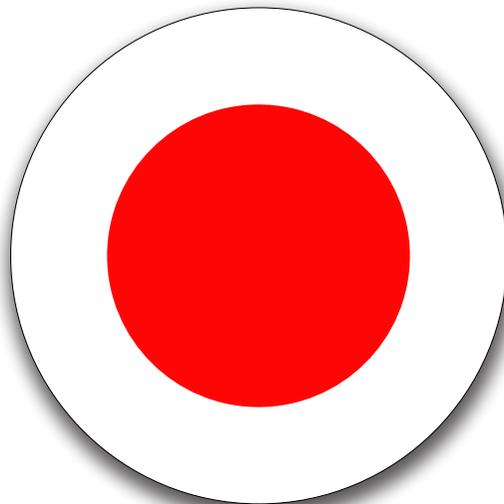


... Manila Would Do



**HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE
37TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN THE BATTLE OF MANILA**



Background



July 6, 1943: Soldiers from Anti-Tank Company, 145th Infantry prepare to load transport ships on Guadalcanal that will carry them to New Georgia. (Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Audiovisual Collection - Ohio History Connection)

The 37th Infantry Division was ordered into active federal service on October 15, 1940 and assembled at the numerous armories across the state. After completing their induction process, the Buckeyes reported to Camp Shelby outside of Hattiesburg, Miss., and began basic training. After an influx of draftees in early 1941, the 37th participated in two large army maneuvers that summer. When Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941, the division's time on active duty was extended indefinitely. After the division reorganized in February 1942 from a square division of two infantry brigades with two regiments each, into a triangular division of three regimental combat teams, the 37th moved to Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. There they received additional training and personnel that would prepare them to be shipped overseas.

In May, the 37th boarded trains for San Francisco, departing for the Pacific Theater later that month. The 37th was initially split between Fiji and New Zealand, with the mission of establishing defensive positions intended to block a further advance by the Japanese. By the end of July, the 145th Infantry, initially on New Zealand, joined the rest of the division on Fiji where the Buckeyes remained until March 1943. A brief stop on Guadalcanal for final training prepared the 37th for their baptism of fire on the Island of New Georgia in July and August 1943. The division returned to Guadalcanal for a short rest before landing on the Island of Bougainville in November 1943 and established a defensive perimeter around three airstrips that supported the Allied island hopping campaign.

Relieved from the front line by the fall of 1944, the Buckeyes hoped for a move to a rest area. To their frustration, the 37th spent their remaining months on Bougainville executing a rigorous training program that aimed to prepare them for their most difficult campaign yet - the invasion of the Philippines. The division boarded transport ships on December 11, 1944 and joined the large convoy set for the invasion of the main island in the Philippines, Luzon. Following some practices landings, the landing craft convoy departed

for the objective area on December 27, 1944. The 37th Infantry Division, as part of the Sixth Army, found themselves on the verge of fulfilling Gen. Douglas MacArthur's promise that he would return to liberate the Philippine people and capital city of Manila.

At the start of 1945, the 37th Infantry Division had been in active service for just over four years and had been through two bloody jungle campaigns. The commander of Buckeye Division was Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, who had been at the helm since the Buckeyes left Ohio in 1940. The division consisted of the 145th and 148th Infantry Regiments of the Ohio National Guard (ONG) and the 129th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard. The 37th Division Artillery, commanded by Brig. Gen. Leo M. Kreber, consisted of the 135th, 136th and 140th Field Artillery Battalions from the ONG and the 6th Field Artillery Battalion, a Regular Army unit. Support troops included the 112th Medical Battalion, 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 37th Quartermaster Company, 37th Signal Company and 737th Ordnance Maintenance Company of the ONG as well as the 117th Engineer Battalion of the District of Columbia National Guard. A number of combat and service units were attached to the division throughout the Luzon Campaign for varying periods and duties.

37TH INFANTRY DIVISION TROOP LIST - BATTLE OF MANILA

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Headquarters, 37th Division Special Troops
37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
37th Quartermaster Company
737th Ordnance Company
37th Signal Company
129th Infantry
145th Infantry
148th Infantry
37th Division Artillery
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
6th Field Artillery Battalion (105 H)
135th Field Artillery Battalion (105 H)
140th Field Artillery Battalion (105 H)
136th Field Artillery Battalion (155 H)
117th Engineer Battalion
112th Medical Battalion

Attached

1st Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
82d Field Artillery Battalion
82d Chemical Battalion
754th Tank Battalion
Assault Gun Platoon, 716th Tank Battalion
637th Tank Destroyer Battalion
672d Amphibian Tractor Battalion

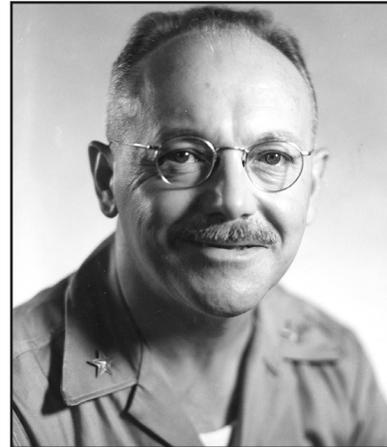
ROSTER OF GENERAL OFFICERS, THE GENERAL STAFF AND COMMANDERS OF UNITS DURING THE BATTLE OF MANILA:



Major General
Robert S. Beightler,
Commanding General



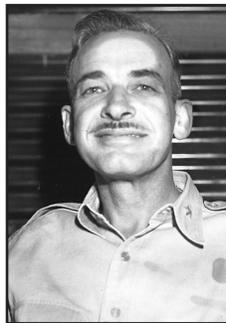
Brigadier General
Charles F. Craig,
Assistant Division Commander



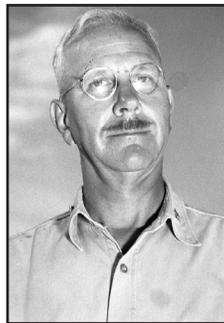
Brigadier General
Leo M. Kreber
Commanding General
37th Division Artillery



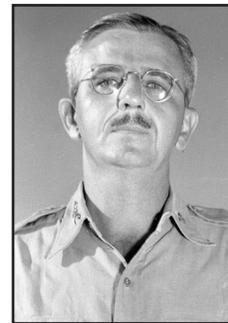
Colonel
Arthur R. Walk
Chief of Staff



Lieutenant Colonel
Harold L. Hayes
G-1



Lieutenant Colonel
Demas L. Sears
G-2



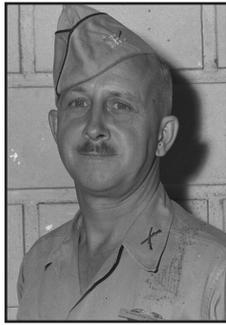
Lieutenant Colonel
Russell A. Ramsey
G-3



Lieutenant Colonel
Richard V. Graham
G-4



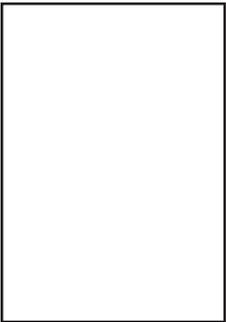
Colonel
John D. Frederick
129th Infantry



Colonel
Cecil B. Whitcomb
145th Infantry



Colonel
Lawrence K. White
148th Infantry



Lieutenant Colonel
Stewart L. Brown
6th Field Artillery
Battalion



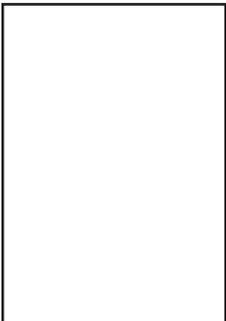
Lieutenant Colonel
John R. Crossen
135th Field Artillery
Battalion



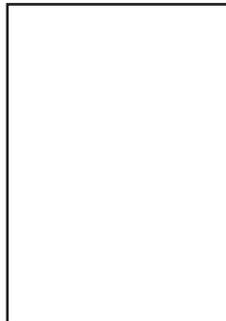
Lieutenant Colonel
Wilbur H. Fricke
136th Field Artillery
Battalion



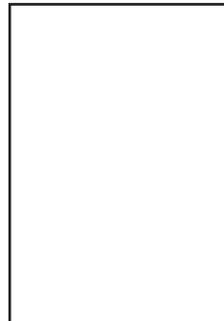
Lieutenant Colonel
James H. Nellis
140th Field Artillery
Battalion



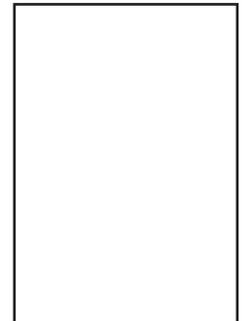
Lieutenant Colonel
Thomas B. Simpson
117th Engineer Battalion



Lieutenant Colonel
William T. Holladay
112th Medical Battalion



Captain
Charles W. Odenwalder
37th Quartermaster Company



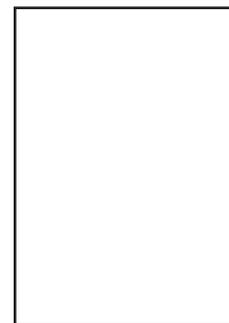
Captain
John G. McCurdy
37th Cavalry
Reconnaissance Troop



Major
Roger M. Lindley
37th Signal Company
(to 24 February)



Captain
William Grigger
37th Signal Company



Lieutenant Colonel
Earl T. Wiley
737th Ordnance Company

Luzon Landings



The Sixth Army, commanded by Gen. Walter Krueger, landed at Lingayen Gulf in the early morning hours of January 9, 1945 with two corps, each consisting of two divisions. On the right was Maj. Gen. Oscar Griswold's XIV Corps, consisting of the 37th and 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard. On the left, Maj. Gen. Innis P. Swift's I Corps included the 6th and 43d Infantry Divisions. After a preparatory barrage from naval ships, the 37th landed with the 129th and 148th Infantry Regiments abreast and moved inland against light resistance. Once the beachhead was secure, the American forces began a monthlong drive down the central plains towards the Philippine capital city of Manila.

The Japanese defending the island performed a delaying action against the Americans. Bridges were blown along the many rivers and streams, forcing American infantryman to delay their advance as they waited on engineers to build temporary crossings. At numerous towns and barrios, the Japanese would put up a limited fight from prepared positions or conduct raids against exposed flanks. However, the enemy would generally fire only a few shots before being quickly overwhelmed by American maneuver and fire.

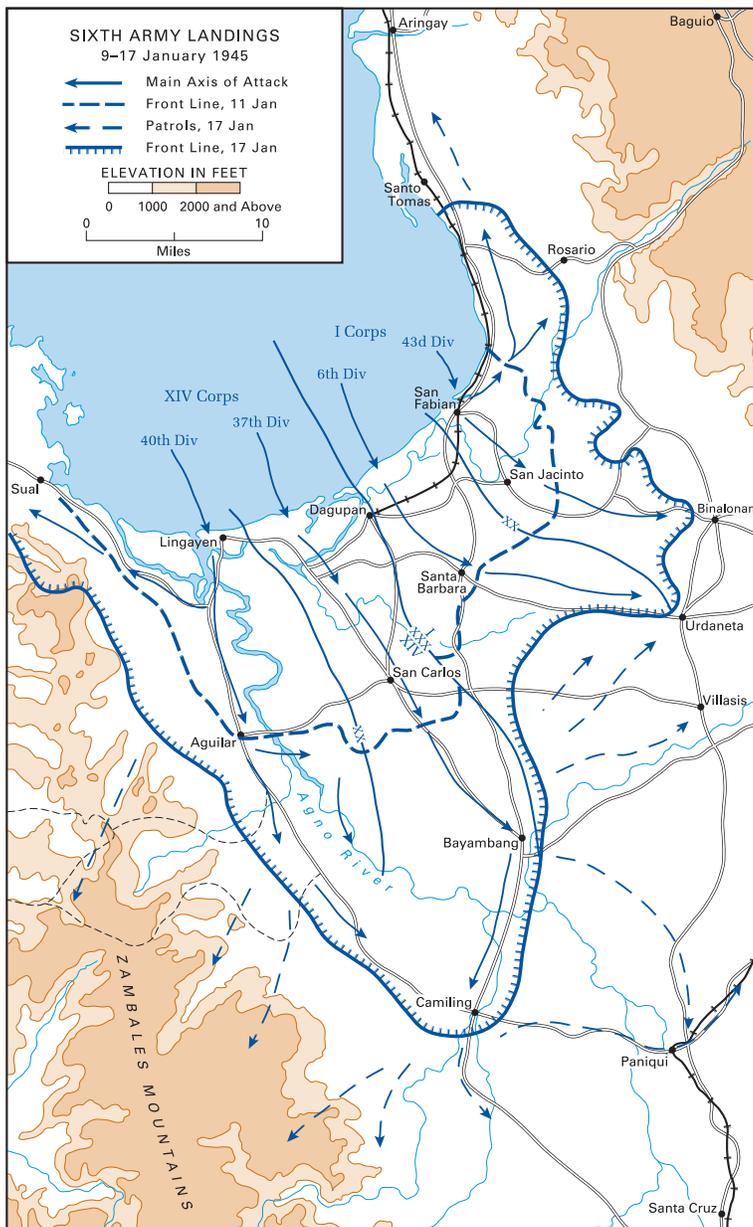
The Buckeyes drove down the heart of the central plains, mostly along Highway 3. Speed was the key and the leading foot troops would generally advance with little concern for the speed or progress units on their flanks were making. In some cases, spearhead units would bypass enemy formations that would be left for follow on forces. By the end of January the 37th had reached the edge of the Fort Stotsenberg/Clark Field area that would mark the first significant engagement against an established enemy force. On January 27, the 129th Infantry with the attached 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry swung west from their southern thrust to attack the Japanese. After two days of difficult fighting, the two regiments secured both the fort and airfield, as well as the commanding heights to the west known as the "Top of the World".

At the same time, the 148th Infantry continued the "race for Manila", which was now between the 37th and 1st Cavalry Division. While the 37th was on foot, the 1st Cavalry entered the race from the north in a flying mechanized column. On February 2, the 148th met stiff enemy resistance at Plarridal, a key cross

roads town just north of Manila. After a two-day battle, the 148th eliminated the enemy, but the delay was enough for the 1st Cavalry Division to slip by the Buckeyes and into the northern suburbs of Manila.

Many myths surrounding this controversy exist amongst 37th veterans. The most popular version declares that Gen. MacArthur refused to allow a National Guard outfit to be the first into his former home city, so he delayed the 37th advance up just long enough for the 1st Cavalry Division, a Regular Army outfit, to steal the headlines. Regardless of the reason, the 37th had much to be proud of. They landed on January 9 and traveled the 150 miles to the northern edge of Manila in less than a month, nearly all on foot. “We got one 10-mile ride and we hoofed it in the rest of the way,” declared one 37th veteran in a 2004 interview.

As midnight approached on February 3, the 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry passed through the 1st and 2d Battalions with one simple order - get into Manila! Moving south from Plaridel in an all-night march, daylight on February 4 found the 148th on the northern bank of the Tulihan River, the last major river crossing before Manila. After a brief delay to wait for the engineers to build a bridge, the 148th was soon driving into the northern suburbs with the 145th hot on their tail.



PREVIOUS PAGE: Ships bearing the 37th Infantry Division land at Lingayen Gulf on January 9, 1945. (Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Audiovisual Collection - Ohio History Connection).

LEFT: Map showing the Sixth Army landings at Lingayen on January 9, 1945. (U.S. Army Center of Military History)

North of the Pasig



February 4, 1945: 37th Infantry Division troops take cover from Japanese machine gun fire in Quezon City, Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

The following day to day accounts appear in the Report After Action, Operations of the 37th Infantry Division, Luzon P.I. 1 November 1944 to 30 June 1945. They appear here unedited.

February 4, 1945:

While the axis of advance and the main supply route was Highway 3, the 145th was given responsibility for the terrain west of the highway and the 148th Inf for the terrain east of the highway. First enemy contact in the Polo - Malinta area West of the highway was established at Mabolo at 0600, where the 3d Bn 145th Inf encountered machine guns and mortars, which after an artillery concentration was neutralized at 1000, but the Bn immediately met a similar force at Polo. The Bn continued to receive mortar and machine gun fire from the South bank of the river at Polo, and in fact the 3d Bn 145th Inf was obliged to remain in this sector for many days until an opportunity was found to send an entire regiment to clear out the area.

Meanwhile the remainder of the 145th and 148th Inf Regiments, having marched all night, arrived at the built-up area North of Manila. It was not known at that time

where Manila proper began. However, the 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry reached a point 1000 yards North of the Tinajeros River by 1430 and continued the advance to the South. Sniper fire on all of the streets contributed to the difficulty of communication during the rapid advance through the city streets, and hourly progress was difficult to determine.

However, the 148th Infantry, after resisting an enemy infiltration attempt during the night of 3-4 February at Sanda, continued South on 4 February against light opposition, reaching a point 1500 yards North of the Pasig River in Manila at 1650. The 3d Bn 148th Inf seized the railroad station at Caloocan at 1645 against increasing resistance. Neither regiment stopped, but continued towards its objective, the Pasig River. Late in the day, 4 February, elements of the 148th Inf opened the gates of Bilibid Prison, freeing 465 civilian internees and 810 American Prisoners of war found therein. Contact



1945 map of Manila, north of the Pasig River.

was established with elements of 1st Cavalry Division in vicinity Santo Tomas University evening of 4 February.

During the night of 4-5 February the Division was directed to provide a route reconnaissance and escort for General MacArthur, who would go South on Route 5 to vicinity of Plaridel and then cross into the 1st Cavalry Division sector. The Chief of Staff made the reconnaissance, obtained a suitable escort, and met General MacArthur early in the morning, the motor column moving swiftly through the Plaridel area into the 1st Cavalry Division sector with the intention of entering Manila. However, during the same night the Japs had infiltrated behind 1st Cavalry Division lines and blown up an important bridge, and General MacArthur returned.

February 5, 1945:

The 129th Inf, less 2d Bn, had been following the Division advance by successive stages and from a base at San Fernando maintained outposts near Mount Arayat and kept a platoon at Guagua in contact with the 40th Infantry Division. While one Bn secured all of the Bridges from San Fernando inclusive to Manila, the remainder of the regiment closed vicinity Balintawak Brewery and Caloocan 0900, from which point it was directed to mop up Grace Park and the Chinese Cemetery, establishing contact with 1st Cavalry Division in the vicinity of Grace Park airstrip.

As the 145th Infantry advanced to the South, continuing throughout the preceding night, it engaged and destroyed small pockets in the Chinese Cemetery, moving on by 1210 and securing the Pasig River line by 1400. The balance of the day was spent in mopping up areas North of the Pasig River on the West side of the Division zone. This mopping up resulted in a serious engagement in the Tondo district where resistance consisted of machine guns at street intersections, to overcome which both 2d and 3d Bns advanced from house to house wiping out pockets of resistance and snipers.

On the left the 148th Inf. continued to advance South with the 2d Bn on the East and 3d Bn on the West, leaving elements in Bilibid Prison and others to mop up the Binondo district as far as Azcarraga St. The 3d Bn reached a line 250 yards North of the Pasig River at noon maintaining contact with the 145th Inf on the right, but serious opposition developed throughout the afternoon in the Escolta district. While a number of fires had been started by the Japanese throughout the city, the first

deliberate destruction of the city became apparent in the Escolta district, where the retreating Japanese not only started many fires but were demolishing the heart of Manila Business district with time fused explosives. K Co, 148th Inf, reached a point 200 yards from the Pasig River, but so intense was the heat from the fires in all the buildings along the river bank that it was forced to withdraw 200 yards where the evening and night hours were occupied with picking off Japanese snipers silhouetted against the fiery background.

Among the obstacles encountered by the Division's advance in Manila was the presence of swarms of the native population who crowded the streets cheering the American troops, forcing gifts upon them, and as the conflagration roared into the business district, engaged in unrestrained looting. Soldiers and military police were able to establish order by the following morning, assisted in part by the fact that there was nothing left to loot after the buildings had all burned down.

By 2035 a shift in the wind moved the wall of flame toward Bilibid Prison and threatened to destroy it. All of the demolitions available in Manila were gathered and efforts made to establish a fire break. Meanwhile, with all of the vehicles of the Division and a large number borrowed from the 1st Cavalry Division the occupants of Bilibid Prison were transferred to the AngTibay Shoe Factory (37th Division CP), 1275 persons being moved and settled into temporary quarters by 2400. Many of the internees and prisoners of war were unable to walk. The task of moving them under such conditions was tremendous. All Divisional and attached troops in vicinity of the CP assisted in the transfer, and quantities of cots and food were procured, latrines dug, and the factory building converted into a temporary refuge, while still housing the Division headquarters personnel and communication facilities. The following morning, the wind having shifted during the night and the fire having burned itself out, the internees were returned to Bilibid Prison where they were placed under the control of higher echelons of command and given the assistance they so badly needed after three years of captivity by the Japanese.

Orders were received from the Commanding General, XIV Corps, at 1110 to cross the Pasig River and secure the entire city South of the river (G-3 Journal No. 14, 5 Feb). Reconnaissance to the South revealed that every bridge across the Pasig River had been demolished most of them during the day, and that an amphibious crossing would be required.

February 6, 1945:

Since the entry of the Division into Manila proper, the Japanese had poured a steady artillery and mortar fire into the city, apparently heedless of targets, for many rounds dropped into Santo Tomas University and Bilibid Prison, on homes and parks and city streets. An unfamiliar type of explosion was frequently heard which was found to be Japanese rockets, the first the Division had encountered. The Japanese still had many isolated groups in the Tondo peninsula and in the San Nicholas subdivision, while North of Manila in the Polo sector the 3d Bn 145th Inf was repeatedly in contact, repulsing several banzai charges, one of which at 0350 resulted in 51 counted enemy dead.

The 148th Infantry, returning to the smoldering ruins of the Escolta district, reached the Pasig River line at 1340, securing it in regimental zone by 1630. Moderately heavy fire from artillery, mortar, and rocket positions South of the Pasig River continued throughout the day and night.

In the rear areas a battalion of the 129th Infantry continued to secure the bridges from San Fernando to the South, while the Reconnaissance Company of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, remaining on outpost at Plaridel, repulsed an early morning banzai attack killing 30 enemy.

At 0700 the boundary between the 37th and 1st Cavalry Division was shifted to the line Rizal Ave-Washington Ave-Calle Dinalong Quezon Ave-Quezon Bridge, all-inclusive to the 37th Division. At 2000 pursuant to telephonic instructions from CG XIV Corps, the 145th Inf was directed to extend to the East, relieving the 148th Inf East of Quezon bridge, and to continue mopping up the Tondo area and to retain a battalion in the Polo area. The 148th Inf was directed to relieve 1st Cavalry Division between Quezon Bridge and San Juan River, securing the Pasig River line and maintaining contact with the Cavalry Division.



February 5, 1945: Sgt. Jess Cauthorn of Company K, 148th Infantry sketched this depiction of his unit caught in the middle of the Chinatown Fire. "I'll never forget how K Company looked as they came through what I thought was a solid wall of fire!" said Col. Charles Henne describing the company safely returning to American lines.

February 7, 1945:

The 129th Inf, less 3d Bn on bridge guard from San Fernando to the South, and less the 2d Bn which took over the security of the Pasig River line from Malacanan Palace exclusive to Santa Mesa from the 148th Inf, was placed in Division reserve in Manila. The threat of disturbances near the brewery at the Tuliahan River required sending the I & R Platoon to the bridge to protect it against the movement of Hukbelahops, who, complete with flags and firearms, were attempting to enter the city.

The 145th Inf, less 3d Bn in the Polo area, occupied Pasig River line from Manila Bay to Malacanan Palace, relieving 148th Inf from all responsibility for the area North of the Pasig River. Elements of the 2d Bn continued to mop up the northern tip of the Tondo peninsula which contained many well-constructed defensive positions. During the process of destroying the enemy in this area the Battalion Commander was killed.

The 148th Infantry at Malacanan Palace received during the morning approximately 500 rounds of rocket, mortar and artillery fire, causing many casualties. At 1015 the Corps Commander directed the Commanding Generals of the 37th Infantry Division and 1st Cavalry Division to cross the Pasig River at the earliest possible moment. The 37th Division Commander went immediately to Malacananan Palace and directed the 148th Infantry to make an amphibious crossing at a point previously selected a few hundred yards East of the palace as soon as the amphibious tractors and assault boats should arrive. Under the covering fire of artillery, including an ineffective smoke screen on the west flank, and the direct fire of M-7s on the North bank, the regiment commenced crossing in engineer assault boats at 1515 and advanced 500 yards from the opposite bank by 1600. The first wave met no opposition but succeeding waves received intense machine gun fire (neutralized later in the day) and mortar and artillery fire, which continued throughout the day and night. Despite this fire the regiment continued to pour troops across the river and to transport jeeps in amphibious tractors. Most of the Division's casualties for the day were in that area, the total being 14 KIA and 101 WIA. With the exception of route reconnaissance the time required to give the orders, assemble the boats and LVTs, and put the first wave on shore was exactly 5 hours. 1st Cavalry Division crossed the Pasig River several days later near the Philippine Racing Club.

South of the Pasig



February 7, 1945: The first wave of the 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division, crossing the Pasig River near the Malacañang Palace.

February 8, 1945:

Pursuant to Division Field Order 28 issued during the evening of 7 February, the 148th Infantry was directed to complete the crossing of the Pasig River and to advance southwesterly abreast of the 129th Infantry, which Regiment, less a Battalion, was directed to cross the river at the same point and with its right flank on the Pasig River connecting with the 148th Infantry along a line Cristobal Street-Isaac Peral. Spasmodic enemy contacts continued North of the Pasig River and East from Manila Bay and it was considered advisable to organize a mobile police force capable of quelling disturbances and destroying infiltrators North of the river.

Accordingly the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, Reconnaissance Company, 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion and elements of the 754th Tank Battalion were organized into a special force commanded by the Commanding Officer 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion and designated Special Security Force.

The 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry, was directed to cross the Pasig River in Division reserve, leaving the 3d Battalion in the Polo - Obando area and the Regiment minus two Battalions securing Manila North of the river and mopping up the Tondo area.

On 8 February the 129th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, completed the river crossing by 1500 and the 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry, crossed by 1655.

The 148th Infantry, which had assembled on the South bank by the previous midnight, launched an attack South and West from its initial bridgehead at 0930 with the 3d Battalion on the left, 2d Battalion on the right and advanced slowly to seize the line Cristobal Street-Figueroa Street-Manila Railroad to the Pasig River.

Ground opposition up to this line was slight but the shelling by artillery, mortars and rockets was intense during the entire day, resulting in 15 KIA and 74 WIA. The troop crossings of the Pasig River were accomplished by engineer assault boats, amphibious tractors, and an engineer ferry, which was sunk.

February 9, 1945:

The 129th Infantry, with artillery support from the North side of the Pasig River and a platoon of 4.2 inch mortars attached, attacked West from Cristobal Street at 0900 with the 1st Battalion leading and the 2d Battalion echeloned to the right rear, and advanced approximately

300 yards during the day in house to house fighting against intense machine gun, artillery and mortar fire. Progress was further impeded by heavy mining of all streets and avenues of advance. Pursuant to Corps order to seize the steam plant on Provisor Island, the 129th Infantry succeeded in getting 15 men from G Company on Provisor Island by 0900, making the landing in assault boats, one of which was sunk. Reinforcement of this small group was prevented by intense machine gun and mortar fire until the following day and in the meantime the reinforced squad on the Island sustained severe casualties. On the South the 148th Infantry, supported by artillery from the North bank of the Pasig River and with a company of 4.2 inch mortar and three light tanks from the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached, attacked and occupied a line along Canonigo Street by 0900, with contact with the 129th Infantry at the corner of Isaac Peral and Cristobal Street. The Canonigo Schoolhouse which was strongly defended, was attacked by combined tank-infantry tactics. The Paco Church provided intense opposition, the total advance for the day being approximately 300 yards.

Meanwhile the Special Security Force North of the Pasig River killed 30 enemy near the Manila Railroad Station. The 2d Battalion 145th Infantry, encountering well defended pillboxes and emplacements in the Tondo area, reduced them with rocket launchers, pole charges and direct fire weapons, losing a Battalion Commander in the process. The 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, continued to garrison the Polo-Malinta area, denying an escape route to the enemy along the coast of Manila Bay and engaging in vigorous patrol contacts throughout the day.

Total casualties for the day's action were 19 KIA and 216 WIA.

February 10, 1945:

The 129th Infantry succeeded in reinforcing its squad on Provisor Island with 90 men from E Company who during the day pushed through the Island to the last pocket on the western tip. The 2d and 3d Battalions continued to attack westerly along Estero de Toque, 2d Battalion on the North, encountering heavy resistance from 20 and 40mm dual purpose guns, mortars and machine guns. In the 1st Battalion sector on the South, intense resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Estero de Paco and Isaac Peral, with very little headway being made. Continuous contact was maintained with the 148th Infantry.

The 148th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion on line next to the 129th Infantry and the 3d Battalion echeloned to the left rear leaving the 2d Battalion in reserve securing the left flank along the railroad from the Pasig River to Paco railroad station where contact was established with an 8th Cavalry patrol at 1515. The 1st Battalion, continuing the assault upon the Paco railroad station, secured it by 0855, and then advanced against heavy 20mm and dual purpose artillery fire, machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire for approximately 700 yards, C Company at 1630 on the North Flank effecting a successful crossing of the Estero de Paco.

Meanwhile the 145th Infantry, less the 1st battalion

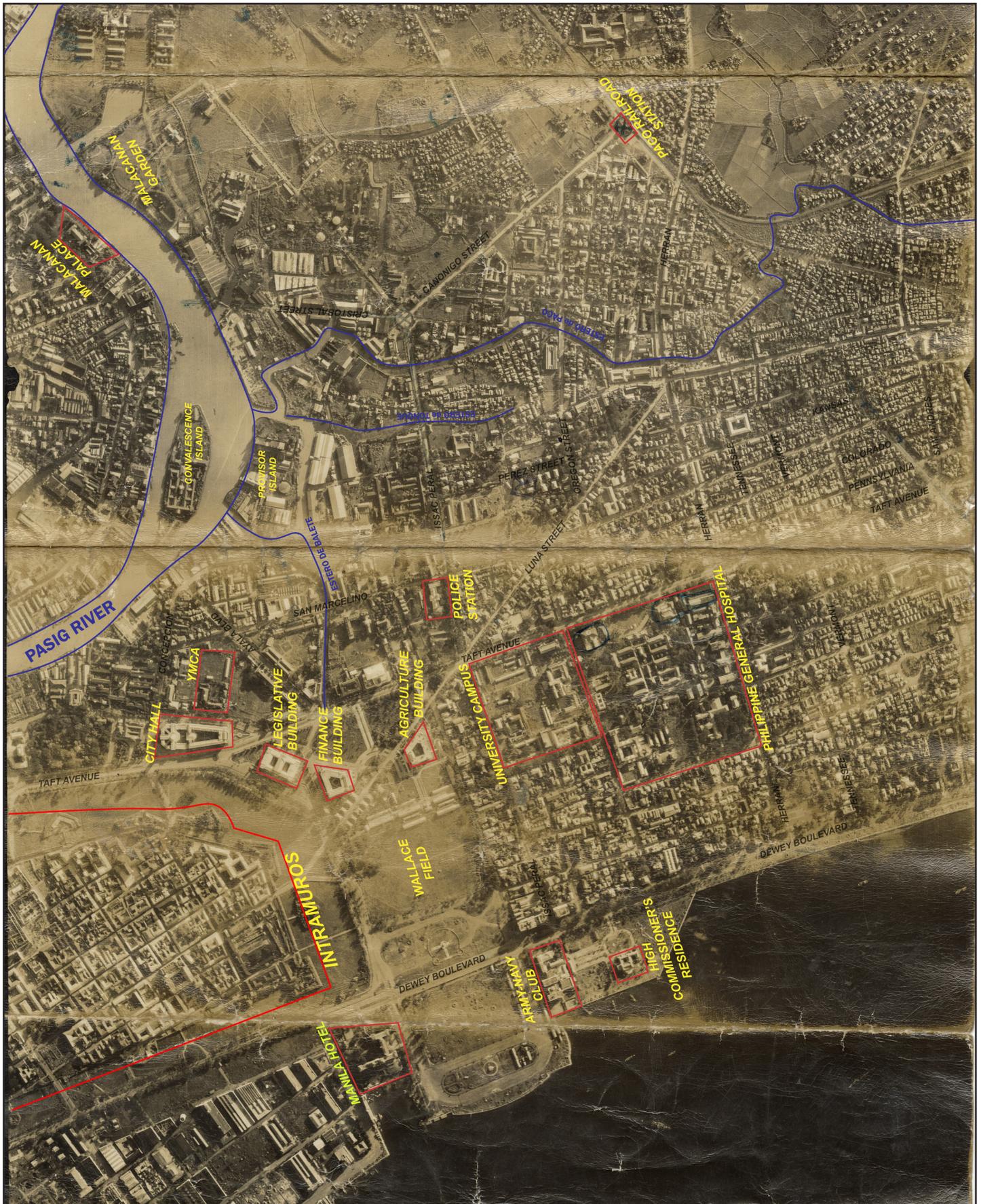
in Division reserve South of the Pasig River, turned its attention to the clearance of the Polo-Obando-Dampalit area, supported by a platoon of medium tanks, amphibious tractors, and three platoons of chemical mortars as well as its normal supporting field artillery battalion. The Regiment attacked North and west from Manila, destroying pockets of resistance in the Dampalit - Polo area, E Company occupying Malabon by 0900 and Dampalit by the end of the day, while the 3d Battalion contacted strong enemy defensive positions covered by observed fire East of Pasolo this position was neutralized by artillery and mortar fire and the Battalion continued the attack toward Polo.

February 11, 1945:

On the night of 10-11 February, the 129th Infantry drove the enemy off the rest of Provisor Island and by 1300 it was considered secure; however, E Company on the island was receiving heavy 40 and 20mm fire from the mainland. F Company on the North flank next to the island made a rapid initial advance across the Estero de Toque while E Company crossing from Provisor Island and an unnamed estuary near its western end, advanced only a short distance due to a building from which severe and accurate 40 mm fire was received from emplacements in the second story. On the South flank the 1st Battalion made steady gains against sporadic 40 and 20mm mortar, and machine gun fire to secure a foothold on Comillas Street near the junction with Isaac Peral.

On the South, the 148th Infantry with its 1st Battalion on the North, attacked at 0815 from positions along Estero de Paco, advancing 300 yards where the where the 1st Battalion line ran into stubborn resistance in the vicinity of the Market Place at 1130. The positions were assaulted after mortar softening and seized by 1400, while further advance was made along Perez Street. However, a strong enemy position was contacted at a circular cemetery where mutually supporting enemy emplacements had been well dug in, resisting both artillery and mortar neutralization. Elements of the 1st Battalion assaulted the cemetery with flame throwers supported by 81mm mortars but soon discovered the position was defended by three or more 75mm guns delivering point blank direct fire against all the approaches. The Battalion withdrew slightly to permit high angle artillery fire for destruction followed by harassing fire during the night.

During the same day, the 145th Infantry, less the 1st Battalion, continued to operate in the Dampalit - Polo area, the 3d Battalion occupying Polo by the evening of 10 February and engaged in extensive mopping up operations on 11 February. Obando was attacked and seized by 1330, the advance continuing toward the mouth of the Bulacan River. The 2d Battalion crossed the Dampalit River North of Malaban in the morning in the face of heavy mortar and machine gun fire. An intense fire fight continued throughout the day. At this time the Polo - Obando area was considered secured, the fighting continuing in the vicinity of Dampalit.



Aerial photo south of the Pasig used during the battle by Lt. Col. Herbert Radcliffe, commander of the 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry. The modern overlay symbols indicate the main areas of enemy resistance.

Casualties for the 24 hour period were 28 KIA and 174 WIA.

February 12, 1945:

A number of concrete and stone buildings in the vicinity of Taft Avenue North of Isaac Peral housed enemy strongpoints which had so far held up our advance. The 129th Infantry, using all of the weapons at its disposal and preceded by intense artillery preparation crossed Camillas Street on the North flank in the face of dual purpose guns, mortars, machine guns and rifle fire for an advance of 100 yards, but the 1st Battalion was unable to move beyond Camillas Street because of the direct fire weapons previously mentioned.

In the 148th Infantry sector the 3d Battalion on the South advanced against scattered machine gun and rifle fire arriving at Pennsylvania Avenue by 1630 where it was halted by several strong points which included 40 mm and 20mm guns and automatic weapons. Resisting reduction by infantry means, the battalion withdrew far enough to permit additional: artillery concentrations. On the North during the night 11-12 February, the 1st Battalion accomplished its advance by bazooka, flame throwers and pole charges neutralizing and capturing four 20mm guns in the process and seizing the circular cemetery by dawn 12 February. Further advance was halted by direct fire artillery and machine guns from enemy positions on Herran Avenue. After a heavy artillery concentration the battalion attacked again shortly after noon, overran a dual purpose gun and destroyed an ammunition dump arriving as far as Kansas Avenue at the close of the day. In addition to direct support artillery, observed targets were fired upon deep in the enemy lines. During 12 February this fire burned a fuel dump near the City Hall, destroyed a large caliber gun near the Manila Hotel and a 75mm gun and ammunition dump near the General Post Office. A fuel dump was burned on Dewey Boulevard and four direct hits were made upon a sunken ship in Manila harbor from which enemy guns were firing at cub planes.

In the Dampalit area the 145th Infantry advanced Southwest from Pasolo encountering heavy mortar, machine gun and rifle fire from the vicinity of a road junction near Dampalit shortly after noon. During further advance in the afternoon continuous opposition was met and a heavy fire fight engaged in during the rest of the day.

Casualties for 12 February were 24 KIA and 173 WIA.

February 13, 1945:

129th Infantry resumed its advance from positions along Camillas Street with its right flank resting on the Pasig River with the mission of passing and outflanking strongly fortified enemy positions along Taft Avenue North of Isaac Peral, which were holding up the advance of the 1st Battalion. By 1600 E Company, supported by artillery and 4.2 inch and 81mm mortars, had overrun and destroyed several strongpoints consisting of machine gun and 20mm emplacements in buildings and rubble, and

arrived at a line along Concepcion Street from the Military Hospital to the junction of Concepcion and Ayala Streets. F Company, South of E Company, advanced against intense enemy fire from the same strongpoint which was holding up the 1st Battalion's advance, and succeeded in reaching Marcellino Street.

The 148th Infantry made considerable progress against defensive positions somewhat weakened by constant artillery and mortar fire, 2d Battalion leading (having passed through 1st Battalion 0800) and driving to Pennsylvania Avenue. The 3d Battalion on the South against somewhat greater resistance, reached Taft Avenue where it contacted 12th Cavalry on its left. The 145th Infantry continued its drive from Dampalit, 2d Battalion moving to the North and the 3d Battalion to the South in the area Obando-Tinajeros; both movements were resisted by continuous rifle, machine gun and mortar fire, the 3d Battalion encountering concrete pillboxes, one of which was found to contain 21 dead Japs.

1st Battalion 145th Infantry, in Division reserve South of the Pasig River, assembled near the 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry, prepared to refuse the left flank. Among the interesting developments during the day was a patrol from 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, which pushed into the Philippine General Hospital grounds, re turning with valuable information as to the location of enemy installations and routes of approach. The Philippine General Hospital was composed of a number of heavy concrete buildings so disposed on the institution's grounds as to permit cross fire over all approaches to the well-fortified positions dug into the foundations and floors of the buildings.

February 14, 1945:

With the approval of XIV Corps, after a heavy artillery preparation, the 148th Infantry on the Division's left flank, and the 12th Cavalry Regiment on the 1st Cavalry Division's right flank, launched a coordinated attack West towards Manila Bay at 0830. By 1415 the 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry, by close-in infantry assault action supported by mortar fire and rocket launchers, had neutralized and overrun an especially strong enemy fortified position defended by two 40mm guns and one 20mm dual purpose gun in Malate Circle. Before darkness the battalion advanced one block West of the Circle and secured positions on Indiana Street, the right flank of the battalion advancing West for two blocks against moderate enemy machine gun and rifle fire, consolidated positions along Wright Avenue between Remedios Street and Tennessee Avenue, the 2d Battalion on the Regiment's right flank maintained offensive pressure on the strong enemy position in the Philippine General Hospital-Philippine University area from well-consolidated positions along Taft Avenue, maintaining contact with the 1st Battalion 129th Infantry, on Isaac Peral throughout the period.

The 129th Infantry relieved its 2d Battalion with its 3d Battalion during the night 13-14 February and with 3d Battalion on the North and 1st Battalion on the South

continued the slow reduction of enemy occupied fortified buildings West of San Marcellino Street, supported by direct fire from tanks and M-7s. No major advances were made. The 2d Battalion assumed responsibility for bridge security from San Fernando to Manila along the main supply route, outposted Plaridel, and contacted 40th Division at Guagua.

145th Infantry (1st Battalion) continued systematic destruction of enemy pockets of resistance in the Dampalit-Obando sector, penetrating into Tawiran by 1215 with a strong armored patrol which killed 42 enemy en route without suffering a casualty. 1st Battalion was attached to the 129th Infantry South of the Pasig River at 1500 and the 3d Battalion closed into an assembly area North of the Pasig River in the vicinity of the treadway bridge by 1800.

At 1500 the following units were relieved of attachment to the 145th Infantry: 1 platoon, Company A, 754th Tank Battalion; Company A and 1 platoon of Company B, 82d Chemical Battalion. Tanks attached to the Special Security Force sank an enemy barge in Manila Bay at 1112 and at 1730 a tank destroyer demolished an enemy 37mm gun and killed all three of its crew with direct fire from the North bank of the Pasig River to a point near the General Post Office.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division's advance.

February 15, 1945:

The Division maintained its relentless offensive pressure against the fanatical Japanese resistance barring the approaches to Intramuros from Manila Bay South of the Pasig River with the main effort on the left flank. At 1930 the 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry after neutralizing numerous enemy machine gun positions in houses along the axis of advance, and piercing difficult road blocks whose approaches were covered by mines, broke through to Manila Bay on the Division South flank, and by dark held Dewey Boulevard, the main thoroughfare paralleling the beach from Harrison Avenue (Division South boundary) North for six blocks to Remedios Street. 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, continued to neutralize by mortar fire and M-7 fire the enemy defenses in the Philippine General Hospital-University of Philippines area, making no territorial gains during the day, and maintaining contact with the 129th Infantry on the right flank.

The 129th Infantry, with 3d Battalion on North, 1st Battalion on South, attacking against strong enemy resistance in buildings and concrete structures West of San Marcellino Street, drove its right flank forward along the South Bank of the Pasig River for 400 yards while Company B on its South flank, supported by mortar fire, tanks and M-7s, stormed and occupied an enemy held building extending East from San Marcellino Street and repulsed a counterattack by 40 enemy late in the afternoon, killing 13 counted dead and numerous others whose accurate count was prevented by enemy fire. At the end of the day the Regiment's line ran generally from

the Pasig River South along the East edge of the Military Hospital to Concepcion Street, thence South along San Marcellino Street to Isaac Peral. 2d Battalion based at Marilao continued its mission of bridge security.

145th Infantry (1st and 3d Battalions) mopped up scattered enemy opposition between Dampalit and Binuangan, securing South bank of the Binuangan River East from its mouth 1700. An armored patrol to Tawiran reported negative. 1st Battalion remains attached to the 129th Infantry. 3rd Battalion remains assembled in Division reserve vicinity treadway bridge.

At 1610 Division was informed that VCOG XIV Corps the reserve squadron of 1st Cavalry Division would be committed against the scattered enemy groups sporadically interdicting Highway 3 in the vicinity of Meycauayan.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the division advance.

February 16, 1945:

The Division continued the thorough reduction of enemy resistance in concrete and stone buildings and houses in the area south of the Pasig River, Manila, by assault infantry action and concentrated fire power from Division Artillery, M-7s, tank destroyers tanks and 4.2 inch and 81mm mortars. The 3rd Battalion 148th Infantry on the South flank, having driven West to Manila Bay between Harrison Avenue and Remedios Street by the evening of 15 February, pivoted on the corner of Taft Avenue and Remedios Street and began to roll up the Japanese right flank by attacking North generally along a line extending from Manila Bay East along Taft Avenue. The 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, on the Regiment's right flank, continued to attack West against the Philippine General Hospital area from positions along Taft Avenue. At 1400 the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, relieved the 3d Battalion, which by this time had neutralized numerous enemy machine gun nests and pockets of resistance along the axis of its attack, and had advanced along the entire line three blocks North to positions along Tennessee Avenue from Manila Bay East to Taft Avenue.

Medium tanks were used with excellent effect to support the infantry mopping up process along the rubble-strewn streets and at 1300 an additional platoon of tanks from Company A, 754th Tank Battalion was attached to the 148th Infantry for this purpose. By darkness the 1st Battalion 148th Infantry had consolidated positions along an East-West line running from Manila Bay to Taft Avenue generally 75 yards North from Tennessee Avenue. 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry, based on an assembly area near the corner of Nebraska and Remedios Streets, assumed the mission of thoroughly mopping up the scattered enemy elements remaining in the newly won territory from Manila Bay Eastward.

The 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, exploiting to the full the neutralizing effect of its strong support fire power consisting of a platoon of tanks, several Cannon Company M-7s, tank destroyers, 81mm and 4.2 inch mortars, and

machine guns, forced a crossing of Taft Avenue and penetrated into the Eastern fringe of the strongly defended enemy held Philippine General Hospital grounds, securing by darkness a foothold in the nurses home after bitter room to room close-in fighting.

On the Division's North flank the 129th Infantry was again denied any appreciable forward progress by the intensely strong enemy resistance and well-emplaced fire power and buildings and rubble West of San Marcellino Street, and continued to pound the enemy held area with direct fire weapons reinforced with accurate well observed 81mm and 4.2 inch mortar fire. 2d Battalion continued its bridge security mission.

145th Infantry less 1st and 3d Battalions, secured the Dampalit-Polo-Binuangan area substantially cleared of enemy during operations of 15 February, by outposts and thorough patrolling. 1st Battalion remained attached to the 129th, Infantry and 3d Battalion remained in Division reserve. Cannon Company M-7s with tank destroyers attached reinforced by one platoon Company G. placed continuous fire in enemy installations vicinity General Post Office and Walled City from positions on the North bank of the Pasig River.

At 1335 the Division was informed that VCG XIV Corps that 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (1st Squadron, 5th Cavalry) would pass to the operational control of 37th Division effective 2400, with the stipulation that it not be committed until 1800, 17 February.

Division Artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance. Casualties for the day's fighting were 7 KIA and 89 WIA.

February 17, 1945:

The offensive pressure supported by infantry assault and direct fire weapons continued against the narrowing enemy held sector of Manila South of the Pasig River as the Division attacked to the West in its Northern zone and to the North in its Southern zone.

The 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, from the line 75 yards North of Tennessee Avenue occupied on 16 February, drove North, aggressively supported by tanks and M-7s, against enemy machine gun and small arms fire from positions in buildings commanding streets and intersections, and by 1700 seized Herran Avenue from Manila Bay East to contact with the 2d Battalion on Wright Street, after neutralizing by mortar and machine gun fire two 20mm and one 40mm gun in the vicinity of Herran Avenue and Dewey Boulevard, and destroying an enemy strong-point defended by machine gun and 20mm guns on the South side of Herran Street between Georgia and Florida Avenue.

2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, in bitter hand assault combat, drove the enemy from the Science Building on the Southeast corner of Philippine General Hospital area by 1150 and secured the two Eastern wings of the main Hospital building by 1330. As darkness fell, the enemy was still fanatically defending the two Western wings of the building with machine gun, small arms, hand grenade

fire from behind corridor barricades, and by the end of the period only half of the main hospital building was in our possession. Immediately following our initial penetration into this enemy stronghold, a steady stream of civilian refugees and patients, long held virtually captive by the Japanese in the hospital, began to pour into our lines, greatly hindering military operations. By the end of the afternoon over 2000 civilians had been channelized into an emergency assembly area east of Taft Avenue. The evacuation continued throughout the night and an estimated total of 7000 were eventually rescued. Company G on the Battalion's right flank from positions along Taft Avenue placed continuous machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire on strong enemy positions in the Philippine University area, partially neutralizing the mortar and machine gun fire which the enemy placed on our troops attacking the hospital.

The 129th Infantry (2d Battalion) continued the slow reduction by heavy caliber direct fire and infantry weapons, of the enemy held buildings West of San Marcellino Street, making no appreciable territorial gains during the day. 2d Battalion continued its bridge security mission.

The 145th Infantry, less 1st and 2d Battalions, continued to secure the Dampalit-Polo-Binuangan area by outposts and patrols. The Cannon Company, heavy weapons elements of the 2d Battalion and one platoon of Company G, occupying positions along the North bank of the Pasig River from the Great Eastern Hotel West to Manila Bay placed fire on all enemy movement and installations along the South bank of the Pasig River. 1st Battalion remained attached 129th Infantry and 3d Battalion remained in Division reserve.

1st Cavalry Brigade (less 1 Squadron) remained in an area along Manila Bay from Harrison Avenue South to contact with the 11th Airborne Division regrouping and mopping up the Harrison Park area, which had been secured after heavy fighting 16 February.

The 145th Infantry had by this time reduced the Polo-Obando-Malinta area to the point where only a small force was required to patrol the area, mopping up scattered enemy remnants. The 129th Infantry, which had extremely heavy fighting since its crossing of the Pasig River, could now be relieved by the 145th Infantry and given a rest. Continuous and heavy fighting in the vicinity of Isaac Peral and San Marcellino Streets had reduced the Regiment's effective strength.

As an illustration of the tenacity of the enemy at the new police station in that area, on three separate occasions the 129th Infantry forced an entrance, but succeeded in doing so late in the day, that it was unable to consolidate positions before nightfall. During these three nights, with Japs and Americans in the same building the Japs counterattacked with the utmost ferocity, utterly reckless of life, and on each occasion the Regimental Commander directed a withdrawal pending further softening of the area. Artillery and direct fire weapons were brought to bear on the building and its destruction was in process when the regiment was relieved by the 145th Infantry. That Regiment finally occupied the building after bitter fighting and only after completely destroying the building.

At 1620 Division Operation Memorandum No. 7 was distributed, directing the relief of the 148th Infantry by the 1st Cavalry Brigade by 1000 19 February, and the relief of the 1st Battalion, 129th Infantry by the 145th Infantry, by 1000 18 February. At 1940 the Commanding Officer of the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was informed that the Troop would relieve the 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry, of responsibility for the security of the Dampalit-Polo-Binuangan area at 1000 18 February.

At 2300 Field Order No. 7, XIV Corps, 17 February 1945, was received directing the 37th Division to continue its mission of completing the capture of Manila.

The Assault Gun Platoon of 716th Tank Battalion attached to the 37th Division by Operations Memorandum No. 20, XIV Corps, 17 February 1945, was attached to the 148th Infantry at 1800.

Division Artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance.

Casualties for the day were 7 KIA and 97 WIA.

February 18, 1945:

The two-pronged assault upon the fanatically defended fortified position in the Philippine General Hospital-Philippine University area from the East and South

continued, while the slow reduction of the enemy held fortified concrete and stone building denying the Division's advance West from San Marcellino Street was maintained on the North flank.

The 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, by maintaining offensive pressure throughout the night of 17-18 February, drove the enemy from the two western wings of the main hospital building before morning, but were unable to occupy that portion of the building because of constant interdiction fire placed on it by the Japanese in buildings on the Western section of the hospital grounds.

By 1230 the 1st Battalion, supported by direct fire from tanks and tank destroyers, neutralized the enemy fire from the Medical School sufficiently to permit the complete occupation of the main hospital building. At the end of the day, however, in the hospital area itself, the enemy still held strong positions in the Convent (Southwest corner), the Medical School (Between Convent and Science Building), and the Observatory (Northwest corner). The left flank of the 1st Battalion drove North for five blocks on Manila Bay against moderate enemy machine gun and rifle fire to secure positions on Faura Street. At 1455 these troops received enemy rocket fire from the vicinity of the High Commissioner's Residence which was neutralized by accurate artillery fire of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion. Meanwhile the right flank of the 2d Battalion from positions along Taft Avenue, placed steady neutralization fire



February 18, 1945: 37th Infantry Division medics carrying a wounded Soldier across the campus of the University of Philippines. (Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Audiovisual Collection - Ohio History Connection)

on the enemy held University of the Philippines campus throughout the day.

On the Division's North flank 145th Infantry Regiment, less 2d and 3d Battalions, relieved the 129th Infantry in positions on San Marcellino Street at 1000. The 129th Infantry, leaving its 3d Battalion in position on the Northern flank of the regimental line, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Caloocan. Heavy weapons elements of the 1st Battalion relieved the 145th Infantry of firing positions on the North bank of the Pasig River at 1130. The 1st Battalion 145th Infantry occupied and secured Santa Teresa College, the last remaining enemy strongpoint East of San Marcellino Street, at 1320. A combat patrol penetrated into the New Police Station on the northwest corner of Isaac Peral and San Marcellino Street, found it heavily occupied by the enemy, and withdrew at 1930 to allow further neutralization fire upon the strong building. The 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry, was relieved of the Pasolo-Dampalit area by the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop at 1000, and moved to an assembly area vicinity San Lazarro race track in Manila.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (1 Squadron) assembled in the Santa Ana-Malate district.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance.

Casualties for the day were 7 KIA, 43 WIA.

February 19, 1945:

The Division continued the compression and neutralization of the bitterly fighting enemy defensive garrison in the area South of the Pasig River in Manila, attacking along two distinct axis – from the South along Manila Bay on the left flank and from the East along the Pasig River and Isaac Peral on the right flank. By this time the major immediate enemy opposition was centralized in the following areas: (A) The strongly constructed concrete institutional buildings forming the Philippine University campus; (B) The group of luxurious club and hotel buildings along Manila Bay, including the High Commissioner's House, the Army-Navy and Elks Clubs, and the massive Manila Hotel; (C) The group of concrete and stone church, convent, and school buildings occupying the general quadrangle bounded by the Pasig River on the North, San Marcellino Street on the East, Isaac Peral on the South, and the Taft Avenue-Wallace Field area on the West.

The enemy defended these natural fortifications, reinforced with many sandbagged barricades and pillboxes, with automatic weapons and firepower from 40 and 20mm anti-aircraft guns converted to infantry use, covering the street approaches to the buildings by accurate machine gun, rifle, and 90mm mortar fire. To occupy and secure any one of these virtual fortresses without prohibitive and decimating casualties, required the constant employment of direct fire weapons such as Cannon Company M-7s, tank destroyers, medium tanks, 155mm howitzers, to blast openings in walls and sufficiently neutralize enemy fire power to permit Infantry assault units to penetrate the buildings and eliminate the

enemy forces remaining therein. This slow, deliberate, but ultimately successful process continued throughout the phase of the Battle of Manila at present under discussion, and a grasp of the method of fighting employed is essential to a clear understanding of the tactical operations of the Division.

Operations for 19 February were highlighted by the successful penetration of the 145th Infantry into the area of fiercely defended buildings North of Isaac Peral and West of San Marcellino Street, and the simultaneous elimination by the 1st Cavalry Brigade of all organized enemy resistance in the Philippine General Hospital grounds.

At 1005 3d Battalion, 129th Infantry was relieved of its sector of the line on the Division's North flank by the 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, and rejoined its parent regiment in assembly area vicinity Caloocan. The 145th Infantry, with 3d Battalion on the North and 1st Battalion on the South supported by 1 platoon of 105mm tanks, 2 platoons 75mm tank, 1 platoon 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attacked West across San Marcellino Street and by 1425 the 3d Battalion in bitter building to building fighting seized the YMCA and the Manila Trade School buildings. Company L approached close to the strongly defended Metropolitan Water District building, cutting off enemy escape routes from this building while heavy caliber direct fire was placed on the strongpoint. A feeler reconnaissance patrol West along the South bank of the Pasig River reached a point 200 yards Southeast of the Quezon Bridge and drew heavy enemy fire from buildings in the General Post Office area. The 1st Battalion on the regiment's left flank penetrated into the enemy held San Pablo Church and Convent West of San Marcellino Street in bitter hand to hand fighting but withdrew by darkness to allow further neutralization fire on the enemy position.

The 1st Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (1 Squadron), relieved the 148th Infantry in position at 1030. The 148th Infantry (3d Battalion) moved to an assembly area vicinity Santa Mesa while the 3d Battalion continued to secure Manila Bay from Faura Street South to Harrison Avenue.

Attacking at 1100 with the 5th Cavalry on the right and the 12th Cavalry on the left, 1st Cavalry Brigade drove the enemy from the Medical School, killing the enemy fleeing from the building by direct machine gun and small arms fire, and Observatory buildings, thus completely securing the Philippine General Hospital area by 1910. Along Manila Bay, the 12th Cavalry drove its left flank up to the Southern approaches to the High Commissioner's Residence where at 1455 the advance was halted for the day by accurate enemy 20mm and machine gun fire from the mass of bunkers and pillboxes forming the approaches to the building. Tank from positions along Dewey Boulevard placed direct fire on this area throughout the rest of the day.

Company C, 82 Chemical Battalion, reverted to battalion control 1000. Companies A and D were attached to 145th Infantry at 0730.

37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, securing Dampalit-Polo area engaged in fire fights with scattered enemy groups in the vicinity.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance.

Casualties for the day were 13 KIA and 173 WIA.

February 20, 1945:

Recommencing the attack upon the remaining enemy held buildings barring the, approaches to Intramuros and the port area of Manila before dawn, the Division maintained its furious offensive pressure on both the South and East flanks throughout the day and by 1800 the 1st Cavalry Brigade had hammered combat patrols as far North as the Manila Hotel, and the 145th Infantry had substantially smashed the organized enemy resistance in the fanatically defended group of buildings between Taft Avenue and San Marcellino Street North of Isaac Peral. By 0850 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry secured the large stone convent building North of San Pablo church and by 1440 after hard close-in fighting, the Battalion secured both the San Pablo church, in which over 107 enemy dead were counted, and the strongly fortified new Police Station, in which 100 enemy dead were counted while an additional 50 were killed by supporting weapon fire attempting to flee west from the building. Tanks and Cannon Company M-7s were immediately brought forward and commenced the reduction of the stone and concrete club buildings along the East side of Taft Avenue-the last fringe of enemy held fortified buildings before the comparatively open

Wallace Field area.

The 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry continued to eliminate fiercely defending enemy garrisons in the YMCA-Manila Trade School area. Meanwhile Company L, supported by flame thrower tanks and tank destroyers continued the systematic neutralization of enemy resistance in the Metropolitan Water District building.

At 1415 Company K, 145th Infantry, exploiting with superb aggressiveness the direct fire support of Cannon Company M-7s, forced a penetration into the key enemy strongpoint, the City Hall, through a hole torn in its thick concrete walls by direct 155mm fire. By 1440 two platoons of the Company had entered the building, but by 1530, due to the impossibility of further exploitation of the penetration without more direct fire support, the force was successfully withdrawn from the large building under cover of smoke and intense covering small arms fire.

The 12th Cavalry Regiment, continuing its offensive pressure North along Dewey Boulevard, secured the High Commissioner's residence by 0730, and with tank support pushed on to seize the Army-Navy Club and the Elks Club at 1100 against moderate small arms resistance. By darkness, a strong combat outpost had been established in Burnham Green and late in the afternoon this outpost was receiving severe enemy mortar and machine gun fire from the Southwest corner of Intramuros. At 1800 a strong combat patrol closely supported by tanks crossed Burnham Green area and reached the South side of the Manila Hotel, withdrawing by darkness.



Metropolitan Water District building taken by the 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry.

The 5th Cavalry Regiment, maintaining physical contact with 145th Infantry along Isaac Peral, repelled infiltration attacks in the Philippine General Hospital area during night 19-20 February, completed the mopping up of demoralized enemy groups in the medical school, supported by flame throwers, at 1045, and began the reduction of extremely well defended fortified buildings in the University of the Philippines campus North of Faura Street. At 1630 a platoon of medium tanks was attached to the 1st Cavalry Brigade to support the attack on this final enemy strongpoint, barring the southern approaches to the Wallace field area. At 1630 the center building of the Philippine University campus along Faura Street, at that time jointly occupied by the 5th Cavalry and the enemy, exploded, causing numerous casualties.

At 2130 the Division G-3 telephoned orders covering the attack of 21 February to the Commanding Officers of the 145th Infantry and the 1st Cavalry Brigade. The plan in brief was to seize the University of the Philippines Campus, the Manila Hotel, and the port area on the left flank, and to secure the General Post Office, Ice House, Metropolitan Theater, City Hall, on the right flank.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance.

Casualties for the day were 10 KIA and 140 WIA.

February 21, 1945:

Taking aggressive advantage of the enemy's increasingly apparent disorganization in the area bordering the East side of Wallace Field as a result of the constant hard hitting pounding of direct fire weapons and accurate artillery concentrations, the Division increased the tempo of its attack on the North flank, and during a day of furious combat seized and occupied all buildings along Taft Avenue from Isaac Peral North to the City Hall, securing the Water District building, the Ice Plant, the Metropolitan Theater, and penetrating into the massive General Post Office building. On the West flank the Manila Hotel was penetrated and substantially cleared of enemy resistance by the 12th Cavalry Regiment. 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry secured all buildings on the East side of Taft Avenue from Isaac Peral North to Ayala Street by 1015, and leaving Company A along Taft Avenue, to secure them, assembled in the vicinity of Concepcion and Camillas Street re-grouped, and attacked northwest towards the Ice Plant. At 1630, after a steady advance across difficult rubble-strewn areas covered by sporadic enemy machine gun and small arms fire, Company B secured the Ice Plant.

Meanwhile, the 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, supported by tanks, tank destroyers, and M-7s, completed the neutralization and occupation of the Metropolitan Water District building by 0830, and with systematic infantry assault action attacked through the botanical garden and secured the Metropolitan Theater Building by 1440. At 1415 Company K after hard room to room fighting secured the Normal School on the Northeast corner of Taft Avenue and Ayala Street.

Supported by bases of fire in both the Ice Plant and Metropolitan Theater, after a devastating direct fire preparation from tanks, M-7s, tank destroyers, Company B launched an assault West against the General Post Office at 1645, penetrating to the 1st and 2d floors of this virtual fortress against increasing opposition from enemy held barricades in the corridors and rooms.

Company I forced another penetration into the City Hall at 1300 and withdrew after encountering heavy hand grenade and machine gun resistance from behind impenetrable barricades to allow further direct fire neutralization of the building's strongpoints. At 1515 two 155mm howitzers from the 136th Field Artillery Battalion were attached to the 145th Infantry to assist by direct fire the infantry assault upon the City Hall. Following point blank fire on the East wall by 155mm howitzers, tank destroyers, and M-7s, Company I forced another penetration into the City Hall at 1840, successfully penetrating into 4 rooms of the fiercely defended building in the face of heavy and continuous enemy machine gun, grenade and rifle fire.

At 1920 on order of the Commanding General troops in both the General Post Office and City Hall withdrew to the outside of the buildings to permit further direct fire upon them before the final assault.

On the Division's West flank the 12th Cavalry penetrated into the Manila Hotel at 1015 and began methodical room to room elimination of the numerically small enemy garrison, securing the lobby by 1210 and the rest of the large concrete building by 1800. The 5th Cavalry against bitter and heavy resistance continued to pound with tanks, tank destroyers, and M-7s, the fortified buildings in the University of the Philippines campus North of Faura Street, making no territorial gains during the day but killing 13 enemy in the rubble of the hospital area during mopping-up operations.

1 Platoon of Cannon Company, 129th Infantry, and 1 Platoon of Cannon Company, 148th Infantry, were attached to the 1st Cavalry Brigade to support their attack against the University of the Philippines campus. 129th Infantry, less 2d Battalion, and the 148th Infantry, less 3d Battalion, occupied assembly area at Caloocan and Santa Mesa respectively throughout the period. 2d Battalion, 129th Infantry, continued on bridge security mission while 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry, securing Manila Bay North from Harrison Avenue, killed 27 enemy infiltrators during the night 20-21 February.

Casualties for the day: 8 KIA and 56 WIA.

February 22, 1945:

The Division completed the reduction and securing of the last two enemy strongholds, barring the Northeast approaches to Intramuros by occupying both the City Hall and the General Post Office during the day against enemy resistance substantially disorganized by the extremely effective direct fire support of M-7s, tanks, tank destroyers, and 155mm howitzers. With the capture of these strategic positions plans could be put into effect encompassing the difficult assault upon Intramuros, the



View of the destroyed General Post Office from the northern side of the Pasig River. (Digital scan from the National Archive courtesy of Matt Lemasters)

seemingly impregnable medieval fortress containing the final major enemy resistance in Manila with the exception of isolated enemy suicide garrisons in the Legislative, Agriculture, and Finance Buildings, and the Wallace Field area. At 1830 Field Order 30 was distributed providing for the simultaneous assault upon Intramuros by 129th Infantry from the North after an amphibious crossing of the Pasig River and by the 145th Infantry overland from the Northeast after an unprecedentedly heavy artillery barrage. Details of the action on 22 February follows: By 1145 the 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry, had secured 1st and 2d floors of the Post Office and one platoon had penetrated to the 4th and 5th floors, while the 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, had occupied and secured all floors of the City Hall to a point just South of the tower and was in the process of eliminating a machine gun in the Southwest corner of the building. By 1450 the City Hall was entirely secured with 206 enemy dead counted in the building and by 1620 all enemy resistance in the General Post Office had been compressed into a well dug-in pocket in the western half of the basement. The tedious process of eliminating this fanatical group with flame throwers; burning oil, and demolition charges, continued throughout the rest of the day. A 105mm enemy gun was captured on the 2d floor of the General Post Office.

On the Division's West flank the 12th Cavalry completely secured the Manila Hotel and the 5th Cavalry by 1640 succeeded in eliminating the enemy resistance, partially neutralized by direct fire support from the University of the

Philippines campus, and with the exception of a strong enemy defensive garrison in a burned out apartment house South of San Luis Street secured the approaches to the Wallace Field area from the South. At 1320, VCOG, the 148th Infantry was directed to relieve the 129th Infantry of the direct fire support mission of the North bank of the Pasig River.

At 1700, 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry, in preparation for its attack on Intramuros, the following day, was assembled in the Vicinity of the Metropolitan Water District Building.

2d Platoon of Cannon Company, 148th Infantry, was attached to the 145th Infantry to lend additional direct fire support to the attack.

At 1600, Company D, 82nd Chemical Battalion, was relieved of attachment to the 145th Infantry and attached to the 129th Infantry.

Division artillery continued to hammer enemy gun, mortar, and fortified positions in the enemy held sections of Manila in support of the Division advance.

Casualties for the day: 6 KIA and 76 WIA.

February 23, 1945:

Two distinct operations occurred during the day. 1st Cavalry Brigade continued its advance along the shore of Manila Bay into the Port area and established contact with the 129th Infantry on its right. The 2d operation, the assault upon Intramuros, is described in some detail hereafter.

Field Order No. 30, issued at 1800 22 February, provided for an assault upon Intramuros by the 129th Infantry (2d Battalion) and 145th Infantry (3d Battalion), supported by Division Artillery (reinforced by Corps Artillery) and all large caliber direct fire weapons in and attached to the Division. The plan was executed commencing at 0730 on 23 February.

Twelve 105mm howitzers and six 155mm howitzers were lined up on the North and East of Intramuros for direct fire during night 22-23 February, the 155's being disposed principally opposite the gap in the North wall and the North gate of the East wall. Interspersed amongst them were M-7's, tank destroyers, and both 75mm and 105mm tanks. During the night the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, using direct fire from the North bank of the Pasig River made breaks in the South embankment of the river to afford footing for the debarkation of assault troops onto the wall. Twenty-six machine guns were lined up on the North bank of the river, in buildings and other points of vantage, each covering a field of fire containing observed enemy machine gun positions on the South bank and four upon targets of opportunity before and during the assault. The 145th Infantry likewise employed all of its machine guns against the East wall.

At 0730 all weapons opened fire, accompanied by the balance of Division artillery and Corps artillery indirect fires which had been fired intermittently throughout the night. The bombardment lasted for one hour and saturated the points of assault, including the complete destruction of obstructions, mines and barricades in the immediate path of the assault troops. At 0830 red smoke was fired as a signal to lift all artillery and machine gun fire and promptly at 0830 the 145th Infantry, 2d Battalion started across the open space from the vicinity of the Post Office in an attack upon the North gate of the East wall and the bastions and Market Place covering the wall. At the same time, from a small estuary extending North from the Pasig River, engineer assault boats appeared carrying the 3d Battalion 129th Infantry. The first assault troops of the 145th Infantry arrived at the East wall at 0833 and the first troops of the 129th Infantry debarked from the boats at 0836. At 0830 heavy smoke concentrations were placed by 4.2 inch mortars in front of the Legislative and Finance Buildings (still in enemy hands) and against a bulge in the South bank of the Pasig River near the mouth, for the purpose of screening the advance of troops. At 0840 the artillery placed a heavy smoke concentration across the midline of Intramuros effectively blocking observation of the points of entrance and preventing reinforcements. At the same time the artillery commenced neutralization fire in the same area, which continued until the troops arrived in the danger zone.

With the appearance of the 145th Infantry, a machine gun from the South end of Jones Bridge commenced to fire without effect. This machine gun was later eliminated by three infantrymen who approached it from the side. No fire was received from the East wall itself, but a vigorous fire fight developed in the Market Place, which is a triangular bastion approximately 200 feet East of the East wall North of Victoria Gate. This resistance was

immediately countered by a detachment of the 145th Infantry while the balance of the Battalion bypassed and entered the Northeast Gate without immediate opposition.

On the North, no fire was directed against the assault boats and the troops entered the North Gate without opposition.

Once inside Intramuros, both regiments commenced receiving fire consisting for the most part of rifle and some disorganized machine gun fire. It was apparent that the well-known Japanese methods of strong cross fires at each intersection had been disrupted by the artillery preparation so that only isolated guns remained.

The plan of attack called for the immediate occupation of four blocks along Beaterio Street (from the Northeast Gate to Magallanes Street) which was promptly effected so that both regiments were in immediate physical contact and had secured flanks and rears from which to pursue their second mission, which was the elimination of the resistance along the North and East walls to Fort Santiago on the West and Victoria Gate (inclusive) on the East. The terrific preparation permitted the occupation of the walls with minimum opposition from the walls, until a full scale battle commenced within two blocks of the East wall and in several pockets of resistance in Fort Santiago.

In Fort Santiago the fighting continued all day around the ruined building, ancient dungeons, thick walls and a number of tunnels and recesses which harbored enemy and which were penetrated one by one with hand grenades and flame throwers. The Battalion had possession of Fort Santiago very quickly but did not subdue it until nightfall.

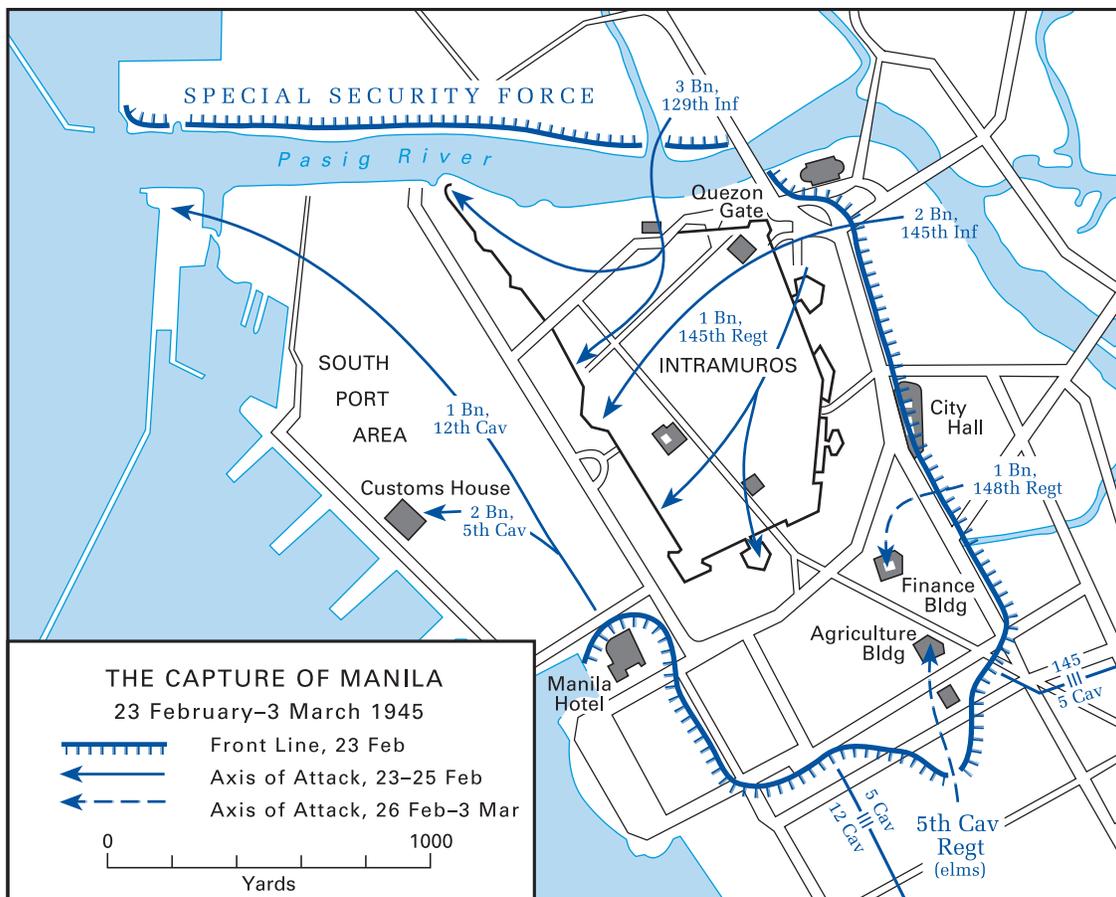
In the 145th Infantry sector increasing resistance developed as the troops moved to the South. A serious interference with progress was the discovery of approximately 2000 refugees, who commenced streaming out of the first floor of Del Monico Church on Gral Luna. These refugees consisted entirely of women and children, Nuns and several Priests. Few if any men were observed and the fact appears to be well established that the men had previously been murdered by the Japs who removed them to Fort Santiago and burned them (in a room 25 feet square in Fort Santiago. Filipinos were found dead, five layers deep). The Japanese had strongly organized the upper front of the Church, barricaded the windows with sandbags, and machine guns were observed in almost every window and the belfry. Fire was withheld, pending the evacuation of the civilians, although heavy machine gun fire was meanwhile being placed upon our troops. After the evacuation of the civilians fire was brought to bear upon the enemy positions in the church by tanks and M-7s, and by the close of the day only a small amount of return fire was being received.

The principal effort of the 145th Infantry was to seize the West gate on Real Street and the South gate on Gral Luna, but their objectives had not been obtained by the close of the period. However, the entrances were covered by fire to deny exit to the Japs, who were being squeezed into the Southwest corner of Intramuros without means of egress. By the close of the day all of the North wall, the East wall to a point below Victoria Gate, and the North half of the West wall were in our possession, and physical contact had been established with 1st Cavalry Brigade opposite 16th Street in the Port area (radio contact had been maintained during the day).

Among the incidents observed during the day's fighting were the appearance of Japs dressed completely in American



February 23, 1945: Soldiers from the 129th Infantry come ashore after crossing the Pasig River at Intramuros.



uniforms and carrying M-1 rifles who made deceptive gesture in an effort to effect a displacement of Japanese troops to a more favorable location. The ruses were always discovered and the Japs liquidated. At one time the white flag appeared accompanied by rifle fire. This old trick likewise did not work. During the entire day a considerable quantity of 90mm mortar was received within the lines of both 145th Infantry and 129th Infantry and to even a greater extent in the 1st Cavalry Brigade sector. Although this mortar at the close of the period had not been found, it apparently had been forced to move or was destroyed because the fire ceased late in the afternoon.

The success of the initial assault was caused by the extremely accurate and devastating artillery, mortar and machine gun fire and by the precise timing of the troops who exploited the preparation to maximum advantages. The fighting from then on until afternoon was by Infantry, with Infantry weapons, inasmuch as the mines, barricades, and very deep rubble interfered with the progress of tanks until armored bulldozers with engineers had cleared paths through the city.

Casualties for the day were 5 KIA and 62 WIA.

Artillery ammunition fired during assault on Intramuros: 7896.

February 24, 1945:

While on the North flank the Division completed the elimination of the final enemy resistance from the South1west corner of Intramuros and the bastion to the South, the 12th Cavalry on the West flank drove aggressively North through the port district, completed the securing of the Customs House by 1230 and by 1655 had eliminated all organized enemy resistance from the port area South of the Pasig River including Engineer Island.

By the end of the day the shattered remnants of the enemy's Manila defensive garrison were surrounded in the Wallace Field area but continued to maintain a bitter suicidal defense with automatic weapons from strong barricaded sandbagged positions in three concrete and stone government buildings - the Legislative. Finance, and Agricultural Buildings, located in an open area West of Taft Avenue and North of Isaac Peral. During the remaining 7 days of the bitterly fought Manila Campaign the Division's entire combat efforts were directed at the neutralization of these three fortress like enemy strongpoints. At 2210 an order was distributed containing, in brief, the following plan for securing the balance of Manila:

a. The 148th Infantry, less two Battalions, supported by heavy direct fire and artillery concentration, was given the mission of assaulting the Legislative and subsequently the Science Building on 26 February.

b. The 1st Cavalry Brigade, after intensive direct fire preparation during 25 February was given the mission of assaulting the Agricultural Building on 26 February.

c. The 145th Infantry was given the mission of securing Intramuros in zone and all the buildings North of Isaac Peral on the East side of Taft Avenue.

d. Supporting weapons were assigned as follows: 2

Batteries of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion direct fire support of the 148th Infantry and one Battery in support of the 5th Cavalry Regiment. 3 platoons of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion in support of the 148th Infantry and 1 platoon in support of the 5th Cavalry. Company B, 754th Tank Battalion, including the Assault Gun Platoon of 716th Tank Battalion, was attached to the 148th Infantry, as was also Company A 82nd Chemical Battalion.

Details of the operations of the 24th of February are as follows:

3d Battalion, 129th Infantry, supported by 1 platoon of tanks and making successful use of pole charges and flame throwers, systematically annihilated scattered groups of enemy remaining in dungeons and tunnels in the Fort Santiago sector of Intramuros.

The 145th Infantry (3d Battalion) supported by tanks, flame throwers, and M-7s, eliminated the final enemy resistance from the Southwest corner of Intramuros, securing the Santa Lucia Gate by 1020 after neutralizing an enemy held stone building defended by machine gun and hand grenade fire, and occupying Santa Augustine Church by 1215. At 1700, after an effective preparation fire by M-7s and machine guns, a successful assault was launched on the strongly fortified bastion South of the South gate of Intramuros and this position was secured and 115 enemy were counted dead within it. At 1700, in accordance with Operations Memorandum No. 27, XIV Corps, the 2d Battalion 145th Infantry was placed under operational control of Commanding General, XIV Corps, and assembled in vicinity of Pandacan for guard duty assignments in the Manila area.

37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, continuing to secure Dampalit-Polo area, killed 10 enemy in scattered patrol contacts. The 12th Cavalry, in bitter floor to floor and room to room fighting, secured the Customs Building at 1530. By 1655 the entire Port district South of the Pasig River, including Engineer Island, was secured, and enemy occupied firing positions in the Burnham Green area were reduced by direct tank fire throughout the day.

February 25, 1945:

In preparation for infantry assault upon the four heavily fortified enemy held buildings on Wallace Field on 26 February, the Division from positions along Taft Avenue on the East and San Luis Street on the South placed neutralization fire on these buildings throughout the day. 3d Battalion 129th Infantry completed the annihilation of enemy elements in tunnels and caves in the Fort Santiago area by 1200. A total of 400 enemy were killed by the 3d Battalion in the Fort Santiago area.

Heavy weapons elements of the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, supported by direct fire from two batteries of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion, 3 platoons of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company D 754th Tank Battalion, 2 Platoons Cannon Company M-7s, and fire from Company A, 82nd Chemical Battalion 4.2 inch mortars placed direct fire and observed mortar fire on the Legislative Building and the Finance Building throughout the day from positions on the East side of Taft Avenue,

receiving accurate enemy machine gun and small arms fire in return. The 5th Cavalry Regiment from positions generally along San Luis Street supported by direct fire from four M-7s (Attached from Cannon Company 129th Infantry), 1 Battery of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion, and 1 Platoon 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, placed neutralization fire on the Agricultural Building throughout the day. During this fighting two 155mm howitzers of the 136th Field Artillery Battalion were damaged by enemy mortar fire.

During the day the 136th Field Artillery Battalion fired a total of 1700 rounds of direct fire against strongpoints in the Legislative, Finance, and Agricultural Buildings.

February 26, 1945:

After eliminating large numbers of enemy infiltrators who attempted to flee Eastward through our lines during the night of 25-26 February, the Division continued the direct fire softening and reduction of enemy resistance in the three remaining concrete building strongholds in Wallace Field, successfully penetrating into the enemy held Legislative Building but withdrawing late in the afternoon to allow further neutralization of still fierce enemy resistance within the large building.

The 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, after heavy direct fire support crossed Taft Avenue at 1930 and by 1300 after difficult room to room and floor to floor fighting against corridor barricades defended by light machine guns, small arms and hand grenades, pushed small patrol elements



February 25, 1945: 37th Infantry Division medics give plasma to a Soldier wounded during the battle inside Intramuros.

on to the 2d floor of the Legislative Building where exceedingly heavy enemy resistance was encountered. At 1630 with the approval of the Commanding General our forces within the building were withdrawn under cover of an effective smoke barrage to allow further heavy caliber direct fire on the well fortified building.

On the South the 5th Cavalry assault upon the Agriculture Building was stalled throughout the day by accurate



February 26, 1945: Soldiers from Company C, 148th Infantry move up in the early morning to attack the Legislative Building.

machine gun and small arms fire, covering the completely open approaches to the building, emanating from an enemy suicide garrison still occupying the burned out apartment building on the South side of San Luis Street.

The 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, continued to secure Taft Avenue from San Luis Street North to the General Post Office killing a total of 85 enemy infiltrators during the night and early morning of 25-26 February. The 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry, securing Intramuros, killed 9 enemy in the vicinity of the South wall during the night.

At 1400, in accordance with instructions from G-3, XIV Corps and Commanding General 40th Division the 172nd Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion, 129th Infantry of all bridge guards North of the Pampanga River.

37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, during aggressive patrol activity in the Polo-Dampalit areas, killed 16 enemy during the day.

Company D, 82nd Chemical Battalion, reverted to control XIV Corps at 0800.

Casualties for the day (including 53 previously unreported) were 6 KIA and 136 WIA.

February 27, 1945:

The Division successfully assaulted the Legislative Building, thus eliminating all but two centers of enemy resistance in Manqa and also captured the enemy held apartment house on San Luis Street, thereby securing the approaches to the well-fortified Agricultural Building. During the afternoon heavy 4.2 inch mortar

concentrations were placed on the Agricultural Building in preparation for a future assault. Details of the day's action follow: 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, after further direct fire support from 155mm howitzers, Tank destroyers, and M-7s, launched a determined assault upon the Legislative Building at 1400, securing the 1st floor by 1615, and after the systematic annihilation of the usual scattered enemy groups holed up in the basement, secured the entire building by darkness. The 5th Cavalry Regiment, exploiting the effect of direct fire from 155mm howitzers, tank destroyers, and M-7s, penetrated into and secured by 1615 the apartment house on San Luis Street whose enemy garrison had denied our movement across the open approaches to the Agricultural Building by accurate grazing machine gun fire.

Mop-up patrols of the 12th Cavalry killed 27 enemy fighting in bunkers and dugouts in Burnham Green area.

3d Battalion, 129th Infantry, was relieved of its zone in the northern section of Intramuros by the 1st Battalion 145th Infantry at 1400, and joined the rest of the Regiment in the vicinity of Calloocan. 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry, continuing its security mission along Taft Avenue, killed 25 enemy infiltrators during night 26-27 February.

NOTE: During the period of direct fire on the enemy held buildings in the Wallace Field area from the South and East, troops were withdrawn from both the northern sector of Intramuros and the Port district to zones of safety from stray shells.



37th Infantry Division Soldiers kneel during an outside mass at Intramuros.

February 28, 1945:

After a three hour direct fire preparation between 0800 and 1100, the 5th Cavalry assaulted the Agricultural Building, securing the structure with the exception of small numbers of enemy in caves in the basement by 1800, thus limiting the remaining effective enemy resistance in Manila to the large garrison still defending the Finance Building. At 1500, the 148th Infantry submitted a plan for an assault upon this final enemy stronghold on the 1st of March. The plan provided for a 7-hour direct fire preparation between 0730 and 1430 by tank destroyers, tanks, M-7s, and 155mm howitzers from positions covering all sides of the well-constructed concrete building, followed by an aggressive infantry assault.

37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, continuing to secure Dampalit-Polo area, killed 6 enemy in scattered patrol contacts. 3d Battalion 145th Infantry, continuing to secure Taft Avenue, killed 33 enemy infiltrators during night 27-28 February.

March 1-4, 1945:

After 27 continuous days of hazardous ferocious city fighting against a fanatical enemy garrison defending the city building by building and room by room, the Division completed the conquest of Manila at 1045 3 March with the conclusion of the final mop up of the Wallace Field-

Burnham Green area by the 1st and 3d Battalions, 148th Infantry, during which 320 enemy were found dead. The Finance Building, after a steady pounding by heavy caliber direct fire weapons throughout the day of 1 March and the morning of 2 March, was penetrated by Company C, 148th Infantry, at 1300 2 March, and after bitter floor to floor fighting, in which 74 enemy died, was secured at 1732.

With the termination of active enemy resistance in Manila the necessity for the Division's combat attachments, which had so effectively and courageously supported the Division throughout the battle, ceased. At 0800 2 March the 1st Cavalry Brigade reverted to the control of the 1st Cavalry Division, with the 5th Cavalry being relieved by the 3d Battalion 148th Infantry at 0740 and the 12th Cavalry by the same Battalion of the 148th Infantry at 1500 1 March. In accordance with Operations Memorandum No. 33, XIV Corps, 2 March 1945, Company B, 754th Tank Battalion and Company A, 82d Chemical Battalion, were released from Division control 1800 3 March, and the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Company B) at 1800 4 March.

Effective 2400 1 March VCOG XIV Corps, Combat Team 145 was released to the operational control of Provost Marshal General, USAFFE, to be employed as guards and military police in the greater Manila area. The remainder of the Division remained in assembly areas prepared to



March 1, 1945: 37th Infantry Division Soldiers carry a wounded Japanese Soldier from the Agriculture Building.

assume from XIV Corps the responsibility for garrisoning greater Manila on 5 March.

Total battle casualties for the Manila Campaign (9 January to 4 March):

| | OFFICERS | ENLISTED | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| KILLED IN ACTION | 29 | 352 | 381 |
| WOUNDED IN ACTION | 181 | 3090 | 3271 |
| NJURIED IN ACTION | 7 | 122 | 129 |
| MISSING IN ACTION | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| DIED OF WOUNDS | 7 | 23 | 30 |
| TOTAL | 224 | 389 | 3813 |

Enemy casualties for same period: KIA, 13,006 (counted dead), POW 459.



Edward "E.J." Dollriehs, a member of Headquarters Battery, 37th Division Artillery, made a number of sketches depicting the 37th on Luzon. These two illustrate the destruction the Battle of Manila inflicted on the city.



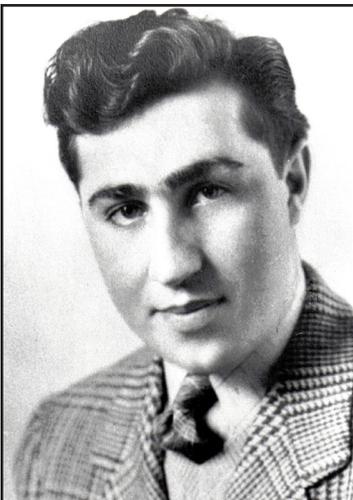
Medal of Honor

Second Lieutenant Robert M. Viale, Company K, 148th Infantry February 5, 1945 - Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands



On 5 February 1945, forced by enemy detonation of prepared demolitions to shift the course on his advance through the city, led the 1st platoon toward a small bridge, where heavy fire from three enemy pillboxes halted the unit. With two men he crossed behind screening grenade smoke to attack the pillboxes. The first he knocked out himself while covered by his men's protecting fire, the other two were silenced by one of his companions and a bazooka team which he had called up. He suffered a painful wound in the right arm during the action. After his entire platoon had joined him, he pushed ahead through mortar fire and encircling flames. Blocked from the only escape route by an enemy machine gun placed at a street corner, he entered a nearby building with his men to explore possible means of reducing the emplacement. In one room he found civilians huddled together, in another a small window placed high in the wall and reached by a ladder. Because of the relative positions of the window, ladder, and enemy emplacement, he decided that he, being left-handed, could hurl a grenade better than one of his men who had made an unsuccessful attempt. Grasping an armed grenade, he started up the ladder. His wounded right arm weakened and, as he tried to steady himself, the grenade fell to the floor. In the 5 seconds before the grenade exploded, he dropped down, recovered the grenade, and looked for a place to dispose of it safely. Finding no way to get rid of the grenade without exposing his own men or the civilians to injury or death, he turned to the wall, held it close to his body, and bent over as it exploded. Lieutenant Viale died in a few minutes, but his heroic act saved the lives of others.

Private Joseph H. Cicchetti, Company A, 148th Infantry February 9, 1945 - Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands



A platoon messenger in Company A, 148th Infantry Regiment, Army of the United States, was with troops assaulting the first important line of enemy defenses in south Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 9 February 1945. The Japanese had converted the partially destroyed Manila Gas Works and adjacent buildings into a formidable system of mutually supporting strong points from within which they were concentrating machine gun, mortar and heavy artillery fire on the American forces. Casualties mounted rapidly and the medical aid men, finding it increasingly difficult to evacuate the wounded, called for volunteer litter bearers. Private Cicchetti immediately responded, organized a litter team, and skillfully led it for more than four hours in rescuing 14 wounded men, constantly passing back and forth over a 400 yard route which was the impact area for a tremendous volume of most intense enemy fire. On one return trip, the path was blocked by machine gun fire, but Private Cicchetti deliberately exposed himself to draw the automatic fire which he neutralized with his own rifle while ordering the rest of the team to rush to safety with the wounded. While gallantly continuing his work, he noticed a group of wounded and helpless soldiers some distance away and ran to their rescue, although the enemy fire had increased to new fury. As he approached the casualties, he was struck in the head by shell fragment, but carried him on his shoulders 50 yards to safety. He then collapsed and died. By his skilled leadership, indomitable will, and dauntless courage, Private Cicchetti saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers at the cost of his own.

Technical Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez, Company B, 148th Infantry
February 9, 1945 - Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands



He was an automatic rifleman when his unit attacked the strongly defended Paco Railroad Station during the battle for Manila, Philippine Islands. While making a frontal assault across an open field, his platoon was halted 100 yards from the station by intense enemy fire. On his own initiative, he left the platoon, accompanied by a comrade, and continued forward to a house 60 yards from the objective. Although under constant enemy observation, the 2 men remained in this position for an hour, firing at targets of opportunity, killing more than 35 hostile soldiers and wounding many more. Moving closer to the station and discovering a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach pillboxes, they opened heavy fire, killed more than 40 and stopped all subsequent attempts to man the emplacements. Enemy fire became more intense as they advanced to within 20 yards of the station. Then, covered by his companion, Pvt. Rodriguez boldly moved up to the building and threw 5 grenades through a doorway killing 7 Japanese, destroying a 20-mm. gun and wrecking a heavy machinegun. With their ammunition running low, the 2 men started to return to the American lines, alternately providing covering fire for each other's withdraw. During this movement, Pvt. Rodriguez' companion was killed. In 2 1/2 hours of fierce fighting the intrepid team killed more than 82 Japanese, completely disorganized their defense, and paved the way for the subsequent overwhelming defeat of the enemy at this strongpoint. Two days later, Pvt. Rodriguez again enabled his comrades to advance when he single-handedly killed 6 Japanese and destroyed a well-placed 20-mm. gun by his outstanding skill with his weapons, gallant determination to destroy the enemy, and heroic courage in the face of tremendous odds, Pvt. Rodriguez, on 2 occasions, materially aided the advance of our troops in Manila.

Private First Class John N. Reese Jr., Company B, 148th Infantry
February 9, 1945 - Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands



He was engaged in the attack on the Paco Railroad Station, which was strongly defended by 300 determined enemy soldiers with machine guns and rifles, supported by several pillboxes, 3 20mm. guns, 1 37-mm. gun and heavy mortars. While making a frontal assault across an open field, his platoon was halted 100 yards from the station by intense enemy fire. On his own initiative he left the platoon accompanied by a comrade, and continued forward to a house 60 yards from the objective. Although under constant enemy observation the 2 men remained in this position or an hour, firing at targets of opportunity, killing more than 35 Japanese and wounding many more. Moving closer to the station and discovering a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach pillboxes, they opened heavy fire, killed more than 40 and stopped all subsequent attempts to man the emplacements. Enemy fire became more intense as they advanced to within 20 yards of the station. From that point PFC Reese provided effective covering fire and courageously drew enemy fire to himself while his companion killed 7 Japanese and destroyed a 20-mm gun and heavy machine gun with hand grenades. With their ammunition running low, the 2 men started to return to the American lines, alternately providing covering fire for each other as they withdrew. During this movement, PFC Reese was killed by enemy fire as he reloaded his rifle. The intrepid team, in 2 1/2 hours of fierce fighting, killed more than 82 Japanese, completely disorganized their defense and paved the way for subsequent complete defeat of the enemy at this strong point. By his gallant determination in the face of tremendous odds, aggressive fighting spirit, and extreme heroism at the cost of his life, PFC Reese materially aided the advance of our troops in Manila and providing a lasting inspiration to all those with whom he served.

Distinguished Service Cross

| RANK | NAME | UNIT | DATE |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| LTC | George T. Coleman * | 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry | January 26, 27 & February 7 & 8, 1945 |
| 1LT | Donald C. Zimmer | Company B, 148th Infantry | January 27 & February 11, 1945 |
| MG | Robert S. Beightler | 37th Infantry Division | January 28 - February 17, 1945 |
| COL | Lawrence K. White | 148th Infantry | February 2-15, 1945 |
| 2LT | Herbert L. Tolley * | Company H, 148th Infantry | February 3 & 13, 1945 |
| CPT | Labin Knipp | Company K, 148th Infantry | February 5, 1945 |
| CPL | Conrad O. Kusz * | Company M, 148th Infantry | February 5, 1945 |
| LTC | Delbert E. Schultz | 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry | February 5, 7, 17 & 26, 1945 |
| CPT | Elmer W. Heindl | 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry | February 6, 8 & 11, 1945 |
| T/5 | Elmer L. Russell * | Company E, 148th Infantry | February 6 & 14, 1945 |
| SSG | Harry Pozniak | | February 7, 1945 |
| PFC | Glenn I. Dahlum * | Company L, 148th Infantry | February 8, 1945 |
| PFC | Carl W. Uessler * | Company L, 148th Infantry | February 8, 1945 |
| PFC | Donald E. Bean * | Company B, 148th Infantry | February 9, 12, & 13, 1945 |
| PFC | William J. Cremen | 129th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| PFC | Elmas W. Harell | 148th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| SSG | Donald E. Hestbeck | Company H, 129th Infantry | February 9-13, 1945 |
| SSG | George H. Keil | 129th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| PFC | Billie Muenester | Company L, 148th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| PFC | Martin J. Popson | 148th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| PFC | Philip J. Scheero * | 129th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| CPT | George West | Company G, 129th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| T/4 | Oliver L. Yambert * | 129th Infantry | February 9, 1945 |
| PFC | John A. Dowthitt | Company E, 129th Infantry | February 10, 1945 |
| PFC | William E. Grim | 148th Infantry | February 10, 1945 |
| PFC | Michael J. Pinto | 129th Infantry | February 10, 1945 |
| PFC | Robert F. Babson | Company E, 145th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| PFC | Charles E. Kerans | Company E, 145th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| PFC | Elmer D. Long * | Company K, 148th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| PFC | Billy M. Persinger | Company E, 145th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| PFC | John F. Mansell | Company K, 148th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| 1SG | James D. Underwood | Company E, 145th Infantry | February 11, 1945 |
| PFC | Leo D. Blake | Company B, 148th Infantry | February 12, 1945 |
| CPT | Ludy J. Blakely | Company G, 145th Infantry | February 12, 1945 |
| PFC | Anton Kresta Jr. * | Company F, 145th Infantry | February 12, 1945 |
| PFC | Joseph F. Maczynski * | Company F, 145th Infantry | February 12, 1945 |
| 2LT | Shirley Davidson | 145th Infantry | February 12-24, 1945 |
| COL | Cecil B. Whitcomb | 145th Infantry | February 12-23, 1945 |
| SSG | Edward M. Burns | Company B, 129th Infantry | February 13 & 14, 1945 |
| PFC | Stanley E. Perkins * | Company E, 148th Infantry | February 13, 1945 |
| T/4 | Eugene J. Callaghan | 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry | February 16, 1945 |
| TSGT | Raymond C. Wren | Company C, 148th Infantry | February 16, 1945 |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| PFC | Joseph V. DeLuca | Company G, 148th Infantry | February 17 & 18, 1945 |
| PFC | Bernard O. Schmidt | Company A, 145th Infantry | February 17, 1945 |
| PFC | Paul H. Hoffner | Company A, 145th Infantry | February 19, 1945 |
| PFC | Marion A. Davis * | Company A, 145th Infantry | February 20, 1945 |
| SGT | Carl A. Anderson | Company I, 145th Infantry | February 22, 1945 |
| COL | John D. Frederick | 129th Infantry | February 23, 1945 |
| SSG | Wallace McNeil | Company F, 148th Infantry | February 23, 1945 |
| LTC | Loren G. Windom | 145th Infantry | February 23 & 24, 1945 |
| PFC | Ernest G. Wagner | Comapny C, 145th Infantry | February 24, 1945 |

* Posthumous Award



October 17, 1945: Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler is presented the Distinguished Service Cross by Lt. Gen. Wilhelm D. Styer during a ceremony at Tuguegarao, Philippines.

Unit Awards



Presidential Unit Citation

148th Infantry Regiment

The 148th Infantry Regiment is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Luzon, Philippine Islands, from 9 January to 4 March 1945. In every phase of the campaign in which it participated, the 148th Infantry Regiment achieved spectacular success, carrying out its missions with courage and speedy efficiency. By its capture of the critical road junction of Plaridel by spearheading the drive into Manila from the north, advancing 137 miles in 24 days, by its liberation of the Americans interned at Bilibid Prison and the patients and refugees at the Philippine General Hospital, by establishing, under fire, the vital bridgehead across the Pasig River and by the major role it played in destroying the fanatical Japanese garrison in Manila, the 148th Infantry Regiment contributed immeasurably to the brilliant success achieved by the United States forces in the Luzon campaign. In every engagement, the regiment exhibited outstanding combat efficiency by uniformly inflicting severe losses on the enemy, while sustaining only moderate casualties. Each unit of the regiment performed its assigned duty with consummate skill and fidelity. Service troops worked unceasingly to supply the combat troops, the medical detachment performed innumerable acts of gallantry in caring for both soldiers and civilians, and the cannon company gave invaluable direct fire support. Over open ground, through city streets, the 148th Infantry Regiment met and decisively defeated the enemy wherever he chose to make a stand. Its brilliant combat record is a tribute to the courage and skill of every man in the regiment and exemplifies the finest traditions of the military service.

General Orders No. 34, War Department, 10 April 1946

117th Engineer Battalion

The 117th Engineer (Combat) Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Luzon, Philippine Islands, from 9 January to 3 March 1945. In supporting the 37th Infantry Division during the rapid move through the central plains of Luzon and the Battle of Manila, the 117th Engineer (Combat) Battalion performed every assigned duty in a distinguished manner, exhibiting outstanding professional skill and efficiency. The advance covered 140 miles in a 25-day period over a route which crossed numerous rivers, canals, and swamps. During this period the engineers constructed, repaired, or improved 64 bridges of every conceivable type. Each officer and man worked prodigiously, often under enemy fire, to complete the task. Lack of bridging material never deterred the battalion, as it excelled the expediciencies and improvisations, displaying superior ingenuity and initiative. This outstanding performance was the factor instrumental in permitting the uninterrupted flow of supplies to support the advance. Throughout this time, the division was in constant contact with the enemy, and the engineers performed every mission of the combat engineer battalion with consummate skill and courage. They accomplished the nerve-racking task of safely removing 3,500 mines, depth charges, and booby traps. Demolition crews effectively destroyed enemy-held buildings and tank obstacles. The engineer battalion operated the assault boats used in the crossing of the Pasig River and the attack on ancient Intramuros. Those missions were accomplished under heavy enemy fire, and the manner of execution was a tribute to the courage and skill of every man in the battalion. The service of the 117th Engineer (Combat) Battalion has been a brilliant example of collective resourcefulness, energy, capacity, and fidelity to duty.

General Orders No. 58, War Department, 1 July 1945

637th Tank Destroyer Battalion

The 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action from 6 February to 2 March 1945, at Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands. During this period the battalion distinguished itself by a display of fearless courage, aggressiveness, and resourcefulness in brilliantly accomplishing many varied and difficult missions which required the complete and exhaustive application of every man and weapon through extended and intensive combat. As a special security force in an extremely active area of approximately 8 square miles, north of the Pasig River and east of Manila Bay, every possible man was pressed into duty; cooks, truck drivers, mechanics, and headquarters personnel aided in manning every available weapon on a 24 hour basis day after day with little or no rest, and annihilated numerous pockets of fanatically resisting Japanese, destroyed many heavily armed infiltrating demolition parties, and rescued from the water under enemy fire scores of refugees escaping from Fort Santiago and other Japanese installations on the south bank of the river. Moving to South Manila, elements of the battalion began a 2 weeks attack with sustained direct fire on heavily fortified modern concrete and steel buildings; to assure maximum effect, tank destroyer crews often approached to within 60 to 75 yards of their targets, though afforded very little protection from heavy enemy fire and flying fragments of their own shells. Concurrently, elements of the battalion rendered distinguished service in reducing strong enemy positions at Fort McKinley and Nichols Field, and assisted in the advance of the overland movement to the Los Banos Internment Camp. Throughout the period cited, prodigious feats of transporting huge quantities of ammunition from dumps more than 100 miles away, and maintaining all equipment at peak efficiency despite intensive use, were accomplished through the tireless efforts and unflagging application of every member of the supply and maintenance section. The courage, aggressiveness and tireless devotion to duty displayed by all the personnel of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which itself accounted for more than 450 enemy dead, and 60 machine guns and artillery pieces destroyed, contributed greatly to the success achieved by our combat divisions in annihilating the defenders of Manila, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

General Orders No. 13, War Department, 1 February 1946



Meritorious Unit Commendation

Medical Detachment, 148th Infantry Regiment

1 November 1944 to 30 April 1945
General Orders No. 162,
37th Infantry Division, 20 June 1945

Service Company, 145th Infantry Regiment

1 September 1944 to 1 March 1945
General Orders No. 290,
37th Infantry Division, 8 September 1945

Medical Detachment, 145th Infantry Regiment

1 September 1944 to 1 March 1945
General Orders No. 228,
37th Infantry Division, 1945

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

112th Medical Battalion

1 July 1944 to 3 March 1945
General Orders No. 182,
37th Infantry Division, 15 July 1945

Company A,

112th Medical Battalion

1 July 1944 to 3 March 1945
General Orders No. 183,
37th Infantry Division, 16 July 1945

Company B,

112th Medical Battalion

1 July 1944 to 3 March 1945
General Orders No. 182,
37th Infantry Division, 15 July 1945

Company C,

112th Medical Battalion

1 July 1944 to 3 March 1945
General Orders No. 183,
37th Infantry Division, 16 July 1945

Current units that perpetuate Battle of Manila units

| CURRENT UNIT | STATION | BATTLE OF MANILA UNIT | STATION |
|--|----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| ARNG Staff Element, Joint Force Headquarters Ohio | Columbus | 37th Signal Company | Columbus |
| Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment | Columbus | Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 112th Medical Battalion | Columbus |
| 122d Army Band | Columbus | 37th Infantry Division Band | Organized on Bougainville |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team | Columbus | Headquarters, 37th Infantry Division | Columbus |
| 148th Infantry Regiment | | 148th Infantry Regiment | |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment | Walbridge | Medical Detachment, 148th Infantry | Celina |
| | | Headquarters Company, 148th Infantry | Toledo |
| Company B, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment | Bowling Green | Company L, 148th Infantry | Napoleon |
| | | Company F, 148th Infantry | Bowling Green |
| | | Company G, 148th Infantry | Ottawa |
| | | Anti-Tank Company, 148th Infantry | Defiance |
| Company C, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment | Tiffin | Company B, 148th Infantry | Fremont |
| Company D, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment | Sandusky | Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry | Clyde |
| 134th Field Artillery Regiment | | 140th Field Artillery Battalion | |
| | | 135th Field Artillery Battalion | |
| | | 136th Field Artillery Battalion | |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment | Delaware | Reconnaissance Company, 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion | Columbus |
| Battery A, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment | Delaware | Headquarters Battery, 140th Field Artillery Battalion | Galion |
| Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment | Piqua | Battery C, 136th Field Artillery Battalion | Piqua |
| Battery C, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment | Marysville | Company A, 112th Medical Battalion | Bellefontaine |
| | | Company E, 148th Infantry | Kenton |
| Company A, 237th Support Battalion | Cleveland | Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion | Activated at Camp Shelby, Miss. |
| Company G, 237th Support Battalion | Lima | Company C, 148th Infantry | Findlay |
| | | 37th Quartermaster Company | Lima |
| | | Company B, 112th Medical Battalion | Van Wert |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 837th Engineer Battalion | Springfield | Service Battery, 136th Field Artillery Battalion | Activated at Camp Shelby, Miss. |

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|--|---------------|---|--------------|
| Company B, 837th Engineer Battalion | St. Marys | Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry | Spencerville |
| | | Company K, 148th Infantry | St. Marys |
| | | Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 148th Infantry | St. Marys |
| 107th Cavalry Regiment | | 145th Infantry Regiment | |
| 145th Armored Regiment | | 145th Infantry Regiment | |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment | Stow | Battery A, 135th Field Artillery Battalion | Canton |
| | | Company C, 145th Infantry | Canton |
| | | Company A, 145th Infantry | Cleveland |
| | | Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 145th Infantry | Akron |
| | | Service Company, 145th Infantry | Cleveland |
| | | Medical Detachment, 145th Infantry | Cleveland |
| Company B, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment | North Canton | Company I, 145th Infantry | Akron |
| Company H, 134th Support Battalion | Stow | Company B, 145th Infantry | Cleveland |
| | | Battery B, 135th Field Artillery Battalion | Lakewood |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade | Columbus | Headquarters, 37th Division Artillery | Columbus |
| Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 112th Engineer Battalion | Brook Park | Company D, 145th Infantry | Berea |
| | | Headquarters Company, 145th Infantry | Cleveland |
| | | Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry | Elyria |
| 1192d Engineer Company | Youngstown | Company H, 145th Infantry | Youngstown |
| 945th Engineer Company | Norwalk | Company G, 145th Infantry | Norwalk |
| 812th Engineer Company | Lorain | Company K, 145th Infantry | Akron |
| 5694th Engineer Detachment | Mansfield | Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry | Shreve |
| Battery B, 2d Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment | McConnesville | Battery B, 140th Field Artillery Battalion | Zanesville |
| Headquarters and Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sustainment Brigade | Springfield | Headquarters Battery, 37th Division Artillery | Dayton |
| | | Battery A, 136th Field Artillery Battalion | Dayton |
| 211th Maintenance Company | Newark | Battery C, 140th Field Artillery Battalion | Coshocton |
| Det. 1, 1485th Transportation Company | Dover | Company M, 145th Infantry | Akron |
| 1486th Transportation Company | Mansfield | Company E, 145th Infantry | Ashland |
| | | Battery A, 140th Field Artillery Battalion | Mansfield |
| 1487th Transportation Company | Piqua | Company M, 148th Infantry | Covington |
| 323d Military Police Company | Toledo | Service Company, 148th Infantry | Toledo |
| 838th Military Police Company | Youngstown | Company F, 145th Infantry | Warren |
| | | Headquarters Battery, 135th Field Artillery Battalion | Youngstown |
| 684th Medical Company | Columbus | Company C, 112th Medical Battalion | Westerville |



*“...Manila Would Do”
National Guard Heritage Series Painting by Keith Rocco*



NGOH-HIS
POC: SFC JOSHUA MANN
614-336-7311
JOSHUA.D.MANN.MIL@MAIL.MIL