



JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4, 2024



THROUGH THE LENS

FEBRUARY 3, 1989: Toledo Mayor Donna Owens, left, presents a proclamation to Col. John H. Smith, commander of the 180th Tactical Fighter Group, declaring Feb. 3, 1989, 180th Tactical Fighter Group Day in Toledo.



WEEK IN REVIEW

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FEBRUARY 1, 1972: The 196th Public Affairs Detachment is organized in Worthington as the 196th Public Information Detachment.

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FEBRUARY 2, 1813: Gen. William Henry Harrison establishes Fort Meigs on the south side of the Maumee River. The fort was to serve as a temporary supply depot and staging area for an invasion of Canada and was home for more than 2,000 men, consisting of U.S. regulars and militia from Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

FEBRUARY 2, 1926: The 812th Engineer Company is organized in Akron as Headquarters Company, 73d Infantry Brigade.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Tech. Sgt. Rayford Anderson, a platoon sergeant in Company F, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division, recalls the Feb. 4, 1945, discovery of Manila's Bilibid Prison. Anderson's platoon was the first to find the prison, which housed over 1,200 military and civilian internees who were prisoners of the Japanese Army since 1942.

"When we got real close to the building after we had taken it, the American Soldiers that had been in there for over three years wouldn't even come to the windows to talk to us. They were afraid. The Japanese had tricked them before and that's what they thought, the reason they wouldn't come to the window. That they was fixing to be tricked again. After you've been whipped and treated real hard, you can understand why they would have that attitude about things. I didn't stay there very long after we got it taken. I got some men to go back to the company and give the news and get some trucks in there, let's get them out.

It was sad to look upon. Instead of giving them the potatoes, they gave them the vines to make soup out of. That's what a lot of them had to eat at different times, they'd tell us. They looked it. They had gotten real thin and looked terrible.

They were proud that we came back and rescued them. I guess in their minds, their thinking, probably a lot of them thought they would never make it back home to see their people again. After being there three and a half years, you get to thinking all kinds of things. And seeing some die in there, it's hard to visualize what your mind would let you think on."

