

PRELUDE



Copy made by The Virtual Museum of the 95th Infantry Division

THE IRON MEN OF METZ

www.ironmenofmetz.new.fr

THE NINETY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION PREPARES FOR COMBAT



The Victory Division in Review

From the plains of the Middle West they came, thousands of yearling recruits joining the ranks of the Global War's millions. The rookies were new members of the new 95th Infantry Division, soldiers whose new job was to learn how to kill the enemy, to learn how to keep from being killed.

There was little unusual about the new 95th—it was typical of America's war-time combat divisions. A few weeks earlier the division's new soldiers had been farmers, theater managers, clerks, college students, musicians. Their new jobs were just as varied. Now they were riflemen, machine-gunners, mortar-men, artillery cannoneers, engineers.

Yesterday they worked a flat eight hours; after that it was time-and-a-half. Today they are working for a dollar-sixty-seven or a little more. Yesterday they nonchalantly punched a time clock. Today they are jumping to bugle and whistle. Yesterday they knocked off at any old time for coffee and doughnuts. Today they are grasping for ten-minute breaks.

From Washington, where he had been the War Department's G-3, came the Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle. Newly-built Camp Swift, Texas, was the birthplace of the reactivated division and on July 15, 1942, General Twaddle stepped forward to receive the 95th standard under a sweltering Texas sky.

Officers had prepped at the Command and General Staff School and at various service schools, non-coms had been trained by the 7th Infantry Division. Now the 95th was ready to move into basic training. Its enlisted men learned to make full field packs, to pitch shelter tents, took their first hikes, quickly became aware of the terrors of a bugled "Reveille."

With the end of basic training came the division's first move. Fort Sam Houston was the destination and the 9-V

shoulder patch soon became a commonplace in San Antonio.

But Fort Sam Houston became a mirage, veined from the rocky crags of the Leon Springs Military Reservation. Camp Bullis, Cibola, Panther Springs, Stahl, Sheel and Wilderness Camp housed 95th units more often than did San Antonio. Training was in high gear and river crossing problems, the physical fitness course, the infiltration course, the close combat course, the ranges and the "D Series" became household words with the 95th.

Then came Louisiana and the longest stab at simulated combat to date. Ninety-Fifth troops need no history to remember the maneuvers: Louisiana's alternate dust and rain, the state's soldier-crowded towns during the breaks, the "battles" which ranged across a half dozen parishes.

Assignment to Camp Polk followed the maneuvers, and the 95th became the first infantry division to be stationed at the armored center. Camp Polk meant no relaxation in training as units pushed hard on a new program, softened only by post-maneuver furloughs. The troops settled down to their third garrison station.

Division personnel had scarcely learned their way around the new post before the 95th was again on the move, this time to the California desert. With the desert came more hard work, more intensive training for combat-to-come.

After the desert, what next? The specific location isn't important. What is important is the 95th's collective attitude. The attitude is a healthy one, an attitude which indicates that the 95th's personnel will follow the division standard wherever it may go with a will—with a will to give battle to the enemy, with a will to win with an objective which underlines a return to the American way of things the troops knew when they were farmers, theater managers, clerks, college students, musicians.



Harry L. Twaddle
Major General, U. S. A.
Commanding



BRIG. GEN. WARD H. MARIS
Division Artillery Commander

BRIG. GEN. WILBUR E. DUNKELBERG
Assistant Division Commander

COL. HARVEY J. GOLIGHTLY
Chief of Staff

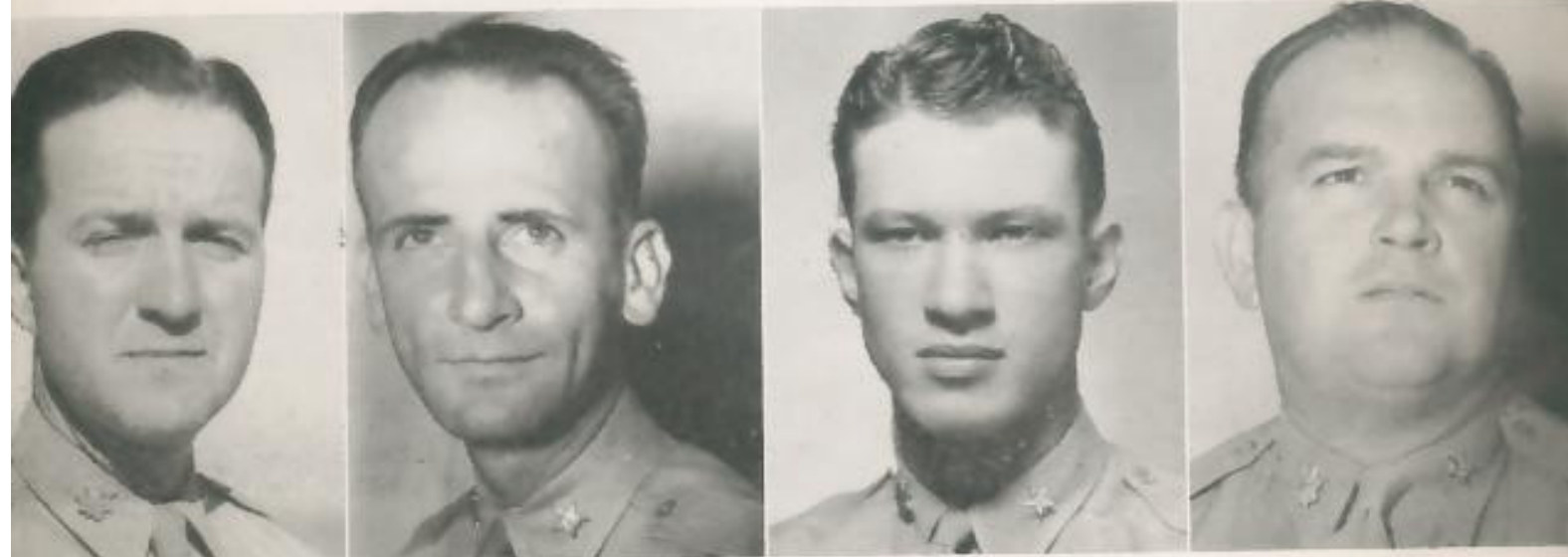
The General Staff

The General and Special Staff—the Commanding General's administrative and tactical arms. Too many are the tasks of a division commander for the successful accomplishment of these tasks by one individual.

Thus, General Staff responsibility is divided into four sections, headed by the chief of staff. The assistant chief of staff, G-1, is charged with person-

nel administration; the assistant chief of staff, G-2, handles military intelligence and all matters pertaining thereto; the responsibilities of the assistant chief of staff, G-3, are concerned with the huge task of plans and training; the assistant chief of staff, G-4, is responsible for the division's supply.

The Special Staff is concerned with directing particular portions of the General staff work.



MAJ. WILLIAM H. STUBBS
A. C. of S., G-1

LT. COL. JOHN E. CARTER
A. C. of S., G-2

MAJ. DORSEY E. McCRORY
A. C. of S., G-3

LT. COL. CLARENCE H. MACKEY
A. C. of S., G-4

The Special Staff



LT. COL. J. L. BARTLETT
Chemical Officer

LT. COL. H. E. IHLENFELD
Inspector General

LT. COL. J. O. HYATT
Quartermaster

LT. COL. O. B. SHAWHAN
Ordnance Officer

LT. COL. E. A. CLEVE
Surgeon

LT. COL. N. L. LOE
Judge Advocate General



LT. COL. R. E. HOOVER
Adjutant General

LT. COL. W. C. SHURE
Chaplain

MAJ. H. L. BARNETT
Signal Officer

MAJ. J. H. COMINGS
Finance Officer

MAJ. G. P. MILLER
Special Service Officer

MAJ. J. S. PINGE
Provost Marshal



The 95th Division's General Staff section chiefs at work in the field. Left to right are Lieutenant Colonel Carter, A.C. of S., G-2; Major McCrory, A.C. of S., G-3; Colonel Golightly, Chief of Staff; Lieutenant Colonel Mackey, A.C. of S., G-4, and Major Stubbs, A.C. of S., G-1.

Activation and Camp Swift

The 95th Infantry Division was first set up by a War Department order issued in 1918, was only about half-mobilized with the end of World War I. After that the 95th was a fancy mobilization plan in a filing cabinet in Reserve Headquarters, Oklahoma City. General Twaddle put it well at the division's activation when he said, "The history of this division is still to be made."

The 95th moved into Camp Swift before the carpenters and plumbers had completely moved out. Even after the activation ceremony troop trains continued to pour in with new troops who quickly got under way with the business which best holds Camp Swift in 95th memories—basic training.

The activation parade of the new 95th soldiers was something to write home about. Brand new to the army, they passed in review before their commanding general with the best military bearing they could muster in uniforms that still didn't fit.

It was at Swift that 95th troops became acquainted with the odd, staccato roar of a hundred and fifty rifles blasting away on the range, and the peaceful looking puffs of dust the bullets kicked up way out beyond the butts. They learned, too, of the clear, brassy notes of a bugle, the eloquent, casual profanity of a hard-bitten sergeant, a terrible-tempered colonel, the cadenced tramp of marching feet, sleepy men stumbling out to reveille in the grey of dawn.

Camp Swift memories include the division-wide Armistice Day track and field meet, the division's first C.P.X. and field work, "Miss America's" appearance and the week-end trips to Austin and other neighboring towns.





Fort Sam Houston

Fort Sam Houston? Well, the A.P.O. was located there, but most of the troops saw more of the post's distant field camps than they did of the famed old army center.

It's all been told before. A thousand men marching a thousand miles down the Military Highway that curves away to Bullis. A staff sergeant reading "Ulysses" by the yellow light of a Coleman lantern. Solemn, sunburned faces, and a chaplain's organ wheezing out a hymn high up on the side of Krueger hill. Boredom, loneliness, aching feet. A million fox holes dug over the whole Leon Springs Reservation, and every damned one of them filled in again.

But most 95th troops remember Leon Springs best for its notoriety as a convening ground of ticks, chiggers and parallel items of soldier-torture.





Fort Sam Houston

The Fort Sam Houston interim was all hard work—almost. Every other week-end—sometimes oftener—the troops actually garrisoned at Fort Sam. That meant bus trips to downtown San Antonio during off-duty hours, rubbing elbows with the city's Spanish-flavored señoritas, gondola rides on the meandering San Antonio River, Sunday visits to the vast Breckenridge Park.

Fort Sam Houston mirrors the reviews and parades when the whole division, with all its guns and all its vehicles and all its men, swept down Arthur MacArthur Field while the bands blared and the flags flapped in the soft Texas wind.

Fort Sam was the post at which half of the division's personnel lived in permanent barracks, in between the unit and combined training at Bullis and camps north. Fort Sam was famed for its smooth-mown lawns, its elaborate PX, a Hollywood-like swimming pool and theater, a myriad of Texas belles at every hand.

Fort Sam Houston was such a place as the 95th has not seen since.





Maneuvers and Camp Polk

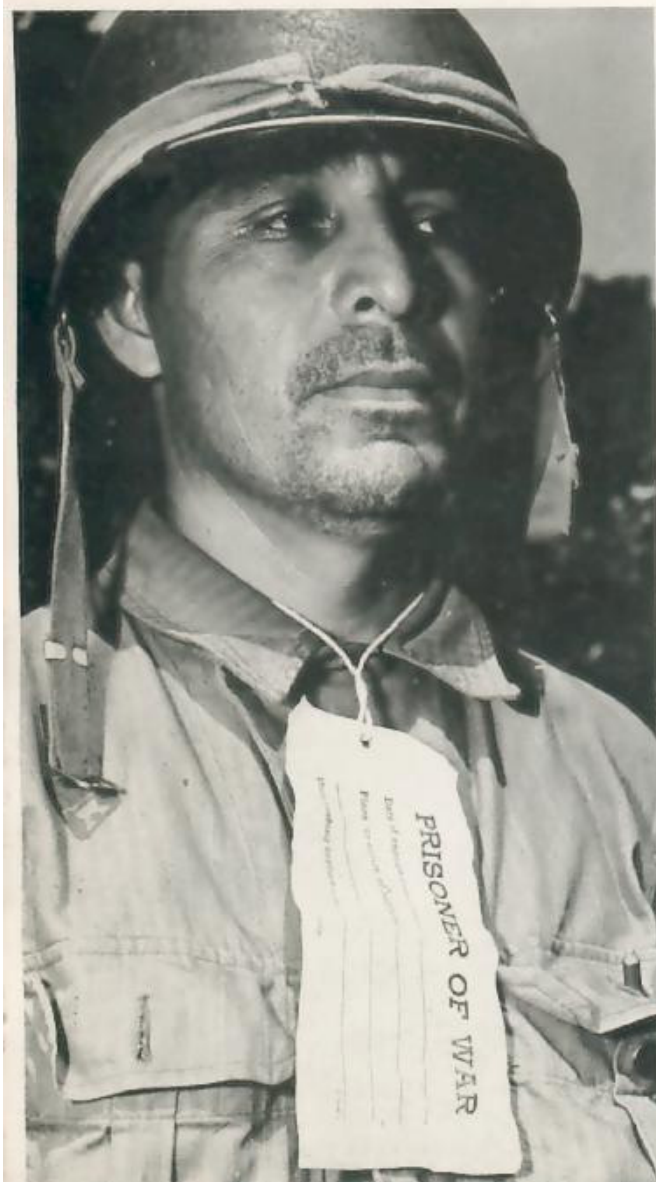
The advance party arrived in the Louisiana maneuver area in mid-June, and their findings were confirmed a hundred-fold as problems unwound over the two-month period.

The dust was so dense that troops became camouflaged by nature. They prayed for rain, and the rain came. Then they prayed for dust. There was nothing stationary about the problems, a twenty-mile foot movement in a single day being the norm. And maneuvers developed into a continuous two-month deal rather than an eight-hour-a-day affair.

Fox holes, long beards, no baths, soldier-jammed restaurants during the breaks, a lonely GI writing to the girl back home as he sits on the trails of a camouflaged howitzer. They were all part of maneuvers.

Camp Polk was next on the 95th itinerary, a month and a half pause between the field work of Louisiana and California for post-maneuver training. Furloughs glistened, service clubs and theaters became a part of GI life again, inspections, drills, parades and other conventional signs of garrison life came to light again at Polk.

But the stay was a short one. Barracks bags seemed to come off trucks from the maneuver area one day, only to be thrown over soldier backs the next as troops boarded California-bound trains.





The Desert

A big buff moon swelled up behind a barren California rock-veined mountain. Rows of tents were shadowed against the desert sand. A kid was singing "All Or Nothing At All" as he sewed corporal stripes on his fatigues. The monotonous grind of convoy trucks filtered through the new corporal's song. The 95th Division was training in the California desert.

The toughest training task yet, the 95th thought the desert. Twenty-five mile marches through foot-yielding sand, a close kinship with canvas water bags and canned rations, five-mile-distant mountains that were actually thirty miles away. Movie stars at the Desert Victory Bowl and dances with Betty Grable and fellow tradeswomen highlighting furloughs to Los Angeles.

The desert's contrasting temperatures, which effected a near strip-to-the-waist policy in the daytime, a cry for more blankets at night, were a strange enigma of seasons. The Herculean gusts of desert wind seemed to be pushing the 95th toward its eventual combat mission. The sand-camouflaged vehicles and the week-end convoys to nearby resort cities are two more reminders of the desert for 95th troops.

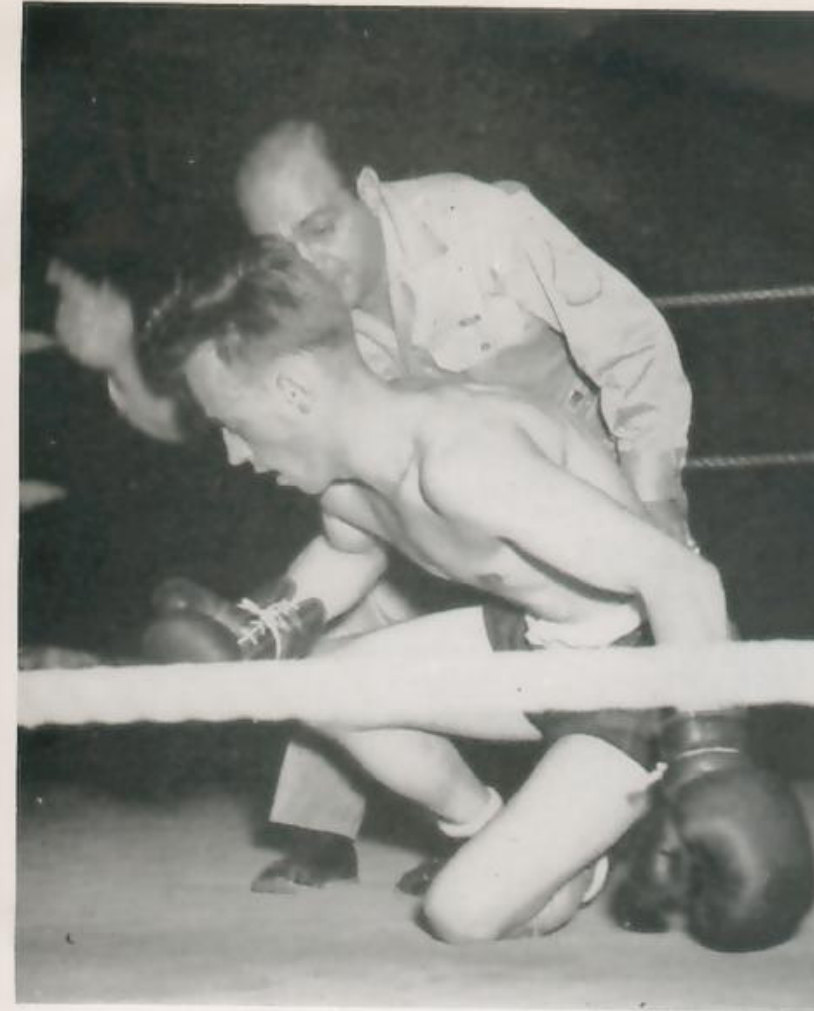


Entertainment

"Give me a thousand men who have been entertained rather than ten thousand who have had no entertainment." General John J. Pershing was speaking, and by the measure of his own rule the 95th should be a prize outfit in the general's eyes.

Field motion picture shows set up along the winding Malabang Trail at Bullis, the chant of a half-dozen Hawaiian soldiers entertaining their huddled buddies on a cool desert night, the groovy, brassy jive of a unit variety show cracking the still of a Louisiana night during a maneuver problem break, the soldier-throngs that swelled the open-air Desert Victory Bowl when Hollywood's gagsters and vocalists stepped off the screen to entertain the division—they were all a part of what was sandwiched between days and nights of tough training.





The Division's Sports

If the 95th Division is typical of an American wartime combat unit, its personnel must necessarily be typical of the American way of things. And the American way of things calls for plenty of sports. The 95th must be typical, then, because the division is as keen and able in the way of sports—all sports—as the scrappy American sandlotters.

Highlight of the division's sports accomplishments was the co-championship basketball team in the Army Service League at San Antonio. But that basketball team was only one of the indications. Inter-unit competitions in baseball, softball, volleyball, swimming, tough football, boxing and basketball were as keenly fought as will be the battles to come.



377th Infantry Regiment

The story of the 377th Infantry isn't a difficult one to tell. It's like all of the army's regiments of infantry, and the army has lots of them. Today, they all have the same eventual mission, a fire-fight mission. To date, the 377th's mission, like other of the 95th Division regiments, has been training, but the training has been aimed at the final mission of combat with the intent of keeping pace with the regimental motto, "Onward."

Beginning at activation with Col. Francis A. Woolfley as commander, the 377th passed through the normal training routines for organizations of its size, did not receive its regimental colors until the division moved to Fort Sam Houston.

At Fort Sam Houston, also, Colonel Woolfley left the regiment, was soon promoted to brigadier general. Col. Fred E. Gaillard, formerly of the division staff, assumed command of the regiment. Lt. Col. George H. Bishop, formerly the division's A. C. of S., G-3, became executive officer during the Louisiana maneuvers.

Division baseball champions at Camp Swift, the 377th was further stamped as an able athletic aggregate when the unit won the Armistice Day track and field meet at Camp Swift.



COL. FRED E. GAILLARD
Commanding





COL. SAMUEL L. METCALFE
Commanding



378th Infantry Regiment

"Sir, we accept these colors and will be glad to follow them anywhere you wish to send them."

With this terse comment, Col. Samuel T. Williams received the blue and gold colors of the 378th Infantry from the hands of the division commander on the Camp Swift parade ground.

Since that August afternoon, the regiment's history has not been written in newspaper headlines or war communiqués, no battle streamers yet fly from the regimental colors. The regiment's days—and nights—have been filled with the intensive training that has prepared it for combat. Three regimental commanders of the 378th have graduated to general officer rank. The first of these, Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones, was called from Fort Benning, Ga., before the 95th's activation. The second in line was Col. Allison J. Barnett, now a brigadier general. Col. Samuel T. Williams, the 378th's third commanding officer, left the 95th at Fort Sam Houston and is also now a brigadier general.

Col. Samuel L. Metcalfe is the regiment's current commander, aided by Lt. Col. Harold L. Bays, executive officer.

The Choctaw Indian motto, "Hikia Kallu," translates to "Stand Firm." Members of the peacetime reserve regiment were from Southeastern Oklahoma.





379th Infantry Regiment

"A regiment famous for its 95th Division 'firsts,'" a 379th officer once remarked concerning his unit. The officer was speaking of the 379th's top division percentage in the Eighth Corps physical fitness tests at Fort Sam Houston. He was speaking of the regiment's top division honors in the War Bond drive at Camp Polk, of the fact that a 379th enlisted man won the division newspaper's contest to select a division nickname—"Victory Division," of the fact that a 379th enlisted man's sweetheart won The Journal's contest to name a "Miss Victory Division."

Commanded first by Col. Marlin C. Martin, who left the regiment during the Louisiana maneuvers, the unit is currently led by Col. Clifford P. Chapman. Lt. Col. Aubrey W. Akin is the unit's executive officer.

Builders of Camp Cibolo on the Leon Springs Military Reservation, the unit has pushed hard to uphold its motto, "To the End."



COL. CLIFFORD P. CHAPMAN
Commanding





Artillery

The Virtual Museum of the 95th Infantry Division
www.ironmenofmetz.new.fr



COL. WILLIAM R. PHILP
 Executive

Division Artillery Staff

Division Artillery—the big guns of an infantry division. But what job does Division Artillery perform? Any artilleryman calls that question an easy one.

Support the infantry—a three-word definition of the artillery mission that tells the whole story. By use of its enormous fire power the artillery helps the infantry reach its objective; to move forward when such movement might otherwise be prohibited.

The artillery lays no claim to being able to fight alone. Its job is to render the enemy helpless, to pin him down so that he cannot move, cannot bring fire to bear on advancing doughboys. The artillery effects its job through the ability to rapidly shift its vast fire power to a new location as the demand necessitates, the thing which enemy artillery has not yet perfected.

Commanded since activation by Brig. Gen. Ward H. Maris, 95th Division's Artillery has for its executive officer Col. William R. Philp.

Highlights of Division Artillery's training include the range firing for the Brooks Field Army Air Force Observers School while at Camp Swift, the trek to Camp Bowie for the second of its series of A.G.F. firing tests, the California desert with its natural range potentialities.



The Division Artillery Staff, left to right, includes Capt. Jerald J. Hartrich, Adj.; Capt. Carl P. Engelman, Asst. S-3; Colonel Philp; Lt. Col. Kelvin H. Hunter, S-3; Capt. Clifford A. Jones, S-3.

920th Field Artillery Battalion

Camp Swift, Texas, September, 1942. Twelve 105 mm. howitzers roared for the first time as the 920th Field Artillery Battalion rolled into training's high gear.

Commanded from activation until early in 1943 by Lt. Col. Lindsay R. Wingfield, the 920th is now commanded by Lt. Col. E. G. Hickman, won top 95th Division Artillery honors in the first of the A.G.F. tests given at the Leon Springs Military Reservation.

The artillery member of the 377th combat team, the 920th is one of the division's three battalions of light howitzers, will front the medium weapons of the 360th Field Artillery Battalion in combat.



LT. COL. EDWIN G. HICKMAN
Commanding



358th Field Artillery Battalion

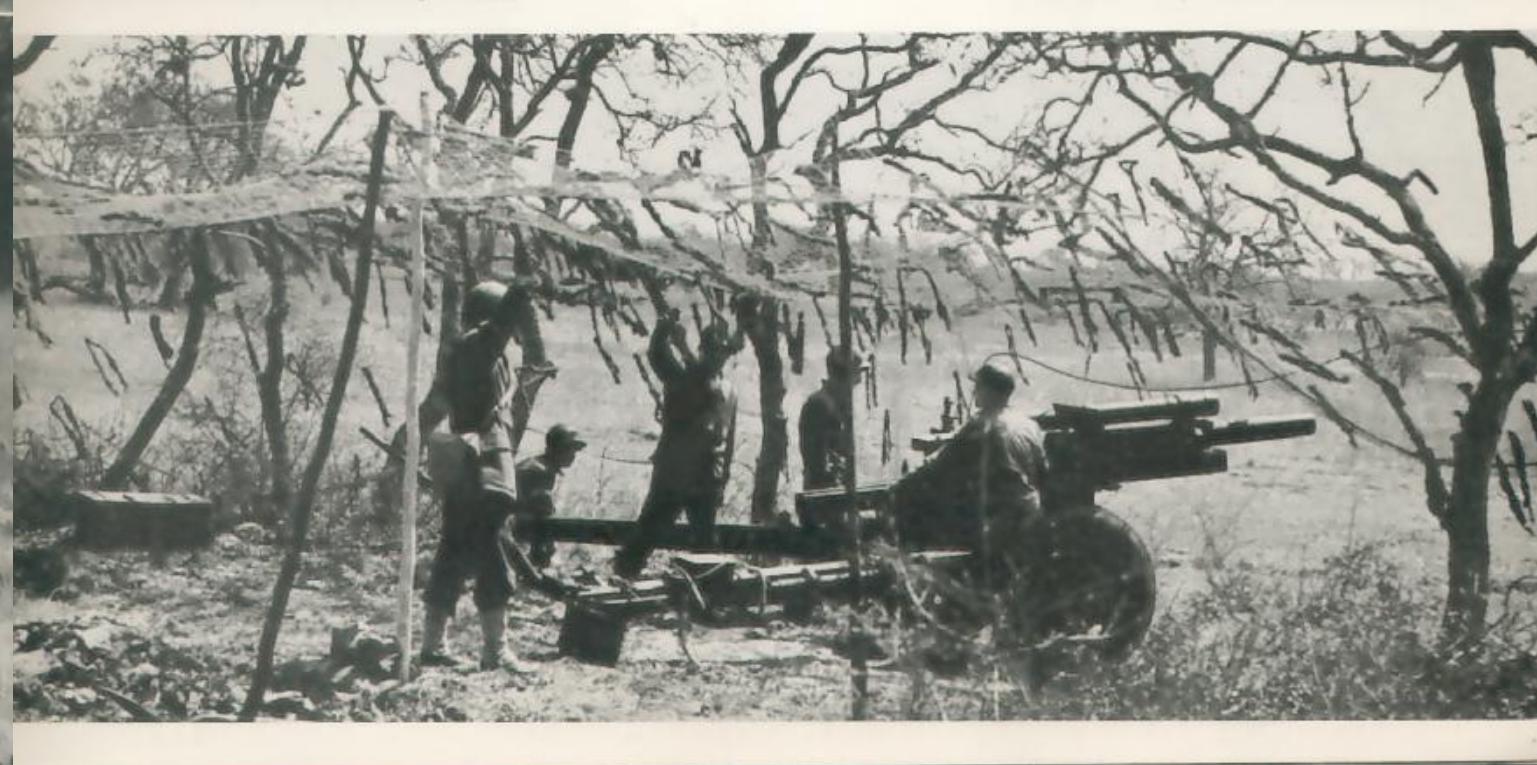
Originally organized in June, 1921, as the 358th Field Artillery Regiment, an organized reserve unit, the 358th Field Artillery Battalion became such at the 95th Division's activation in 1942, with Lt. Col. Edward O. Hopkins in command.

Late in September, 1942, Sgt. Woodrow Spears fired the first round of 105 mm. ammunition. Basic training was completed and the unit was under way with its artillery training which would eventually make of it a combat organization.

During the middle of the Louisiana maneuvers, Lt. Col. Alexander R. Sewall, veteran of Guadalcanal fighting, became commander of the 358th, replacing Colonel Hopkins who had left the division earlier.



LT. COL. ALEXANDER R. SEWALL
Commanding





360th Field Artillery Battalion

"There go the big guns!" That's the comment from the average 95th trooper when he sees the 155 mm. howitzers of the 360th Field Artillery Battalion roll by.

As far as the 95th is concerned, the comment is correct. The 360th's weapons are the biggest guns in the division, weigh four and a half tons, throw a hundred-pound high explosive shell more than 10,000 yards. But the "heavies" of the division are technically known as the "mediums."

Served by a ten-man crew, the 155's are towed by four-ton prime movers, are man-handled by the crew as far as the direction of the piece and minor adjustments are concerned. Normally the mission of the 155's is to provide general support for the Division as a whole and reinforcement of the fire of the light battalions. A favorite mission is counterbattery fire on the hostile artillery.

Originally commanded by Lt. Col. Henry P. Gantt, the 360th is now the command of Lt. Col. Walter F. Ulmer.



LT. COL. WALTER F. ULMER
Commanding



359th Field Artillery Battalion

Like all of the divisional units, the 359th Field Artillery Battalion was activated at Camp Swift, Texas, in mid-July of 1942, has seen three permanent changes of station, successfully completed the "Battle of Bullis" and the Louisiana maneuvers, came to the California desert to polish off its combat training.

There is little that concerns one battalion of the 95th's artillery that does not concern them all. They all went through the rigors of the A.G.F. battalion tests at Bullis and Camp Bowie, they all went through the norm of an artillery battalion's pre-combat training.

Mid-way in the division stay at Camp Polk, Lt. Col. Roy A. Carter, 359th commander since activation, left the division, was followed by Maj. Edward W. Watkins as commanding officer.



MAJ. EDWARD W. WATKINS
Commanding



320th Engineer Battalion

Remember the Camp Swift obstacle course, the assault tactics at Bullis, the field work of the improvised river crossing tactics at Seguin, the mine field school at Camp Polk, the combat villages "Brantown" and "Kuhreville"?

The 320th Engineer Battalion built them all, operated most of them.

The prime combat mission of the 320th Engineers is two-fold. The unit is charged with facilitating the advance of division combat troops, and that task applies to the enemy, in reverse, as it is the engineer's job to impede in every way possible the advance of the opposing forces.

Currently commanded by Lt. Col. James I. Crowther, who has headed the 320th Engineers since late in 1942, the unit was first commanded by Lt. Col. Leland B. Kuhre.

The French "Essayons" is the motto of the battalion, translates to "Let Us Try."



LT. COL. JAMES I. CROWTHER
Commanding



320th Medical Battalion

The only unit in the 95th Division which is entirely unarmed, by international law, the 320th Medical Battalion is a unit which has been important to division personnel throughout the 95th's history and will increase in importance a hundred-fold in combat.

Technically known as a second echelon medical service unit, the division's medical battalion is itself echeloned into three tiers. At the top is the Headquarters Detachment, responsible for medical supply to all units of the division.

Next in line is the Clearing Company whose function is to receive, treat, hospitalize and evacuate where necessary all division casualties. The three collecting companies are attached in a fire-fight to the division's three combat teams where they collect casualties, treat and evacuate them to the Clearing Company.

Originally commanded by Lt. Col. Nonie W. Gable, the unit is now headed by Lt. Col. Max W. Carver.



LT. COL. MAX W. CARVER
Commanding



Special Troops

Special Troops, as such, is a new thing to the army. To pin one mission on Special Troops is difficult, the components of the unit being both service and combat organizations.

The Special Troops setup is not a large one from a personnel standpoint, but the unit accomplishes a vast task. In a word, it feeds and clothes a small city; it provides that city—a city at war—with the munitions, weapons, vehicles and parallel items and keeps this equipment in repair; it operates a multi-system communications network of radio, telephone and teletype. In addition, it supplies the city with one of its combat units, the unit which is the first to seek out the enemy.

The makeup of 95th Division Special Troops includes Division Headquarters Company, 95th Signal Company, 95th Quartermaster Company, 95th Reconnaissance Troop and 795 Ordnance (L. M.) Company. But Division Special Troops has no training mission, acts purely in an administrative capacity, bringing under one head the personnel work of the division's separate companies.

Commanded by Maj. James L. Newton, Special Troops is also charged with the administration of the Military Police Platoon and the Division Band.

The units themselves vary widely in their training and combat functions. Division Headquarters Company brings under one command all the enlisted personnel which make up Division Headquarters.

The 95th Signal Company is responsible for all of the 95th's communications. The unit which feeds and clothes the division is the 95th Quartermaster Company. The 95th Reconnaissance Troop, the division's combat "eyes," is the unit which will ordinarily make first contact with the enemy.

The 795th Ordnance Company is the organization which is responsible for all of the division's vehicles, weapons and their repair and maintenance.



MAJ. JAMES L. NEWTON
Commanding



95th Signal Company



95th Quartermaster Company



95th Reconnaissance Troop



795th Ordnance Company

The Virtual Museum of the 95th Infantry Division
www.ironmenofmetz.new.fr



The soldier-loaded convoys rolled up alongside the endless steel tracks. The men fell out of the trucks and with rifles slung, barracks bags thrown over shoulders, boarded another troop train. The whole business was done quickly and orderly. The 95th was on the move again—and the division had moved enough in the past that the men knew exactly what to do.

Maybe it'll be the next move, or the move after that, but one day which isn't too much in the future, the 95th will take its last train ride—to a port of embarkation. That's the goal; that's what all the training has been for—a prelude to the battles to come. Yes, a prelude to the return to the American way of things.