



THROUGH THE LENS:

May 6, 1952: Safety NCO, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Panle, observes Cpl. Donald Atwater, Tank Company, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division as he prepares to fire his .45-caliber submachine gun on the range at Camp Polk, La.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

May 5-7, 1864: The opening battle of Lt. Gen. Grant's Overland Campaign was fought in an area of dense wooded undergrowth known as the Wilderness. Ohio was represented in the campaign by six infantry regiments, two cavalry regiments and one artillery battery.

May 5, 1898: The Ohio National Guard is ordered into federal service for the War with Spain.

May 7, 1884: **Battery A, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment** is organized in Bucyrus as Company A, 8th Infantry Regiment (Finley Guards).

May 8, 1875: **Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment** is organized in Gettysburg as the Gettysburg Guard.

May 8, 1945: Pfc. Anthony Krotiak, Company I, 148th Infantry, is killed after jumping on a Japanese grenade that landed near his men at Balete Pass. His heroic act would lead to the awarding of the Medal of Honor.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: COL. CHARLES HENNE, 3D BATTALION, 148TH INFANTRY, DESCRIBING THE MAY 8, 1945 SCENE ON MYOKO MOUNTAIN (BALETE PASS)

"The 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry's 13 days on Myoko Mountain were probably the most miserable endured by the battalion during WWII. The mountaintop was a tropical rain forest, ever foggy and ever soaked by deluges that lasted for hours, even days. Hill A, the hill the 3d Battalion took over from the 3d Battalion, 35th Infantry, stunk like a badly abused bivouac combined with the heavy, pervasive smell of rotting human flesh.

A black dark had settled on the mountain, too dark to see into, it was so dark that it was hard to see one's hand held at arm's length. Men dozed but the night was long. Those rousing from a doze knew where they were, their nose told them.

During the early morning hours, the air chilled. By four o'clock the black dark turned gray, it was no less penetrable than the black dark. Dense fog settled in on Hill A and the surrounding hills. When the countdown to attack time began, the fog was no less thick. At stand-to, it seemed thicker still.

At 0630, a rising breeze gave promise. Fifteen minutes later, a wind started to move the fog breaking it in to patches. Then a stiffening wind started the fog scudding across the mountaintop. The order was fire the pre-attack preparations! The battalion would gamble and attack."



BALETE PASS
"Balete Pass" by Sgt. Jess Cauthorn of Company K, 148th Infantry.