



MARCH 6-12, 2023



### THROUGH THE LENS

**MARCH 9, 1944:** Capt. Edwin C. Duncan, left, commanding officer of Company E, 145th Infantry, watches Staff Sgt. Bernard E. Hamilton load a rocket into a bazooka prior to firing at a Japanese held position on Hill 700, Bougainville.



### WEEK IN REVIEW

**W** **MARCH 8, 1927:** The U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office approves the coat of arms for the 107th Cavalry Regiment.

**March 8-12, 1944:** On Bougainville, Japanese forces attack the 145th Infantry at Hill 700. After five days of bitter fighting, the attack is repulsed with the help of the 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry. The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to four 37th Infantry Division units for their part in the battle.

**F** **MARCH 10, 1941:** The 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry is ordered into active federal service for World War II and sent to Fort Dix, N.J. for training.



### HALL OF VALOR

## PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMPANY F, 145TH INFANTRY  
37TH INFANTRY DIVISION

MARCH 9-12, 1944  
BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

**CITATION:** During the dark, rainy, early morning hours of 9 March 1944, the Japanese launched an attack which successfully penetrated American positions atop Hill 700. This terrain feature commanded the American beachhead, making it imperative that enemy exploitation of the initial success be prevented. Company F, which had been in battalion reserve, was ordered to contain the enemy, and be prepared to launch a counterattack. The company formed a cordon below the enemy-occupied hillcrest, stopped further advances, and protected a vital supply installation. On the morning of 10 March the company launched its counterattack, with the 1st platoon on the left, and the 2d platoon on the right. As it moved up the 60 degree slope, across terrain offering little cover or concealment, the 1st platoon met withering fire. However, this platoon's action successfully delayed further Japanese advances, and that night its men dug in only 20 yards from enemy positions. The 2d platoon's progress was also slow and tedious but after three daring attempts it regained critical installations before nightfall. That night the platoon held its position without food, water, or communications against severe counterattacks. The next morning these men captured two more vital installations. The company's line now formed a valuable base of fire for the battalion counterattack which culminated in the annihilation of Japanese resistance in the area. Company F's casualty rate, 66 percent of the men participating in the action, indicates the ferocity of the combat. The company's accomplishment was a splendid example of combat efficiency and fighting spirit. This unit was instrumental in preventing a Japanese break-through on Hill 700.

