



APRIL 17-23, 2023



THROUGH THE LENS

APRIL 18, 1944: Men of the 37th Signal Company turn in their dirty laundry for cleaning to Cpl. Robert E. Albright, left, on Bougainville.



WEEK IN REVIEW

W APRIL 19, 1854: The 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is organized in Cincinnati as the Guthrie Greys.

APRIL 19, 1900: Battery C, 2d Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is organized in Marietta as Company B, 7th Separate Infantry Battalion.

Th APRIL 20, 1929: The coat of arms for the 237th Support Battalion is approved for the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry.

F APRIL 21, 1923: The coat of arms for the 148th Infantry Regiment is approved, marking the first Ohio National Guard unit to receive War Department approval.

Su APRIL 23, 1920: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 837th Engineer Battalion is organized in Springfield as the 1st Separate Machine Gun Company.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Service By God's Providence" is a recollection of what took place on April 17, 1945, as the 148th Infantry fought its way toward the Philippine city of Baguio. It was written in 1994 by Chaplain Elmer Heindl, the regiment's wartime Catholic chaplain.

"One of the most dramatic evidence of God's ever-present and often demonstrated providence to me as a chaplain was on the 17th of April on the mountain road to Baguio, again with our 2nd Bn of the 148th Infantry, to which I was attached during most of our combat experiences. Our lead tanks rounded the hairpin curve before the bombed-out bridge over the Irisan River, and came under heavy fire. Backing up to return the fire on the narrow curve, the lead tank toppled down the ravine. Four of the five-member crew were rescued; the fifth was not found. He was Catholic, I was to administer if possible. So receiving permission from the Company Co and Surgeon I crawled along the edge of Highway 9. Then, surprising, two enemy tanks roared around the curve in a Bonsai attack, a dozen enemy clinging on a rear platform. They swept past me, crouched at the side of the road. I quickly slid down toward the over turned tank. In the ensuing confrontation on the road above, at the curve I had just left, the Regimental CO was blown ahead and slid down toward me and the downed tank. He exclaimed – "chaplain, what are you doing here?" – I replied – "I don't know, Col. but it sure is God's Providence." I was able to apply a lifesaving tourniquet and morphine syringes to him.

When the fierce fighting subsided above back at the confrontation where the Regimental Surgeon and medics were treating the four survivors of the downed tank, it became my challenge to crawl back to obtain help for Col. White, now unconscious. Pfc. Carl Blum, a point man from G Co. sent to stop the threatened charge of the enemy, was told, "nothing but enemy ahead." To this day, Blum claims that he did not know what stopped his trigger finger from the point blank shooting the figure crawling from enemy territory up to the road, until he recognized the chaplain.

On reaching the road, now covered with wreckage and dismembered bodies I asked, where is Dr. Watson? 'I left him there,' pointing to a pile of rocks dislodged from the cliff where he was giving plasma. We detected one hand protruding from the rock pile and dug out a greatly wounded but alive Dr. Watson, just in time to save his life.

Both the surgeon, Dr. James Watson, and Colonel Lawrence White were sent back to the States and retired from active duty, and lived to attend 37th Division reunions therefore, thanks for God's Providence.

Excepting "for God's Providence!" – three lives were preserved, a regimental colonel, surgeon and chaplain whose lives were prolonged by a disciplined and dedicated Soldier, Pfc. Carl Blum, Auburn, New York, who did not shoot when by orders he should have! (What a motto for life, which tends to solve its problems by violence!)"

