

2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry

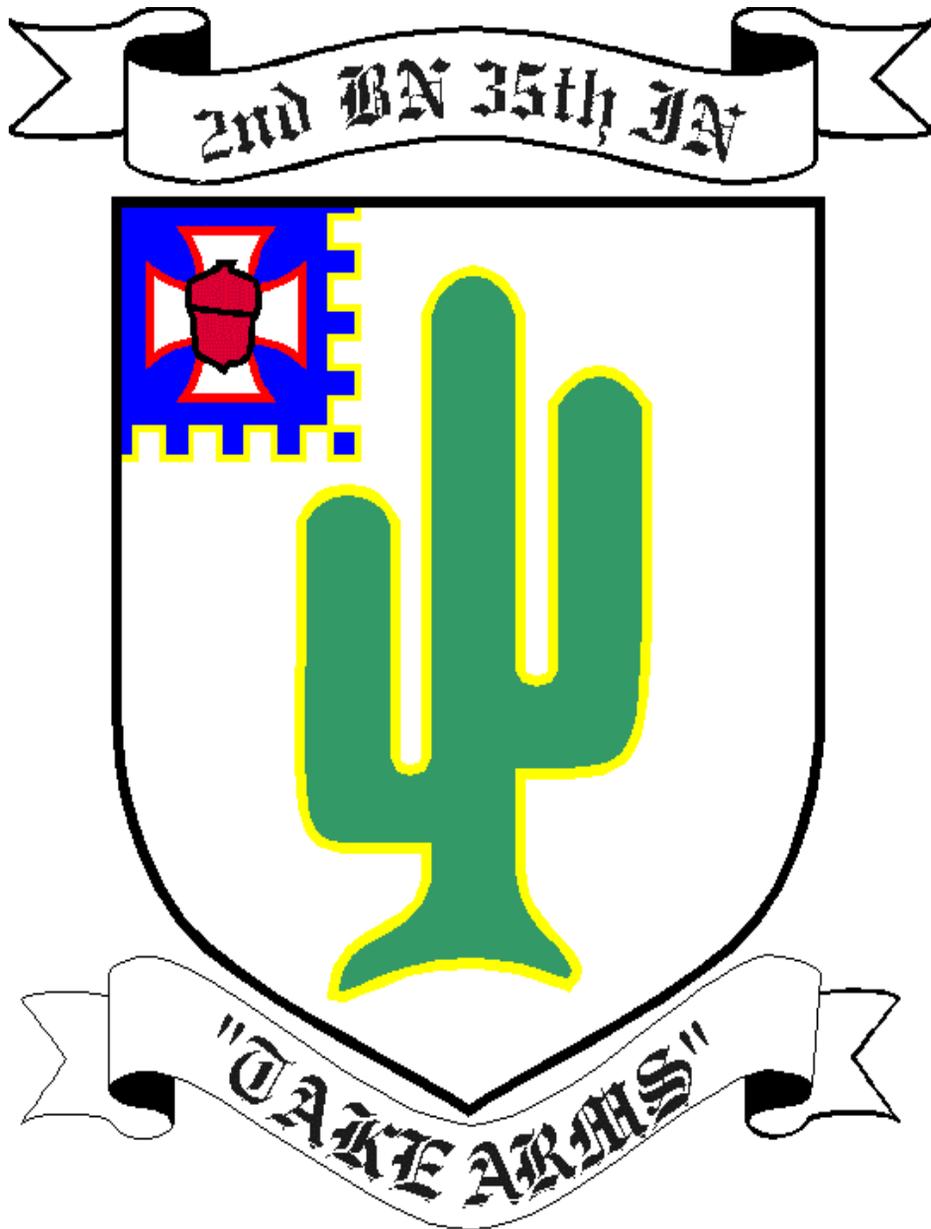
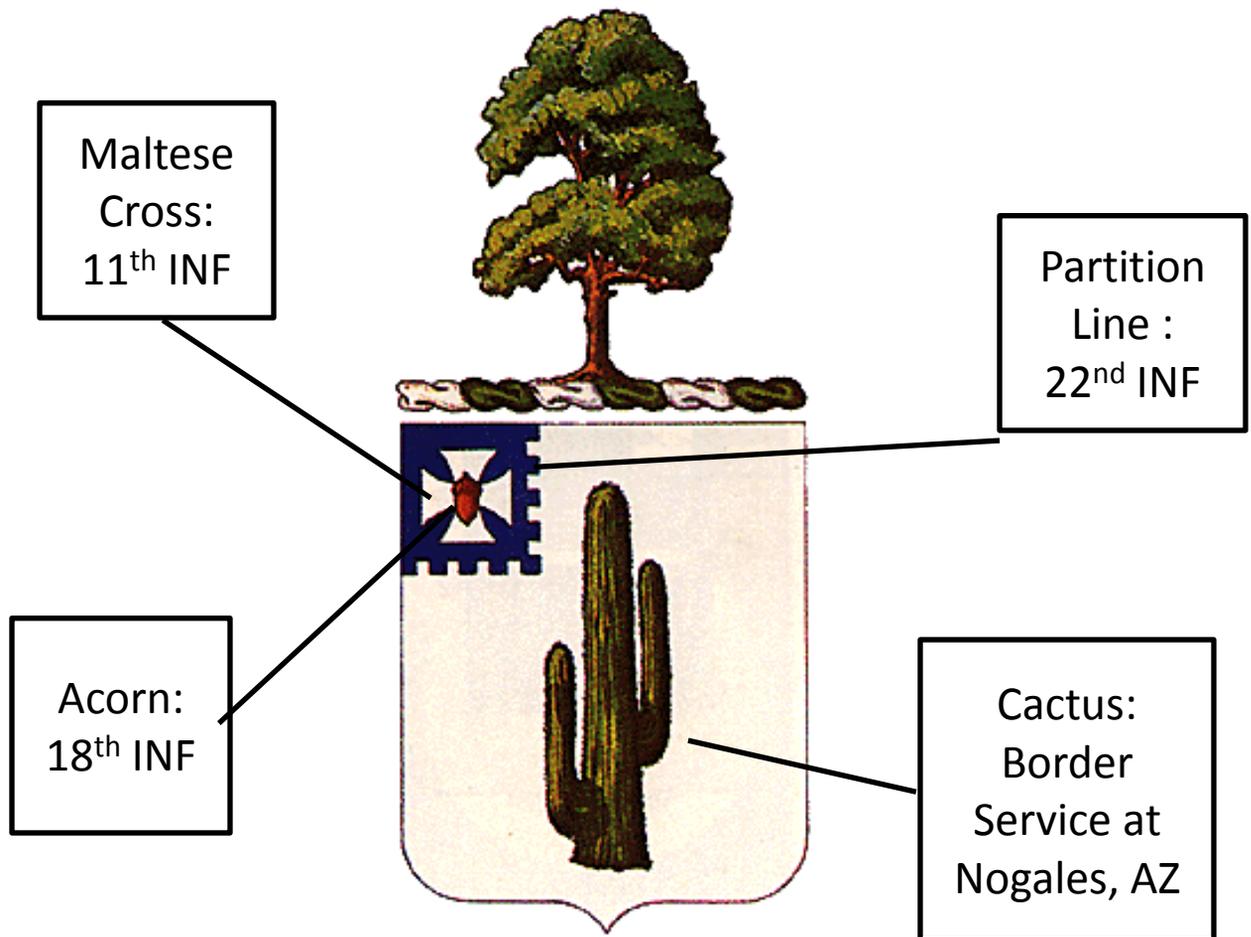


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Regimental Coat of Arms

Motto: Take Arms



The Symbolism of the Regimental Coat of Arms

The 35th Infantry Regiment was formed in the deserts of Douglas, Arizona on July 1, 1916. It was created with personnel from the 11th, 18th, and 22nd Infantry Regiments. Each of these organizations are represented on the canton. During the Civil War the 11th Infantry was in the 2nd Division, V Corps, represented by a white Maltese cross; the 18th Infantry was in the 1st Division, XIV Corps, represented by the red acorn. The 22nd Infantry is represented by the embattled partition line of the canton. The cactus represents the original service of the 35th Infantry on the Mexican border.

The walnut tree crest commemorates the regiment's baptism of fire at Nogales, which in Spanish means, "walnut trees."

Lineage and Honors

2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry

Constituted 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Company B, 35th Infantry

Organized 13 July 1916 at Douglas, Arizona

35th Infantry was assigned on 7 August 1918 to the 18th Division; relieved 14 February 1919 from assignment to the 18th Division; assigned 17 October 1922 to the Hawaiian Division; relieved 1 October 1941 from assignment to the Hawaiian Division and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division

Inactivated 1 February 1957 in Hawaii, relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division; concurrently re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battle Group, 35th Infantry

Assigned 19 February 1962 to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii and activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii (organic elements concurrently constituted and activated)

Reorganized and re-designated 12 August 1963 as the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry

Relieved 1 August 1967 from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division

Relieved 15 December 1970 from assignment to the 4th Infantry Division and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division

Inactivated 5 June 1972 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division

Assigned 16 August 1995 to the 25th Infantry Division and activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

2-35 Campaign Participation

World War II

Central Pacific

Guadalcanal

Northern Solomons (with arrowhead)

Luzon

Korean War

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention

First UN Counteroffensive

CCF Spring Offensive

UN Summer-Fall Offensive

Second Korean Winter

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam

Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase II

Counteroffensive, Phase III

Tet Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase IV

Counteroffensive, Phase V

Counteroffensive, Phase VI

Tet 69/Counteroffensive

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase VII

Global War on Terror

Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan 2004-2005

Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009

Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan 2011-2012

2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry

US Decorations



Presidential Unit Citation (Army),
Streamer embroidered GUADALCANAL
Presidential Unit Citation (Army),
Streamer embroidered NAM RIVER
Valorous Unit Award,
Streamer embroidered QUANG NGAI PROVINCE
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army),
Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1968
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army)
Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2006-2007
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army)
Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2008-2009



Company A additionally entitled to:
Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered PLEIKU PROVINCE



Company B additionally entitled to:
Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered PLEIKU PROVINCE

2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry

Foreign Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered MASAN-CHINJU

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered MUNSAN-NI

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered KOREA

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm,
Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1967

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm,
Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1969

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm,
Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class,
Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1969

Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress, 12 July 1862 and later amended on 9 July 1918 and again on 25 July 1963.

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Army, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing foreign force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

Nine Cacti have distinguished themselves with such gallantry since the birth of the Regiment.

SSG Kenneth E. Stumpf



**Near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam
25 April 1967**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. Stumpf distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader of the 3d Platoon, Company C, on a search and destroy mission. As S/Sgt. Stumpf's company approached a village, it encountered a North Vietnamese rifle company occupying a well fortified bunker complex. During the initial contact, 3 men from his squad fell wounded in front of a hostile machinegun emplacement. The enemy's heavy volume of fire prevented the unit from moving to the aid of the injured men, but S/Sgt. Stumpf left his secure position in a deep trench and ran through the barrage of incoming rounds to reach his wounded comrades. He picked up 1 of the men and carried him back to the safety of the trench. Twice more S/Sgt. Stumpf dashed forward while the enemy turned automatic weapons and machineguns upon him, yet he managed to rescue the remaining 2 wounded squad members. He then organized his squad and led an assault against several enemy bunkers from which continuously heavy fire was being received. He and his squad successfully eliminated 2 of the bunker positions, but one to the front of the advancing platoon remained a serious threat. Arming himself with extra hand grenades, S/Sgt. Stumpf ran over open ground, through a volley of fire directed at him by a determined enemy, toward the machinegun position. As he reached the bunker, he threw a hand grenade through the aperture. It was immediately returned by the occupants, forcing S/Sgt. Stumpf to take cover. Undaunted, he pulled the pins on 2 more grenades, held them for a few seconds after activation, then hurled them into the position, this time successfully destroying the emplacement. With the elimination of this key position, his unit was able to assault and overrun the enemy. S/Sgt. Stumpf's relentless spirit of aggressiveness, intrepidity, and ultimate concern for the lives of his men, are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.

1LT Stephen E. Karopczyc

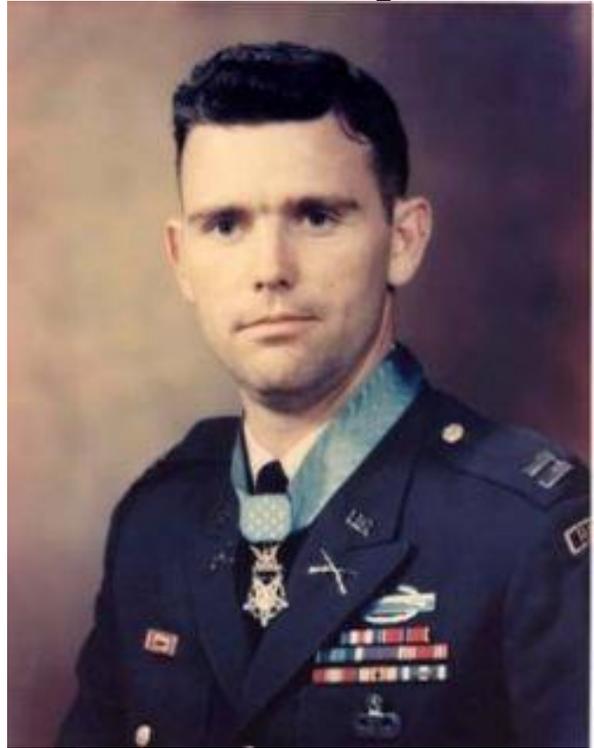
Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam

12 March 1967

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While leading the 3d Platoon, Company A, on a flanking maneuver against a superior enemy force, 1st Lt. Karopczyc observed that his lead element was engaged with a small enemy unit along his route. Aware of the importance of quickly pushing through to the main enemy force in order to provide relief for a hard-pressed friendly platoon, he dashed through the intense enemy fire into the open and hurled colored smoke grenades to designate the foe for attack by helicopter gunships. He moved among his men to embolden their advance, and he guided their attack by marking enemy locations with bursts of fire from his own weapon. His forceful leadership quickened the advance, forced the enemy to retreat, and allowed his unit to close with the main hostile force. Continuing the deployment of his platoon, he constantly exposed himself as he ran from man to man to give encouragement and to direct their efforts. A shot from an enemy sniper struck him above the heart but he refused aid for this serious injury, plugging the bleeding wound with his finger until it could be properly dressed. As the enemy strength mounted, he ordered his men to organize a defensive position in and around some abandoned bunkers where he conducted a defense against the increasingly strong enemy attacks. After several hours, a North Vietnamese soldier hurled a hand grenade to within a few feet of 1st Lt. Karopczyc and 2 other wounded men. Although his position protected him, he leaped up to cover the deadly grenade with a steel helmet. It exploded to drive fragments into 1st Lt. Karopczyc's legs, but his action prevented further injury to the 2 wounded men. Severely weakened by his multiple wounds, he continued to direct the actions of his men until he succumbed 2 hours later. 1st Lt. Karopczyc's heroic leadership, unyielding perseverance, and selfless devotion to his men were directly responsible for the successful and spirited action of his platoon throughout the battle and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.



CPT Ronald E. Ray



**la Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam
19 June 1966**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Ray distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company A. When 1 of his ambush patrols was attacked by an estimated reinforced Viet- Cong company, Capt. Ray organized a reaction force and quickly moved through 2 kilometers of mountainous jungle terrain to the contact area. After breaking through the hostile lines to reach the beleaguered patrol, Capt. Ray began directing the reinforcement of the site. When an enemy position pinned down 3 of his men with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire, he silenced the emplacement with a grenade and killed 4 Viet Cong with his rifle fire. As medics were moving a casualty toward a sheltered position, they began receiving intense hostile fire. While directing suppressive fire on the enemy position, Capt. Ray moved close enough to silence the enemy with a grenade. A few moments later Capt. Ray saw an enemy grenade land, unnoticed, near 2 of his men. Without hesitation or regard for his safety he dove between the grenade and the men, thus shielding them from the explosion while receiving wounds in his exposed feet and legs. He immediately sustained additional wounds in his legs from an enemy machinegun, but nevertheless he silenced the emplacement with another grenade. Although suffering great pain from his wounds, Capt. Ray continued to direct his men, providing the outstanding courage and leadership they vitally needed, and prevented their annihilation by successfully leading them from their surrounded position. Only after assuring that his platoon was no longer in immediate danger did he allow himself to be evacuated for medical treatment. By his gallantry at the risk of his life in the highest traditions of the military service, Capt. Ray has reflected great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

PVT Billy Kanell

Near Pyongyang, Korea

7 September 1951

Pvt. Kanell, a member of Company I, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. A numerically superior hostile force had launched a fanatical assault against friendly positions, supported by mortar and artillery fire, when Pvt. Kanell stood in his emplacement exposed to enemy observation and action and delivered accurate fire into the ranks of the assailants. An enemy grenade was hurled into his emplacement and Pvt. Kanell threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the blast with his body to protect 2 of his comrades from serious injury and possible death. A few seconds later another grenade was thrown into the emplacement and, although seriously wounded by the first missile, he summoned his waning strength to roll toward the second grenade and used his body as a shield to again protect his comrades. He was mortally wounded as a result of his heroic actions. His indomitable courage, sustained fortitude against overwhelming odds, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army.



SGT William Jecelin

Near Saga, Korea

19 September 1950

Sgt. Jecelin, Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and Intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His company was ordered to secure a prominent, sawtoothed ridge from a well-entrenched and heavily armed enemy. Unable to capture the objective in the first attempt, a frontal and flanking assault was launched. He led his platoon through heavy enemy fire and bursting shells, across ricefields and rocky terrain, in direct frontal attack on the ridge in order to draw fire away from the flanks. The unit advanced to the base of the cliff, where intense, accurate hostile fire stopped the attack. Realizing that an assault was the only solution, Sgt. Jecelin rose from his position firing his rifle and throwing grenades as he called on his men to follow him. Despite the intense enemy fire this attack carried to the crest of the ridge where the men were forced to take cover. Again he rallied his men and stormed the enemy strongpoint. With fixed bayonets they charged into the face of antitank fire and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. After clubbing and slashing this force into submission the platoon was forced to take cover from direct frontal fire of a self-propelled gun. Refusing to be stopped he leaped to his feet and through sheer personal courage and fierce determination led his men in a new attack. At this instant a well-camouflaged enemy soldier threw a grenade at the remaining members of the platoon. He immediately lunged and covered the grenade with his body, absorbing the full force of the explosion to save those around him. This incredible courage and willingness to sacrifice himself for his comrades so imbued them with fury that they completely eliminated the enemy force. Sgt. Jecelin's heroic leadership and outstanding gallantry reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the military service.



SFC Donald Moyer

Near Seoul, Korea

20 May 1951

Sfc. Moyer assistant platoon leader, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations. Sfc. Moyer's platoon was committed to attack and secure commanding terrain stubbornly defended by a numerically superior hostile force emplaced in well-fortified positions. Advancing up the rocky hill, the leading elements came under intense automatic weapons, small-arms, and grenade fire, wounding the platoon leader and platoon sergeant. Sfc. Moyer, realizing the success of the mission was imperiled, rushed to the head of the faltering column, assumed command and urged the men forward. Inspired by Sfc. Moyer's unflinching courage, the troops responded magnificently, but as they reached the final approaches to the rugged crest of the hill, enemy fire increased in volume and intensity and the fanatical foe showered the platoon with grenades. Undaunted, the valiant group forged ahead, and as they neared the top of the hill, the enemy hurled a grenade into their midst. Sfc. Moyer, fully aware of the odds against him, unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion with his body. Although mortally wounded in this fearless display of valor, Sfc. Moyer's intrepid act saved several of his comrades from death or serious injury, and his inspirational leadership and consummate devotion to duty contributed significantly to the subsequent seizure of the enemy stronghold and reflect lasting glory on himself and the noble traditions of the military service.



MSG Charles L. McGaha



Near Lupao, Luzon, Philippine Islands

7 February 1945

He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity. His platoon and 1 other from Company G were pinned down in a roadside ditch by heavy fire from 5 Japanese tanks supported by 10 machineguns and a platoon of riflemen. When 1 of his men fell wounded 40 yards away, he unhesitatingly crossed the road under a hail of bullets and moved the man 75 yards to safety. Although he had suffered a deep arm wound, he returned to his post. Finding the platoon leader seriously wounded, he assumed command and rallied his men. Once more he braved the enemy fire to go to the aid of a litter party removing another wounded soldier. A shell exploded in their midst, wounding him in the shoulder and killing 2 of the party. He picked up the remaining man, carried him to cover, and then moved out in front deliberately to draw the enemy fire while the American forces, thus protected, withdrew to safety. When the last man had gained the new position, he rejoined his command and there collapsed from loss of blood and exhaustion. M/Sgt. McGaha set an example of courage and leadership in keeping with the highest traditions of the service.

SGT William G Fournier



Mount Austen, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

10 January 1943

For gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. As leader of a machinegun section charged with the protection of other battalion units, his group was attacked by a superior number of Japanese, his gunner killed, his assistant gunner wounded, and an adjoining guncrew put out of action. Ordered to withdraw from this hazardous position, Sgt. Fournier refused to retire but rushed forward to the idle gun and, with the aid of another soldier who joined him, held up the machinegun by the tripod to increase its field action. They opened fire and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. While so engaged both these gallant soldiers were killed, but their sturdy defensive was a decisive factor in the following success of the attacking battalion.

T5 Sgt Lewis Hall



Mount Austen, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

10 January 1943

For gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. As leader of a machinegun squad charged with the protection of other battalion units, his group was attacked by a superior number of Japanese, his gunner killed, his assistant gunner wounded, and an adjoining guncrew put out of action. Ordered to withdraw from his hazardous position, he refused to retire but rushed forward to the idle gun and with the aid of another soldier who joined him and held up the machinegun by the tripod to increase its field of action he opened fire and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. While so engaged both these gallant soldiers were killed, but their sturdy defense was a decisive factor in the following success of the attacking battalion.



CACTI HISTORY



Battle of Ambos Nogales

Nogales, Arizona

Pancho Villa, the infamous Mexican bandit, conducted a series of raids in the American Southwest in 1916. The United States retaliated by forming regiments along the Mexican border, one of which was the 35th Infantry Regiment.

On August 27, 1918 three companies of the 35th Regiment saw action in a firefight on the Mexican border with Mexican soldiers and their German advisors. LT Oliver Fannin was recognized for valor and bravery for his actions during this battle.



Mexican militia on the border



Pancho Villa

Battle of Ambos Nogales

Nogales, Arizona

Nogales was the scene of a skirmish in 1915 between the U.S. 12th Infantry and the Mexican army. In 1916 the U.S Army had mustered a force of over 10,000 soldiers at Nogales when the 35th arrived to relieve the 12th Infantry in 1917.

On 25 August 1918 another skirmish occurred at Nogales. It started when a U.S. Customs inspector and a 35th Infantry soldier attempted to stop a Mexican national believed to be a smuggler from crossing into the U.S. A Mexican guard shot and killed both Americans and a U.S. Customs official then shot and killed the Mexican guard. As the incident grew military personnel and civilians from both sides of the border were drawn into the conflict.



Battle of Ambos Nogales

Nogales, Arizona

Four companies of the 35th Infantry and two troops of the 10th Cavalry were rushed to the border. The firing continued until sundown when the Mexicans raised a white flag in surrender. The 35th Infantry suffered 18 casualties. One officer and one soldier were killed; sixteen soldiers were wounded. A meeting between American and Mexican senior officers resulted in the reopening of the border.

On 14 February 1919 the 35th Infantry was relieved from assignment to the 18th Division and transferred to Camp Travis, Texas. From there the Regiment moved to Camp Lewis, Washington.

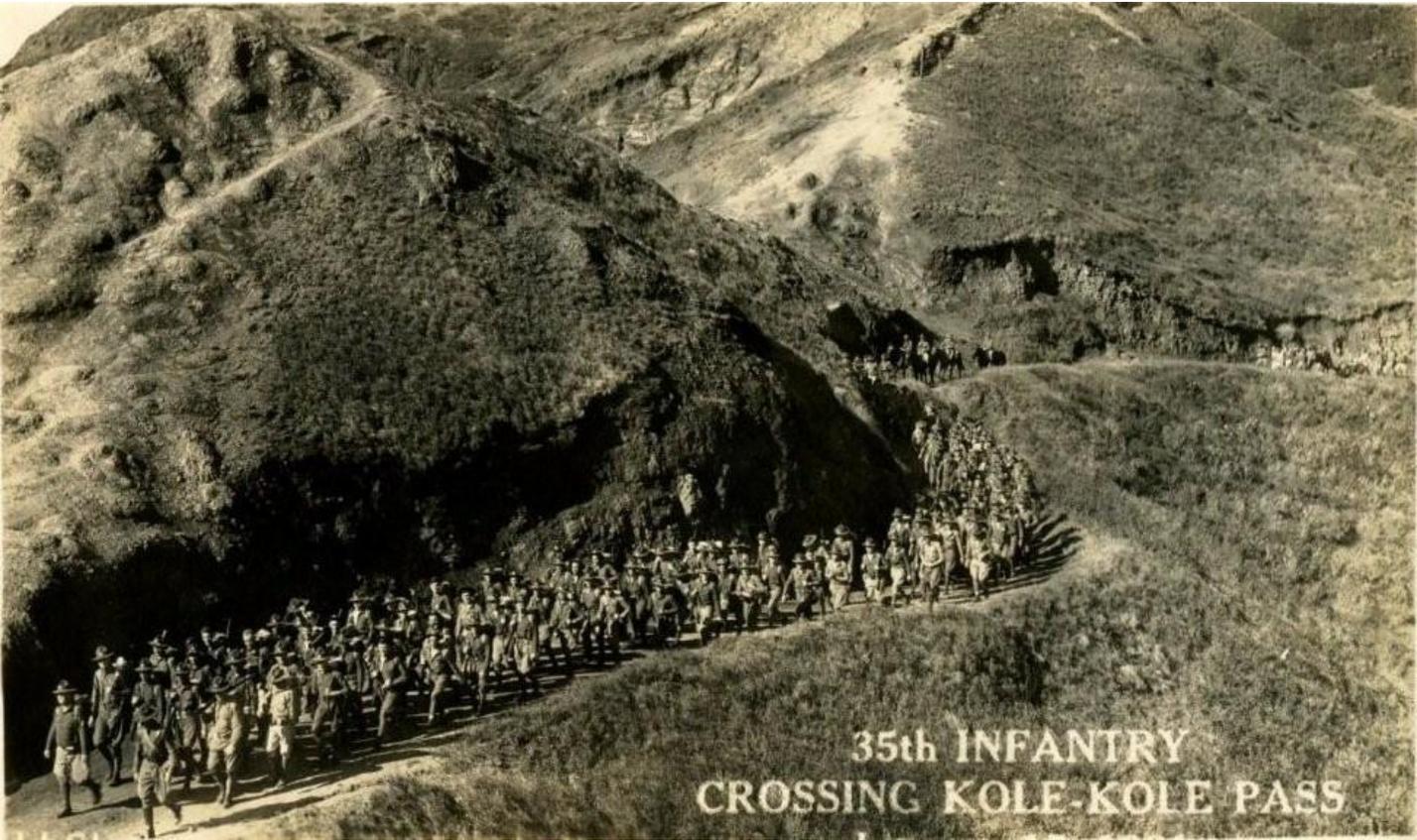


Machine gun team from
the 35th IN on the
Mexican border

Cacti Battalion in WWII



Cacti Battalion in WWII



Only two months after activation on December 7th 1941 the 25th Infantry Division received its baptism of fire when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy Base at Pearl Harbor as well as attacks on Hickam Army Air Field and Wheeler Army Airfield. After the Japanese fighters struck at Wheeler, they flew over Schofield strafing the barracks and officer's quarters causing some casualties. Groups of soldiers returned fire with small arms shooting down at least one enemy aircraft. After the attack the 35th along with the rest of the 25th Division quickly assumed to their pre-assigned defensive positions on the shores of the island of Oahu to repel a possible Japanese invasion.

Cacti Battalion in WWII

In May of 1942, Major General James L. Collins assumed command of the 25th Division. The 35th continued to man its defensive positions into the summer of 1942. With the Japanese defeat at Midway the threat of an invasion was greatly diminished. This allowed the 35th along with the rest of the 25th Division to begin a vigorous training program for offensive combat, jungle warfare training, and amphibious exercises. In November the 25th Division was ordered to Guadalcanal as part of the XIV Corps in relief of the 1st Marine Division. As the first of three convoys to carry the 25th Division, the 35th Infantry departed Oahu on 25 November arriving at Guadalcanal on 17 December 1942.



Guadalcanal

The 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was to relieve a regiment of the American Division near an enemy strongpoint known as "Gifu" (after a famous Japanese castle). They were tasked to continue the attack and take the position. The 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry was to capture two hills known as the Sea Horse and push westward toward another hill complex known as Galloping Horse.

The 3rd Battalion's attack encountered difficulties as the battalion made its way through the jungle. While crossing the Matanikau River Company K was ambushed by the Japanese. As the Japanese charged, Sergeant Fournier and Technician 5th Grade Hall of Company M they were mortally wounded while they manned a heavy machine gun, which broke up the Japanese attack, saving the company. Both soldiers received the Medal of Honor posthumously for their heroism. By nightfall of 10 January the 35th was in position to assault Sea Horse. The next day the 3rd Battalion was joined by the 1st Battalion and drove the enemy off of the Sea Horse.



Guadalcanal



The 2nd Battalion found difficulty attempting to reduce the Gifu strongpoint. Originally estimated to have been manned by 100 men and 10 machine guns, the strongpoint actually consisted of over 500 men with 52 crew-served weapons. It took almost two weeks of brutal fighting and the arrival of Marine armor to take the position, which was finally taken on the morning of the 23rd after a final, suicidal banzai charge by the defenders the previous night.

For its gallantry in battle on Guadalcanal the 35th Infantry Regiment was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation Streamer embroidered "Guadalcanal". This was the first Presidential Unit Citation awarded to a unit of the 25th Infantry Division. For the rest of the Guadalcanal campaign the 35th served as the division reserve, remaining on the island with the division until the summer of 1943.

Northern Solomons Campaign

The next test of the 35th Infantry Regiment would come in the Northern Solomons. The campaign to drive the Japanese forces out of the northern Solomon Islands did not initially include the 25th Division. However, as the American forces ran into stronger than expected Japanese resistance the Tropic Lightning Division was committed. After the Japanese were driven off the island of New Georgia they retreated to the island of Kolombangra. Rather than attack the Japanese dug in on Kolombangra, it was decided to occupy adjacent islands and render Kolombangra useless to the Japanese.



Northern Solomons Campaign



The mission of seizing the island of Vella Lavella was given to the 35th Infantry. On 15 August 1943 the Cacti made an amphibious assault on the island. The 35th advanced steadily, meeting light resistance from Japanese forces. By 18 September the responsibility for the island was turned over to New Zealand forces. For its assault on Vella Lavella the 35th received the bronze assault landing arrowhead device on its Northern Solomons campaign streamer.

In November of 1943 the 25th Division returned to Guadalcanal and then to New Zealand for rest and refitting and to receive personnel replacements. In February 1944 the 25th moved to New Caledonia for extended training, which lasted throughout the summer and into late fall. Maneuvers and amphibious landings were conducted with the 35th Infantry playing the role of opposing forces in preparation for the anticipated invasion of the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

Luzon Campaign



For the liberation of the island of Luzon, General McArthur chose to strike first at Lingayen Gulf on the island's northwest coast. Here sheltered beaches would facilitate a large amphibious assault and place U.S. forces on the best roads leading through the central plains south to Manila his main objective, Manila.

On 9 January 1945 the U.S. Sixth Army landed finding light resistance. I Corps had the mission of defending the flanks of the beachhead while the XIV Corps would drive south to Manila. The 25th Division was held as the Sixth Army's reserve. On 17 January the 25th was assigned to I Corps and committed to combat the 35th Infantry, which was retained as the Sixth Army's reserve.

As the Tropic Lightning Division pushed toward the town of Umingan, the 35th was released to the 25th and prepared to participate in the upcoming operation. The 27th Infantry approached the town from the north while the 35th moved to encircle the Japanese from the south and block their escape. The 27th attacked on 1 February. The next morning the 35th attacked from the south meeting scattered resistance and trapping the enemy in the northern and western sections of the town.

Luzon Campaign



The 35th Infantry then continued southeast, advancing on the village of Lupao. Here the Japanese conducted a determined defense halting the initial attack of all three battalions. In the battle Technical Sergeant Charles McGaha of Company G received the Medal of Honor for his bravery. The Japanese defense held for a week were forced from Luzon until February.

At the end of February, the I Corps, consisting of the 25th, 32nd and 33rd Infantry Divisions, turned its attention to clearing the mountains of northern Luzon. The majority of the Japanese forces on Luzon, known as the Shobu Group under the command of General Tomoyuki Yamashita. The Japanese's forces comprised several divisions reinforced with tanks defending the southern approaches to the mountains.

Luzon Campaign

The 25th received the mission of clearing Highway 5 from San Jose north to the village of Digdig. In the move up the highway the 35th was used as an enveloping force. The Cacti faced little resistance, and three days after the 25th Division's advance began the 35th liberated the village of Carranglan, due east of Digdig. It was then ordered to Digdig and Puncan. The 2nd Battalion liberated Puncan on 2 March 1945 and the 3rd Battalion drove the Japanese out of Digdig the next day. By 5 March the 25th Division had accomplished its mission of opening Highway 5 from San Jose to Digdig and was ordered to continue to clear Highway 5 to the north.

The first objective was the town of Putlan with the 1st Battalion 35th Infantry leading the attack. The 1st Battalion reached the town on 8 March but was unable to dislodge the enemy force that had destroyed the bridge crossing the Putlan River. Reinforcements from the other two regiments arrived on 10 March and the Japanese were forced to retreat.



Luzon Campaign

The Tropic Lightning was again assigned the mission of proceeding north on Highway 5 to the town of Kapintalan and through the Belete Pass to the town of Santa Fe. The 35th was chosen to lead the attack on Kapintalan. On 2 April the 3rd Battalion assaulted the ridge south of the town, which was heavily defended by the enemy in caves and pillboxes. It took the 3rd Battalion a week to secure the ridge. The 2nd Battalion cleared the high ground to the east of the town while the 1st Battalion followed up, clearing bypassed areas still occupied by the enemy.

On 21 April, the battle for Belete Pass continued with fierce fighting until 6 May 1945 when the pass was declared open. The 25th resumed its march on Santa Fe with the 35th Infantry the highway itself and the 27th and 161st on its flanks. The Japanese strongly resisted the advance in the 27th and 161st sectors. The 35th met only moderate resistance and reached Santa Fe on 26 May.



Luzon Campaign

The last mission of the war for the 25th was the clearing of the Old Spanish Trail, which ran north from Carranglan to the village of Arito. The 35th pushed south from Arito while the 27th moved north from Carranglan. The Japanese offered only light resistance and by 22 June the trail was opened. On 4 July 1945 the Luzon campaign was officially declared over.

On 30 June 1945, the 25th Division along with the rest of the Sixth Army was relieved by the Eighth Army which took over the mission of eliminating remaining Japanese forces on Luzon. By mid-July the Sixth Army had established training camps to prepare for the assault on Japan, which called for the 25th Division to be a lead element in the invasion. The 25th division was conducting exercises in preparation for this mission when the war ended with Japan's surrender on 15 August 1945.



Occupation Duty in Japan 1945-1950

On 19 September 1945 the first elements of the 35th Infantry left Luzon for Japan. The 25th Division was assigned an occupation sector in the south central of the island of Honshu, with the Division Headquarters located in the city of Osaka. The 35th Infantry Regiment initially took up occupation duties in the city of Nagoya. In January 1946 the 35th was transferred to the city of Otsu where it conducted occupation duties until July 1950.

On 1 July 1950 the 24th Infantry Division was ordered to Korea. On the same date the 25th Division was ordered to take over the occupation sector being vacated by the 24th on the southern most island of Kyushu. The 2nd Battalion of the 35th formed the advance guard of the 25th in the Division's move south. By 5 July the 24th Division had turned over all of its occupation sector to the Tropic Lightning. However, as soon as the Division had completed the move to Kyushu, it too was ordered to Korea.



Korean Campaign - 1950



Korean Campaign - 1950

On 13 July 1950, the 35th Infantry Regiment landed at the southern port city of Pusan, Korea. In August the 25th Division was given the assignment to defend the southwestern sector of the 140-mile Pusan perimeter. The Cacti Regiment was ordered to hold the Chung-ni-Masan route into the Pusan Perimeter. They met the North Korean enemy for the first time on 18 August, defeating a strong communist attack.

Deployed on a 25,000 yard front along the Nam River, the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 35th Infantry and the attached 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry repulsed fierce attacks by elements of four North Korean divisions from 1 through 4 September 1950.



Korean Campaign - 1950

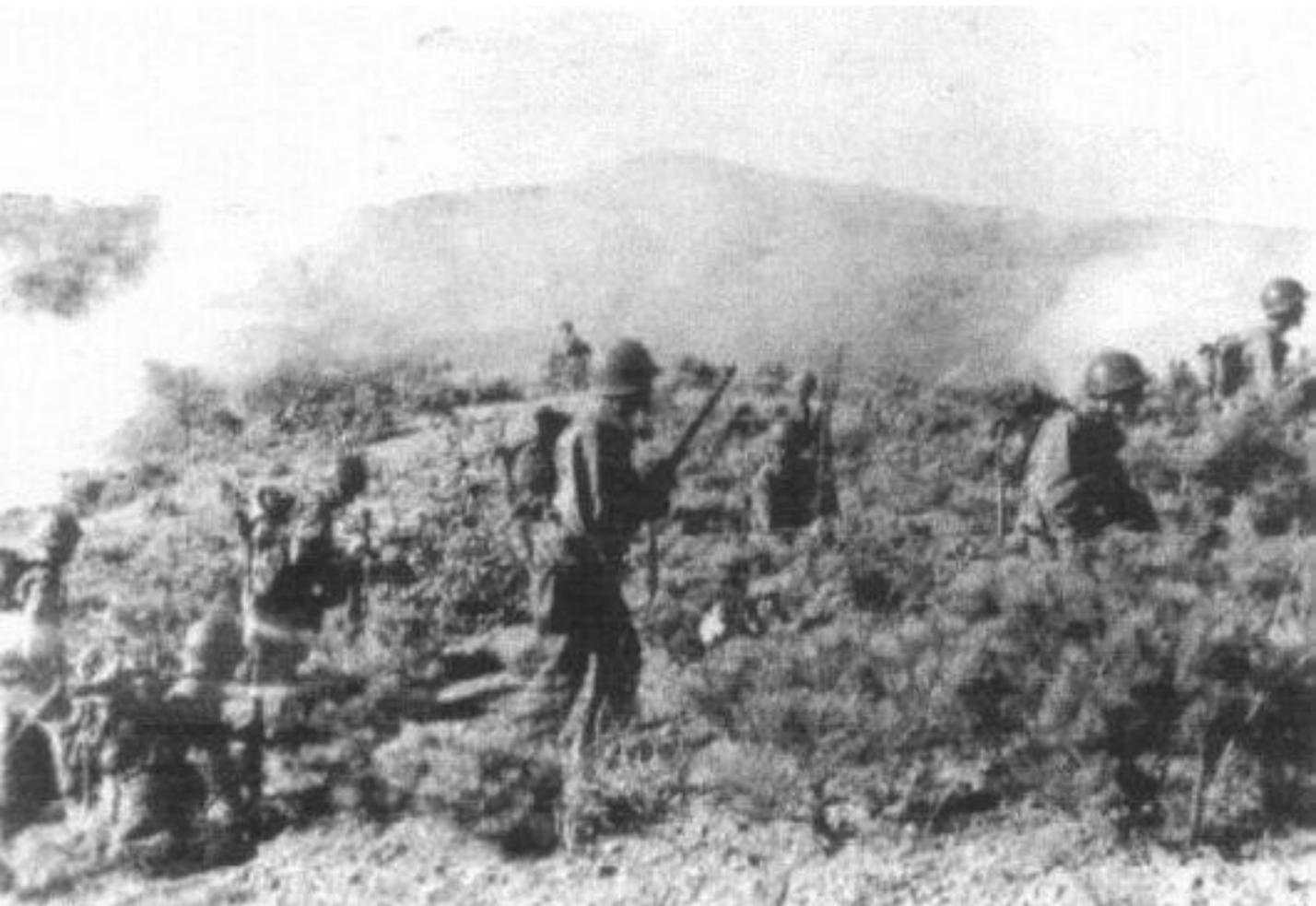
On 1 September a North Korean regiment struck the 2nd Battalion, cutting off Company G. For two days Company G fought off the North Korean attacks. Finally an armored column broke through to the encircled company and rescued the survivors, consisting of 40 enlisted personnel. On 3 September the North Koreans struck again at the 1st Battalion, surrounding two companies and the battalion command post. Calling artillery as close as possible, the attack was repelled and the encircled companies broke out of the position. Field artillery and rear-echelon elements attacked by infiltrating North Korean units often resorted to hand-to-hand combat to defend their positions. For the gallantry displayed in preventing the North Koreans from breaking through to the port of Pusan, the 35th Infantry Regiment and the supporting units were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation embroidered NAM RIVER.



Korean Campaign – 1950

Following the success of the Inchon landings, the 25th was able to drive the North Korean forces from the southwestern part of the Korean peninsula before swinging north with the rest of the Eighth Army to link up with the Inchon landing forces.

As the 1st Battalion approached Chungam-ni, Company C was ordered to clear dug-in enemy forces on a ridgeline. In the ensuing battle the leadership and bravery of Sergeant William R. Jacelin of Company C turned the tide of battle and the ridgeline was seized. For his extraordinary heroism Sergeant Jacelin was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



Korean Campaign – 1950

By 30 September the Tropic Lightning had captured Kunsan on the west coast. In October the Division was employed in completing operations in the Eighth Army rear area, moving back into the front line north of Pyongyang in November. On 24 November the Division launched an offensive. At the same time the Chinese Communists launched their first offensive and smashed through the Eighth Army front on the right flank of the 25th Division. The 35th Infantry along with the rest of the 25th Division conducted a series of delaying actions, eventually retreating south of the Imjin River by 14 December.



In December 1950 the command of the 35th was transferred to LTC Gerald C. Kelleher after Colonel Fisher contracted pneumonia. The 35 Infantry had established itself as a solid veteran regiment by the time LTC Kelleher assumed command. Under Kelleher's leadership, the Cacti became one of the best infantry regiments in the Eighth Army.

Korean Campaign - 1951



By February 1951 the Eighth Army had managed to halt the Chinese attack south of Seoul and had stabilized a defensive line along the Han River. On 7 March the 25th Division resumed the offensive. In minus 15-degree temperature the 35th Infantry crossed the Han River and drove north, recapturing the town of Yong Dong-Po and inflicting heavy enemy casualties. Along with the rest of the Division they drove the Chinese and North Koreans out of the Seoul-Inchon area. By the middle of March the Cacti Regiment was holding a line 35 miles north of Seoul.

On 22 April 1951 the Chinese launched a spring offensive that drove United Nations forces back to within 5 miles of Seoul. Here the 35th Infantry stood its ground and repulsed the Chinese attack in its sector. With the defeat of the Chinese spring offensive, the Eighth Army resumed its offensive in May. The Cacti's mission in Operation Detonate was to seek out and destroy the enemy.

Korean Campaign - 1951

On 20 May the 2nd Battalion was attacking dug in enemy positions north of Seoul when a platoon of Company E hit heavy resistance, killing the platoon leader and sergeant. Sergeant First Class Donald R. Moyer took command of the platoon and led it in the attack against the enemy. During the attack a Chinese grenade fell in the midst of the platoon. Sergeant Moyer unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade saving the lives of his men at the loss of his own. For his gallantry he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



As the battle lines solidified the 25th Division secured the high ground overlooking Kumwha in early June. The command of the 35th Infantry changed on 3 June when Colonel Thomas W. Woodyard assumed command from Colonel Kelleher. In late June the 25th was pulled off the line and placed in I Corps reserve near Uijongbu where the 35th Cacti prepared a secondary defensive line and conducted training and rear area security missions.

Korean Campaign - 1951

When armistice negotiations began on 10 July 1951, the war entered a new stage. The lines became static with limited objective attacks replacing major offensives. In mid-July the Tropic Lightning returned to the front line in its previous positions in the Ch'orwon-Kumhwa area.

Private Billie G. Kanell of Company I received the Medal of Honor posthumously when on 7 September 1951 a large Chinese force attacked his position. Delivering accurate fire Private Kanell caused significant casualties in the attacking force. When an enemy grenade was hurled into his emplacement he fell on it to protect his fellow soldiers. A few seconds later another grenade fell into the position and Private Kanell again rolled on to the second grenade saving the lives of his comrades at the loss of his own.



Korean Campaign - 1952-1953

In October 1951 the 35th Infantry was pulled off the line for rest and training until 7 November 1951 when it moved back to the front line. In mid-December 1951 the 2nd Division relieved the 25th Division which then moved into reserve near Kapyong.

On 23 February 1952 the 35th, along with the rest of the Division, returned to the front line in the center of the X Corps sector near Mundung-Ni, northwest of the Hwach'on Reservoir. The Division resumed frontline patrolling and defending the main line of resistance. Patrol raids of enemy outposts were the primary offensive actions taken by the Cacti.

On 10 September 1952 the 35th was attached to the Korean Communications Zone and assigned to guard enemy prisoners on Koje-Do and Cheju-Do Islands. The Regiment was relieved from guard duty and returned to the 25th in early November 1952.

On 12 November 1952, the 25th Division was recommitted to the front in the IX Corps area, returning to its old section of the line near Kumhwa where the 35th Infantry conducted aggressive patrolling and ambush operations.



Korean Campaign - 1952-1953

At the end of January 1953 the 3rd Division replaced the 25th on the front line. The 25th moved to Yongp'yong and began intensive training. On 5 May 1953 the 25th Division returned to the line on the extreme left flank of the Eighth Army near Munsan-Ni. The Cacti Regiment assumed responsibilities in the Munsan-Ni area overlooking the Panmunjom corridor and resumed aggressive patrolling and defensive activity. On 8 July 1953 the 35th Infantry was pulled off the line along with the rest of the 25th Infantry Division and placed in reserve where it remained until the armistice became effective on 27 July 1953.

The 35th Infantry Regiment compiled a distinguished record as one of the best regiments in the Eighth Army, serving in all ten campaigns of the Korean War, receiving a Presidential Unit Citation and three Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations.



Cacti in Vietnam



Cacti in Vietnam



1966 - 1970

The **1st Battalion served in ten Vietnam campaigns.** The 1st Battalion received the Valorous Unit Award Streamer embroidered Quang Ngai Province, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal. The 1st Battalion returned to Fort Lewis with the 4th Division where it was inactivated on 10 April 1970.

The **2nd Battalion served in twelve Vietnam campaigns.** The 2nd Battalion received a Valorous Unit Award embroidered QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal. In addition, Company A, 2nd Battalion received a Valorous Unit Award Streamer embroidered PLEIKU PROVINCE and Company B, 2nd Battalion received a Presidential Unit Citation Streamer embroidered PLEIKU PROVINCE. The 2nd Battalion left Vietnam on 8 December 1970 and was reassigned to the 25th Infantry Division 15 December 1970.

Cacti in Vietnam

In the fall of 1965 the 25th Division received its expected orders to Vietnam. Originally, 3rd Brigade was composed of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery. 3rd Brigade was sent to the Central Highlands of Vietnam as a part of a Operation Blue Light, a massive airlift of the entire Brigade from Hawaii to Pleiku. The airlift began on 28 December 1965 and concluded successfully on 17 January 1966.

For the remainder of 1966 until August of 1967 the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division hunted Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units in Darlac Province. Operation Paul Revere conducted by the 3rd Brigade on 10 May 1966 was designed to counter North Vietnamese activities against Special Forces border camps. On 24 June 1966 the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry engaged the North Vietnamese regulars in heavy fighting along the Cambodian border.



Cacti in Vietnam

In February 1967 MACV decided to combine three separate brigades into Task Force Oregon to replace the 1st Marine Division that had been ordered north to reinforce the Demilitarized Zone. The Task Force consisted of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division and was to be located at Chu Lai.

The 3rd Brigade was directed to engage main force Viet Cong units operating in Quang Ngai Province. The 2nd Battalion 35th Infantry won a decisive battle at the hamlet of An Thach on 20 August 1967, destroying a significant portion of the 2nd Viet Cong Regiment.



Cacti in Vietnam

The Army determined that a full infantry division was needed to counter the North Vietnamese threat to the Central Highlands. Consequently, the 4th Infantry Division was dispatched from Fort Lewis Washington to Pleiku in the summer and fall of 1966. As the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division was returning to the Central Highlands, the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division was diverted to Dau Tieng, arriving on 18 October 1966 and was placed under the operational control of the 25th Division based at Cu Chi. On 1 August 1967 the reality of the situation was formally recognized when the 3rd Brigade of the 4th and 25th Infantry Division exchanged designations. However the battalions of each brigade were not re-designated, thus the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 35th Infantry were reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division on 1 August 1967 as well.

In over three years of combat in Vietnam the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 35th Infantry upheld and significantly enhanced the reputation of "The Cacti Regiment" of being one of the Army's best fighting units.



Cacti in the Global War on Terror



Operation Enduring Freedom 2004-2005

In Support of the Global War on Terrorism, the Bronco Brigade deployed in April 2004 to Afghanistan and entered combat for the first time since Vietnam. The brigade became a multinational combined task force, CTF Bronco, based at Kandahar Air Field. Bronco Soldiers conducted hundreds of combat patrols, assisted with the first national election in October 2004, helped build 75 miles of road to link Kandahar to Tarin Khowt, and provided security for the population alongside local governments and Afghan security forces.

Based out of Kandahar Airfield, the Battalion spread into mountainous Eastern Afghanistan. The Cacti BN focused on the dual mission of clearing the region of Taliban forces and providing essential services to the local populace. Additionally, the Cacti participated in the first direct national elections in the history of Afghanistan, during which more than three-fourths of the nation's nearly 10 million registered voters cast ballots. The Battalion returned from Afghanistan in May of 2005.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2007

In August 2006, the Cacti battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. After a week of acclimation and train up period in Kuwait, the BN flew into Kirkuk airfield and began conducting relief in place operations with 2-327IN, 3rd BDE, 101st airborne division. The oil rich Kirkuk province was a highly volatile region with ethnic Kurds, Turkmen, and Arabs vying for control and power since the collapse of the Saddam Regime in 2003. In addition, influences from al Qaeda in Iraq as well as Sunni and Shi'ite insurgent groups greatly threatened the stability and security of the entire region. Consequently city of Kirkuk and the surrounding area was riddled with suicide vehicle borne improvised explosives devices (SVBIED), roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs), snipers, in-direct mortar and rocket fire, and an increasing kidnapping and crime epidemic.



The situation at hand was daunting. The Cacti Battalion was charged with building the capacity of the local government, teaching and training the Iraqi Army and Police, as well as defeating stubborn insurgents linked to Al Qaeda in Iraq.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2007

Alpha Company was responsible for the immediate area south of Kirkuk, and in December constructed their own permanent Base 25k south of Kirkuk. It was named Patrol Base Doria after SSG Richwell Doria, who was killed in action early in the year in the same region. Bravo Company was responsible for securing Kirkuk proper and from February to March was detached to assist with the fierce fighting in the city of Baqubah. Charlie Company's area of operations included the city of Kirkuk, a city with a population of over one million people. They worked tirelessly throughout the deployment partnering with Iraqi Security Forces to secure the city. Delta Company was tasked with securing north of Kirkuk and had the additional tasking in June 2007 to aid the offensive in Baqubah. Newly formed forward support company, Echo Company, had the arduous mission of running logistic and support missions to Patrol Base Doria and maintaining the Battalion's huge fleet of up-armor vehicles and equipment.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2007

In March 2007, the Cacti Battalion received news that their deployment would be extended three months to support the Iraqi wide Surge Operations. During the 15 month deployment, the battalion successfully executed over 15 battalion level combat and stability operations in support of Iraqi Security Forces. The Battalion facilitated the fledgling Iraqi democracy by assisting in the nation's first constitutional parliamentary elections. By the time the Cacti redeployed to Schofield Barracks in October 2007, Iraqi Security Forces in Kirkuk were capable of conducting unilateral security patrols, and the elected officials had gained the trust of the people as a capable and relevant governing authority.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009

In late October 2008, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry deployed to Samarra, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11. Alpha Company, the Battalion main effort, was located inside the city of Samarra, the largest population base within AO Cacti. Bravo Company assumed responsibility for Ad Dawr, Mukayshifa, and the northern portion of the Battalion AO. Charlie Company assumed responsibility for the largest AO, which included the cities of Huwaish, Al Qala, Al Rega, and the far-reaching Jazeera Desert. Finally, Delta Company was tasked with securing the southern portion of AO Cacti, near the town of Ishaki.

Focused on securing the population, Task Force Cacti set out in full force, aggressively patrolling the new Area of Operations. TF Cacti partnered with multiple Iraqi Army Battalions, various Iraqi Police departments including the special Emergency Response Unit, and the Sons of Iraq, in order to target and capture many Al Qaeda and Anti-Iraqi personnel. Additionally, they neutralized hundreds of roadside Improvised Explosive Devices and secured a large number of military-grade weapons caches. Their combined effort destroyed the local insurgent cells, secured AO Cacti, and granted freedom of maneuver to Coalition Forces as well as the local population.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009

Following the Status of Forces Agreement, TF Cacti partnered even more closely with its Iraqi counterparts. Each Company placed a large focus on training and developing their partnered IA and IP units while maintaining their security operations. Through numerous joint patrols and operations, TF Cacti had helped develop a competent and confident IA and IP force that the local population entrusted and relied upon. As a result, the 2009 Provincial Elections—which was largely secured by the IA and IP—occurred without incident in the city of Samarra. By the end of the deployment, TF Cacti had handed over the majority of the security operations in the AO.



Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009

Due to the IA and IP's increasing competence, the Battalion next focused its attention on stability operations, repairing needed infrastructure and setting up an effective city government. Partnering with government, SOI, business, and tribal leaders, TF Cacti planned, resourced, and executed multiple projects. Their combined efforts resulted in the construction and/or staffing of needed schools, hospitals, roads, water treatment facilities, power relay stations, police departments, government buildings, and business factories.

Following the tremendous efforts of TF Cacti, Samarra and its surrounding regions have transformed from an area once overrun by AQI to a secure environment, with a working local government and thriving economy. The Battalion's accomplishments are nothing short of history in the making.



