

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
Camp Blanding, Florida

HISTORY OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Created on July 18, 1917, of National Guard troops from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, the 30th Division, United States Army, built for itself one of the finest battle histories of the First World War.

It was at Bellocourt, France, that the 30th Division won undying fame, for there on September 29, 1918, it smashed its way through the famed "Hindenburg Line" - a victory that hastened the close of the war, and did honor to the memory of Andrew Jackson, whose nickname, "Old Hickory," the division bears.

At the outset of the World War, the Sixtieth Infantry Brigade, known as the "Tar-Heel Brigade", was composed of the 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments, and the 115th Machine Gun Battalion. The 119th Infantry crossed to Calais on May 28th and 29th, 1918; the 120th Infantry crossed to Calais on June 5th and 6th, 1918, and the 115th Machine Gun Battalion crossed to Calais on May 29, 1918. After a training period with the British in back areas, the Sixtieth Brigade moved forward into Belgium and joined the rest of the Division; the Thirtieth Division being the first American troops to enter that country.

INSIGNIA - 120TH INFANTRY

BLAZONRY

Distinctive Insignia: Approved June 28, 1928.

Shield: Azure.

Impaled: A prickly pear cactus and the entrance to the Canal over the San Quentin.

Motto: Virtus Incendit Vires. (Virtue kindles strength)

The shield is blue for Infantry, the cactus represents service on the Mexican Border. The tunnel symbolizes the mouth of the tunnel in the Hindenburg Line at Bellecourt, France, captured by the 120th Infantry, September 29, 1918.

HISTORY OF THE 120TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 120th Infantry was inducted into the active military service on September 16, 1940, and immediately thereafter proceeded to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where it has been engaged in intensive training. The home stations of its 20 units are distributed throughout North Carolina, from the seacoast to the mountains.

The Regiment is proud of its history. The 120th Infantry arrived in France on June 5, 1918. It was among the first American troops to enter Belgium when the 30th Division marched into that country to join the Second British Army. The Regiment spent the last three weeks in August in the line south of the city of Ypres in what was known as the Canal Sector.

In early September, the Regiment moved south to the vicinity of Peronne and joined the Third British Army under the command of General Byng. In mid-September, it moved again and this time teamed up with the Fourth British Army under the command of General Rawlinson. On September 29, 1918, it took part in a big attack on the Hindenburg line near the village of Bellecourt, between Cambrai and St. Quentin. The 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments were the first troops to break through this formidable defense line. The Regiment continued in active operations until October 20, 1918, when it moved to a rear area for rest and replacements. While in this area, the armistice was signed.

In April, 1918, the Regiment returned to the United States and was demobilized at Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

Following the war, the regiment was reorganized and Federally recognized on May 2, 1921. While the present designation is comparatively recent - 23 years - our regiment looks back with pride to the early organization of many of its units. Company L was founded in 1847 as the Lumber Bridge Light Infantry; Company F as the "Hornet's Nest Riflemen" was organized in 1856; and Company C was organized in 1861.

The present Commanding Officer of the 120th Infantry is Colonel Hammond D. Birks. Colonel Birks commanded a company during World War I and has been an officer in the regular service ever since.

VENEREAL PREVENTION

Since the venereal rate in this section of the country is considerably higher than in other sections, every soldier should take the necessary precautions against venereal infections. The practice of continence is of course the best and safest policy, but in case of exposure an immediate prophylactic should be used. There is a prophylactic station in every dispensary in Camp Blanding and prophylactic kits can be obtained for twenty-five cents both at the company or nearest Post Exchange. Every soldier going on pass or furlough where there is any danger of exposure should take one. In nearby cities and towns prophylactic stations can be found upon inquiring from the local police or through the Military Police. A soldier may be tried by Courts-Martial if he fails to take the proper precautions upon exposure. A green light is the official marker for a prophylactic station.

QUARANTINE

During your first two weeks here you will be given the necessary physical and dental examination. Personal hygiene will be continually stressed, touching upon such matters as brushing your teeth, caring for your hair, feet and finger nails, bathing, and other matters of personal hygiene. Living as close together as we do in the Army, it is particularly important to keep hair cut short to prevent spread of vermin.

CAMP REGULATIONS

Your company commander will inform you of the pertinent camp regulations which will affect you and which are enforced for your health and safety and for the safety of the many government installations established at this large camp.

RECREATIONAL INFORMATION

In Camp Blanding the camp recreational area is located between Alabama Avenue and Kingsley Lake; between Alabama Avenue and Connecticut Avenue, Oldtown Street and Drow Street. This area includes all bath houses, beaches, water installations, field house, and recreational grounds such as tennis courts, etc. The bathing facilities along Kingsley Beach, together with the bath houses located thereon, are allotted for the use of white troops. Bathers going to and from the bathing beach are required to wear an outer garment over their bathing suits. This may consist of a robe, raincoat, or fatigue clothing.

Two of the many motion picture theaters in Camp Blanding are conveniently located in our area.

For our use, there is available in St. Augustine, Florida, a recreational area which provides facilities for housing 1000 men per night. No charge is made for lodging and meals may be bought at a nominal cost.

RECREATIONAL INFORMATION (Cont'd)

There are United Service Organizations in all nearby cities and towns. For instance, in Starke, Florida, nine miles from here, there are three U.S.O.'s, The Jewish Welfare Board, the Y.M.C.A. and the National Council Catholic Societies. In Jacksonville, Florida, thirty-seven miles away, there are six U.S.O.'s and other service clubs which have a variety of weekly programs. At Gainesville, Florida, thirty-three miles from Camp, there are two U.S.O.'s where they hold dances every Saturday evening. There also is the University of Florida which grants reduced rates to all of its football games to service men. The Silver Springs are fascinating in Ocala, Florida, seventy-five miles from Camp Blanding.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

There are adequate chapels on the camp for all religious denominations. Attend the church of your choice at least once a week.

OFFICERS OF THE 120TH INFANTRY

Colonel Hammond D. Birks	Commanding Officer
Lt-Col. Garvin B. Farris	Executive Officer
1st Lt. Chris McCullough	Adjutant
1st Lt. John W. Pysienski	S-2
Capt. Harold E. Hassenfelt	S-3
1st Lt. James J. Bynum	S-4
Lt-Col. Hugh I. Mainord	Commanding Officer, 1st Bn.
Major John W. Crinkley	Commanding Officer, 2nd Bn.
Lt-Col. John G. Yenchar	Commanding Officer, 3rd Bn.

OFFICERS OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs	Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Fred W. Miller	Assistant Division Commander
Brig. Gen. Arthur M. Harper	Artillery Commander
Colonel James E. Moore	Chief of Staff

III ARMY CORPS

Maj. Gen. John P. Lucas	Commanding General
Colonel L. B. Keiser	Chief of Staff

SECOND ARMY

Lieut. Gen. Ben Lear	Commanding General
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