

1941 ★ 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

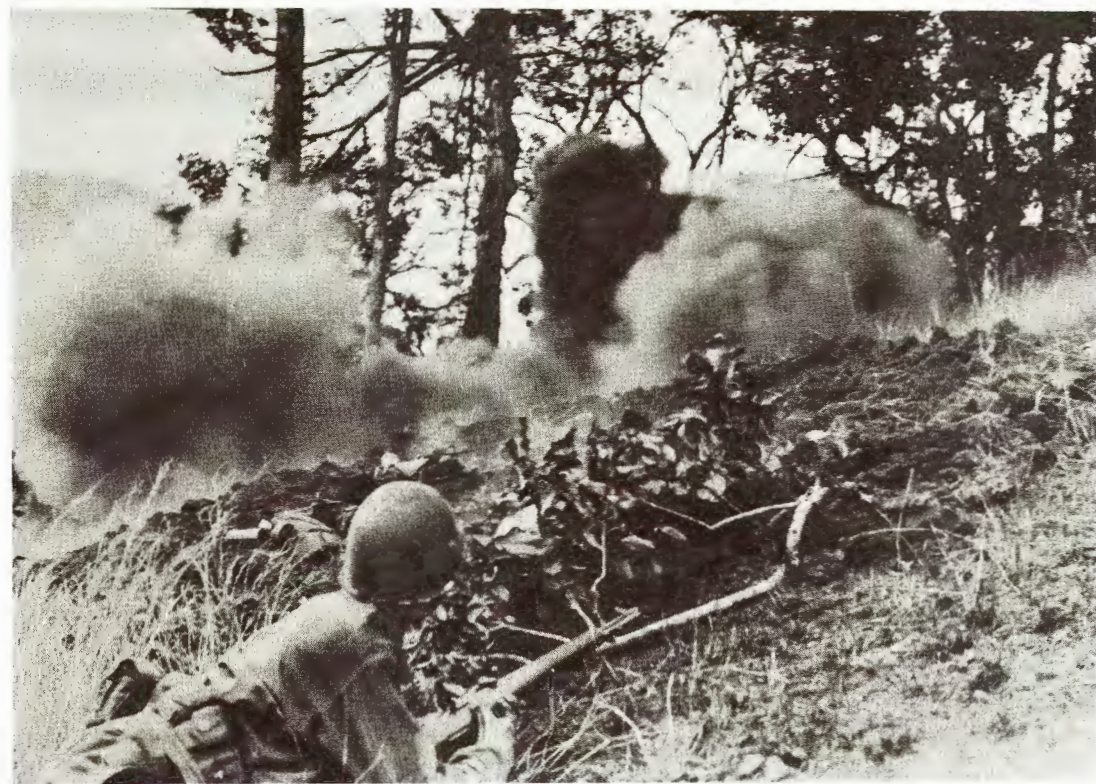


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Hawaii Lightning News
Organization Division Issue
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TROPIC LIGHTNINGAIRES FOUGHT WITH GALLANTRY IN TWO WARS



ENEMY CAVE — An infantryman hits the dirt as dynamite charges he set in a Japanese cave go off during the battle of Balet Pass, Luzon.



REINFORCEMENTS — Infantry reinforcements for Co. E, 2nd Bn., 161st Inf. wade ashore in New Georgia.



PUSHING FORWARD — Men of 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., supported by armor of the 64th Tnk. Bn., 3rd Inf. Div., forge ahead against Chinese Communist forces in a spearhead attack 10 miles southwest of Seoul, Korea.



ATTACK — Two men of the 27th Inf. Regt. advance as the regiment takes a town in Korea.



SUPPLIES — A soldier of the 35th Inf. Regt. leads natives carrying supplies for troops in Guadalcanal. The supplies were brought up the shallow Natanikan River by boat then had to be carried forward on foot.



BLAST AWAY — Soldiers of the 35th Inf. use a 4.2 mortar on a Communist hill position in the Mung Dung-Ni valley, Korea.

★ Medal ★
Of Honor
Winners

WORLD WAR II
27th Infantry
Maj. Charles W. Davis
S/Sgt. Raymond H. Cooley
35th Infantry
T-5 Lewis Hall
Sgt. William G. Fournier
161st Infantry
T-4 Laverne Parrish

KOREAN WAR
14th Infantry
Sgt. Donn F. Porter
PFC Ernest E. West
PFC Bryant H. Womack
24th Infantry
Sgt. Cornelius H. Charlton
PFC William Thompson
Cpl. John W. Collier
27th Infantry
Capt. Reginald B. Desiderio
Cpl. Benito Martinez
Capt. Lewis L. Millet
2nd Lt. Jerome A. Sudut
35th Infantry
Pvt. Billie G. Kanell
Sgt. William R. Jecellin
SFC Donald R. Moyer



ENGINEERS AT WORK — Men of the 77th Cmbt. Engr. Bn. build a barbed wire fence below a Communist-held hill along the Han River, near Songnimong, Korea.



LOADING — Two men of the 27th Inf. Wolfhounds drive jeeps mounted with 106mm recoilless rifles during loading exercises in Thailand last year.



SOUVENIRS — Medical corpsmen of Co. A, 25th Med Bn. proudly display Japanese flags during the battle for New Georgia.



UNLOADING AMMO — Troops of Co. L, 35th Inf. Regt., knee deep in the surf, unload cases of grenades from landing craft at Lingayan Gulf, Luzon.



161ST INF. — Col. James Dalton, CO of the 161st RCT, center, pose with other soldiers of the unit in San Manuel, which the regiment captured in one of the roughest battles of the Luzon campaign.



ARTILLERY BARRAGE — A gun crew of the 8th Arty. fires on Communist-held North Korean positions near Urison, Korea.

25TH'S 22 YEARS OF HISTORY...

Ready To Strike, Anywhere, Anytime

With the experience of 1127 days of combat in two wars, and a constant and ever-progressive training program, the 25th Infantry Division, the Army's major strategic reserve force in the Pacific, prides itself on being ready to undertake any assigned mission.

The Division was organized October 1, 1941 at Schofield Barracks from elements of the Hawaiian Division and other Army units as one of the new "streamlined" triangular divisions. In the days to come, however, "streamlined" was to take on a new meaning in the Pacific — it came to mean the swift move and hard punch which were to earn the nickname "Tropic Lightning" for the new 25th Infantry Division.

Less than 10 weeks after activation the Division was engaged in combat.

Without warning on the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese planes swept through Kolekole Pass to strafe Schofield Barracks enroute to Wheeler Field, Hickam and Pearl Harbor. A quiet Sunday morning suddenly turned to uproar as men of the 25th fired machine guns and rifles from rooftops at the attackers. The young division thus became the first U. S. Army unit to exchange fire with Imperial Japanese forces in World War II.

When the United States campaign to retake the Pacific from the Japanese was beginning, the 25th landed on Guadalcanal on December 17, 1942, and provided the punch toward final victory there. Next came the island-hopping campaigns of 1943-44 and 45. New Georgia, Arundel, Kilombangra and Villa LeVella were liberated by troops of the 25th. And on January 11, 1945 they landed on Luzon in the Philippines for their greatest assault of the war, in a campaign during which they destroyed 200 enemy tanks and killed more than 2,000 enemy.

The combat record during 165 days of continuous fighting to liberate Luzon: six unit citations and six Medals of Honor.

Following World War II, the 25th was assigned occupation duty in Japan. Only four years old when it celebrated Organization Day in Japan for the first time, the Tropic Lightning stood proudly alongside the Army's

older, more tradition-laden divisions.

It was during this time that the Division showed its gentle side to the world. More than fighting machines, the Lightning-aires were also men with hearts. Assigned to help process the war's refugees, the 27th Infantry "Wolfhounds" and the 8th Artillery "Automatic Eighth"

rigorous training throughout the Pacific — from the Koolau Mountains to Thailand and the Philippines.

Recently, the 25th was acclaimed the top counter guerrilla division in the Army. This distinction did not come easily.

Most of the Division training is conducted on the "home" island of Oahu. Within easy

duing an enemy force.

The villagers wear "civilian" clothes, speak a "foreign" tongue, follow religious beliefs, customs and culture alien to anything normally encountered by U. S. soldiers.

The Division's Jungle and Guerrilla Warfare Training Center is an outstanding training device used to teach men of

jungle fighting and guerrilla techniques, men of the 25th were selected to play key roles in "Exercise Great Shelf/TAGPO," a joint U. S.-Philippine air/ground exercise in February, 1962.

The 25th Infantry Division Brigade Headquarters directed the operations of two airborne battle groups and their supporting units during maneuvers held at Clark Air Base during "Great Shelf."

Two companies of the former 21st Infantry "Gimlets" used their jungle skills as the Aggressor Force in action against American troops. On the first night of the exercise, the Gimlets literally swept through the command post of one airborne battle group which had jumped into action that day.

From then until the end of the maneuvers, largest in the Philippines since World War II, the two companies harassed U. S. Forces night and day, using tactics they had perfected during their training in Hawaii.

In April, 1962, the 27th Infantry went to Thailand to participate in the SEATO "Exercise Air Cobra." Later reinforced, they remained in Thailand for "Operation Friendship," and training with the Royal Thai Army.

The Wolfhounds remained in Thailand for four months before they were replaced by the then 1/35th Infantry, reinforced.

While in Thailand, the 27th and 35th practiced the civil affairs lessons learned in training with the Division. They recognized the necessity of respecting local customs and learned to get along with people who spoke a strange tongue.

In May of this year, a third major unit of the Division was selected to participate in SEATO maneuvers. The 5th Infantry, and 25th Division Brigade Headquarters, reinforced, journeyed to Thailand for "Exercise Dhanarajata," the largest air/ground exercise ever held in Southeast Asia by the eight-member South East Asia Treaty Organization.

As the Division enters its 23rd year, it can review the past, see the present and look to the future with pride and confidence, knowing that it is truly "Ready to Strike — Anywhere, Anytime."



"Old Glory" is raised at the 25th Division Command Post in Korea, 1950

began their world-renowned support of the Holy Family Orphanage at Osaka. The two units have continued their assistance despite distance and duties elsewhere.

Peace and quiet of occupation ended in June, 1950, when North Korean Communist troops crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. Within two weeks, soldiers of the 25th were landing in Korea.

In the three years that followed, they were to see 878

days of combat, add two more unit citations and 13 Medals of Honor to their growing list of gallant achievements.

After four years of duty and 10 campaigns in Korea the fighting men of the Division came home to Hawaii in 1954 after a total absence of almost 13 years.

For the past nine years the Division has been undergoing

reach of Schofield Barracks are the Koolau and Waianae Mountains, Kahuku, Kipapa Gulch, East Range and Kolekole Pass. Only 90 minutes' flying time away is the vast, rugged Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

Each of the areas has its individual characteristics, important to the training mission of the Division. The "jungles" of Oahu, although not as dense as the real article in Southeast Asia, offer difficult training sites for all Division units.

The 25th has been lauded for its unique approach to civil affairs problems that will most likely be faced with should the Division be deployed. With native villages — Toka, Cactu, Hoba and Kara — scattered throughout Oahu's training areas, soldiers of the 25th are faced with problems other than sub-

the 25th to fight and survive in the jungle. Every man in the 25th annually goes through the Center's week of rugged training. To obtain a different climate and terrain, plus larger firing areas, every year the Division's three brigades and supporting units travel to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the "Big Island," which offers shoe and track-breaking terrain, cold weather and dusty, rock-strewn mountain slopes. The base camp is located in the lava beds between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea volcanos, 30 miles from Hilo.

PTA is utilized by units taking annual training exercises, for combined arms exercises and for combined exercises with "sister services." The open land on the Big Island provides training areas not found on Oahu. Because of their knowledge of

Armor



"Queen of Battle"



Artillery

