DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

185TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Organized 17 August 1878 in the Iowa National Guard as the 9th Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Lyman Banks, commanding

Reorganized and redesignated 25 June 1881 as the 2d Infantry

Mustered into Federal service 17 May 1898 as the 50th Iowa Volunteer Infantry; mustered out 30 November 1898 at Camp McKinley, Des Moines, Iowa

Reorganized in State service by companies in 1899

Redesignated 26 November 1902 as the 54th Infantry

Converted and redesignated 4 July 1915 as the 1st Field Artillery

Mustered into Federal service 20 June 1916; mustered out 29 December 1916

Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Redesignated 1 October 1917 as the 126th Field Artillery and assigned to the 34th Division

Demobilized 20 January 1919 at Camp Dodge, Iowa

Reorganized 1920 - 1921 as the 1st Field Artillery with first element (Battery B at Davenport) Federally recognized 10 June 1920

Redesignated 10 October 1921 as the 185th Field Artillery; and assigned to the 34th Division

Inducted into Federal service 10 February 1941 at home station

185TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Regiment broken up 30 January 1942 and its elements reorganized and redesignated as follows:

Regiment (less 2d Battalion) as the 194th Field Artillery and relieved from assignment to the 34th Division

2d Battalion as the 185th Field Artillery Battalion, an element of the 34th Infantry Division

Above units underwent changes January 1942 - December 1945 as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 194th Field Artillery reorganized and redesignated 8 February 1943 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 194th Field Artillery Group

Inactivated 21 December 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey

1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery reorganized and redesignated 8 February 1943 as the 194th Field Artillery Battalion

Inactivated 13 December 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia

185th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated 3 November 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia

Above units reorganized 1946 - 1947 in Iowa National Guard as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 194th Field Artillery Group and the 194th Field Artillery Battalion consolidated, reorganized and redesignated as the 556th Field Artillery Battalion, an element of the 34th Infantry Division; Federally recognized 30 January 1947 with Headquarters at Davenport

185th Field Artillery Battalion reorganized and Federally recognized 3 January 1947 with Headquarters at Boone

556th and 185th Field Artillery Battalions consolidated 1 May 1959; consolidated unit reorganized and redesignated as the 185th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Howitzer Battalions, 185th Artillery and the 4th Rocket Howitzer Battalion, elements of the 34th Infantry Division

Reorganized 1 March 1963 to consist of 1st and 4th Howitzer Battalions, non-divisional units

Reorganized 1 January 1968 to consist of the 1st Battalion, a non-divisional unit

Redesignated 1 September 1971 as the 185th Field Artillery

185TH FIELD ARTILLERY

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War I
Streamer without inscription

World War II
Tunisia
Naples-Foggia
Anzio
Rome-Arno
North Apennines
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Po Valley

DECORATIONS

French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, Streamer embroidered FROSINONE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

29 NOV 1974

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION (105MM)(TOWED) 185TH FIELD ARTILLERY
Iowa Army National Guard
3615 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806

30 September 1969

HISTORY OF THE 185 FIELD ARTILLERY

Each year of activity in the National Guard represents another chapter in the changing history of the 185th Field Artillery. The efforts and achievements of each yesterday has shaped the standards for tomorrow. This organization is in the process of developing a complete history of the 1/185th FA, from the date of its initial, federally recognized organization in 1878 to the present. Much of the battalions history has been retained in the form of newspapers, letters, photographs, etc., however the material has never been arranged in such a manner that would allow a visitor to read through it. The following information attempts to highlight each year with significant points of interest. During the period 1878 to 1941 little information was saved however visits to the local library and news agencies have disclosed a relatively large amount of pre-World War II historical information. When at such time this information can be collected and appropriately pieced together, a complete history document will be published.

1878 - Parent unit was organized as the 9th Infantry Regiment, Iowa National Guard, 17 Aug 78, LTC Lyman Banks, Commanding.

1881 - Reorganized and redesignated 2d Inf Regiment, 25 Jun 1881.

1898 - Mustered into Federal service as the 50th Inf Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, 17 May 1898; mustered out at Camp McKinley, Des Moines, Iowa, 30 Nov 98.

1899 - Reorganized in State service as the 50th Inf Regiment, by companies.

1902 - Redesignated 54th Inf Reg, 26 Nov 1902.

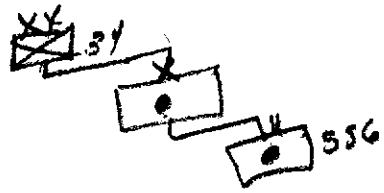
1915 - Reorganized and redesignated 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 4 Jul 1915.

1916 - Mustered into Federal service 20 Jun 1916, mustered out 29 Dec 1916. (Mexican Border Disputes)

Oct 17, 1916 - (Taken from the Clinton Herald) " Letters from members Battery A, first Iowa Field Artillery of Clinton, Iowa, now at Brownsville, report that the battery with other field artillery organizations encamped at Loma Alta for firing practice were forced to abandon the pup tent camp and return to Brownsville, when two days' rain made the camp a veritable lake."

1917 - Drafted into Federal service 5 Aug 17 for World War I. Redesignated 126th Field Artillery Regiment and assigned to the 34th Division.

1919 - Demobilized at Camp Dodge, Iowa, 20 Jan 1919.



(Battalion History, continue)

1920 - Reorganized as the 1st Field Artillery Regiment with the first element, Battery B at Davenport, Iowa. Federally recognized 10 Jun 1920.

1921 - 1924 Redesignated 185th Field Artillery Regiment, 10 Oct 21, HQ federally recognized 1 Jun 24.

1941 - Inducted into Federal service 10 Feb for WW II. Received the following Battle Honors and Unit Decorations: WW I Streamer without inscription; WWII: Tunisia; Rome-Arno; Naples-Foggia; North ~~Apennies~~ APENNINES; Po Valley, Anzio. Unit Decorations: Streamer in the colors of the French Croix De Guerre with palm embroidered Belvedere. Home Station - Boone, Iowa.

Of the original men inducted into service during this period only one stills remains an active member in the battalion. CWO Harvey V. Dose, Property Book Officer.

1942 - 2d Battalion redesignated 185th Field Artillery Battalion, 34 Inf Div 30 Jan 42. The 1st Battalion became part of the 194th Field Artillery and was [illegible] from the 34th Inf Div.

1945 - Inactivated at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, 3 Nov 45.

1947 - Reorganized as an element of the 34th Inf Division with Headquarters at Boone, Iowa, federally recognized - 30Jan 47. 556th Field Arty, and Medical Detachment, Div Arty, plus one Cedar Rapids Battery. These units formed the 1st and 2nd Bn of the newly formed 194th Combat Arms Regiment.

1948 - 556 Field Artillery. AFT 48 - Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Movement to Ft. Riley was made by train and special motor convoy.

The year of 1948 brought about a massive recruiting campaign. One highlight of this campaign was the enlistment of a little brown and white Fox Terrier named "Kilroy". Kilroy was owned by SGT Cliff Dawson, a member of the HHB unit. This little mascot was the subject of much publicity and was very instrumental in the numerous enlistments during the period.

The local Davenport unit provided a escort for the Governor of Iowa, (also the Mayor of Davenport) for a parade through the main streets of Davenport.

1949 - 556 Field Artillery. AFT 49 - Ft Leonardwood, Missouri.

Following a lift on an enlistment freeze the previous July, another intensive enlistment campaign was initiated. Volunteers from the battalion kept the armory opened each weekday and evenings, Mon, Tues, and Thurs. Two men were on hand at all times to interview personnel.

During the summer field training weekend, many members of the battalion attended a baseball game in St. Louis watching the Cardinals and the Pirates battle it out. Over 1100 soldiers from Ft Leonardwood were on hand for that event.

(Battalion History, continue)

Cont
1949 - Special recognition was paid to local news organizations in the form of "scrolls". The scrolls were presented to the WOC Station, The Times Company, and the Democrat Publishing Company to show appreciation for the cooperation they had given the Guard units.

SGT James C. Vazques was entertained as the 556th representative in the State contest to select the "Typical Iowa National Guardsman." (It is not known at this time the results of that contest).

1950 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 50 - Ft Leonardwood, Missouri.

LTC Ted Corry, battalion commander, received the "CPL Roger Sneeden Memorial Award Trophy" for having the best record during field training. The award was made by COL Du Bois, XO, 34th Div Arty. (CPL Sneeden was the first 34th Div Arty man to be killed in WW II. He lost his life in action with his gun section in Tunisia, North Africa)

"Army Inspector Threatens to Rule Guard Unit "Unsatisfactory" if New Armory Isn't Erected in Davenport". COL Adair, IG, stated the present housing facilities are unsatisfactory, and that unless a new armory was constructed, the 556th would receive an unsatisfactory for the inspection. The present armory was constructed prior to 1917 and is owned by the Davenport Artillery Holding Co. (This building is still in use today, 1969, and provides offices for the battalion commander and staff, two, less than adequate classrooms, and provides a office for the Iowa Highway Patrol Examiner during the week). The IG indicated that other areas of the inspection were "satisfactory."

A member of the HHB volunteered for active duty this year. Sometime later that year a newspaper article depicted the story of how this man found the bodies of more than 100 Korean political prisoners who had been buried in a common grave. It is believed that this individual, along with another man from the battalion who volunteered, were killed later in this conflict.

"Local Guardsman given a 15 Day Suspended Jail Sentence. It seemed one individual was a little reluctant to turn in his shoes for an upcoming Federal Inspection. The man refused a direct order from his supply sergeant to turn in the shoes (which he was incidently wearing at the time) and was taken into court. It is not known what took place after the trial but it may be assumed the inspector was impressed with the units "cost conscieness and supply economy".

Members of the local units in Davenport provided a honor guard to the "American Gold Star Mothers". A burial service was conducted for the return of the bodies of soldiers killed in WWII. This service was held at the Rock Island Arsenal Cemetary.

This year saw more discussions concerning the building of a new armory.

A local Guardsman received much acclaim for his drawing ability. The Iowa Guardsman featured many of PFC Paul C. Woolridges' cartoons which humerously depicted military life in the Guard. As a matter of interest, PFC Woolridge is now a professional "Farrier" (Horse Shoer) in the Davenport area. Unfortunately he gave up his art profession some years ago.

(Battalion History continue)

Cont
1950 - The spring of 1950 saw the battalion on State duty in support of "Operation Limblift". This operation involved 28 officers and 328 enlisted men. The storm left devastation across the State, however the City of Clinton, Iowa was hardest hit. Many streets were blocked off and power throughout the city was lost. The city was in a state of confusion. A real emergency existed when normal municipal processes could not be continued. Gov. Beardsley called the guard and assigned them the mission of cleaning up the city and restoring order. The operation lasted approximately 14 days after which local units received generous words of appreciation.

AT 1951 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 51 - Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Battle games were conducted by approximately 950 Guardsman near the town of Calumus, Iowa. The maneuvers were deemed a huge success.

Discussions continued regarding the inadequacy of the Davenport Armory.

AT 1952 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 52 - Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

At last... a new armory was planned. Officials touched up the initial draft for the floor plan of the new $100,000 armory. Construction was to begin May 1.

The battalion acquires a new battalion insignia. The description of the coat of arms is as follows: "The prickly pear cactus is taken from the arms of the parent units, both the 185th FA, and the 125 FA for service at the Mexican Border, the Fleur-de-lis represents WW I service in France, the Sheather Roman Sword for the infantry origin of both parent regiments, and the Indian quiver and two arrows for the Indian War service of the 125th FA. The motto: "Faithful, Formidable and Fiery"is a composite of the motto's of the 125 FA (Faithful) and the 185th FA (Formidable and Fiery)".

Once again the battalion found itself engaged IN fighting the raging flood waters of the mighty mississippi. The battalion supported municipalities from Muscatine to Sabula Iowa. Morale during the entire period was exceptionally high, even though entertainment and relaxation were practically nil. What entertainment there was, were furnished by a local hardware store in the form of two television sets. Men were allowed passes every third night. Parents, wives, and friends were allowed in the areas during the day to visit with the men off-duty. 16 APRIL - 2 MAY

AT 1953 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 53 - Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. AUG 2-17
10 DAU. GUARDSMEN WHO FAILED TO DRILL ARE SNATCHED UP BY DRAFT - SEE 1960
CONSTRUCTION FINALLY COMPLETED ON NEW ARMORY IN DAVENPORT.

AT 1954 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 54 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Annual Federal Inspection was conducted in the new armory with "Excellant" results.

(Battalion History, continue)

Cont
1954 - Newspapers aclaim guard for efforts in the Polio drive. The drive took place over several weeks and a significant amount of funds were solicited.

AT 1955 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 55 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Units of the battalion participated in a nationwide "Test Alert", 20 Apr 55. Hq&Hq Btry received a Certificate of Commendation, "In Recognition of Distinguished Service During Operation Minuteman".

On The Lighter Side. Members of the battalion received their quarterly pay in "$2.00 Bills" during a Tuesday night Drill. The stunt was done to show the importance of the guard to the Quad-cities from a financial standpoint.

Much discussion was offered in local newspaper in response to the governments new military reserve law designed to create a giant reserve pool of ready-to-go fighters. Instead of finding men rushing in to beat the draft by signing up for a quick tour of active duty, youngsters were hanging back waiting to see what develops. The Defense Department felt that a boy who manages to escape the draft also escapes the new 6 to 7 year military obligation imposed on men who serve a tour of a active duty. The general indications were that unless congress changed the law the Pentagon will have continuing trouble attracting a bumper class of 6-month trainees.

AT 1956 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 56 - Camp Ripley, Missesota.

AT 1957 - 556th Field Artillery. AFT 57 - Camp Ripley, Missesota.

The 556 FA observed its 10th anniversary of the activation of the battalion. The event was marked by a inspection and a cake-cutting by the battalions' oldest member, MSG Herbert Oldsen.

Muster Day celebrations in the Cedar Rapids unit received wide-spread publicity from local papers. The program was a part of a continuing effort to seek recruits.

Much dissent was evident relative to the Army's "Kiss of Death". The National Guard Assn. accused the Army of trying to give it the "kiss of death" by ordering all Guard recruits to take six months of basic training. Guard members felt the guard would be forced down the "long trail of oblivion and ultimate federalization".

AT 1958 - 556th Field Artillery - AFT 58 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

AT 1959 - 556th Field Artillery - AFT 59 - Camp Guersney, Wyoming.

The 556th was reorganized into the 1st Battalion, 185th Field Arty. The reorganization placed the HHB and Svc Btry in the Davenport Garrison with Btry A and Btry B in Clinton. The switch to the pentomic organization was effective 1 [redacted] 59.

AT→ For the Clinton Unit (Btry B) it was their first opportunity to fire 155MM Howitzers. During AFT the unit not only fired this weapon, but also presented a artillery fire-power demonstration for other units at that same site.

(Battalion History, continue)

1960 - 2/185/1/185 Artillery - AFT 60 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Btry A, 2 How Bn received the General Gerald Dubois Memorial Trophy for superior performance and high training standards.

10 Davenport Guardsman failed to attend drill and were turned over to the Draft Board. OCCURRED IN 1953

Members of Btry A and B, 2d How Bn were ordered to flood duty in Cedar Rapids, Iowa this year. The mission was hauling sand bags to endangered areas along the Cedar River, and traffic control.

HHB provides a humaniterian service to a young high school student who had been injured in a farming accident which restricted him to his home. The unit provided an intercom system from each room of his school room to his home. This wire covered 35 miles and was done by guardsman on their own time.

1961 - 2/185/1/185 Artillery - AFT 61 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

1962 - 2/185/1/185 Artillery - AFT 62 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

State of Iowa protests plan to break up the Guard President Kennedy sent Congress a revised proposal on reserve-guard manpower strength contemplating a cut of 58,000 from the over-all total of 700,000 Guardsman and reservists. Plan not considered "final".

Wall Street Journal reflects criticism of the Guard for a lack of preparedness and stress on social activities.

1963 - 1st How Bn, 185th FA - AFT 63 - Camp Guersney, Wyoming.

NDO BRIG GEN Karl F. Nead retirement dinner

Battalion reorganized into the 1st How Bn, 185th FA. The 2/185 was consolidated with the 1st in this change.

A member of the Davenport unit, SSG Russell D. Petersen, extended his enlistment to age 60 in a recruiting program. Muster day was celebrated with a public exhibit and a reduced distance artillery RSOP.

1964 - 1st How Bn, 185th FA - AFT 64 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Local units provide military cordon for the State Funeral of the late ex-president of the United States, Herbert C. Hoover. Personal letters of appreciation were received from the Adjutant General of Iowa, the Division Commander, and the Director of General Services Administration.

4 MARCH 64 - Area Command "Kilo" was published.

1965 - 1st How Bn 185th FA. AFT 65 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

1965 saw the worst flooding in history along the Mississippi. The entire battalion was placed on state duty in support of Clinton, Davenport, and Muscatine communities. Efforts to confine flood waters were being made around the clock. Many National, State and local agencies were envolved in one way or another. One major highlight of

(BattalionHistory - continue)

Cont
1965 - the flood was the frantic attempt to save the main pumping station located outside the protective walls of the levee. The site, labeled "Ft. Johannsen" after the officer in charge of the project, (presently unit commander of HHB, 1/185 FA) was manned by one officer and a small group of volunteers (EM) for 4 days. The pumping station received the full brunt of the onrushing waters. Due to the tireless efforts of the small band of volunteers, the station was saved. The whole experience left all with fond memories of how, in time of impending diaster, humans tend to forget personal problems and join together.

1966 - 1st How Bn, 185th FA - AFT 66 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Guardsmen were again called to State Duty for potential ice jamming in the Mississippi River.

1967 - 1st How Bn 185th FA. AFT 67 - Camp Guersney, Wyoming.

Flood waters again threatened river communities in the battalion's sector. Troops were called to State Duty again however the crest did not reach the proportions of 65 and few major problems existed.

1968 - 1st Bn, 185th FA (SRF). AFT 68 - Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

The 1st Battalion was reorganized to its present status (less SRF) as a non-divisional unit consisting of the 1st Battalion. The newly acquired SRF status posed new problems for the battalion. Strength levels were increased to 93% TOE. The supply system was completely overhauled with the advent of the PBO concept. The first six months of SRF status saw additional drills, however, after 1 Jul 68 this was reduced to normal. It was felt the additional assemblies would be extremely beneficial from a training mission standpoint. This proved correct, however, much of the additional time was spent initiating administrative and supply programs and accomplishment of required Civil Disturbance training. All in all SRF status was a sorely needed "shot in the arm".

Present- 1st Bn, 185th FA. AFT 69 - Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Much was gained during the past AFT period, however less than desirable training areas hampered the battalions ability to provide needed movement flexibility. Supply and administrative problems continued to be key factors throughout the period. With the removal of SRF status from the battalion many are concerned how this fact will effect equipment, strength, etc.

Due to early predictions of potential spring flooding (predictions which initially reflected crest higher than 65) planning with sector communities commenced well in advance of the flood waters. The river eventually crested below expected levels however troops were called to the Clinton area again. The operation was performed without major difficulties.