

PHASE I 135TH INFANTRY

INDUCTION INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.

The 135th Infantry Regiment assembled on the 10th of February, 1941, the date of induction, in the various Armories throughout the State of Minnesota as follows:

Regt'l Hq.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hq. Co.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Service Co.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Anti-Tank Co.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Medical Det.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Regt'l Band	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hq. Det, 1st Bn.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Co. "A"	Stillwater, Minnesota
Co. "B"	Hutchinson, Minnesota
Co. "C"	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Co. "D"	Stillwater, Minnesota
Hq. Det. 2nd Bn.	Owatonna, Minnesota
Co. "E"	Jackson, Minnesota
Co. "F"	Owatonna, Minnesota
Co. "G"	Albert Lee, Minnesota
Co. "H"	Austin, Minnesota
Hq. Det, 3rd Bn.	Montivideo, Minnesota
Co. "I"	Madison, Minnesota
Co. "K"	Dawson, Minnesota
Co. "L"	Ortonville, Minnesota
Co. "M"	Appleton, Minnesota

The Regiment was relieved from duty in the National Guard of the U. S., and ordered into Active Military Service for a period of 12 consecutive months per Special Order 19, State of Minnesota, Dept. of Military and Naval Affairs, Adjutant General's Office, St. Paul Minnesota. Dated 22 January 1941, in conformity with instructions, contained in

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Presidential executive order 8633, dated the 14 of January of, 1941.
At induction the Regiment under the command of Colonel Harold S. Nelson.

The personnel of the Regiment was composed of volunteer enlisted men in the National Guard of Minnesota and its officers were commissioned in the National Guard of the United States. The Company strength prior to induction provided for 3 officers and 66 enlisted men. It was now increased to 4 officers and 120 enlisted men. Additional staff officers were added. A vigorous recruiting campaign was put into effect so that on the date of induction, the Regimental strength was 86 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1489 enlisted men. Lt. Col. Newton W. SPEECH and Lt. Col. Michael J. MULCAHY were the officers assigned to federalize units. Organizations then started to complete necessary papers. Inoculations, physical examinations, and conditioning, and after a period of 15 days of final grooming, the units were ready for departure to the designated training camp; Camp CLAIRBORNE, Louisiana.

Roster of Officers as of 10 February 1941:

NAME	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	RESIDENCE
<u>Colonel</u>		
Harold S. Nelson	0100959	Owatonna, Minnesota
<u>Lieutenant Colonels</u>		
Lester A. Hancock	0253753	Appleton, Minnesota
Brandt A. Anderson	0126999	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jarrold A. Petraborg	0102227	Aitkin, Minnesota
Owen J. Trainor	0335993	Minneapolis, Minnesota
<u>Majors</u>		
Myron P. Lund	0238357	Dawson, Minnesota
Albert A. Svoboda	0103869	Jackson, Minnesota
<u>Captains</u>		
Joseph A. Anderson	0166596	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chris J. Betker	0334580	Hutchinson, Minnesota
Walter K. Borgendale	0346681	Dawson, Minnesota
Henry A. Cresse	0263510	Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Captains Cont'd.

<u>Captains Cont'd.</u>	<u>Army Serial Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Garnet E. Hall	0238359	Forest Lake, Minnesota
Axel (NMI) Jensen	0209635	Hutchinson, Minnesota
William G. Kreger	0348066	Jackson, Minnesota
Frank A. McCulloch	0274008	Excelsior, Minnesota
Earl W. Miller	0283851	Ortonville, Minnesota
Robert P. Miller	0256068	Appleton, Minnesota
John A. Moore	0274699	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert R. Roach	0166993	Austin, Minnesota
Hugh H. Soper	0101566	Owatonna, Minnesota
Aaron J. Thisted	0188168	Alden, Minnesota
Edwin T. Swenson	0237421	Stillwater, Minnesota
William H. Williams	0335927	Minneapolis, Minnesota

First Lieutenants

Wallace J. Austin	0257272	Montevideo, Minnesota
Melvin N. Bacon	0336291	Dawson, Minnesota
Henning G. Carlson	0242802	Stillwater, Minnesota
Amos B. Churchill	0346811	Hutchinson, Minnesota
Ansel B. Chyrklund	0291796	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Gustave R. Dahlin	0277340	Bayport, Minnesota
Charles A. Fanning	0358529	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Albert L. Hoihjelle	0334666	Madison, Minnesota
Arthur A. Kanstrup	0327511	Appleton, Minnesota
Donald C. Landon	0317715	Albert Lee, Minnesota
Clarence J. Lee	0289619	Owatonna, Minnesota
Walter F. Musegrades	0277166	Alpha, Minnesota
Stuart R. Peterson	0270731	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Joseph L. Petrick	0290075	Ortonville, Minnesota
William C. Pribble	0328429	Austin, Minnesota
Henry L. Slegak	0256573	Owatonna, Minnesota

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William F. Snellman	0299968	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Charles H. Snyder	0361223	Minneapolis, Minnesota
<u>Second Lieutenants</u>		
Roland (NMI) Anderson	0366901	Madison, Minnesota
Howard E. Beaham	0381024	Stillwater, Minnesota
Byron B. Bradford	0350320	Austin, Minnesota
Abrose J. Briscoe	0391531	Appleton, Minnesota
John W. Carlson	0388973	Stillwater, Minnesota
LeRoy E. Dahlin	0325971	Bayport, Minnesota
Ray J. Ericksen	0401913	Minneapolis, Minnesota
James F. Garfield	0370002	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Goodman G. Greller	0423209	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vincent F. Goodsell	0397136	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Foster C. Hayden	0401387	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Gerhardt P. Kaske	0359411	Bayport, Minnesota
Joel M. Lewison	0291051	Owatonna, Minnesota
Einer M. Lund	0397371	Stillwater, Minnesota
Fred G. Mitchell	0371572	Montevideo, Minnesota
Maurice C. Murphy	0388105	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Alfred H. Nelson	0385118	Goodridge, Minnesota
Thomas J. Nolan	0364508	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ernest G. Peterson	0371906	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert V. Shinn	0323157	Farmington, Minnesota
Emil (NMI) Skalicky	0375412	Owatonna, Minnesota
Maurice W. Stacy	0383616	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Goodrich M. Sullivan	0342341	Stillwater, Minnesota
Paul H. Thaler	0371590	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Frank C. Tuma	0396769	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Keith O. Van Krevelen	0377973	Ortonville, Minnesota
Robert F. Voegtli	0359626	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Carl G. Bestler	0413526	Owatonna, Minnesota
Francis E. Brooks	0394511	Armstrong, Iowa

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Harold J. Diegmann	0372338	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Frank F. Gable	0397138	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert J. Hanson	0397141	Stillwater, Minnesota
Cecil M. McAllister	0369824	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert J. Moore	0412997	Minneapolis, Minnesota
George J. Pozzind	0377466	Stillwater, Minnesota
Edward L. Sager	0402307	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Edward H. Schroeder	0377323	Robbinsdale, Minnesota
Jacob J. Springer	0277849	Owatonna, Minnesota
Stepehn R. Springer	0402379	Owatonna, Minnesota
Eugene H. Truax	0375301	Northfield, Minnesota
Harold J. Vacura	0418412	Jackson, Minnesota
Lawrence W. Walsh	0416449	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Lew T. Zlotnick	0415598	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Arnold W. Brandt	0355027	Austin, Minnesota
Robert S. Ferguson	0410119	Council Bluffs, Iowa
Albert G. Peterson	0375314	Northfield, Minnesota
Harold G. Rainwater	0415896	Kalispell, Montana

MEDICAL CORPS

Major Einar C. Andreassen	0266556	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Captain John S. Hamlon	0361491	St. Charles, Minnesota
Captain Wyman E. Jacobson	0404322	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Captain Jacob F. Karn	0368964	Ortonville, Minnesota
Captain Arthur O. Lindquist (DC)	0192162	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Captain Vilhelm M. Johnson	0319914	Dawson, Minnesota
1st Lt, Carl J. Gumbert (DC)	0373576	St. Paul, Minnesota

CHAPLAINS CORPS

Captain William C. Benson	03 4884	Northfield, Minnesota
1st. Lt. Neil S. Cashman	0418029	St. Paul, Minnesota

Narrative history of 135th Infantry Regiment for the period of 25th February, 1941 - 2nd of February, 1943. (Information taken from 135th

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Infantry history files supplemented by statements of various officers who were present during that period).

CAMP CLAIBORNE

Pursuant to instructions contained in special order 7 Headquarters, Infantry Regiment, dated the 7th of February, 1941, the main body of the Regiment proceeded by rail from their home stations to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana commencing on the 25th of February 1941, and advance detail having left the 19th of February, 1941, and a motor echelon having left the 21st of February, 1941. The 25th of February was a bitter cold day with the mercury hovering around 20 degrees below zero. Various local bands proceeded the troops to their respective depots to board the special trains awaiting them. Crowds of local people, parents, and friends waited in the cold for the trains to become loaded and move away.

The troops after an uneventful trip arrived at Camp Claiborne on the 27th of February, 1941. The camp site was new and not graded. The roads were a sea of mud. The camp itself had just neared completion; in fact, it was in May that it was finally completed. Much of the work required to complete the camp, such as graveling company streets and company areas, building sidewalks within the Regiment and the erecting of the 16x16 pyramidal squad tents was accomplished by personnel of the Regiment.

Camp Claiborne is situated approximately 18 miles South of the city of Alexandria, Louisiana. It had rail facilities, quartermaster storage Division Headquarters, Post exchange buildings, Regimental Headquarters building, a recreation hall, mess halls, and a tent theater. Later developments brought the construction of chapels, the hostesshouse, 2 theaters, company day rooms, an officers club, and a field house. Camp Claiborne had the advantage of having natural gas which was piped to each tent, and proved to be a comfort during chilly rainy months which came during the spring.

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Now came the problem of converting these civilian soldiers into a smoothly working and efficient team, preparatory to receiving and training its quota of selective service men. The period of readjustment was not by any means an easy task. These men had come from steam heated homes to life in a tent. Their lungs were accustomed to sub-zero dry temperatures, and they were now subjected to damp cold humid climate. The result was a high percentage of colds and upper respiratory infections which hospitalized and confined many of the troops to their quarters. This development tended to slow up the schedule of the Regiment, but was quickly overcome by the prompt action, and excellent treatment administered by the Regimental medics. The training, of necessity, was to differ from the two to three week summer camp maneuver period, with an eye toward the big picture. It began with the basic fundamentals, and in order to develop and give confidence which knowledge of their subject would impart, a series of schools were started. The outstanding non-commissioned officers were then selected and commenced intensive training to get in readiness as a training cadre for the new replacements. The rest of the personnel commenced intensive training to bring their standards up to and above that of the average soldiers.

On the 9th of March, 1941, the 34th Infantry Division was assembled in front of Division Headquarters and welcomed to Louisiana by the Governor. The Regiment participated in a 34th Division parade in Alexandria, Louisiana in honor of the Army Day on the 6th of April, 1941.

The first selective service replacements arrived on the 17th of April, 1941, a group of approximately 650 men from Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. They were an unhappy looking lot, having been given no preparation to speak of and wearing ill fitting uniforms, some of which dated to World War I choker blouse style. Another group of about five hundred selective service replacements arrived the 20th of April, 1941. The older men quickly absorbed the new recruits and the Regimental supply officer arranged to equip the men in uniforms of which they could be proud. Then started the period of 13 weeks basic training for the

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replacements. The Regimental training cadre had by this time developed into a highly efficient group of instructors, and in a short time had the replacements going through close order drill like old soldiers. Then came the training in the various weapons, and finally squad, platoon, and larger unit tactics which completed their 12 weeks of basic training.

At the expiration of the basic training program for all replacements, the Regiment's training cadre was dissolved, and the replacements were assigned to platoons in their respective companies. The next phase of training undertaken by the Regiment was small unit tactics, and Battalion and Regiment problems. Maintenance of contact at night, scouting, patrolling and night operations were the main points stressed. This training proved very beneficial in the large scale maneuvers which this Regiment was to participate in a short while later.

On the 6th of August, 1941, the Regiment moved out on a Corps maneuver which was to a test to see if the men and officers were ready for the Third Army maneuver. The Regiment responded well to the test and gave a good account of itself, and on the 11th of August, 1941, the Regiment moved into bivouac area near DE QUINCY, Louisiana. Here the training consisted mostly of critiques of problems held in Corps maneuvers, Field Hygiene and Sanitation, and care and cleaning of equipment while in the field.

(Taken from overlay of Louisiana Maneuvers)

On the 16th of August the Regiment left their bivouac area near De Quincy, Louisiana, and the Regimental situation remained tactical until the 30th of September. The maneuver area of the Blue Force, of which the 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, was a part, was between the Red River, and the Sabine Rivers in South West Louisiana. The opposing force was called the Red Force. The umpire system, a system by which certain officers from both forces acted as umpires, and ruled and made decisions as to the outcome of simulated battles and engagements.

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and designated the number of casualties sustained by both sides, was used, and the entire operation was made as realistic of combat as possible, including the use of blank small arms ammunition.

The maneuvers were divided into several phases, each lasting for a period of approximately one week, and each phase becoming more advanced in tactics, and testing the endurance of the man, more as the maneuvers passed from one phase to another. Offensive tactics were given the greatest amount of time and consideration. Night attacks, scouting and patrolling, terrain appreciation and selection of defensive positions were enforced for all units from the squad to Battalion and Regiment. Transportation elements gained valuable training of keeping supply and food up to the troops, while troops were constantly on the move, very beneficial, and a large number of deficiencies in supply which existed at the beginning of the maneuvers were ironed out before it ended. The Medical Detachment was given training in the evacuation of casualties, as anyone who was tagged a casualty had to be evacuated through Medical channels. This time of year being very warm, was the cause of a number of heat exhaustion cases. There was also a large amount of foot trouble due to long hours of marching on hot dusty roads, and a number of cases of poison ivy and skin diseases arose. All this proved valuable training for the Medical Detachment, and gave them a very good picture of what could be expected when operating in the field. It also gave opportunities to develop the staff work. This was quite a problem at the time, as most members of the Regimental Staff had probably never had the opportunity to work in coordination with such a large group in the field at anytime before this. The Regiment responded to this test, and gave a good account of itself. The maneuvers ended the 30th of September with many lessons learned and a desire to remedy all deficiencies. The Regiment moved back to Camp Claiborne, and resumed normal Army garrison life.

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During the first part of October a certain percent of the Regiment were granted 15 day furlough much to the pleasure of everyone concerned. The majority of the personnel inducted into Federal Service on the 10th of February had the opportunity of having a furlough.

Congress enacted a law permitting the release from active service personnel who were 28 or more years old. A number of the men falling into this class availed themselves of the opportunity to leave the service at this time, and the first ones left the latter part of October.

On the 8th of December, 1941 at 1130 hours members of the Regiment listened to the President of the U.S. declare a state of war existing between the U.S. and Japan. At 1300 hours the Regimental Commander called an assembly of all units of the Regiment. Brig. Gen. Frayne Baker, Commanding of the 68th Infantry Brigade and Lt. Col. Lester A. Hancock, Commanding Regiment at the time, gave a general talk on the situation as it existed. They ordered a practice alert starting at 1400 hours that afternoon. At about 1600 hours the order was changed for the Battalions to be prepared to move from Camp Claiborne, La.

Upon the declaration of War, the 8th of December, 1941, the Regiment was divided into three separate combat teams, with a battery of the 125th Field Artillery attached to each team, the mission of which was to protect the Southern coastal frontier. The combat teams left Camp Claiborne beginning on this day, the 8th of December, 1941. Regimental Headquarters and the 2nd Battalion being charged with the defense of New Orleans in conjunction with the permanent installations already present there. Lt. Col. Lester A. HANCOCK was in command of the Regiment at this time as Col. Harold S. NELSON was on detached service at the Infantry school, Ft. Benning, Georgia. At about 2030 hours, Lt. Col. Owen J. Trainor was relieved of command of the 2nd Battalion and Major Albert A. SVOBODA was assigned Commanding Officer. At 2200 hours the order was received for the 2nd Battalion to proceed to Lake PONCHARTRAIN, New Orleans by motor convoy. The Battalion entrucked at Camp Claiborne at 2230 hours and arrived at Lake Ponchartrain the fol-

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lowing morning at 0600 hours. The remainder of the day was spent in settling the men and organizing guard details. Guard duty and section training was carried out for the remainder of the 2nd Battalion's stay at New Orleans. The off-duty hours of the members of the Battalion were made very enjoyable by the hospitality of the people of New Orleans, who extended many invitations to the fellows, which included tours of the city, dances, parties and dinners.

The 1st Battalion with Major Axel JENSEN in command was assigned the defense of Barrancas, Florida, and the 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Barndt A. ANDERSON, was charged with the oil fields in the vicinity of Texas City, Texas, and its part in the defense of the Southern coast along the Gulf of Mexico. While engaged in these defense missions, orders from higher Headquarters were received for the removal of all officers from the Regiment who came under the class effected by the "age in grade" ruling. A large number of officers were effected by this, and among those to leave the Regiment at this time were Lt. Col. Owen J. TRAINER, Lt. Col. Barndt A. ANDERSON, Capt. Carl W. MILLER, Capt. Aron J. THISTED, Capt. Joseph W. ANDERSON, Capt. Hugh H. SOPER, Capt. Henry C. CRESSE, Capt. Robert R. ROACH, Capt. William C. BENSON(CG) and numerous junior officers. The Regiment was relieved of its mission of coastal defense and returned to Camp Claiborne on the 1st of January 1942.

Extention in Federal Service had been provided by public law 338, 77th Congress, approximately on the 13th of December, 1942. Upon return of the Regiment to Camp Claiborne, 8 officers and 378 enlisted men were taken from the 1st Battalion.

1942. The next week was spent in getting all equipment and personnel in readiness to move to Fort Dix, New Jersey. These were busy days spent packing, crating, marking boxes and equipment, and loading them into boxcars. All the men on furlough were recalled on the 4th of January 1942 and everyone was restricted to the area.

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On the 8th of January, 1942, the Regiment left Camp Claiborne via train at 1130 hours, and arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey at 1400 hours, 11th of January, 1942. The men moved into barracks and spent the next few days getting settled and checking equipment prior to an overseas movement. Instead the stay at Fort Dix extended into several months, during which the regular training schedules were followed. Fort Dix had the wooden barracks for the housing of troops, and the men had to readjust themselves to the departure from the tent camp and become accustomed to living dormitory style. The climate at Fort Dix was very cold, and the amount of training done outside was limited to close order drill and road marches. The spirits of the troops were very high in anticipation of the coming overseas movement. As soon as the weather warmed up enough so that more training could be done outside, a more elaborate schedule was put into effect, range work taking up a large part of the schedule. It was here that the men of the Regiment had their first opportunity to fire regular live ammunition with the 60mm and 81mm mortars. This created much interest and discussion as both weapons were fairly new in the Regiment.

On the 19th of April, Col. Harold S. NELSON was relieved of assignment and duty with the 34th Infantry Division and assigned to duty with Headquarters, II Army Corps. Col. Charles M. PARKIN was assigned and assumed command of the Regiment.

On the 26th of April, 1942 Master Sergeant Galen W. SWANK (20707111), Regimental Sergeant Major of the 135th Infantry Regiment since 1927 was transferred to the Station Complement, Fort Dix, New Jersey, and given Special commendation for his meritorious service in a Regimental Special Order, dated the 26th of April, 1942, Sergeant SWANK had served with the Regiment continuously since 1916, having participated in the Mexican Border activities and also the World War. As a mark of commendation and appreciation, the Regiment was reviewed by Sergeant Major SWANK on the 27th of April, 1942.

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By this time all records and inoculations were checked and complete in the various units. Several practice alerts and loadings were held prior to the coming actual departure. Furloughs had been authorized the latter part of March and the 1st part of April, which allowed many members of the Regiment to spend a few days with their families.

On the 27th of April, all men were restricted to the camp area and on the following day the Regiment was alerted at 0600 hours the 28th of April, 1942, in accordance with the Verbal Order of the Commanding General of the rear detachment 34th Infantry Division. The Regimental Message Center closed at 1232 hours the 29th of April. The first echelon of the Regiment passed the initial point at Fort Dix at 1405 hours the 29th of April, traveled to the New York Port of Embarkation via train, and arrived at the dock at 2010 hours that night. The troops finished boarding the Aquatania, a large British troop transport, at 0230 hours the 30th of April, 1942, and cleared New York harbor at 0630 hours the same day. After being joined by several other ships, the convoy headed to the Northeast. Land was next sighted at Nova Scotia where the ship anchored in the harbor on the 2nd of May, 1942. Major CREIGHTON (MC) and a patient with a ruptured appendix were sent ashore there. The convoy left Halifax and proceeded Eastward with North Ireland as our destination. On the 8th of May, 1942, three merchant ships, a cruiser and a battleship left the convoy for Iceland. The sea was comparatively smooth during the entire voyage. Guard duty, boat drill twice each day, and calisthenics helped break the monotony during the crossing. Aside for several foggy days, the weather was clear and enjoyable.