing and wounded. Few divisions in either the European or Pacific campaigns had as many casualties.

After the end of the war the 30th Infantry occupation duty in the Salzburg area and later in the vicinity of Kassel where it remained until the 3rd Division returned to the United States and was sent to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. On December 1, 1948, the 30th Infantry was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia. The mission of the 30th Infantry then became training new recruits and providing school troops to the United States Infantry Center. The 30th Infantry as part of the 3rd Division organized under the ATFA plan, and in 1957 reorganized under the ROCID concept, supplying the 1st

Battle Group of the 30th Infantry to the 3rd Division.

This is the record. Offered humbly and proudly. The record made by a unit which flies twenty battle streamers, seven Presidential Unit Citations, and wears the French Pourragere. The record was made by men...Men who won 12 Congressional Medals of Honor, 58 Distinguished service crosses, 925 Silver Stars, 1223 Bronze Stars, and 57 separate Foreign Decorations. This is a record of men who prove they were for

"OUR COUNTRY, NOT OURSELVES***ROCK OF THE MARNE."

BATTLE HONORS AND DECORATIONS

PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION CAMPAIGN STREAMER
MINDORO 1901

WORLD WAR I CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

AINNE

CHAMPAGNE

CHAMPAGNE-MARNE

AINNE-MARNE

SAN MIHIEL

MEUSE-ARGONNE

WORLD WAR I DECORATIONS

Streamer in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre
with Palm embroidered

CHAMPAGNE-MARNE

WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO

TUNISIA

SICILY

NAPLES-FOGGIA

ANZIO

ROME-ARNO

SOUTHERN FRANCE

RHINELAND

ARDENNES-ALSACE

CENTRAL EUROPE

WORLD WAR II DECORATIONS

Distinguished Unit Citation COLMAR

Pourragere in colors of French Croix de Guerre

Streamer in colors of French Croix de Guerre with Palm
COLMAR

Distinguished Unit Streamer (1st Bn) BESCANCAN

Distinguished Unit Streamer (2nd Bn) SICILY

Distinguished unit Streamer (3rd Bn) MT ROTUNDO

Distinguished Unit Streamer (Co "G") FAUCOGNEY (3rd award)

Distinguished Unit Streamer (Co "I") CISTERNA DI LIT-
TORIA (3rd award)

Distinguished Unit Streamer (CO "L") RADDON (3rd award)

Meritorious Unit Streamer (Service Co) European Theatre

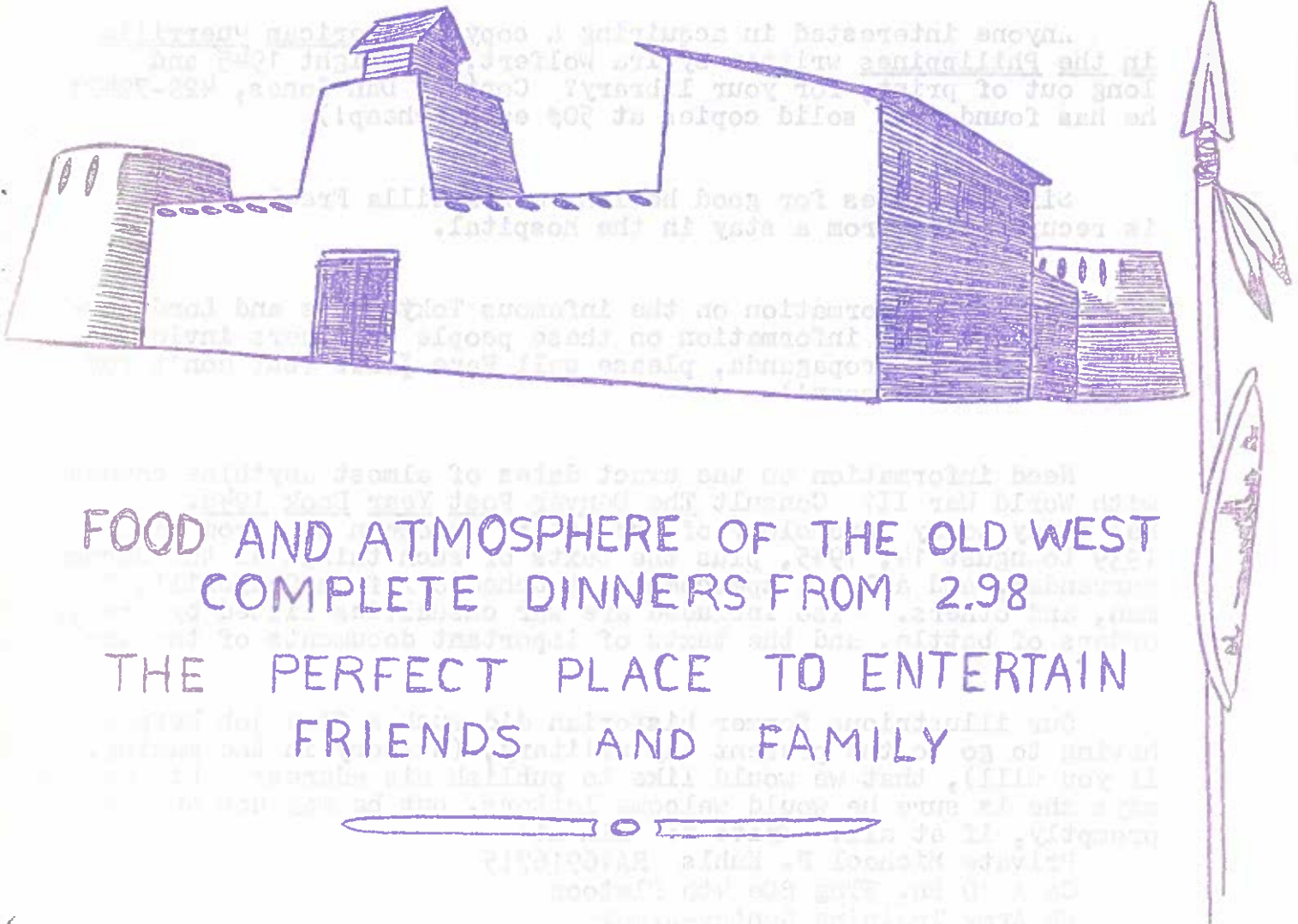
Meritorious Unit Streamer (Medical Detachment)

EUROPEAN THEATRE

The December-January auction is coming. Jim MacLachlan is handling all items to be donated. So far he doesn't have a storage problem. Let's see what we can do for him. And remember, if you feel an item you donate should have a certain minimum value, be sure you tell Jim so there will be no problem at the time of the auction.

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HISTORIAN'S SCUTTLEBUTT

The Regis College student newspaper, "The Brown and Gold," is running an article on the C.M.H. and its activities. Hopefully, the article will appear in their November issue.

22 October 1967. Three prospective members gathered at the home of member and wargamer Richard T. (Arapahoe Pats) Moore. Dan Jones and Tom Herman were also present. This awesome group tested new additions to the old stand-by, Fletcher Pratt's Naval Wargame. The results of the experiment were highly successful.

There will be a large-scale Gun Show at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs on November 18 and 19. For information, contact the phantom member, Tom Richards. (Go ahead--try it! Ed. note)

Anyone interested in acquiring a copy of American Guerrilla in the Philippines written by Ira Wolfert, copyright 1945 and long out of print, for your library? Contact Dan Jones, 429-7942; he has found four solid copies at 50¢ each (cheap!)

Sincere wishes for good health to Priscilla Freelove, who is recuperating from a stay in the hospital.

Wanted: Information on the infamous Tokyo Rose and Lord Haw-haw. Anyone with information on these people or others involved in this type of propaganda, please call Faye Jones (but don't you dare call before noon!)

Need information on the exact dates of almost anything connected with World War II? Consult The Denver Post Year Book 1946. It has a day-today chronology of the entire European war from March 1939 to August 14, 1945, plus the texts of such things as the German surrender, and all the speeches it touched off from Churchill, Truman, and others. Also included are war casualties listed by areas, orders of battle, and the texts of important documents of the war.

Our illustrious former historian did such a fine job before having to go to the present day military, (history in the making, if you will), that we would like to publish his address. His mother says she is sure he would welcome letters, but he may not answer promptly, if at all! Write to him at:

Private Michael P. Kuhls RA16916715
Co A 10 Bn, 5Tng BDe 4th Platoon
US Army Training Center-Armor
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121

GROUND ACTION DURING THE WAR OF 1812

by Charles Williams

(continued from last month)

1814 - CAMPAIGNS ON THE CHESAPEAKE

British plans for a more vigorous offense in 1814 resulted in raids up and down the eastern seaboard. Maj-Gen. Robert Ross, with 4,000 regulars from the 1st, 4th, and 85th regiments and a company of royal Artillery, landed on 19 August 1814, and began marching up the Patuxent River toward Washington. He was opposed by Brig. Gen. William Winder, of Stony Creek fame. He had a force of 300 infantry, 120 dragoons, 400 seamen, and 6,450 militia. Winder was totally incompetent as commander, and he made no plans for unified defense.

Ross marched directly west on 23 August toward Old Fields, where Winder had more or less drawn up. Winder retreated toward Washington, and Ross swung north toward Bladensburg. The troop depositions around Bladensburg were haphazard, but in due time a large number of militia had gathered, and at the time of battle there were 2000 more troops and 19 more American guns on the scene. President Monroe took personal command of part of the Army, and at one point almost rode into the British lines.

The battle of Bladensburg was fought on three stages. At one o'clock Ross drove into town. The Maryland Artillery opened up, and bloodied the advance troops, Col. Thornton's light brigade. However, they outnumbered the defenders and outflanked them. The British opened up with Congreve rockets and spooked the militia and their commander, Maj. William Pinkney. They withdrew to the second line of defense. Winder ordered a counterattack, and for a moment the green 5th Maryland militia advanced and drove the British back. The flanking movement and the Congreve rockets turned the tide.

Some of the militia stopped at the third line, but most fled. The third line was held by Barney, 7 Naval cannon and 3000 militia. The 85th in the advance was badly cut up by Barney's guns. The 4th foot on Winder's left forced Winder's retreat, and Barney was left alone. He was soon overwhelmed and captured, though many of his men escaped. On the night of 24 August, Ross entered Washington. The Army scattered, and Ross was free to burn public buildings, which he did.

Ross and the Navy commander, Cochrane, then moved on to Baltimore. Baltimore, which supplied many privateers, was actually the main British target. It was exceptionally well defended. Maj-Gen. Samuel Smith, a vigorous Revolutionary War vet, took over from Winder. His subordinates were commodores John Rogers, David Porter, and Oliver Hazard Perry. They had plentiful artillery, and the people of Baltimore rallied behind the defense of the city, and earthworks were erected. On 12 September Ross led his confident

veterans ashore. Snipers harassed the troops as they moved forward, and among their victims was Ross. American resistance stiffened, and the British lost 46 KIA and 273 MIA before prevailing. American losses were 24 KIA and 139 MIA and 40 captured. The Americans had stopped the new British commander, Col. Arthur Brooke, of the 44th foot, at their earthworks. After naval bombardment failed to reduce these works, the British withdrew. The pattern of the war was continued--both sides were adept at defense but unable to stage a successful invasion. The retreat from Baltimore and the defeat at Lake Champlain ended British invasion hopes.

1814- SHAKEN AND BATTERED IN THE SOUTH.

In 1812, Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson gathered 2000 militia in Nashville with the express purpose of occupying Florida. However, politics in Washington caused the cancellation of the attempt. There were other uses for his troops, Tecumseh had stirred up the Creek Nation. On 30 August 1813 they overwhelmed Ft. Mims and massacred 350 people including 175 militia. Jackson struck back on 3 Nov. at Tallushatchee and 9 Nov. at Talladega. In these battles, the American troops deployed in a semicircle and sent a small body of troops forward to entice an attack the semicircle then closed. The Indians lost 100 men in the first battle and 300 in the second. Jackson was unable to follow up these victories, however, due to the end of militia enlistment and lack of supplies.

Early in 1815, the 39th U.S. Infantry arrived, and Jackson had the base now on hand. On 27 April, he attacked an Indian stronghold at Tohopeka with 2000 men. Unable to breach the Indian breast works with artillery he ordered the 39th to make the passage, which they did successfully by nightfall, 55 Indians had been killed, and the creek obstacle had been broken.

There remained only the battle of New Orleans. On 22 Nov. 1814 Jackson moved toward New Orleans from Mobile. In December, British troops had landed and had moved in force to within 9 miles of New Orleans. In 23 December, Jackson attacked and surprised the British at the Villere plantation. The British were able to eventually fight off the attack in a series of small unit actions (the fight started at 8:00 at night), but they were off-balanced and were never to regain the balance.

General Pakenham spent time, until after Christmas, bringing up cannon. Jackson used the time to build his defenses. On 28 December, an artillery duel had opened. By the afternoon of 1 January, 1815, the American artillery had won a decisive victory and had almost wiped out the British artillery.

On 8 January, Pakenham, with his full strength of more than 9000 troops, was ready to attack. His plan was to launch a holding attack against the American center while Thornton, with 1500 troops on the west bank, was flanking the U.S. line. From the left Jackson had the 7th Infantry, Planche, LaCoste, Daquin with militia, the 44th Infantry, and Carroll with more militia--about 5000 men.

The wind blew away the early morning fog to show the British 650 yards away. Cannon opened up at once and chewed holes in the British ranks. The right flank, based in a swamp and manned by sharpshooters, cut the British to pieces. The left wing had some success, but the 93rd Highlanders, instead of supporting Rennie, moved across the line to support Pakenham. While doing so, they were chopped up badly, losing 500 men. Gen. Lambert, far to the rear, was the only senior officer to survive, and he ordered a retreat. By 8:30, the British had withdrawn, leaving over 2000 dead or wounded behind.

Meanwhile, the British on the west bank had been having a more time, and controlled the position there. Lambert asked for a ceasefire to bury the dead. Jackson agreed, but only for the east bank. Lambert withdrew the force from the west bank. Jackson's losses were 721A and 6 WIA. On 18 January, Lambert withdrew. The British lost a total of 2400 men trying to take New Orleans. While the battle took place after the war was over officially, there were enough loopholes in the treaty so that had the British taken New Orleans, they could have conceivably held it.

SUMMARY

The artillery was a vital factor in American successes. It was evident throughout the war that American gunnery was superior. The artillery was well-trained. Engineers, mostly from West Point, made important contributions. No West Point-built fortification fell to the enemy. The militia again showed itself only to be as good as its leaders, and in any event, no match for regulars. Only until 1814 were good American leaders found.

* * * * *

Pardon our errors department: the article in last week's issue was, of course, the first half of this article. Our apologies to Charles Williams for not giving him credit in print for such a fine article.

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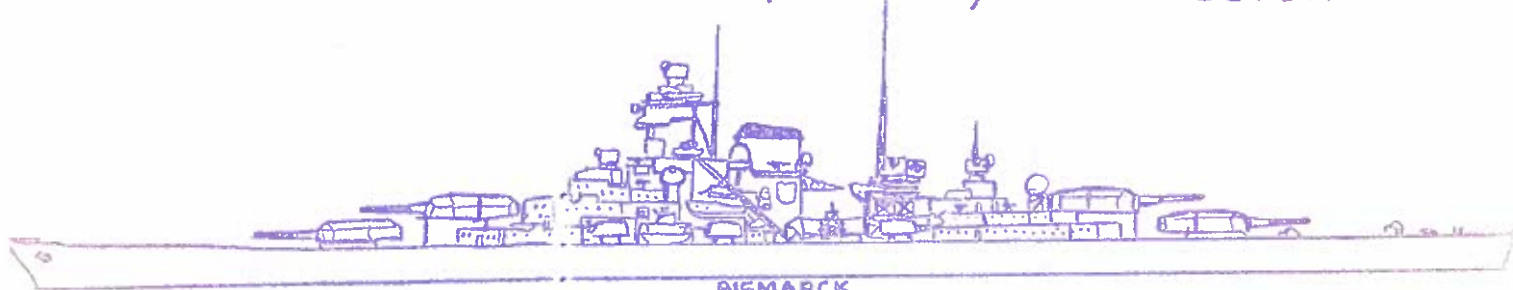
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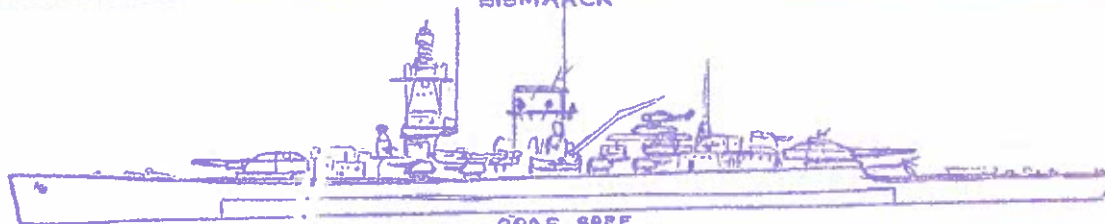
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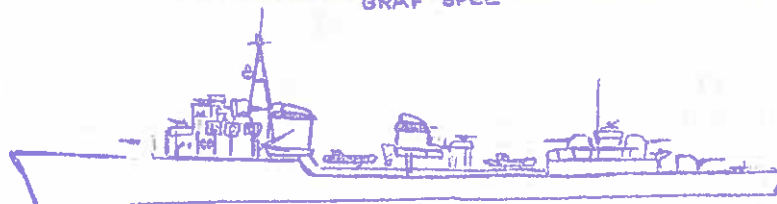
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