



FEBRUARY 19-25, 2024



THROUGH THE LENS

FEBRUARY 23, 1945: A 37th Infantry Division flamethrower is shown at work cleaning out rooms in the Walled City of Intramuros, Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands.



WEEK IN REVIEW

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

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



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Sgt. Otis Earl Hawkins of Company E, 145th Infantry describes the attack on Intramuros by the 2d Battalion, 145th Infantry on Feb. 23, 1945. This excerpt is taken from his 1999 book, *"My Experiences in War and Business: One Man's Story of Success in America."*

"A last preparation of artillery by every available gun began at 7:30 a.m. to last for an hour. At each intense barrage the city inside the wall appeared to lift into the air and settle slowly to the ground afterwards. As the 2d Platoon moved across the street to join the rest of the company at the theater, I saw the roof of the famous old cathedral of the walled city cave in. These very shells, I surmised, might save my life or that of one of the men about me.

The artillery suddenly lifted and there was a dead calm. From the post office across the street rushed an F Company rifleman. Carrying his bayoneted rifle high, he raced at top speed down the street leading to the gate in the wall. He was followed by another, another, and another. Presently the whole platoon was rushing down the street to the attack. As we watched it seemed that some of the men would certainly be falling to the street. That single rifleman leading the platoon passed the halfway mark. As he covered the last half, the distance between him and the next man widened as if he were being chased. He reached the gate and as if carrying the ball for a college touchdown bounded through."

