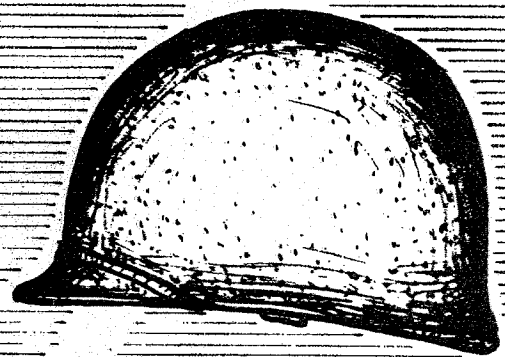
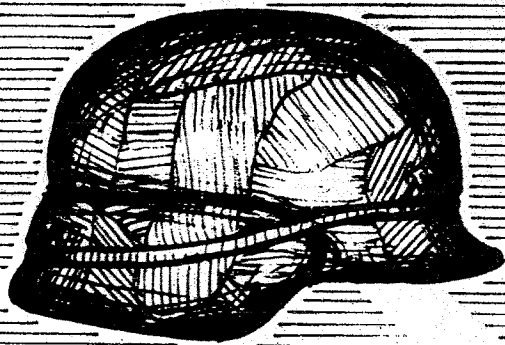
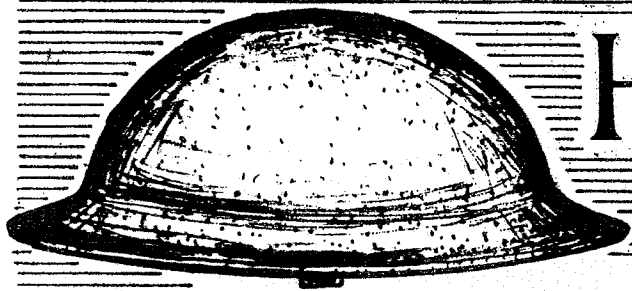


THE TRIDENT HERITAGE



A Brief
History of the
97th Infantry Division
and the
97th U.S. Army Reserve Command



Commanding Officers 1918-1989

World War I

Colonel Carl A. Martin
Brigadier General James R. Lindsay

September 1918 - October 1918
October 1918 - December 1918

World War II

Major General Louis A. Craig
Brigadier General Milton B. Halsey
Major General Herman F. Kramer

February 1943 - January 1944
January 1944 - September 1945
September 1945 - March 1946

ARCOM Years *

Major General Rowland F. Kirks
Brigadier General Ivan A. Reitz
Major General Benjamin L. Hunton
Brigadier General John H. Pigman
Brigadier General Edwin F. Dosek
Major General Henry W. Meetze
Major General Wayne P. Jackson
Major General Roger R. Blunt
Major General Joseph G. Gray
Brigadier General John S. Guthrie, Jr.

December 1967 - July 1970
December 1970 - July 1972
November 1972 - September 1977
November 1977 - February 1978
February 1978 - February 1979
February 1979 - April 1981
April 1981 - April 1984
April 1984 - February 1986
February 1986 - May 1989
May 1989 -

* Periods under acting commanders not included.

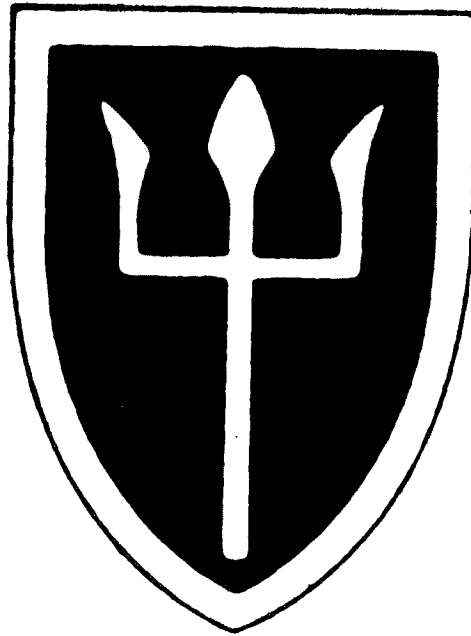


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To "Sgt. Shingleton"
 From Harold Heglin
 Co S 3rd
 1st Platoon
 Nov. 1992



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 97TH UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
MAJOR GENERAL DE KALB USAR CENTER
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5340

June 14, 1989

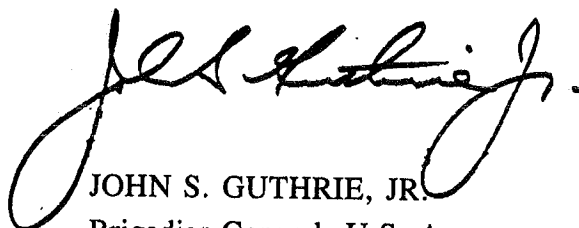
A Message from the Commanding General

Today, as we celebrate the 214th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army, I want to encourage the soldiers of the 97th Army Reserve Command to learn more about our military heritage.

A general knowledge of American military history and the history of this command is an important element of professional development. We who serve under the Trident flag should know the history of our unit.

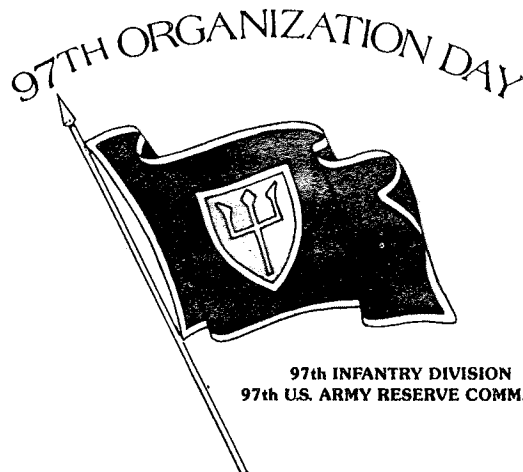
This booklet, which was prepared as a part of the 1988 Organization Day program, provides an overview of the history of the 97th Infantry Division and ARCOM. It enables today's citizen-soldiers who wear the Trident patch to gain a better understanding of the challenges and accomplishments of their predecessors. Some of the highlights of the history of the 97th include: the activation of the division during the last months of World War I, the impact of the deadly influenza epidemic of 1918, reactivation in 1943, the Louisiana Maneuvers, amphibious training, the battle of the Ruhr Pocket, the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Private First Class Joe R. Hastings, the liberation of Flossenburg Concentration Camp, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, occupation duties in Japan, the establishment of the 97th ARCOM, the challenges of the Vietnam War period, expansion and modernization in the 1970's and 1980's, and the 1988 Organization Day celebration. Other interesting and dramatic events are also discussed in this brief account.

An understanding of history, tradition, and past achievements can have a very positive influence on a unit's present and future performance. We of the 97th Army Reserve Command owe it to ourselves to acquire an appreciation of our Trident heritage.



JOHN S. GUTHRIE, JR.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

MG (Ret) Milton B. Halsey
Chairman
The Honorable Thomas K. Turnage
The Honorable William Donald Schaefer
The Honorable Ralph W. Yarborough
MG (Ret) George S. Patton III
Mr. Mort Walker
MG Joseph G. Gray



MG (Ret) Frank H. Partridge
BG (Ret) Sherman V. Hasbrouck
BG (Ret) Edwin F. Dosek
MG Henry W. Meetze
MG (Ret) Wayne P. Jackson
MG (Ret) Roger R. Blunt

September 10, 1988

Organization Day Message

Organization Day is an appropriate occasion to reflect not only upon the future of the 97th United States Army Reserve Command, but also upon its rich heritage. The purpose of this booklet is to provide an overview of the history of the 97th Infantry Division and ARCOM.

The 97th Infantry Division was first activated on September 5, 1918. This week we observed the 70th anniversary of its establishment. The history of the 97th during the World War I and World War II periods and the ARCOM years is interesting, instructive, and inspirational, particularly for those soldiers and veterans who have had the honor of wearing the Trident patch. It provides numerous insights into the challenges of preparedness, combat, leadership, and training. Also it is the story of the dedication, determination, imagination, sacrifice, heroism, and hard work of thousands of men and women. As this brief history reveals, the veterans of the Division, and present and past members of the ARCOM can be proud of their contribution to our nation's security.

Organization Day 1988 is a unique event, bringing hundreds of 97th Infantry Division veterans and their families to Fort Meade as the honored guests at the dedication of the new 97th ARCOM Headquarters building and a retreat parade. Never in the postwar era has there been such a reunion under the Trident flag. In a symbolic sense, the Trident is the link between the past and the present, between the Division and the ARCOM, between the veteran and the reservist. The Trident is a special symbol of a common historical experience: that of the citizen-soldier answering his country's call.

It is important that the soldiers of today's ARCOM appreciate the rich legacy inherited from those who served in the Division. It is equally important that the veterans of the 97th Infantry Division know that their legacy is in good hands, that our ARCOM proudly and capably carries on their tradition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph G. Gray".

Joseph G. Gray
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 97th INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

97th INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS AND SOLDIERS OF THE 97th ARCOM

In May 1945, as the World War II commander of the 97th Infantry Division, I was proud to congratulate you division veterans publicly for your loyalty, courage, initiative and determination in combat. We had just completed the war in Europe, and the Trident Division was redeploying to the Pacific Theater of Operations. Behind us lay the battles of the Ruhr Pocket and the Czechoslovakian campaign. Ahead of us lay the uncertainties of war in the Pacific against a different foe. Your stateside preparations for war and your valor and determination in combat in Europe had never slackened, and the 97th Infantry Division had never faltered, so I was confident that the wearers of the Trident were ready for the next task.

Your wartime accomplishments and your high standards of performance are a credit to each of you individually and to the 97th Infantry Division, and they are worthy of emulation by new generations of Americans who serve today in the 97th United States Army Reserve Command. As I look back over the past 43 years, I am proud to have had the privilege of leading soldiers of the 97th Infantry Division in combat.

With the passage of time, the memories of World War II are fading, and you veterans of that great conflict have achieved fame and successes in other fields and in other places. The soldiers of today's 97th United States Army Reserve Command have picked up the torch passed to them by you gallant veterans of the 97th Infantry Division and have carried it forward proudly to new heights in the face of new, complex and difficult challenges. I am proud of today's Reserve soldiers. I have full confidence in the ability of the young men and women who now wear the Trident insignia to meet these new challenges and accomplish whatever tasks are assigned just as you veterans did over four decades ago.

I am gratified that hundreds of 97th Infantry Division veterans and their families have come to the Baltimore area for this Organization Day celebration to renew old friendships and share old memories with the present members of the 97th United States Army Reserve Command. I am sorry that I cannot be with you personally to share this special day.

What lies ahead for the wearers of the Trident, I cannot say, but I am confident that the 97th will always be ready at the right place, at the right time, with a military record of achievement that will justify the pride and loyalty of all its members--past and present.



MILTON B. HALSEY
Major General, USA (Ret.)

Introduction

This historical booklet was designed to provide veterans of the 97th Infantry Division and soldiers of the 97th United States Army Reserve Command with a greater appreciation of their military heritage. Both the veterans of World War II and the modern Reservists benefit from a better understanding of their history.

The veterans can experience a sense of pride and satisfaction reviewing the wartime achievements of the 97th Infantry Division, and gain a better perspective of their role in important events that took place nearly half a century ago. By examining the history of the Division and ARCOM, the Reservists obtain a historical perspective of the challenges, accomplishments, sacrifice, and heroism of those who came before.

Military men frequently look to the past for inspiration, wisdom, knowledge, precedents, and ideas to help resolve problems. History can be useful in developing an increased sense of unit pride, tradition, professionalism, esprit de corps, and a deeper appreciation of a heritage worthy of emulation. The men and women who now serve under the Trident flag can be proud of their history. It should serve as an inspiration and a source of strength, and thus contribute to their ability to meet the challenges of the future.

The focus of this study will be limited to a brief description of some of the most significant events in the history of the 97th Infantry Division and ARCOM. It is possible to discuss the contributions of only a few of the many outstanding officers and enlisted men who served under the Trident banner. The aim is to provide not only a historical overview, but also insights into some of the dynamic personalities who reflected the spirit of the Division and the ARCOM. In addition to the narrative, several documents are included to help achieve this goal.

V. Bruce Hirshauer, Ph.D.
Major, AGC, USAR
97th ARCOM Historian

The 97th Infantry Division During World War I

1918

Activated at Camp Cody, New Mexico, September 5, 1918

Inactivated at Camp Cody, New Mexico, December 22, 1918

COMMANDERS

Colonel Carl A. Martin

Brigadier General James R. Lindsay

UNITS of the 97TH INFANTRY DIVISION*

I. At Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico

Division Headquarters

194th Infantry Brigade

387th Infantry Regiment

388th Infantry Regiment

366th Machine Gun Battalion

622nd Field Signal Battalion

322nd Headquarters Train and Military Police

322nd Sanitary Train

385th Field Hospital

385th Ambulance Company

322nd Supply Train

II. At Camp Jackson, South Carolina

172nd Field Artillery Brigade

61st Field Artillery Regiment

62nd Field Artillery Regiment

63rd Field Artillery Regiment

21st Trench Mortar Battery

322nd Ammunition Train

III. The 193rd Infantry Brigade was to be organized in France. No reports were received at Camp Cody concerning this organization.

* A number of units were well below authorized strength. Some units such as the 322nd Engineer Regiment were in the preliminary stages of organization when the war ended.

The 97th Infantry Division During World War I

By the beginning of 1918 senior American military officials were keenly aware that the Allied armies in Europe were facing a manpower shortage. The massive German offensive which began in March, 1918 made the situation even more serious. War Department plans called for the training of new divisions and a replacement program that would enable the United States to send tens of thousands of additional troops to France in 1918 and 1919.

German offensive operations ground to a halt in June, 1918. The Allies struck back almost immediately. Although the German Army was on the defensive for the rest of the war, it inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing Allied forces. Because this conflict was essentially a war of attrition, there was a critical need for fresh American divisions.

The 97th Infantry Division was one of the units scheduled for activation in the latter part of 1918 and deployment to France the following year. On September 5, 1918 the Division was activated at Camp Cody, a temporary facility located in Deming, New Mexico. The principal combat units of the Division were the 193rd Infantry Brigade, the 194th Infantry Brigade, and the 172nd Field Artillery Brigade. According to War Department plans, the 194th Infantry Brigade was to be trained at Camp Cody, and the 172nd Field Artillery Brigade was to undergo initial training at Camp Jackson, South Carolina. The 193rd Infantry Brigade was to be organized in France by the Commander in Chief, American Expeditionary Forces. Over 1,000 trained officers and enlisted personnel were selected to serve as a cadre for the new division. On September 26, 1918 Colonel Carl A. Martin assumed command of the 97th Infantry Division. On the same day in France, the U.S. First Army launched the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Late September, 1918 marked the climax of the Allied offensive. The British Army attacked the Hindenburg Line, while the Americans and French attacked in the Argonne region, and a mixed Belgian, British and French force attacked in Flanders. By early October, the British Army had broken through the Hindenburg Line, and it seemed certain that an armistice or German surrender was imminent.

In October, 1918 with the end of the war in sight, over 5,000 draftees, most from Oklahoma and Minnesota, reported to Camp Cody for training. The initial instruction at Camp Cody progressed relatively well. It consisted of close order drill, physical training, marksmanship, bayonet and gas drill, and grenade throwing. At Camp Jackson the situation was different. The training program of the 172nd Field Artillery Brigade was detrimentally affected by delays in organizing subordinate units and assigning adequate numbers of officers and enlisted personnel. As late as the beginning of November the regiments had less than 50 percent of their authorized strength.

The logistical status of the 97th Infantry Division was relatively good. Substantial quantities of supplies arrived at Camp Cody in late September and throughout October. The Division received hundreds of horses and mules which were primarily used by artillery units. Horses were also a common means of transportation for Army officers during this period. Since trucks, cars and motorcycles were in short supply in the Division, a number of vehicles were ordered. It was hoped that the vehicles would arrive in November. Although there were some supply and equipment problems, the Division's assets were adequate to permit the commencement of training.

The most serious problem confronting the 97th Infantry Division in the fall of 1918 had nothing to do with personnel or equipment shortages. By late September, Colonel Martin was concerned that the 97th Infantry Division would soon face the full fury of a swift and deadly killer. The influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 was one of the most devastating scourges in history, killing over 20,000,000 people worldwide. It was estimated that more than 500,000 Americans died during the epidemic. Urban areas and military installations were particularly vulnerable to this highly contagious disease.

Colonel Martin alerted Division medical personnel to prepare for a possible crisis. On October 1, 1918 the acting division surgeon assured him that the hospital and infirmaries could be expanded to handle any emergency. Although Colonel Martin restricted furloughs and leaves in early October, a number of soldiers who were already off post visiting friends or relatives contracted influenza. They had to recover at home or in civilian hospitals. Some of these soldiers died. Despite precautions, later in the month influenza struck the Division with a vengeance. By early November the situation was critical. Over 500 soldiers contracted the disease, and many died in the hospital. More than 100 soldiers of the 97th Infantry Division lost their lives as a result of the influenza epidemic.

Military training continued during this difficult period, but on a less intense basis. Colonel Martin made every effort to ensure that instruction took place out of doors, and that overexertion and overcrowding were avoided. On October 25, 1918 Brigadier General James R. Lindsay assumed command of the Division. Colonel Martin became the chief of staff. General Lindsay endorsed the training policies established by his predecessor.

On November 11, 1918 the armistice went into effect. Soldiers throughout the Division enthusiastically rejoiced that "the war to end all wars" was over. On November 20, 1918 the War Department ordered General Lindsay to demobilize the Division which consisted of 402 officers and 7,889 enlisted men. The demobilization was carried out in a systematic manner over a period of several weeks. Discharge papers and other documents were prepared; officers and enlisted personnel were returned to civilian life; equipment and supplies were transferred from Camp Cody to permanent military facilities; and some material was sold. Demobilization was completed on December 22, 1918.

The 97th Infantry Division was in existence for only a few months at the end of World War I. The armistice terminated plans for further training and deployment overseas. With the exception of General Lindsay, Colonel Martin, and a small number of other Regular Army officers and enlisted personnel, the overwhelming majority of those who served in the 97th Infantry Division were citizen-soldiers who had answered their country's call. These soldiers conscientiously and enthusiastically trained despite serious concerns about contracting influenza. Discipline was good throughout the Division. By early November a spirit of pride and determination was beginning to manifest itself in training and other activities. A quarter of a century later these same important military qualities again emerged and became common characteristics of the 97th Infantry Division.

The 97th Infantry Division During World War II

1943-1946

Reactivated at Camp Swift, Texas, February 25, 1943

Sailed for France, February 19, 1945

Combat Service, European Theater of Operations

Occupation duty, Japan

Inactivated, March 31, 1946

COMMANDERS

Major General Louis A. Craig: February 1943

Brigadier General Milton B. Halsey: January 1944

Major General Herman F. Kramer: September 1945

CAMPAIGNS: Central Europe

TYPICAL ORGANIZATION (1944/45)

303rd Infantry Regiment

386th Infantry Regiment

387th Infantry Regiment

HHB Division Artillery

303rd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)

365th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)

389th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm)

922nd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)

97th Reconnaissance Troop, Mecz

782nd Tank Battalion (attached April 20, 1945-past May 9, 1945)

630th Tank Destroyer Battalion (attached April 18, 1945-April 20, 1945)

820th Tank Destroyer Battalion (attached April 20, 1945-past May 9, 1945)

444th AAA Auto-Wpns Battalion (attached April 20, 1945-past May 9, 1945)

542nd AAA Auto-Wpns Battalion (attached April 2, 1945-April 4, 1945)

322nd Engineer Combat Battalion

322nd Medical Battalion

97th Counter Intelligence Corps Det

Headquarters, Special Troops

Headquarters Company, 97th Infantry Division

Military Police Platoon

797th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

97th Quartermaster Company

97th Signal Company

DECORATIONS

Medal of Honor	1
Distinguished Service Cross	4
Distinguished Service Medal	1
Silver Star	109
Legion of Merit	2
Bronze Star	473
Air Medal	14
Soldier's Medal	1

BATTLE CASUALTIES

Killed in Action	188
Wounded in Action	721
Died of Wounds	26

Data based on official
records through March, 1946

The 97th Infantry Division During World War II

As a result of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the German and Italian declarations of war on the United States four days later, American military officials were confronted with the difficult task of fighting a war on two fronts. The War Department commenced a program of enlarging the Armed Forces as rapidly as possible. Army planners estimated that the war probably would require 100 divisions. These divisions would consist of citizen-soldiers led by officers from the Regular Army, the Officers' Reserve Corps, the National Guard, or the Officer Candidate School program. During 1942 and the early part of 1943, Organized Reserve divisions were called to active duty as soon as training facilities, personnel, supplies and equipment became available.

The 97th Infantry Division was reactivated on February 25, 1943 at Camp Swift, Texas. The Trident Division's first commander during World War II was Major General Louis A. Craig, brother of former Army Chief of Staff, General Malin Craig. The cadre consisted of over 600 trained officers and enlisted personnel, most of whom came from the 95th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After completing basic training at Camp Swift, the Division participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers during the fall and winter of 1943-1944. This grueling training in the bayous, swamplands, and burned-out stump forests of Louisiana increased the stamina of the soldiers and strengthened their military skills. The weather that winter was terrible. The sleet, rain and snow turned dirt roads into quagmires. The Christmas services under leaden December skies were long remembered by the soldiers of the Division. The Louisiana Maneuver area served as a proving ground. During those four months, the men of the Division learned to sleep on the ground, live in wet clothes, and value comradeship, but above all, they became tough and proficient soldiers.

On January 23, 1944 Brigadier General Milton B. Halsey assumed command of the 97th Infantry Division. He became the only general to command the Trident Division in combat. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in April, 1917 he served with troops on the Mexican border and saw service overseas during World War I. Some of General Halsey's important prewar assignments included service on the War Department General Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Supply and Personnel for the 8th Corps Area, and Chief of Staff of the 29th Infantry Division. General Halsey went on to lead the 97th Infantry Division through two phases of training, overseas movement, and two major campaigns in the European Theater of Operations. He was considered congenial but firm, and also dynamic, yet cool and levelheaded under pressure. He placed great emphasis on discipline, training and professionalism. Throughout the Division the "Old Man" became known for his genuine personal interest in the soldiers who wore the Trident patch.

Because of his exceptional military competence and concern for his men, General Halsey was seen by his troops as a leader who could accomplish a mission with minimum bloodshed. Because of his success during the training phases and combat operations in Europe, General Halsey has a unique place in the history of the 97th Infantry Division.

In February, 1944 the Division was moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for additional training. While at Fort Leonard Wood, the Division was inspected by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, accompanied by Congressman Dewey M. Short of Missouri. Mr. Patterson and Congressman Short spent the day observing and participating in training and reviewing the 97th Infantry Division at its first formal review on the post. Both gentlemen were very favorably impressed by the Division's training record and overall performance.

War Department officials decided that the 97th would receive amphibious training and then be sent to the Pacific for operations against the Japanese. In July, 1944 the Division relocated to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, near Morro Bay and Pismo Beach. Under the supervision of the Navy and Marine Corps, the Division began training for amphibious operations. Realistic amphibious training and exercises took place at Camp Callan, Coronado Strand, San Clemente Island, San Nicolas Island and Camp Pendleton. In September, 1944 the 97th was transferred to Camp Cooke, California, situated directly on the Pacific Ocean, about 30 miles north of Santa Barbara. At this location, instructors from the Navy and Marine Corps provided further amphibious training. Units of the Division became skillful in amphibious landings and the establishment of beachheads. By the end of 1944, the Trident Division had been training for a period of almost two years, and was in a relatively high state of readiness.

Although the 97th was one of the best trained divisions in the Army, it had to deal with the problem of having substantial numbers of its soldiers transferred to other units. For example, in 1944 approximately 5,000 soldiers were "stripped" from the Division while it was undergoing training at Fort Leonard Wood. Some of these men were sent as far away as the China-Burma-India Theater where they were assigned to Merrill's Marauders, an American unit that fought remarkably well against the Japanese in the jungles of Burma. However, most of the soldiers transferred from the Division went to Europe. The "stripping" process had a negative effect on strength levels, morale, and military effectiveness.

These problems were overcome to a certain extent by the high quality of many of the replacements and additional training. In 1943 the War Department had tens of thousands of highly intelligent enlisted personnel participating in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) and aviation cadet training. Soldiers in the ASTP studied engineering, communications, optics, and other subjects at colleges and universities before reporting to their units.

Aviation cadets were trained to become fliers or serve in technical and mechanical positions. Because of manpower shortages, the War Department in 1944 dissolved the ASTP and drastically curtailed the aviation cadet training program. Over 73,000 ASTP trainees and 24,000 aviation cadets were assigned to the Army Ground Forces. The 97th Infantry Division was fortunate that many of its replacements came from these sources of high-quality personnel.

In the fall of 1944, while undergoing amphibious training in California, the Division was notified that it would be sent to the Far East in December. The men of the 97th began preparations for overseas movement. The War Department later changed the embarkation date to early January 1945. In the middle of December, these plans were abruptly altered. On December 16, 1944 in an attempt to cut the Allied Forces in two, the German Army launched a massive offensive through Belgium's Ardennes Forest. This offensive became known as the Battle of the Bulge because of the large bulge in the front lines. By the middle of January, American units had retaken most of the ground they had lost, but suffered approximately 75,000 casualties. Because of the high number of American casualties during the Battle of the Bulge, several American units earmarked for the Pacific, including the 97th Infantry Division, were ordered to the European Theater of Operations for the final assault on Nazi Germany.

The Division traveled to the east coast by train, arriving on February 13, 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. On February 19, about 14,000 men of the 97th Infantry Division departed from New York in a large convoy of ships. German submarines were still operating in the Atlantic Ocean. On several occasions during the voyage, destroyers had to drop depth charges in order to prevent enemy submarines from attacking the convoy. On March 1, the Division arrived at Le Havre, France and proceeded to a nearby staging area called Camp Lucky Strike. The 97th left Camp Lucky Strike on March 27. On the following day the Division crossed the German border a few miles west of Aachen. A short time later it passed through the streets of that battered city. In early April, the Trident Division became involved in a major offensive operation in the Ruhr area.

Although the industrial importance of the Ruhr had been greatly diminished by heavy bombing raids in early 1945, Army Group B, consisting of about 350,000 German soldiers, still defended the region as the American forces approached. The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket was one of the last major battles of World War II. Over 825,000 American and German soldiers fought in the Ruhr. Three American Armies (the First, the Ninth, and the Fifteenth) were involved in the liquidation of the Ruhr pocket. Seventeen American divisions, including the 97th, fought in this battle which took place during the period from April 1, when the pocket was closed by the junction of the First and Ninth Armies in the vicinity of Lippstadt, to April 19, when the last resistance took place near the Ruhr River. After the battle was over, more than 325,000 Germans, including 30 general officers, were prisoners of war. The senior German commander in the Ruhr pocket, Field Marshal Walther Model, reportedly committed suicide rather than surrender. With the defeat of Army Group B, Germany lost control of the war, and from that time on was only able to offer token opposition to the advancing Allied forces.

During the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket, American infantrymen faced several levels of enemy resistance. Sometimes the Germans offered only slight or token opposition and then quickly surrendered. Advancing American units frequently encountered moderate and stiff resistance prior to enemy capitulation. SS troops, members of an elite military unit of the Nazi party, usually fought to the death.

Combat operations in the Ruhr took place in cities, villages, forests, and hilly and level rural areas. American infantrymen had to be prepared to cross rivers and canals quickly and fight in all types of terrain. The Germans did not resort to trench warfare or a solid defense line in the Ruhr. They used a strongpoint system of defense. These fortified positions were made more formidable by the presence of 88mm guns. The German 88mm gun was the single most famous artillery piece used in World War II. These guns were very effective as anti-aircraft, anti-tank, and anti-personnel weapons. Because the Ruhr had been a prime target of Allied bombers, many 88mm guns were located throughout the area. The strongpoint defense system was designed to enable the Germans to pull back from one strongpoint to another, and then inflict heavy casualties on the attacking forces. Generally, the enemy fought a careful and often skillful delaying action. The effective use of strongpoints, the 88mm guns, and understrength but veteran infantry units, and the presence of SS troops help explain why some American units sustained relatively high casualties. The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket was not a simple and easy mopping-up operation.

The 97th Infantry Division's first assignment in Germany was to occupy defensive positions along the western bank of the Rhine River opposite Dusseldorf. While in this location, Division infantrymen were involved in small unit actions with German patrols. A few Nazi soldiers were killed or captured. The Division Artillery Commander was Brigadier General Sherman V. Hasbrouck, a 1920 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. His four field artillery battalions, the 303rd, 365th, 389th, and 922nd, fired across the Rhine destroying gun emplacements, road junctions, and military installations. The 97th was soon on the move to join other divisions involved in the early phase of the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket.

The Division moved south, crossing the Rhine near Bonn. Its mission was to establish defensive positions on the southern bank of the Sieg River which runs at a right angle to the Rhine, and be prepared for offensive operations. Along the southern bank of the Sieg River to the right of the 97th were the 78th, 8th, and 86th Infantry Divisions. The 13th Armored Division was in reserve and would be committed once the terrain was suitable. These divisions formed the XVIII Airborne Corps which was commanded by Major General Matthew B. Ridgway, a 1917 graduate of the United States Military Academy. General Ridgway and General Halsey were classmates at West Point.

On the northern bank of the Sieg River, XVIII Corps faced understrength elements of four German divisions identified as the 59th, 62nd, 363rd, and 11th Panzer Divisions. More than a dozen additional enemy divisions, most of them understrength, were also trapped in the Ruhr pocket. Located throughout the pocket were elements of many types of enemy units including airborne, armored, SS, anti-aircraft, etc. The mission of XVIII Corps, and III Corps to the east, was to clear all territory south of the Ruhr River. The mission of the 97th Infantry Division was to cross the Sieg River in coordination with the other infantry divisions of the XVIII Corps and attack north toward Dusseldorf.

On April 6 at 5:00 o'clock a.m., the Corps launched its attack across the Sieg River. The 97th Infantry Division on the left and the 86th on the right maintained their defensive positions as the veteran 8th and 78th Divisions crossed the river in assault boats and established positions on the northern bank. The next day all four divisions were on the move.

In the 97th Infantry Division's sector, bridges across the Sieg River had been destroyed or seriously damaged. Initially, engineer assault boats had to be used by the infantry to cross the river. At 11:00 o'clock a.m. on April 7, all four field artillery battalions began a one-hour bombardment of enemy positions on the northern bank. The supporting fire made it possible for units of the 386th Infantry Regiment (Combat Team) to cross the river in assault boats, receiving only small arms fire. Casualties were negligible. The high level of training had paid off. During the next two days, units of the 387th and 303rd Infantry Regiments crossed the Sieg. Most units met only light resistance crossing the river. A few companies received heavy enemy fire from machine guns, mortars, and artillery. Some of the machine gun fire came from a castle on the northern bank. The castle was soon hit by mortar and artillery fire. Enemy fire from several other positions on the high ground on the northern bank continued to hit one of the crossing areas. After a vicious fight, infantry units of the 387th neutralized the enemy positions.

This action facilitated the work of the engineers. Lieutenant Colonel Erland A. Tillman, commander of the 322nd Engineer Battalion, was responsible for building an adequate number of bridges to accommodate the flow of supplies and reinforcements across the Sieg River. During the first five days of the operation, the 322nd, assisted by other engineer units, constructed five treadway bridges, two infantry support bridges, and six infantry support rafts. In addition, two seriously damaged bridges were repaired, and a damaged railroad bridge was repaired and planked.

Once across the Sieg River, the infantry regiments began their coordinated drive toward Dusseldorf. The first objective of the 303rd Infantry Regiment was clearing enemy units from the city of Siegburg, located near the northern bank of the Sieg River. The artillery began the operation by firing on suspected German positions in the city. Units of the 303rd entered Siegburg on April 9 and initially encountered only very light resistance.

As the 97th prepared for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, Flossenburg concentration camp was discovered in the Division's sector of the Bavarian forest. Established in 1937, Flossenburg was originally used for political prisoners. By World War II, it had become an important forced-labor center housing 30,000 to 40,000 worker-prisoners in the main camp and several satellite facilities. Flossenburg was operated under the supervision of SS troops. Later in the war, Flossenburg also served as a transit camp for Jews destined for extermination camps.

When American troops arrived at the gates of Flossenburg, they discovered about 2,000 extremely ill prisoners and scores of unburied corpses inside the compound. The Division rushed medical personnel to Flossenburg and initiated a preliminary war crimes investigation. Shortly before the liberation of the camp, approximately 15,000 prisoners had been force-marched to other camps. In addition to many shallow graves of prisoners shot during the forced march, American soldiers discovered mass graves in the area around Flossenburg. The Americans learned that thousands of people had died at Flossenburg from starvation, disease, and at the hands of Nazi executioners. Some prominent individuals were murdered at this camp. For example, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a well-known Lutheran clergyman and outspoken anti-Nazi, was executed at Flossenburg about a week before the arrival of American troops. General Hasbrouck, the first senior American military officer to arrive at the camp, was shocked by what he saw and learned. The general, who spoke German fluently, directed a local official to have all able-bodied men and older boys help bury the dead. Photographs, transcripts of interviews, and other evidence of war crimes were collected and forwarded to appropriate military authorities. In the spring of 1945, Allied soldiers liberated numerous other Nazi concentration camps. Allied soldiers and the people of the world were beginning to understand the magnitude of the atrocities committed during the period of the Third Reich.

On April 25, regiments of the 97th Infantry Division, supported by armored units, invaded Czechoslovakia and advanced toward Cheb. Division headquarters, however, remained on the German border. Intelligence reports indicated that the 97th might encounter elements of the 2nd Panzer Division, which by coincidence also had a Trident as its insignia. Some units of the 97th met only light opposition while others advanced against considerable resistance including 88s, minefields, small arms fire, roadblocks and booby traps. The effective use of infantry, artillery, armor, and engineers forced the enemy to retreat eastward. Nine hours after the attack began, units of the 97th were in Cheb. The enemy garrison had withdrawn to the east. Only snipers and a few small units remained in Cheb. Most of these enemy soldiers escaped during the night. On April 26, all resistance in the city ceased. Cheb was the first Czechoslovakian city liberated by American forces. On April 28, units of the 387th Infantry Regiment, supported by artillery and armor, attacked and secured the Cheb airport. More than 600 prisoners were taken in a brief engagement. American casualties were very light.

Division units on April 29 were ordered to shift a few miles southwest to the area near Weiden, Germany. On April 30, the Trident Division came under the control of V Corps. The broad mission remained the protection of the left flank of the Third Army. Corps plans called for a coordinated infantry and armored attack toward Pilsen, and anticipated eventual contact with the advancing Russian forces. By late April, German resistance was disintegrating throughout Europe. In early May, Russian forces were in control of Berlin; Hitler was reported dead. In this setting, V Corps began its attack.

The 97th had the 1st Infantry Division on its left flank and the 2nd Infantry Division on its right. The Trident Division's drive to Pilsen, which began on May 5, encountered very little resistance. Fearing harsh treatment at the hands of the Russians, German soldiers surrendered in large numbers to American units. More than 10,000 prisoners were taken by the 97th during the first fourteen hours of the assault. The Division drove deeply into Czechoslovakia halting northwest of Pilsen. General Halsey had the Division headquarters moved to Tachov. The 97th became the first American division to establish a command post in Czechoslovakia. The command post was later moved further east to Konstantinovy Lazne. Acting on orders from V Corps, the 16th Armored Division passed through the lines of the 97th Infantry Division and entered Pilsen on May 6 as liberators. Some units of the 97th also went into the city later that day.

On May 7, all American units were directed to halt offensive operations pending announcement that the war in Europe was officially ended. Although there were violations, both sides observed a general cease-fire. On the same day Lieutenant General Karl Weisenberger, commander of the German XIII Corps, formally surrendered at the headquarters of the 97th Infantry Division after preliminary arrangements had been made by Colonel William D. Long, commander of the 387th Infantry Regiment. General Weisenberger had learned from his intelligence sources that General Hasbrouck spoke German, and asked to meet with him. In a brief conversation, the enemy commander complimented General Hasbrouck on the discipline and other professional qualities of his troops. On Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, May 8, contact was made with a Russian patrol several miles north of Pilsen near the town of Zlutice.

Soldiers of the 97th Infantry Division were involved in some of the last hostile actions to take place in the European Theater of Operations. For example, Private First Class Dominic Mazzeta of Company B, 387th Infantry Regiment, fired at a German sniper in the woods near Klenovic, Czechoslovakia shortly before midnight on May 7, 1945. Another incident took place on V-E Day. As the men of the Trident Division waited for the official announcement that the war in Europe was over, a lone German fighter plane swooped down and strafed the command post of the 3rd Battalion, 303rd Infantry Regiment. The defensive fire against this plane was among the last official combat actions in the European conflict.

On V-E Day, religious services were conducted throughout the 97th Infantry Division area. General Halsey issued the following statement:

Victory in Europe has been attained and the cloud of Nazi oppression has been lifted forever. It is with a very real sense of pride and joy, and deepest sincerity, that I, as commander of the 97th Trident Division, congratulate you, the men of this organization, for your loyalty, courage, initiative and determination in combat. Your accomplishments and your high standards are a credit to yourselves and to your organization.

Though the combat history of this division has been relatively short, the part we played in bringing about the downfall of German forces on all fronts has been of utmost importance. You, as members of the division, can look back for many years and say, "The Trident was on the march when the bell rang."

Even as we rejoice in victory, however, there is sadness in our hearts, for the road through the Ruhr Pocket and into Czechoslovakia is marked by crosses bearing the names of our comrades who valiantly and unselfishly gave their lives that the cause of freedom might endure and flourish.

We thank the merciful Almighty God for the victory He has given us in Europe. Let us remember Him. On Sunday, May 13, 1945, let us join the millions of thankful people the world over in worship.

In our hearts we pray that God will remain with us in the tasks that lie ahead, for the division as a unit and for each and every one of us as individuals. What lies ahead for the wearers of the Trident, I cannot say, but the Trident Division will be at the right place, at the right time, and with a military record that justifies the pride and loyalty of all its members.

Various units of the 97th held special memorial services after V-E Day to honor men killed in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The Division remained in postwar Czechoslovakia for a few days, and then was ordered back to Germany. On May 15, the Division command post was established in an old castle at Memmelsdorf in the vicinity of Bamberg. The soldiers of the Division learned that they would soon be ordered back to the United States, given thirty-day furloughs, and then sent to the Pacific to participate in the invasion of the Japanese home islands. In late May, the men of the Trident Division traveled by truck convoy to Camp Old Gold located near Yerville, France. In the middle of June, the 97th shipped out of Le Havre on the *Brazil* and several other troopships. In the latter part of June, the Trident Division arrived in New York, received a grand welcome from the fireboats and the civilian populace, and proceeded by train to Camp Shanks, near Nyack, New York. The soldiers then received thirty-day furloughs.

The officers and enlisted men of the 97th Infantry Division reassembled at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, during the first few days of August. At Fort Bragg soldiers prepared baggage and equipment for travel to Fort Lawton, Washington. They received orientation for duty in the Pacific and a very limited amount of training. On August 6, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, Nagasaki became the target of the second atomic bomb. Within a few days, Japan surrendered. For the soldiers of the Trident Division, Victory over Japan (V-J) Day, August 15, was an occasion for great rejoicing. If the soldiers of the 97th had to go to Japan, it was better to go as an occupation force. On August 19, units began to leave Fort Bragg for the west coast. It took about a week for the troop trains to cross the country. In late August and early September, units of the 97th Infantry Division left Fort Lawton, boarded ships in Seattle, and sailed for Japan. On September 2, while some units were preparing to leave Seattle, the Japanese formally surrendered on the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

The Trident Division served as part of the occupation forces in Japan from the latter part of September 1945, through the end of March 1946, when it was inactivated. Major General Herman F. Kramer was the commander of the 97th during this period. After leaving the Division, General Halsey went on to serve successfully in other assignments. Halsey received the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his achievements as the wartime commander of the 97th Infantry Division. Before assuming command of the 97th on September 17, 1945, General Kramer had commanded the 66th Infantry Division and served as the military governor of Coblenz, Germany. General Kramer was fortunate to have Brigadier General Frank H. Partridge as the assistant division commander. General Partridge, an officer with extensive military experience, was the only individual to serve in this position during the training, combat, and occupation periods. Because of his experience, leadership ability, and very likeable personality, Partridge was an asset to Craig, Halsey, and Kramer. Because he had been with the Division since the days at Camp Swift, Partridge was a valuable source of information and provided a sense of continuity to the command.

General Kramer and some elements of the Division arrived at Yokohama on September 24, 1945. The Division command post opened the following day at Miizugahara Airfield, located about sixty miles northwest of Tokyo. The 97th was assigned to XI Corps of the Eighth Army. Disposition of the Division's units for occupation duty began gradually, and by December the 97th had reached its maximum deployment. Units of the Division occupied six prefectures or provinces: Saitama, Gumma, Niigata, Nagano, Fukushima, and Tochigi. The terrain in the prefectures varied from rugged mountains to flat plains. The Trident Division was responsible for an area of more than 21,000 square miles having a population of approximately 12,000,000. This area is roughly equivalent to the land area of West Virginia. The size of the population is about equal to that of Pennsylvania.

During the occupation period, the Division's primary task was the confiscation and disposal of Japanese military weapons and equipment. Substantial quantities of small arms were collected and dumped in the ocean. Military aircraft, ammunition, and equipment were destroyed. Special teams collected and inventoried equipment, documents, and other items thought to have military intelligence value. Troops guarded Japanese military installations, airfields, railroad facilities, radio stations, and factories that had not been destroyed during the war. Food, gasoline, and clothing belonging to the Japanese military were turned over to Japanese officials for distribution to civilians. The engineers helped repair roads, bridges, school buildings, and some other public facilities. Division personnel were actively involved in humanitarian projects such as helping to provide medical treatment and food for orphans and other needy people. The 97th also located tons of silver bars and coins. These valuable assets were shipped to the Bank of Japan in Tokyo.

The Japanese people were cooperative and very respectful. During the entire initial phase of organizing the Division's occupational zones there were no incidents of resistance or sabotage. The only troublesome occurrences reported during the early months of the occupation were a few isolated attempts by individual Japanese to steal food, fuel, or clothing. These cases were dealt with immediately and firmly, and there were no undue complications. Considering the overall circumstances, the relations between the Japanese people in the six prefectures and the occupation force developed remarkably well. Vindictiveness and cruelty were absent. The 97th Infantry Division performed its occupation duties in a highly professional and frequently benevolent manner.

After the Japanese surrender, the United States rapidly demobilized. The occupation of Japan proceeded very smoothly. It became clear that a large occupation force of citizen-soldiers was not needed. There was also political pressure to bring troops home. The War Department decided to inactivate the 97th Infantry Division in Japan effective March 31, 1946. During the first three months of the new year, units and individual soldiers were ordered home and discharged. On the specified date, the Trident flag was furled and returned to the United States.

The spirit of the Trident Division during World War II can be partially grasped by understanding the character of some of the men who served in the unit and the events that dramatically affected their lives. The heroism of Hastings and Johnson at Drabenderhohe has already been described. Three other events help provide further understanding of the essential character and strength of the men who wore the Trident patch.

In the assault on the Glockner Works at Troisdorf, one platoon was immediately cut off as it entered a building in the factory complex. A firefight developed in which several soldiers of the platoon were killed or wounded. The platoon's position was untenable. For Sergeant Leslie Fishman, the solution to the problem was obvious: the Germans should surrender.

Sergeant Fishman and Second Lieutenant David W. Christianson, a company officer who was cut off with the platoon, persuaded Nazi soldiers to lead them to the officer in charge. While admitting that they were hopelessly surrounded, Fishman and Christianson warned the enemy officer that an American battalion would soon be in position to attack the Glockner Works and that the wisest course of action would be for the Germans to surrender immediately. Within a short period of time, six German officers and 170 enlisted men were prisoners of Lieutenant Christianson and Sergeant Fishman. The courage, initiative, and determination illustrated by this example were attributes of many of the men in the Division.

The second incident provides insight into the fine relationship, particularly the sense of loyalty, that existed between General Hasbrouck and his enlisted personnel. During the operations against Cheb, General Hasbrouck came forward in his jeep with his aide to observe an artillery bombardment. He and his aide left the jeep and set out on foot for the high ground for a better view. Although the general did not know it, there were German patrols in the area. After observing the bombardment, the general returned to find his driver, Private First Class Leslie I. Brooke, and vehicle had disappeared. At this time the general and his aide came under fire from a German patrol. General Hasbrouck and his aide defended themselves with their pistols, and sensibly withdrew toward an American position with the Germans in pursuit. Although they used up all their ammunition, both officers made it back safely. Determined to find out the fate of his driver, General Hasbrouck borrowed a rifle squad; returned to the contested area; located his driver's carbine; subdued a small village; and learned that his driver and vehicle had been captured and were out of reach. At the end of the war the Germans released Brooke unharmed. Commenting on this event, Colonel William D. Long, commander of the 387th Infantry Regiment, wrote, "We took pride in the fact that our division artillery commander was one of the few general officers who had ever expended his twenty-one rounds of pistol ammunition with genuinely serious intent."

The seizure of a bridge during the Ruhr operation by two members of the 322nd Engineer Battalion provided further insight into the fighting spirit of the Trident Division. Captain David P. Hale and his jeep driver, while on reconnaissance, encountered an intact Class 70 bridge. They were unaware that the bridge was defended by eighty Germans and a machine gun. As they crossed the bridge, the enemy began firing. Hale was armed only with a pistol. Twice wounded in the arm and with twenty-six bullet holes in the jeep, the driver held his course on the bridge. The jeep came to a stop on the German side of the river practically in front of the enemy machine gun position. The Germans were amazed at the unbelievable courage or unmitigated gall of the advancing American patrol and immediately surrendered. Without delay, Captain Hale put his prisoners to work clearing the bridge of previously placed demolitions. The seizure of this bridge and the two previous incidents bring into focus the human dimension of combat and the fiber of the men of the 97th Infantry Division.

The citizen-soldiers who served under the Trident banner during the World War II period performed their duties in an outstanding manner. Their training and discipline served them well in Europe and during the occupation of Japan. Although the soldiers of the 97th were in combat for only a month, they established a record to be proud of and a legacy that would endure. In Europe these men were involved in countless firefights, artillery duels, patrols, and night operations. The adversary, although on the brink of defeat, still had the capability to inflict casualties on the American forces. The relatively low casualties of the Division were due, in part, to careful planning, thorough training, and competent leadership. The substantial number of combat decorations earned in a short period of time by the soldiers of the Trident Division testified to their valor and the difficulty of their mission. The offensive operations directed against Siegburg, Troisdorf, Drabenderhohe, Leverkusen, Dusseldorf, Cheb, and Pilsen reflect the aggressive spirit, initiative, courage, determination, and the will to win that were so characteristic of the Trident Division. During its brief combat history, the 97th proved its effectiveness by capturing 48,796 prisoners and occupying more than 2,000 square miles of enemy territory. Even the senior German commander in western Czechoslovakia paid tribute to those who wore the Trident patch.

Occupation forces sometimes sow the seeds of the next war. This was not the case with the Trident Division. The occupation of the six Japanese prefectures was characterized by military professionalism and human compassion. The men of the Trident Division participated in important historical events in Europe and the Far East that helped shape the second half of the twentieth century. Their hard work, accomplishments, sacrifice, and heroism constituted a military heritage worthy of emulation.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES
takes pride in awarding the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to**

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOE R. HASTINGS
COMPANY C, 386th INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY
for service as set forth in the following**

CITATION

Private Hastings fought gallantly on 12 April 1945 during an attack against strong enemy forces defending DRABENDERHOHE, GERMANY, from dug-in positions on commanding ground. As squad leader of a light machine gun section supporting the advance of the 1st and 3rd platoons, he braved direct rifle, machine gun, 20-millimeter and mortar fire, some of which repeatedly missed him only by inches, and rushed forward over three-hundred-fifty yards of open, rolling fields to reach a position from which he could fire on the enemy troops. From this vantage point he killed the crews of a 20-millimeter gun and a machine gun, drove several enemy riflemen from their positions and so successfully shielded the 1st platoon that it had time to reorganize and remove its wounded to safety. Observing that the 3rd platoon on his right was being met by heavy 40-millimeter and machine gun fire, he ran one-hundred-fifty yards with his gun to the leading elements of that unit, where he killed the crew of the 40-millimeter gun. As spearhead of the 3rd platoon attack, he advanced firing his gun held at hip-height, disregarding the bullets that whipped past him, until the assault had carried one-hundred seventy-five yards to the objective. In this charge, he and the riflemen he led killed or wounded many of the fanatical enemy and put two machine guns out of action. Private Hastings, by his intrepidity, outstanding leadership and unrelenting determination to wipe out the formidable German opposition, cleared the path for his company's advance into DRABENDERHOHE. He was killed four days later while again supporting the 3rd platoon.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

The 97th United States Army Reserve Command, 1988

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commander</u>
Headquarters, 97th U.S. Army Reserve Command Fort George G. Meade, Maryland	Major General Joseph G. Gray
1st Special Operations Command Augmentation Detachment Fort Bragg, North Carolina	Colonel Richard L. Clark
5th Psychological Operations Group Washington, D.C.	Colonel Patrick W. Carlton
10th Military Law Center Washington, D.C.	Colonel Robert G. Mahony
11th Special Forces Group Fort George G. Meade, Maryland	Colonel Carlton A. Mallory
31st Combat Aviation Group Fort George G. Meade, Maryland	Colonel Wesley A. Beale
220th Military Police Brigade Gaithersburg, Maryland	Brigadier General Raymond E. Bell, Jr.
352nd Civil Affairs Command Riverdale, Maryland	Brigadier General John S. Guthrie, Jr.
353rd Civil Affairs Command Bronx, New York	Brigadier General Michael A. Boyd
1100th Training and Evaluation Command Fort George G. Meade, Maryland	Colonel Newell E. Quinton
1176th Transportation Terminal Unit Baltimore, Maryland	Colonel Francis W. Frank
2122nd U.S. Army Garrison Baltimore, Maryland	Colonel John A. Gauthier
2290th U.S. Army Hospital Rockville, Maryland	Brigadier General Ralph C. Slusher
8830th One Station Unit Training Brigade Fort George G. Meade, Maryland	Colonel Theodore Morris
2070th U.S. Army Reserve Forces School Fort Belvoir, Virginia	Colonel Donald P. Brown
2071st U.S. Army Reserve Forces School Owings Mills, Maryland	Colonel Edward A. King
2076th U.S. Army Reserve Forces School Wilmington, Delaware	Colonel Louis F. Sanders

The ARCOM Years

The Trident flag did not fade into history. It reappeared in 1968 as a result of a major reorganization of the reserve components. Prior to this administrative change, Army Reserve units had been under the command and control of fourteen corps headquarters, each commanded by a Regular Army general. The corps headquarters were replaced by eighteen Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) headquarters located throughout the nation. The ARCOMs were commanded by Army Reserve general officers. This change implied substantially greater responsibility for the Reserve commanders.

The mission of each ARCOM was to assure attainment and maintenance of mobilization readiness of assigned and attached units in a geographical area. The functions of the ARCOM headquarters included the appointment and evaluation of senior commanders, and the supervision and coordination of training, materiel readiness, public and troop information programs, and the preparation of unit mobilization plans. Each ARCOM was under the command of a numbered Continental U.S. Army (CONUSA). The CONUSAs were subordinate units of the Continental Army Command (CONARC) headquarters, Fort Monroe, Virginia. The ARCOMs were organized in late 1967 and the first half of 1968.

A significant factor confronting the ARCOMs from the early 1970's was the increased importance of the Army Reserve. With the end of the draft and the development of the all-volunteer force, the Army Reserve underwent a major transformation and emerged as an essential partner in the "Total Army" or "One Army" policy. This policy closely linked the missions of the active and reserve components. It meant that the Reserve would become the principal augmentation of the active force in an emergency. Military contingency plans were developed which called for the rapid deployment of Reserve units overseas to reinforce active units already in Europe or other locations. Exercises in which Army Reserve units were flown overseas to train with active forces became commonplace. Thus, in the post-Vietnam era, the responsibility of the ARCOMs became more challenging.

The 97th United States Army Reserve Command was organized on December 22, 1967 although it did not become fully operational until June 1, 1968. The headquarters of the 97th ARCOM was Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The 97th was responsible for about 120 Reserve units with a total authorized strength of more than 8,700 soldiers. The major subordinate commands (MSCs) included:

- 10th Judge Advocate General Detachment
- 170th Direct Support Group
- 220th Military Police Group
- 1176th U.S. Army Terminal
- 2122nd U.S. Army Garrison
- 11th Special Forces Group

2290th U.S. Army Hospital
2070th U.S. Army Reserve School
2071st U.S. Army Reserve School
2076th U.S. Army Reserve School
2079th U.S. Army Reserve School
2086th U.S. Army Reserve School

These units had been under the control of XXI Corps, Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania. The 97th ARCOM assumed command of the units on June 1, 1968; XXI Corps was inactivated on July 1, 1968.

The first commander of the 97th ARCOM was Major General Rowland F. Kirks, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. General Kirks was a distinguished attorney, a former university president and onetime Assistant Attorney General of the United States. When appointed to command the 97th ARCOM, he was general counsel and director of government relations for the American Textile Manufacturers Institute. During World War II, Kirks had served on the staff of the 12th Army Group. The first deputy commander of the 97th ARCOM was Colonel Eliot P.Y. Powell, a developer of residential and industrial real estate. Colonel Powell, also a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, had served on the Third Army staff during World War II. Shortly after Colonel Powell retired, the position of deputy commander was upgraded to brigadier general.

General Kirks' efforts were directed toward the following objectives: the successful transfer of responsibility from XXI Corps, the selection and development of the headquarters staff, the building of an identity as a general command headquarters, and establishing effective communications with subordinate units. He succeeded in accomplishing all of these objectives during his three years at the ARCOM.

In a special ceremony at Fort Meade on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 1968 the commanders of the six ARCOMs in the First U.S. Army Area received the colors of distinguished inactive reserve divisions from Lieutenant General Jonathan O. Seaman, First Army Commanding General. For the first time in over twenty-two years, citizen-soldiers were again serving under the Trident banner and wearing the Trident patch. The assumption of command ceremonies at Fort Meade on June 1, 1968 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the 97th.

In May, 1968, prior to the 97th ARCOM's assumption of command, four units due to come under its control were ordered to active duty. The activations were part of a call-up of some 20,000 Army Reservists. This call-up was the result of the seizure of the American intelligence ship *Pueblo* by North Korean naval forces and increased manpower needs in Vietnam. The four units were the 304th Medical Detachment (Equipment Maintenance), 313th Medical Detachment (Surgical), 472nd Medical Detachment (Ambulance) and the 889th Medical Detachment (Surgical).

Since the activation predated the assumption of command, it was handled by XXI Corps and First Army. The units remained on the 97th ARCOM roster with the notation "On Active Duty" in anticipation of their return to ARCOM control on inactivation. The 304th Medical Detachment was on active duty in the United States for more than a year. The 304th and units like it replaced active Army units that were deployed to Vietnam. The other three medical units served in Vietnam. By the latter part of 1969, all four were inactivated and returned to the control of the 97th ARCOM.

Reservists returning from Vietnam were impressed by the vitality of the new ARCOM. In June, 1969, the soldiers of the ARCOM received the first issue of the new command information newspaper entitled the "Trident". This quarterly publication contained news about ARCOM units, personnel, programs, and policies. The "Trident" became an integral part of the command's information program. For many soldiers, it was a symbol that the new ARCOM was well established. The 97th ARCOM crest or insignia, authorized in 1970 by the Army's Institute of Heraldry, indicated that the new command was keenly aware of its military heritage. The crest appears on the back cover of this booklet. The newspaper and the crest were some of the techniques used by General Kirks to establish the unique identity of the 97th ARCOM.

General Kirks and Colonel Powell were successful in organizing the 97th ARCOM into an effective operating organization. In order to achieve this goal, these officers and the members of the ARCOM staff worked many hours beyond those for which they were compensated. Many problems had to be overcome, but the end result was a job well done. When Colonel Powell retired, General Kirks presented him with the Legion of Merit. General Kirks received the Distinguished Service Medal when he retired after serving thirty-nine years in the active and reserve components. Both men have unique places in the history of the 97th ARCOM.

The controversial war in Vietnam and the dramatic social and political changes of the late 1960's and early 1970's had a definite impact on the 97th ARCOM, particularly in regard to retention and recruitment. Since very few Reserve units were sent to Vietnam, the Reserve became a haven for those trying to avoid the draft and the war. Many bright and well-educated young men enlisted in the Reserve during these years. In the mid-1970's, most of these individuals left the Reserve after fulfilling their military obligations. Recruitment and retention were the major challenges of this period. As a result of the civil rights and women's movements, large numbers of blacks and women moved into the mainstream of American society. It was vitally important that the Army Reserve recruit qualified people from these groups, as well as attract returning Vietnam veterans. The construction of new Reserve centers, particularly a new ARCOM headquarters facility, was also an important issue of the mid-1970's.

The officer who commanded the 97th ARCOM during this challenging period was Major General Benjamin L. Hunton, the first black officer to become a general in the reserve components. General Hunton, who commanded the ARCOM from 1972-1977, was a graduate of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at Howard University. During World War II he served as assistant professor of military science and tactics at his alma mater, and later as a platoon leader and company commander in the 368th Infantry. He received a Ph.D. in public administration from American University. As a civilian, he had a distinguished career holding responsible positions in the Washington, D.C. public school system, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines. Later in his career General Hunton joined the faculty of Howard University.

General Hunton assumed command of the 97th ARCOM in November 1972. During his tenure as commander, he dealt with many important developments and issues. One significant development during the mid-1970's was the transfer of a number of Reserve units to and from the ARCOM. For example, sixteen units were transferred to the 97th ARCOM in 1974 from the 310th Field Army Support Command, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. This change provided the ARCOM with more than 2,000 additional Reservists and six Reserve centers. In 1977, twenty-eight units of the 97th ARCOM were transferred to the 80th Training Division, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. This action reduced the authorized strength of the ARCOM from 11,793 to 10,006. Although these and other unit transfers directed by higher headquarters were handled in an efficient manner, they posed an administrative challenge to all commanders and staffs involved.

With the advent of the volunteer Army in 1973, General Hunton and other senior military officials clearly recognized that, for the rest of the decade, recruiting and retention would be the great challenges. Commanders and key staff officers from the principal Reserve commands in the First Army area met and discussed the need for a major recruiting effort. The end result was a recruiting program for 1974 entitled "Project 6000". General Hunton was actively involved in planning and implementing "Project 6000", a two-week recruiting effort involving all Army Reserve units in the First Army area. The 97th's efforts resulted in the addition of 1,016 new recruits. Of that number, there were 531 minority recruits, including some of the 266 females recruited during the campaign. The 97th ARCOM organized a special six month recruiting drive entitled "Operation Strength in Recruiting" (STIR) which was also a successful endeavor. By January 1975, the 97th was operating with 101.2% of authorized strength. The ARCOM had 2,495 minority personnel including some of its 751 female soldiers. Of all the Reserve commands in the First Army area, the 97th ARCOM had the highest number of females assigned. Its minority strength was also considered exemplary.

Although some of the individuals recruited during 1974 proved to be unsatisfactory and had to be separated from the service, the overall recruiting campaign was a definite success, particularly within the context of the immediate post-Vietnam period when interest in military service was minimal.

The 97th ARCOM also was fortunate at this time to attract many officers and noncommissioned officers who were Vietnam veterans. Most of these individuals had several years of active duty experience and became very effective leaders on all levels throughout the ARCOM.

General Hunton's responsibilities also involved supervision of a Reserve center construction program. During his tenure several centers were built or expanded. The most noteworthy was the new 97th ARCOM headquarters facility on Route 175. The original 97th ARCOM headquarters at Fort Meade was building T-2509, a World War II vintage facility on Ernie Pyle Street. By the mid-1970's, this building was inadequate in terms of space, presented a negative image in comparison to modern Reserve centers, and was in need of repair. Ground was broken for the new headquarters in 1974. The 400-person facility was completed and occupied in December, 1975. The new center housed the 97th ARCOM headquarters, the 195th Aviation Company, the 356th Public Information Detachment and the 451st Military Police Detachment. The new building also had supply, storage, mess and motor pool facilities, a drill hall, and ample parking. The Private First Class Joe R. Hastings Memorial Conference Room was located on the second floor.

Dedication ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 15, 1976. The new center was formally named as a memorial to Major General Baron Johann De Kalb, who commanded Maryland troops during the Revolutionary War. The delegation of dignitaries was headed by Congresswoman Marjorie Holt, whose district included Fort Meade, and Brigadier General C. Georges Fricaud-Chagnaud, the French military attache who represented the Ambassador of France. The ceremonies had a bicentennial atmosphere, which included Revolutionary War period music and uniforms, as well as historical documents relating to General De Kalb on loan from the National Archives. General Hunton and his staff did an excellent job supervising construction and planning the dedication ceremonies of the new headquarters building. In 1977 General Hunton retired from the Army Reserve.

Benjamin L. Hunton commanded the 97th ARCOM during a difficult period. His leadership in recruiting, modernization of Reserve centers, integration of minority and female personnel into the Reserve system, and other accomplishments mark him as one of the most successful generals in the history of the 97th ARCOM. This remarkable officer died in 1980. Appropriately, the Major General Benjamin L. Hunton Memorial U.S. Army Reserve Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland was dedicated on October 18, 1987.

The decade from the late 1970's through the late 1980's was a relatively successful period for the 97th ARCOM and the Army Reserve. These years were characterized by good leadership, growth, an increased sense of professionalism, more emphasis on officer and enlisted education and career development, expansion of facilities, modernization of equipment, and improved training in the United States and abroad. Under the Reagan administration the importance of the Army Reserve in military planning was increased, appropriate funding was provided, and military morale improved.

Division, and General Gray made brief speeches. Among the many dignitaries present for the review were retired Brigadier General Sherman V. Hasbrouck, the Division Artillery Commander, and Mr. Samuel Winik, a prominent Baltimore businessman who had served as an enlisted man in the 387th Infantry Regiment. General Hasbrouck and Mr. Winik stood on the reviewing stand representing the officers and enlisted men of the 97th Infantry Division. Assembled on each side of the reviewing stand were veterans of the Division and their families. As units of the 97th ARCOM marched past the reviewing stand appropriate salutes and honors were rendered to the veterans of the 97th Infantry Division. It was a very poignant scene. The past proudly gazed upon the future. The future viewed and honored the past. The parade was an impressive tribute to those who had served in the Trident Division. After the parade the veterans left Fort Meade and returned to the activities planned by their unit associations. On Sunday most of the veterans departed for home.

Organization Day was a widely hailed event, one of the most successful in the history of the 97th ARCOM. It was an ambitious undertaking that proved to be a remarkable learning experience for both the veterans and the Reservists. The veterans learned more about the important role of the Army Reserve in the nation's defense and the diverse capabilities of the 97th ARCOM. The Reservists gained valuable training preparing for Organization Day and also a better understanding of their heritage. Organization Day served as a link between the past and the future. It caused the veterans and the Reservists to reflect upon the status of the ARCOM, the challenges of the future, and the legacy of the Division.

As the 97th ARCOM enters its third decade, its strength and overall vitality have never been greater. The 97th is one of the largest of twenty ARCOMs in the Army Reserve structure. It exercises peacetime command and control of 122 troop units located in fifteen states and the District of Columbia. Most of the units are in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New York. The units have an authorized strength of approximately 12,500 soldiers. The men and women in these units train in 66 Army Reserve centers and other government facilities. In 1987, Reservists from the 97th ARCOM trained in 28 foreign countries. The 97th area of operations crosses three U.S. Army boundaries (First, Second and Fourth).

A brief examination of the present composition of the 97th ARCOM reveals a unique organization with a wide range of diverse and complex units. The sixteen major subordinate commands (MSCs) of the 97th include combat, combat support, and combat service support units. Four of the MSCs are general officer commands (GOCOMs). These include an Army hospital, a military police brigade, and two civil affairs commands. In addition to an Army garrison, the ARCOM has special forces, psychological operations, intelligence, transportation, maintenance, ordnance, chemical, administrative, signal, combat aviation, and military law units as well as three U.S. Army Reserve Forces Schools.

As it prepares for the next decade, the 97th ARCOM faces a number of challenges. Because there are so many requirements on the Reservists, time is the greatest challenge of all. Retention of enlisted personnel continues to be a problem. Improving the communication of important information is another challenge. The probability of leaner military budgets in the years ahead will cause the decision making process to become more difficult. Training in foreign countries and the addition of new units will make senior management more complex. All of these are serious issues.

During the World War I and World War II periods, soldiers of the 97th faced even greater challenges. Participation in military training at Camp Cody in 1918 during one of the worst epidemics in history required courage, discipline, and determination. The crossing of the Sieg River, and the attacks on Siegburg, Troisdorf, Drabenderhohe, and Cheb demanded the aggressive spirit, initiative, courage, determination and the will to win that were so characteristic of the soldiers of the Trident Division.

Many of these qualities were again seen during the ARCOM years, as when Kirks, Powell and Hunton successfully met the challenges of their day. The ultimate challenge was always leadership ability, getting the mission accomplished. The inspiration from the past comes from the accomplishments and spirit of the leaders, regardless of rank. It is the inspiring example of men like Martin, Lindsay, Halsey, Hasbrouck, Hastings, Fishman, Kirks, Powell, and Hunton that beckons and urges the modern Reservist to meet the challenges of the future. The accomplishments and spirit of these men and others who served in the 97th constitute the essential element of the Trident heritage.

“What lies ahead for the wearers of the Trident, I cannot say, but I am confident that the 97th will always be ready at the right place, at the right time, with a military record of achievement that will justify the pride and loyalty of all its members—past and present.”

Milton B. Halsey
Major General, USA (Retired)