



FEBRUARY 5-11, 2024



THROUGH THE LENS

FEBRUARY 1941: From left, Pvt. Harry Ross, Pfc. Thomas J. Sockwell and Pvt. Symeone E. Dyer, members of the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry, operate a telephone switchboard at their Columbus armyory prior to entry into federal service.



WEEK IN REVIEW

M **FEBRUARY 5, 1942:** The 37th Infantry Division leaves Camp Shelby, Miss. for Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

FEBRUARY 5, 1945: 2d Lt. Robert M. Viale, Company K, 148th Infantry, is killed during the Battle of Manila. His actions will lead to him being awarded the Medal of Honor.

W **FEBRUARY 7, 1930:** The 134th Field Artillery receives War Department approval of its coat of arms.

FEBRUARY 7, 1945: The 37th Infantry Division, led by the 148th Infantry, relieves units of the 1st Cavalry Division at the Malacanan Palace and makes an amphibious assault across the Pasig River in Manila. This operation puts the first American troops on the south side of the river.

F **FEBRUARY 9, 1945:** Pfc. Joseph Cicchetti of Company A, 148th Infantry and Pfc. Cleto Rodriguez and John Reese Jr. of Company B, 148th Infantry earn the Medal of Honor for their actions during fighting at the Manila Gas Works and Paco Railroad Station in Manila. Cicchetti and Reese would both receive the medal posthumously.



HALL OF VALOR



**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
ROBERT F. BABSON**

**COMPANY E, 145TH INFANTRY
37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

**FEBRUARY 11, 1945
LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Private First Class Robert F. Babson, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company E, 145th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 February 1945, near Malabon, Luzon, Philippine Islands. At daybreak, Company E prepared to make an assault crossing of the Dampalit River east of Malabon to seize a strategic crossroads. The enemy, 500 in number, delivered intense mortar, small arms, and automatic weapons fire on our troops as they forced the crossing, causing such heavy casualties that a withdrawal was ordered. Private Babson voluntarily assisted in the evacuation of the casualties, all of whom were exposed to hostile fire. Using native dugouts and litters, he made repeated trips under constant, intense fire from the enemy positions, wading through mud and water to load the wounded and dead on the dugouts, and then dragged and pushed them across the river through the deadly fire to safety. Working over a period of two and one half hours, Private Babson eight times crossed the treacherous river and, by his complete disregard for safety and heroic determination in the face of grave danger, saved many lives and furnished a shining example of high courage. His intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 37th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

