Remnion 30th Infantry Division Association



NASHVILLE, TENNNESSEE AUGUST 28, 29, 30, 1947

Greetings and Best Wishes! from

POST 5 AMERICAN LEGION

"America's Fourth Largest Post"

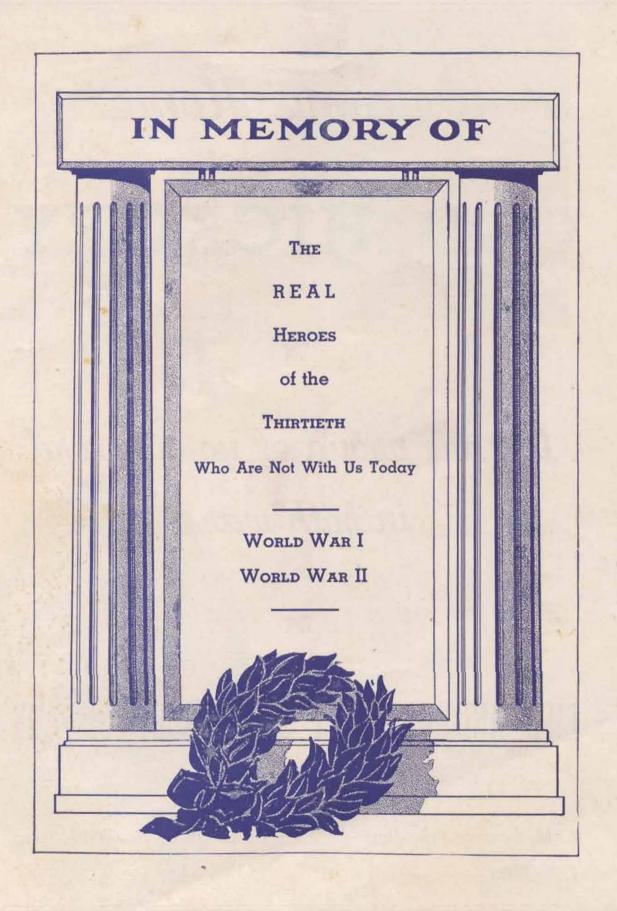


AMERICAN LEGION CLUBHOUSE 118 9th Ave., South

Welcomes

OLD HICKORY-MEN

While Attending 30th Infantry Division's Association Reunion



Welcome Home

OLD HICKORY



We are proud of your record in both wars.



LIFE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

of Jennessee

A. M. Burton, President

Home Office, Nashville, Tenn.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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August 28, 1947

To Members of 30th Division Association in Reunion in Nashville:

Assembled in Nashville for your first reunion since World War II, you are within a few miles of the historic surine of General Andrew Jackson. In selecting a descriptive name for the 30th Division you wisely chose "Old Nickory." Your performances upon battlefields throughout the world have brought forward all the richest tradition of American fighting power. The 30th Division is recognized as one of the greatest fighting machines America possesses. It was the first National Guard Division mobilized for World War II. It was the Division that broke the Hindenburg Line in World War I.

Ahead of you are great responsibilities in maintenance of the peace you fought to wim. Your Association, by the perpetuation of memories and alertness for the future, gives to America a firm hold upon freedom and security.

As Governor of Tennessee, I join all other Tennesseans in warm welcome to your reunion.









NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE August 29, 1947

To the Officers and Members Thirtieth Infantry Division Association In Session Mashville, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

At the time of your 1946 Annual Convention held in Savannah, Georgia, I addressed a letter to your Association, urging you to select Nashville as your host city for the 1947 Convention. The officials and citizens of Nashville were deeply gratified to learn that our invitation had been accepted.

I wish to cordially welcome you to our City and to assure you that it is an honor and pleasure to have the Thirtieth Infantry Division Association as our guests. We trust that your Convention will be in every respect a success and your visit enjoyable.

If the facilities of the City can be used to assist you in any way, do not hesitate to call upon us.

Thos. 1. Cummings,

REUNION 30TH DIVISION

NASHVILLE, TENN. AUGUST 28th, 29th & 30th

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUG. 28th

Registration, 9 A.M.-9 P.M.
Informal Luncheons—Noon and Night

FRIDAY, AUG. 29th

Addresses of Welcome, 10:00 A.M.
Gov. Jim McCord
Mayor Tom Cummins
Business Session
Sightseeing Tour—Ladies
Memorial Address
Maj.-Gen. Leland S. Hobbs
Memorial Ceremony, 12:00 Noon
Luncheon by Units

JAMES W. PERKINS, President ROBERT L. SLOAN, Secretary-Treasurer

HONORARY PRESIDENTS LIEUT.-GEN. WILLIAM H. SIMPSON, U. S. Army MAJOR-GEN. LELAND S. HOBBS, U. S. Army

FRIDAY'S PROGRAM (Continued)

Committee Meetings, 2:30 P.M.
Pilgrimage to Hermitage, 3:30 P.M.
Tennessee Fish Fry, 5:30-7:30 P.M.
Capitol Grounds
Members—Ladies and Guests
Informal Gatherings by Units, 8:30 PM.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30th

Selection of 1948 Reunion Site, 9:30 A.M. Election of Officers Luncheon by Units, 12:30 Parade, 2:30 "Old South" Barbecue, 5:30 P.M. Centennial Park Picnic Ground Grand Ball and Jamboree, 10:00 P.M.

JOHN W. BLOUNT, 1st Vice-President F. C. SHEPARD, 2nd Vice-President CLAUDE T. BOWERS, 3rd Vice-President WALTER M. CULBRETH, 4th Vice-President CALHOUN BURCH, Sergeant-at-Arms ROBERT HEWITT, Historian CHARLES F. ENGEWALD, Chaplain RICHARD W. GLEAVES, Judge Advocate

Congressional Medal of Honor Winners of the 30th

WORLD WAR I

Joseph B. Adkinson	Sgt., Co. C, 119th Inf.
*Robert L. Blackwell	Pvt., Co. K, 119th Inf.
James C. Dozier	lst Lt., 118th Inf.
Gary Evans Foster	Sgt., Co. F, 118th Inf.
*Thos. Lee Hall	
Jas. D. Heriot	Corp., Co. I, 118th Inf.
*Richmond H. Hilton	Sgt., Co. M, 118th Inf.
Jas. E. Karnes	Sgt., Co. D, 117th Inf.
*Milo Lemert	1st Sgt., Co. G, 119th Inf.
Edward R. Talley	Sgt., Co. L, 117th Inf.
John C. Villepigue	Corp., Co. M, 118th Inf.
John Calvin Ward	Pvt., Co. D, 117th Inf.

WORLD WAR II

*Raymond O. Beaudoin	lst Lt., 119th Inf.
Francis S. Currey	T/Sgt., 120th Inf.
Freeman V. Horner	T/Sgt., 119th Inf.
*Harold G. Kiner	Pvt., 117th Inf.
*Jack J. Pendleton	P.F.C., 120th Inf.
*Posthumous	

[&]quot;... for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

Welcome Thirtieth



MAJOR GENERAL LELAND S. HOBBS Combat Commander World War II

To ALL Members of OUR Division:

It is a privilege and an honor to welcome you to the 1947 National Convention of the 30th Infantry Division Association. We are happy once again to see the familiar faces, to mingle with our friends, and to recall the incidents and associations which have made us into a Division "Family."

We campaigned as a team and our Division always attained its objectives in combat. Our next mission was the establishment of this organization to keep alive the esprit de corps of Old Hickory and to renew the friendships formed while serving with our Division. A magnificent beginning has been accomplished and we salute the officers of the Association who have worked so tirelessly and unselfishly to make this meeting a success. With the concerted energies and enthusiasm of each member, we must now strive to assure our perpetuity.

In humility, we would pause to pay tribute to the memory of our comrades who cannot be with us today, the real heroes who rest under the white crosses on foreign soil, and who lie in hospital beds throughout the land. Nor in less degree do we render tribute to the Gold Star parents who shared the greater sacrifice.

May God Bless You.

LELAND S. HOBBS Major General, U. S. Army Honorary President

Howdy Folks! ... and a Hearty Welcome!



JAMES W. PERKINS
President
30th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Dear Friends:

I consider it a very great honor to have served as the first President of the newly organized 30th Infantry Division Association and I sincerely hope that the combined efforts of your officers will bring you and your family a happy time in our beloved "Dixie Land''.

Our Division is an "All-American' Division and even though miles separate its members, we must not let the 30th Division spirit die. The members of the older Old Hickory *Association* have dissolved their organization and merged their interests and enthusiasm with the newly formed Association. This is further assurance of the perpetuation of our organization's aims and ideals.

Wes Gallagher in an AP dispatch on the Rhine, March 24, 1945, called the 30th Division the "Work-horse of the Western Front''. I want to here and now pay tribute to Robert L. Sloan, Secretary-Treasurer of this Organization and say he is truly the "Work-horse of the 30th Division Association''.

Cordially yours, JAMES W. PERKINS President.



BASCOM F. JONES CHAIRMAN



RICHARD D. GLEAVES Co-Chairman

COMMITTEE

ALBERT ALESSIO E. C. ARMISTEAD WIRT M. ARMISTEAD, JR. T. W. BARRON GEORGE E. BATTS HARRY S. BERRY VERNON W. BLAIR EUGENE R. BOGLE C. BLYTHE BOND HENRY D. BOZEMAN JOHN J. BRADY S. PORTER BRADSHAW CONWAY BROOKS ELMER BRYANT GRAHAM BUFORD HERMAN BURTON WILLIAM F. BURTON GEORGE M. CANFIELD TONY L. CARTER HOWARD M. CASTLEMAN WILL T. CHEEK JOHN COPELAND NEIL P. CURREY ROY DARDEN BAXTER DAVIS **JENNINGS DAVIS** WILLIAM R. DOUGLAS GASTON B. EDWARDS

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JOHN H. PARMELEE IKE PATE GEORGE PELLETTIERI JAMES E. PELLETTIERI "FLIP" PITTS ANDREW J. POWELL HAL G. RAGSDALE DANIEL F. C. REEVES JAMES C. ROBINSON IOHN D. ROSEBERRY FRANK G. RUTHERFORD PARKER B. SIMMONS LEONARD SISK DONALD H. SMITH GENE A. STANLEY JOHN R. STARK W. T. TALLY ELTON P. TARKINGTON TIP TAYLOR ROBERT A. TREANOR JOE TUBBS JIM WALSH MILLARD F. WALTZ, JR. LLOYD P. WEBB L. C. WETTERAU CECIL G. WINGFIELD L. L. WRIGHT MILTON L. ZOPFI

Veterans Should Take Enough Leave to See All of Tennessee

Nashville to see all of Tennessee.

No state offers a greater variety of scenic and historic interests and opportunities for real enjoyment than does Tennessee: A variety that reaches from the cypress-lined bayous of the mighty Mississippi to the mile-high, cloud-crowned peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains, loftiest and mightiest mountain mass in Eastern America.

Between these two extremes lie blue grass-covered hills and happy valleys: the picturesque Cumberlands and mountain people; highland handicraft and antique shops; quaint towns and villages and homespun philosophy; famous colleges and institutions; state and national parks and forests; civil war battlefields and historic shrines; rivers, brooks, and mountain streams; trout, bass, pike, and muskie fishing; inspiring waterfalls and cascades: myriad wildflowers and cotton fields; giant TVA dams and the Great Lakes of the South.

Tennessee is a land of startling contrasts—where

Take enough time out while attending the reunion at primitive conditions exist beside the most modern of industrial and cultural developments—where mountain settlements and metropolitan cities are only a few minutes apart.

> Tennessee is a playground where you can enjoy every outdoor sport. Swimming, camping, motor boating, canoeing, golf, tennis, archery, horseback riding, hiking, mountain climbing, motoring, or just plain relaxing; you'll find it in an ideal setting in Tennessee.

> In every section you will find the kind of state-inspected accommodations you like at a price you like to pay. Homey inns in secluded coves; fried chicken, hot biscuits and mountain honey; vacation cottages along every highway, hickory-smoked ham and "red" gravy; tourist homes with "mammy-cooked" meals; modern hotels in metropolitan cities; and everywhere genuine southern hospitality of the Tennessee brand.

> So while you are here take time out to see all of Tennessee. You will enjoy every minute of it and have a vacation that you won't soon forget. Make your plans now.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 30th DIVISION AND ALL OTHER VETERANS:

It isn't for us to tell you what to do, because you have demonstrated your ability to handle yourselves in all kinds of tough situations, . . but here is a suggestion which we believe is in your interest.

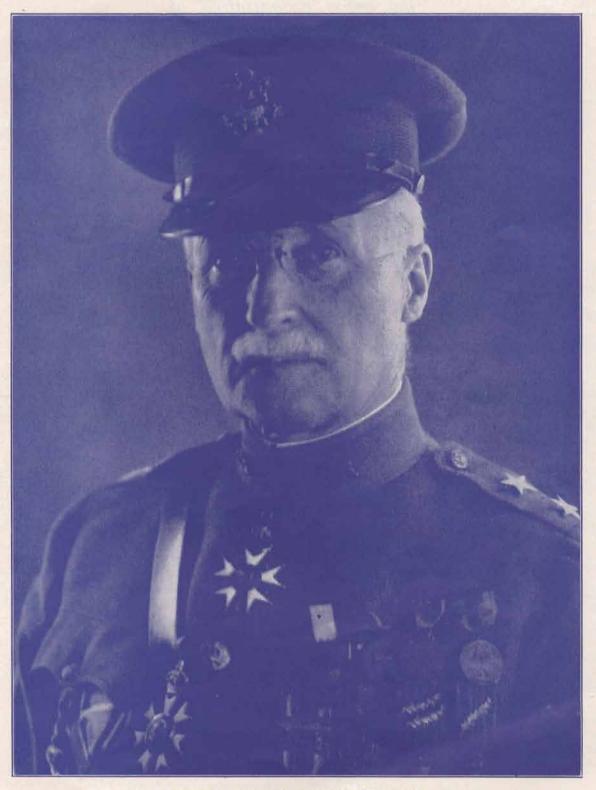
Hang onto your G. I. life insurance. Or, if you have allowed yours to lapse, reinstate it as soon as you can. You can reinstate by paying just two months' premiums and certifying your health is as good as it was when you lapsed your insurance.

We have no axe to grind in this matter. In fact, we sell Life Insurance ourselves, and if we wanted to be selfish about it, we would be trying to sell you.

But we urge you to keep your G.I. insurance because we honestly believe it is the best you can get for your money, . . and because this is a case where all of us rise above selfish interests in an effort to serve you.

The NATIONAL LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY Nashville, Tenn.

Station WSM-Home of the "Grand Ole Opry"



MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD M. LEWIS
Commanding 30th Division, AEF
WORLD WAR I

THE OLD 30TH

(From "Work Horse of the Western Front" by Robert L. Hewitt)

The 30th Infantry Division was created on July 18, 1917, three months after the United States entered World War I. However, many of its components, State Militia and National Guard units of Tennessee and the Carolinas, even then had long and colorful records of participation in every American war, from the battle of King's Mountain in the Revolutionary War to the Battles of San Juan Hill and Santiago in the Spanish-American War.

Most of them fresh from active duty on the Mexican border, the units making up the 30th assembled for the first time on August 3, 1917, when they went into training at Camp Sevier, near Greenville, South Carolina. From the beginning the new division was known as the "Old Hickory" Division in honor of Andrew Jackson, who was born near the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary and rose to military and political fame in Tennessee. The Division shoulder patch, a blue H within a blue O, against a red background, with a Roman "thirty" across the cross-bar of the H, was inadvertently worn at first on its side and this practice persisted through World War I.

The 30th remained in training at Camp Sevier until May 1, 1918, sailing for Europe from New York. After passing through rest camps in England, the Division shipped to Le Havre, France and after training with the British in Picardy and Flanders went into battle. The Division made an outstanding record, its most notable achievement being the cracking of the Hindenburg Line. During its four months of fighting, Old Hickory earned more than half of the decorations awarded American troops by the British and 12 of the 78 Medals of Honor awarded for World War I service.

The Division entered battle on July 9 when, with the 27th (New York) Division, it was assigned to the defense of the East Poperinghe Line and defensive positions in the Dickebusch Lake and Scherpenberg sectors.

It then moved into offensive front line positions in Flanders and remained there until August 9, when it was called back for specialized training. Shortly afterwards the Division returned to the Flanders front and played a major role in the Ypres-Lys action from August 19 to September 4. On the night of August 31 patrols from the Division investigated a rumor that the Germans were wihdrawing troops from the area. As a result on the next day the Division attacked and captured Moated Grange, Voormezeele, Lock No. 8, and Lankhof Farm. A line was occupied connecting these localities with the original front at Gunner's Lodge, with the American 27th Division on the right, and the British 14th on the left

During this time the Division's 55th Field Artillery Brigade, which had departed under separate orders before the Division was committed, had participated in the occupation of the Lucy sector in support of the American 89th Division and fought in the St. Mihiel operation. On September 15, the artillery was detached from the 89th and sent to the V Corps to support the 37th Division in the Avocourt sector. It fought there until September 25.

On September 21 the 30th joined the Somme offensive, occupying the Lincourt—Bouchy sector with the British Fourth Army. On September 26 it attacked from a line of departure about 400 meters east of La Haute Bruyere, with its old friend, the 27th, on its left. This attack was to end in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line on September 29, 1918.

In organizing the Hindenburg Line on that portion of the front opposite the 30th Division, the Germans had taken advantage of the St. Quentin Canal which entered a tunnel about 4½ kilometers north of Bellicourt, passed under the town and emerged at a point about 1 kilometer south of the town. This tunnel contained many underground connections with various trenches of the Hindenburg Line. The canal south of the tunnel had high banks and was well suited for defensive purposes.

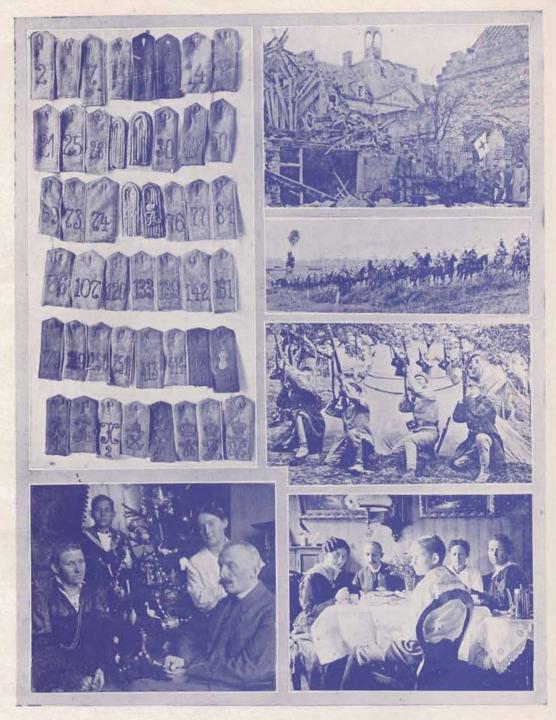
The 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments of the 60th Infantry Brigade, were designated as the assault units. The 117th Infantry Regiment of the 59th Infantry Brigade was assigned to follow up the 120th and protect the Division's right flank. The 118th Infantry Regiment was held in divisional reserve.

Following a rolling artillery barrage, the Division attacked and, after overcoming stubborn resistance, penetrated the concrete Hindenburg defenses. Immediately after the penetration, the Division crossed the canal and captured Bellicourt, then entered Nauroy. The Australian 5th Division moved up with the 30th to relieve it, but the 30th tenaciously kept on fighting. Together the two divisions advanced, and, although the command passed to the Australians on the following morning, the 30th continued to fight until noon

During this advance of 20 miles, the Division captured 98 officers: 3,750 men; 72 artillery pieces; 26 trench mortars; and 426 machine guns. It suffered 8,415 casualties

On October 1, the 30th moved to the Serbecourt and Mesnil-Bruntel areas and went back into the lines on the 5th. Again it attacked, capturing Brancourt-le-Grand and Premont, and, on October 9, it captured Busigny and Recquigny.

While the Division was participating in this heavy fighting the 55th Field Artillery Brigade was engaged in the Meuse-Argonne sector, where the German Army was making one of its most powerful defensive stands of the war. Between October 11 and November 11, the brigade supported the 33rd and 79th Divisions in the Troyon sector.



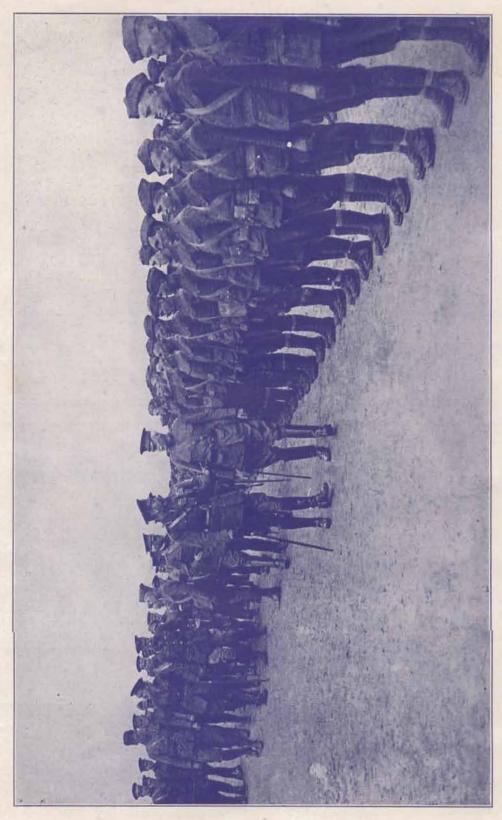
German shoulder straps taken by men M.G.Bn. of 114th (Other pictures takfrom German prisoners.) German first aid station. German cavalry. Firing at an allied Christaeroplane. mas in a German home.

(Continued from page 13)

On October 11 the Division took Vaux-Andigny, La-Haie—Mennercasse, and reached the outskirts of St. Martin Riviere. Here it was given a short rest but returned to the fight on the night of October 15, when it relieved the 27th Division and crossed the La Selle River, capturing Molain and Ribeauville.

On the night of the 19th, it was relieved and sent to the rear for a well earned rest, and for rehabilitation and training. The Division had suffered heavy casual-

ties. On October 23, the 30th moved to the Querrieu area near Amiens, where it was undergoing rehabilitation at the time of the Armistice. On November 19 the Division, less the artillery brigade, moved to the American Embarkation Center at Le Mans. The artillery brigade rejoined the Division on January 20, 1919 and on February 18 the first unit of Old Hickory sailed from Brest for the United States. The last elements of the Division arrived at Charleston, S. C. on April 18.



King George V of England and Maj. Gen. Lewis passing Company B., 114th Machine Gun Battalion, when reviewing the 30th Division, August 3, 1918.



Greetings

and

Best Wishes

to the

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

May Your 1947 Reunion
in Nashville
Be An Enjoyable Occasion

HEADQUARTERS

30TH DIVISION ARTILLERY

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

Chattanooga, Tennessee





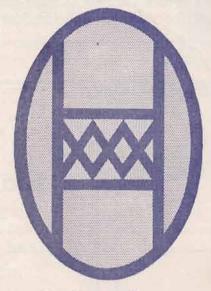
118TH FIELD ARTILLERY



113TH FIELD ARTILLERY

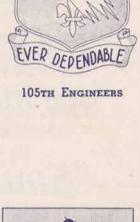


59TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



30th Division Insignia

This is now worn vertically, as the design reads, but was worn horizontally in World War I



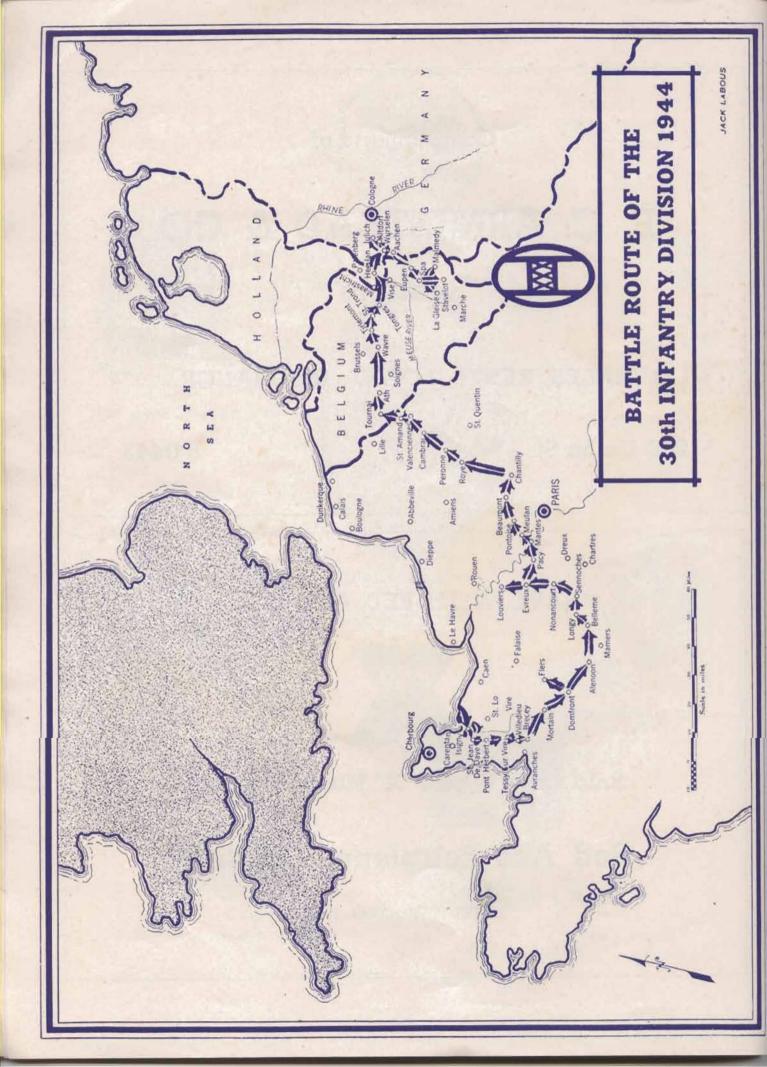
105TH MEDICAL REGIMENT

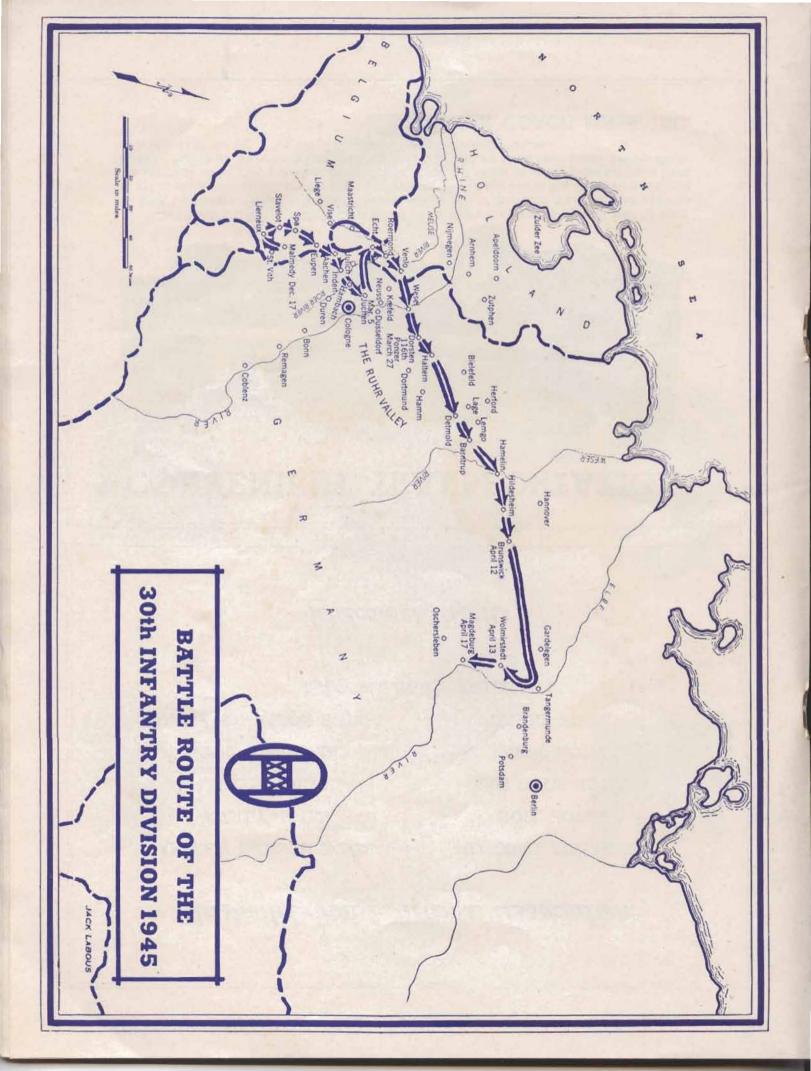


105TH QUARTERMASTER REGIMENT



119TH INFANTRY





Nashville Hotel Men's Association

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ANSLEY HOTEL

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CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION

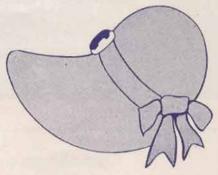


SOUTHERN COACH LINES, INC., is proud of its service, operating a great fleet of ultramodern equipment. Greater Nashville today enjoys one of the finest transportation systems in the country through the service rendered by Southern Coach Lines, Inc. Keeping pace with the progress of the city, hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of new equipment have been added. Schedules have been improved and recent extensions have been made. Today, Nashville stands at the top of the list of cities boasting good transportation.

SOUTHERN COACH LINES, INC.



55TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



121st Infantry



118TH INFANTRY



HEADQUARTERS AND SPECIAL TROOPS



117th INFANTRY

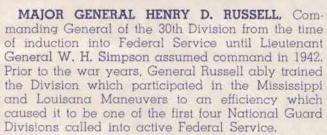


120TH INFANTRY



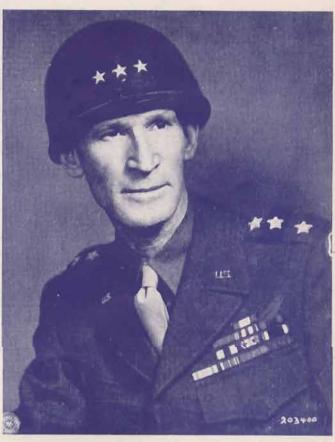
60TH INFANTRY BRIGADE











LIEUTENANT GENERAL W. H. SIMPSON, commander of the 30th Division during the training year 1942 at Ft. Jackson, S. C. General Simpson was later given command of XII Corps and after being transferred to the European Theater, organized and Commanded the Ninth U. S. Army during its entire combat in World War II. The 30th Division was part of the Ninth Army during a portion of the European fighting.

THE NEW 30TH

(From "Work Horse of the Western Front" by Robert L. Hewitt)

The 30th was disbanded after the war, but was reactivated by the War Department in 1925 as a National Guard Division, with troops from Georgia added to the original components. Thereafter, until 1941, its story was the usual one of annual summer encampments and peacetime maneuvers. It participated in the first post-war mobilization at Camp Jackson, South Carolina, in 1928, and participated in the DeSoto National Forest maneuvers in Mississippi in 1938 and in the Third Army maneuvers in Louisiana in 1940. Within a month after its return from the Louisiana maneuvers it was recalled to full-time duty in September 1940, its ranks filled to wartime strength by volunteers. Conscription had not yet been established.

One of the first four National Guard Divisions to be called into Federal service when the Army of the United States began expanding in 1940, the 30th Infantry Division trained for almost four years before it was committed to battle. During that period it underwent innumerable transformations and emerged, like most of the other National Guard divisions, with its pristine sectional and National Guard character all but buried under the influx of selectees, Reserve officers, Reguler Army men and Officer Candidate School graduates from all sections of the country.

For two years the Division trained at Fort Jackson, near Columbia, South Carolina. In June 1941 the Division participated in Second Army maneuvers in Tennessee and in the fall of 1941 it took part in the First Army maneuvers in the Carolinas before returning to Fort Jackson. The first big exodus fom the Division occurred then, when approximately 6,000 men left at the end of one-year enlistments or because of hardship cases. At this time the 121st Infantry Regiment was transferred to the 8th Infantry Division.

During the spring of 1942 the changes in the Division's personnel continued to be drastic. The Division was reorganized from an old-style square division, with two brigades and a total of four infantry regiments into a triangular division, of three infantry regiments, its present form. Newly activated divisons, officer candidate schools, and Air Forces training continued to draw many men away from the Division. Major General Henry D. Russell, the National Guard division commander, was replaced by Major General William H Simpson, a Regular Army officer, on May 1, 1942, and he in turn was succeeded on September 12, 1942, by another Regular Major General Leland S. Hobbs, Old Hickory's commander in battle. By that time the Division had been cut down to a strength of approximately 6,000 men—about forty per cent of its

normal strength—having lost within a year the equivalent of a full division in both officers and men.

During the fall of 1942 the Division was filled up to full strength again, with the 119th Infantry Regiment and the 197th Field Artillery Battalion constituted to replace the 118th Infantry Regiment and the 115th Field Artillery Battalion, which had been sent overseas during the summer as a combat team. The 117th Infantry Regiment went to Fort Benning, Georgia, September 13 and remained there on instructional and demonstration duty for The Infantry School until February 28, 1943. The Division, which had been transferred to Camp Blanding, Florida, at the beginning of October, began training anew in December, with two-thirds of its enlisted personnel fresh from the reception center.

Training at Camp Blanding followed the usual pattern of training camps throughout the country-thirteen weeks emphasizing individual training followed by a like period of small-unit training. As far as tests could determine, the Division was progressing well. In May, just before the Division was ready for its first real field work, the Division Artillery, under Brigadier General Arthur McK. Haper, set a new Army Ground Forces record in field firing tests at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Meanwhile the rest of the Division was proceeding by train and motors to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, where it set up a tent encampment on the edge of the post and went to work on intradivisional field maneuvers near Lynchburg, Tennessee. By the end of September it was ready for large-scale maneuvers, and joined the 94th and 98th Infantry Divisions, the 12th Armored Division, IV Armored Corps, and a host of corps and army troops in a two-month maneuver period. This period was particularly valuable in training commanders and staffs, and although the problems which usually lasted for about a week at a time, were not officially won or lost, the Division showed considerable alertness and skill, and was credited with knocking out several "enemy" battalions in succession by double envelopments. Aside from the training afforded staffs in how to function, this success provided the chief value of the maneuver period. The Division entered the maneuvers with good morale; it left them with the conviction that it had "won" and was now ready to do some real fighting.

From the maneuver area the 30th, in November, moved north by truck to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, where it concentrated on preparation for movement overseas. At Atterbury, Division Artillery again set a new Army Ground Forces record for battalion firing tests.

THE NEW 30TH

(continued)

In February 1944, the Division started its trip by train for Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts, one of the staging camps serving the Boston Port of Embarkation. On February 12, loaded on three transports, the John Ericsson, the Brazil and the Argentina, it left Boston Harbor in a blinding snowstorm to join its convoy for Europe. An advance party led by Brigadier General William K. Harrison, the assistant division commander, had previously sailed on the Queen Mary.

The repeated inspections and pressure of the period, just before sailing, left most of the men with a feeling of finality, almost as though they would come off the ships fighting and would leave civilian pleasures behind until the war was over. Crowded as they were on the boats, they had little room for training, although troop commanders went through the motions of trying to set up instruction.

The convoy was an impressive sight, with ships spread out over the ocean as far as the eye could see, shepherded by a battleship and by destroyers frisking around the edges of the great pattern of ships. Periodically naval gun crews on the transports held gunnery practice, and blackout instructions were strict. Rumors of submarines went the rounds. Nevertheless, the passage had been unusually uneventful as the convoy headed into the Irish Sea and split up. The 120th Infantry landed on the Clyde in Scotland, the 117th at Liverpool and the 119th at Bristol. February 22, Washington's birthday, the Division was in port. Some of the troops were given a brief introduction to the air war on their first night ashore, as their blacked-out trains were sidetracked and re-routed through marshalling yards of London because of a German air raid. In their new area the men of the Division were to find air raids almost a nightly affair, with the enemy raiders flying over their heads from the English Channel toward London.

The 30th's first training area in England was on the south coast, with the division headquarters at the ancient town of Chichester; two of the regiments, the 119th and 120th, billetted on Channel coast towns to the south; while the 117th, Division Artillery and other troops spread northward toward London. In April the Division moved north to the London suburbs with headquarters at Chesham.

All of the billets had previously been used by British troops. Most of them were private houses, although some units lived in Nissen huts.

England, somewhat begrimed and shabby after four years of war, was no foxhole. Men adjusted themselves to the wartime weakness of British beer, made friends with the British and attempted to cope with the perils of British pronunciation and idiom and with the endless pitfalls of trying to keep warm in wintertime without central heating. Gradually, even before they were initiated into the plans for invasion then being made, the troops began to sense the urgency in what was going on in England that spring. Closer to the war already, if only because they were in a land being bombed, the men of the 30th began to see more and more military equipment around the countryside. Some main roads were so monopolized by trucks and tanks that a stray civilian vehicle seemed almost to have arrived there by mistake.

There was work to be done. First was the fundamental task of restoring the fine edge of technique and endurance dulled by days in transit. The infantry marched and marched and marched. The artillery fired problem after problem on tiny ranges as full of local ground rules as a tricky golf course. One shell broke a civilian's wooden leg; the civilian himself was unhurt. Another shell hit a bull that had strayed onto the range. These were the exceptions.

Small-unit techniques were practiced. Weapons were fired. For the first time the 30th's infantrymen practiced in earnest working with tanks. Special teams visited the troops to demonstrate German uniforms and methods. The military police platoon, practicing the handling of prisoners, tried out close-order drill in German. The higher-ups came around on visits of inspection, trying to be cordial and friendly, but looking the men over appraisingly-General Eisenhower, General Montgomery, General Bradley, the Secretary of War, General Corlett of XIX Corps. And so the spring wore on. Soon there were other jobs to be done-waterproofing of vehicles so that they could wade across the sandy beaches of Normandy without stalling. Invasion rumors were everywhere, one penny if one wanted to read them in the newspapers, otherwise free.

Sometime in March 1944, when the Division was still in the vicinity of Chichester and more than two months before the actual invasion, an armed officer-courier delivered a bundle of documents containing a plan known as "Neptune," published by U.S. First Army. It was perhaps the most breathtaking document ever received at the 30th Division: "The object of NEPTUNE is to secure a lodgement area on the continent from which further offensive operations can be developed. It is part of a large strategic plan designed to bring about the total defeat of Germany." From there it went on—the places, the troops, the method. Everything but the time. D-day was to be announced. Y-day, the target day, was May 30.

THE NEW 30TH

(continued)

The First Army was to land on D-day, H-hour, at Utah Beach, on the east side of the Cherbourg Peninsula north of Carentan and at Omaha Beach facing north into the English Channel just east of Isigny. The VII Corps would assault Utah Beach, the V Corps, led by the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions, Omaha Beach. Two airborne American divisions would make a vertical envelopment behind the western assault areas. The British would attack with three divisions initially, their first objectives Caen and Bayeux. Overwhelmna air and naval power would support the assault. The 30th would land on Omaha Beach as a part of XIX Corps, after the initial beachhead had been established. XIX Corps on landing would consist principally of the 30th, 2d and 3d Armored Divisions. After it was all ashore it was contemplated that the XIX Corps would pick up the 29th Division and lose the 2d Armored Division.

This was the secret the 30th Division guarded zealously and effectively, as did many other units, during that restless spring. A planning room was set up under armed guard. Special lists were made of those who could enter the room and consult the documents there. Countless details had to be worked out at division level -particularly the problems of supply, administration, and equipment. Study by the commanding general and his operational staff officers at first was generalized, then became more specific. In mid-May XIX Corps issued a tentative field order—the 30th must be prepared for one of three jobs: (1) to assist VII Corps (101st Airborne Division) in capturing Carentan; (2) to pass through elements of the 29th Division, advancing on the west to seize Marigny and the high ground near Montpichon or to help the 29th take St. Lo; (3) to pass through the 29th to take St. Lo, frontally.

The area along the Vire-et-Taute Canal just south of the beach area had been deliberately flooded by the Germans. Air photographs of the area showed the fields neatly ticked off by hedgerows, many of the ancient roads worn down into ruts yards below the general ground level. In the entire area of the American assault were four German divisions, three of them so-called static divisions, weak in transportation and numerical strength and heavily padded with Russian and Polish troops. This was the set-up before the invasion. It would be hard to predict what the situation would be by the time the 30th landed.

The days passed slowly or quickly, depending on one's mood. Gradually more and more of the Division's commanders were brought into the planning room and introduced to the plan and the terrain, outlined on huge curtained maps in a special wing of the headquarters building in Chesham. Bets were made: wry jokes about a Second Front were repeated in the pubs. Nobody except perhaps General Hobbs knew when the invasion was supposed to take place.

May gave way to June. The weather was unsettled. June 5 looked as though it might be the day. General Hobbs scheduled talks to the troops, reminding them with especial seriousness of the simple basic things they must keep in mind in battle. But the 5th passed quietly under cloudy skies.

There were two things particularly noticeable about Tuesday, June 6, as the troops woke up and looked outside. The first important thing was that the sun was shining, the skies were clear. The second thing was that those skies were filled with more planes than anyone had ever seen before, not the heavy four-motor bombers of normal times, but light twin-engine attack bombers. Almost all of them were flying purposefully south. All of them carried black stripes on the undersides of their wings. The invasion was on.

For the next few days, the men of the 30th felt curiously out of touch with things. Packed and ready to go, they remained in place, listening to the radio and reading the newspapers. Corps was swallowed up in the elaborate staging area system and leased to be a source of information. Then the Division itself was alerted, and, unit by unit, moved down into the sprawling tent cities of the staging area in southern England. Here their sense of isolation increased. They were briefed, but with information days old. They waited, were alerted, were told to forget about the alert order. The Division was split up into separate groups, with communication between them all but impossible. Finally, they moved down to the Southhampton docks and were loaded into their transports. Then they waited more, with the unhurried personnel of the dock area seemingly unaware of the fact that a war was being fought on the other side of the Channel. Thus it is always with impatient men. At last the convoys gathered themselves together and started across the channel, protected by E-boats and with a grotesque little barrage balloon floating above each ship.

Space does not permit a full account of combat activities of Division on Continent but reference to maps showing Route of March during 1941-45 on pages 28 and 29 should be of great interest to readers.

HEADQUARTERS NINTH U. S. ARMY Office of the Commanding General APO 339, U. S. Army

330.13 GNMCS 15 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

THROUGH: Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U. S. Army.

TO : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 30, U. S. Army.

- 1. It was a distinct pleasure to me last October when I learned that the 30th Infantry Division was being assigned to the Ninth Army; a pleasure all the more keenly felt because of the fact of my previous association as one-time commander of the Division. I have been happy to share with you the pride of accomplishment that has characterized the history of your Division since the initiation of operations on the Continent.
- 2. The operation just concluded, again furnished your Division with an opportunity to distinguish itself. I scarcely need point out that this opportunity was accepted and completely exploited by the Division, thereby adding another glowing chapter to the record.
- 3. Particularly gratifying to me was the surprise which was achieved in your crossing of the Roer River at an unsuitable site, and the ingenuity with which your organization overcame the difficulties of building up a bridgehead despite meager access and egress roads. Your expeditious clearing of Hambach Forest and the firm protection which you furnished for the Army right flank, materially assisted the Army to successfully execute the maneuver by which the enemy was turned out of his positions and driven to retreat across his own lines of communication.
- 4. It was characteristic of your Division that, with the original mission accomplished, you were ready and waiting to execute another mission—that of further securing the Army's right flank and facilitating the capture of the key strongpoint of Neuss.
- 5. It is with great personal pleasure that I acknowledge the splendid job performed by the 30th Infantry Division in operation and express my commendation of the individual contribution made by every officer and man.

W. H. SIMPSON Lieutenant General, U. S. Army Commanding 330.13 (A) lst Ind.

HQ XIX CORPS, APO 270,

TO: Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 30, U. S. Army.

- l. The operation to which the Army Commander's commendation is directed was, in effect, a flanking movement, swinging wide of the strongly situated Munchen-Gladbach area and driving against the Rhine, then splitting the industrial area along the west bank of the Rhine. This was accomplished by this Corps quickly and well ahead of schedule, clearing twenty-six miles of the west side of the river. As such it is a classical as well as a historic achievement. The smoothness of this successful operation was vitally influenced by the thorough and rapid action of your division, by which the blow never lost its momentum, and the enemy moves to check the advance were overrun before they got underway.
- 2. This can easily be considered an outstanding operation of the war, and the remarks of the Army commander are therefore of high significance.

RAYMOND S. McLAIN
Major Genearl, U. S.
Commanding



330.13

(15 Mar 45)

2d Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO No. 30, 25 March 1945.

TO: Commanding Officers, All Units, Assigned and Attached, 30th Infantry Division.

This commendation is YOURS--each of you who participated so fully and so well in this splendid achievement. It is with great pleasure and pride that I forward it to you who made it possible.

L. S. HOBBS Major General, U. S. Army Commanding The

Officers and Enlisted Men

of the

Headquarters

30th Infantry Division (Part)

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

Welcome

The Members of the

30th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Assembled in Nashville

for Their

1947 National Reunion

324 Trinity Place West Palm Beach, Fla.

16 March 1946

Major General Leland S. Hobbs Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division Camp Polk, Louisiana

Dear General Hobbs:

Now that I am leaving the service, I thought it might be well to give you the following information for whatever satisfaction you may derive therefrom.

I was Historian of the ETO. Toward the end of last fall, for the purpose of breaking the log-jam of paper concerning division presidential unit citations, General Eisenhower instructed me to draw up a rating sheet on the divisions. This entailed in the actual processing that we had to go over the total work of all of the more experienced divisions, infantry and armor, and report back to him which divisions we considered had performed the most efficient and consistent battle service.

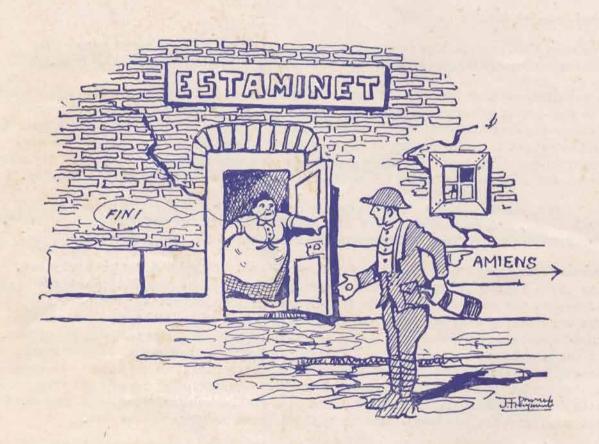
We so did, and we named certain infantry divisions in the first category and the same with armor, and we placed others in a second category and yet others in a third. The 30th was among five divisions in the first category.

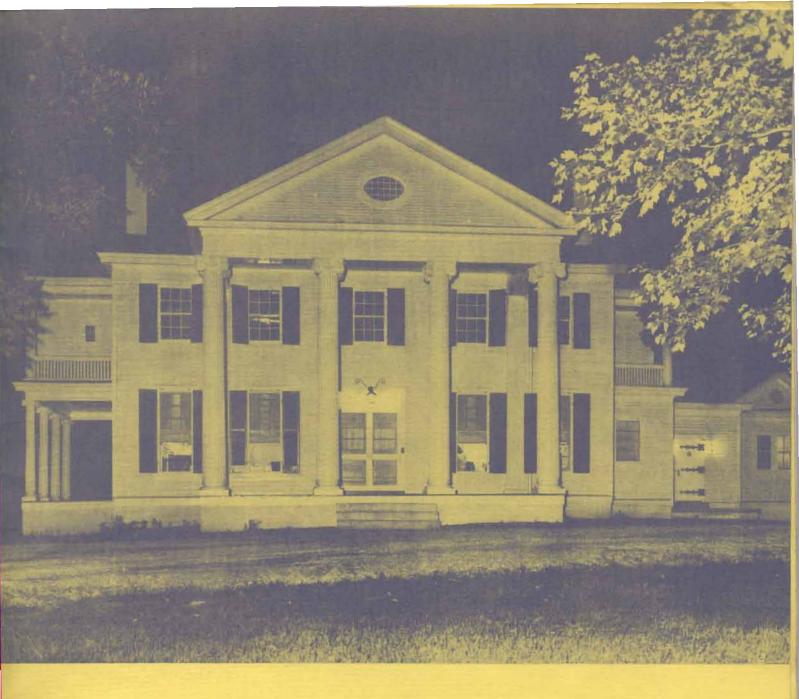
However, we placed 30th Division No. 1 on the list of first category divisions. It was the combined judgment of the approximately 35 historical officers who had worked on the records and in the field that the 30th had merited this distinction. It was our finding that the 30th had been outstanding in three operations and that we could consistently recommend it for citation on any one of these three occasions. It was found further that it had in no single instance performed discreditably or weakly when considered against the averages of the Theater and that in no single operation had it carried less than its share of the burden or looked bad when compared with the forces on its flanks. We were especially impressed with the fact that it had consistently achieved results without undue wastage of its men.

I do not know whether any further honors will come to the 30th. I hope they do. For we had to keep looking at the balance of things always and we felt that the 30th was the outstanding infantry division of ETO.

Respectfully yours,

S. L. A. MARSHALL Colonel, G.S.C. Historian of ETO





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