

THROUGH THE LENS

FEBRUARY 22, 1919

CLEVELAND

Elements of the 372d Infantry, formerly the 9th Battalion of Infantry, Ohio National Guard, march through the streets of Cleveland after returning from France.



WEEK IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY 23, 1847: American forces, under Maj. Gen. Zachary Taylor, defeat Mexican troops, under Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, at the Battle of Buena Vista. The 2d and 3d Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiments were active in the battle, guarding Taylor's supply depots and escorting wagon trains that were rushing needed supplies to the battle.

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1945: The assault on the Walled City of Intramuros takes place, with elements of the 145th and 129th Infantry attacking the ancient Spanish fort within the city of Manila.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Upon their return from France in February 1919, Ohio elements of the 372d Infantry paraded in Cleveland and Columbus before mustering out of the Army at Camp Sherman, Ohio. Ohio's 9th Battalion of Infantry was reorganized as the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry in 1917 and joined other segregated National Guard units to form the regiment. The Cleveland Plain Dealer published the following account of the parade and dinner that was held at the Cleveland Central Armory in honor of the returning Soldiers.

"Eight hundred and ninety colored troops of the 372d Infantry, including the "Fighting Ninth Battalion" of Cleveland, marched triumphantly through downtown streets of Cleveland yesterday, cheered by tens of thousands of spectators.

The home coming of these troops, heroes of Verdun, the Argonne, Champagne, and other battle fields of France, was marked by unusual incidents.

When two long troop trains pulled into Union station at 11:30 a.m., hundreds of factory whistles and music from three bands, accompanied by cheers from thousands of relatives and friends of the Cleveland soldiers welcomed the smiling fighters.

Headed by Jackson's band and followed by a colored regimental band the troops, in command of Lieut. Col. W.O. Cooley started on the long line of march. Throughout the march the troops were cheered. Many buildings were decorated with flags. Playing "The Star Spangled Banner," "Over There," "Smiles" and other war-time airs, the bands made a great hit with the onlookers.

It was 2 o'clock before the soldiers entered the armory where a chicken dinner was ready for them. Following the dinner Mayor Davis extended to the soldiers the freedom of the city.

"The happiest occasions of my term of office as mayor," he said, "have been such as this. I need not tell you how glad we are to welcome the boys of the former Ninth Battalion back home and praise for your heroic service on battle fields is not necessary from me, for the distinguished service emblems some of you boys wear on your uniforms tell the story of your achievements at the front. Cleveland is proud of your record in fighting for democracy and the freedom of the world."



A LOOK IN THE ATTIC
THIS WEEK IN OHIO NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

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