



## **WEEK IN REVIEW**

MARCH 21, 1945: The 147th Infantry lands on Iwo Jima and immediately begins operations to take over security of the island from the U.S. Marines. The regiment remained on the island until September and conducted ambush patrols, combat patrols and cave explorations in order to eliminate the remaining enemy forces.

MARCH 24, 1942: The 216th Engineer Battalion is constituted in the Army of the United States as Headquarters, 14th Ordnance Battalion.

MARCH 25, 1863: The first Medals of Honor were awarded to six Ohio Soldiers by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The Soldiers were members of Andrews' Raiders, a group of 22 men who volunteered to conduct a military raid in Northern Georgia.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

In the April 1999 edition of the Buckeye Star, the newsletter of the Lonestar Chapter, 37th Division Veterans Association, John J. Herman, a World War II veteran of the 147th Infantry, describes his experiences on Iwo Jima.

"After spending a few days in a replacement depot, I was assigned to Company E, 147th Infantry where I was given three days of combat orientation. I recall that the 2d Battalion was commanded by Major Marvin Ayers. Shortly after joining the battalion, we shipped out. Our outfit boarded the USS Aldermin on 3 March 1945 and sailed for the Island Eniwetok arriving there on 14 March 45.

We were at anchor at Eniwetok when Colonel Johnson, our regimental commander, received a radiogram ordering the regiment to proceed to Iwo Jima.

The first night on Iwo Jima, I was detailed to guard a water point, which attracted Japs. I saw a Jap moving toward me and I froze, but my squad leader in a foxhole nearby shot him. The next morning the Jap lay 10-12 feet from my hole, this was my combat baptism. During our first week on the island, we were attached to the 3d Marines. When we started taking prisoners, they didn't like it for we got the credit for the capture. Of course we let the Marines know what we thought about what they did not like. It was a standoff. We held our ground."