

# **The California National Guard and the Korean War: 625<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 1950-1954**

Extracted from, *The Guns of Korea: The US Army Field Artillery Battalions in the Korean War*  
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## 625th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

(105mm How, TrkDr, 40th Inf Div, CA NG)



Motto: Second to None

**5 August 1946:** Constituted in the California National Guard as the 625th Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 40th Infantry Division.

**18 June 1947:** Organized and federally recognized with Headquarters at Burbank, California.

**1 June 1950:** Location of Headquarters changed to Van Nuys, California.

**1 September 1950:** Ordered into active federal service at home stations.

**2 September 1952:** The 625th Field Artillery Battalion [NGUS] organized and federally recognized with Headquarters at Van Nuys, California.

**30 June 1954:** Released from active federal service, reverting to California state control; concurrently federal recognition withdrawn from the 625th Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS).

**1 July 1954:** Reorganized and redesignated as the 214th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, an element of the 40th Armored Division.



Battery B, 625th FA firing last round on 27 July 1953. Note the three empty shell casings on the right and that the howitzer is in full recoil of the last round.

## 625th FA Korean War Timeline

**25 June 1950:** Southern California; 625th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm howitzer, truck drawn), 40th Infantry Division, organic light field artillery element, California National Guard. Peace-time weekly drills and summer field training. Hqs, Svc and B Batteries; Van Nuys, California: A Battery; Highland Park, California: C Battery, Santa Paula, California.

**10 August 1950:** All units, 40th Division alerted for induction into federal service. The 625th FA enlisted toward TO&E<sup>1</sup> strength and prepared for overland move to Camp Cooke, California.

**1 September 1950:** Camp Cooke, California; 625th FA ordered into active federal service and assigned to the Sixth Army.

**October-November 1950:** Camp Cooke, California; 625th FA receives fillers and begins intensive individual and unit training cycles.

**24 February 1951:** All units, 40th Division alerted for overseas shipment to Japan.

**30 March 1951:** San Francisco Port of Embarkation, California; 625th FA sails for Japan aboard the USNS M. C. Meigs.

**11 April 1951:** Port of Yokohama, Japan; 40th Division arrives and is assigned to the XVI Corps, to bolster the defense of the Japanese islands and complete unit training cycles. The 625th FA moves to Camp Younghans, northern Honshu, Japan.

**22 December 1951:** Camp Younghans, northern Honshu, Japan; 40th Division alerted for movement to Korea to relieve the 24th Division by an exchange of equipment in place.<sup>2</sup> The 625th FA leaves organizational equipment in Japan, except for five mess trucks and trailers, and moves with only individual weapons and equipment.

*Second Korean winter 1951-1952*

**11 January 1952:** Inchon, Korea; 625th FA arrives from Japan and moves to Tent City (24th Division rear) to relieve the 13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division, Those 13th FA redlegs with not enough points to leave Korea are transferred to 40th Division artillery units.

**19 January 1952:** Line Missouri<sup>3</sup> (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 625th FA fires first round in direct support of the 21st Inf, 24th Division.

**22 January 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 40th Division attached to the IX Corps.

**26 January 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 24th Division which returns to Japan, 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**10-15 February 1952:** Operation Clam-up; Eighth Army curtails daylight movement and artillery firing in an attempt to lure enemy troops forward. Forward Observers keep close watch on enemy construction and movement. All suspected targets taken under fire on 16 February with Time-on-Target fires. (Author's Note: From my position on the MLR, all I saw was CCF troops come out in the open and have six days of unhindered new construction and rebuilding of their defensive fortifications.)

**16 February 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 625th FA fires ninety missions and six-hundred and twenty rounds as Operation Clam-up is brought to a close with Time-on-Target missions.

**30 March 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by elements of both the Capital and 6th ROK divisions, 625th FA remains on-line direct support of both divisions.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Table of Organization and Equipment

<sup>2</sup>The units involved took only individual weapons and equipment, leaving organizational equipment in place. The 13th FA returned to Japan to acquire relatively new howitzers, well-maintained vehicles and organizational equipment generally at TO&E levels while the 625th FA was left with war-weary howitzers, worn-out vehicles and missing organizational equipment.

<sup>3</sup>Line Missouri (central front): IX Corps MLR for the rest of the Korean War.

<sup>4</sup>Divisional artillery battalions were to remain on-line when their parent units were relieved, in accordance with General James A. Van Fleet's desire to always have his "firepower advantage" in action.

**1 April 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 2d ROK Division, 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

*Korea summer fall 1952*

**May-June 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 625th FA continues direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**28 June 1952:** Line Missouri (Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by elements of the 2d and 24th ROK divisions, 625th FA remains on-line with reinforcing fires for the 18th ROK FA, 2d ROK Division.

**14-20 October 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumsong-Chwape-ri area), North Korea; 625th FA reinforcing fires of the 980th FA (105mm how), 40th Division, in direct support 32d ROK Inf, 2d ROK Division.

**17 October 1952:** The 40th Division released from attachment to IX Corps and attached to the X Corps the next day.

**22 October 1952:** Line Minnesota<sup>5</sup> (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea, X Corps; 40th Division relieves the 25th Division, 625th FA moves from Kumwha-Kumsong area to the Heartbreak Ridge area. The 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**26 October 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 625th FA reinforcing fires for the 555th FA in direct support of the 5th RCT.

**31 October 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 223d Inf relieves the 5th RCT, 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**November 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 625th FA continues direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

*Third Korean winter 1952-1953*

**December 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 625th FA continues direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**8 January 1953:** Heartbreak Ridge area, X Corps; 5th RCT (5th Inf and 555th FA) relieves 223d Inf, 40th Division. The 625th FA remains on-line reinforcing fires of the 555th FA.

**28 January 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by the 45th Division. 40th Division artillery assigned general support 45th Division while 45th Division artillery continues general support 12th ROK Division.

**1 February 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea.; 625th FA relieves the 158th FA, 45th Division in direct support of the 37th ROK Inf, 12th ROK Division

**March 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 625th FA continues direct support 37th ROK Inf, 12th ROK Division.

**27 April 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 20th ROK Division, 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

*Korea summer 1953*

**May-June 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 625th continues direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

**10 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by the 20th ROK Division.

**11 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 45th Division, 625th FA direct support 223d Inf, 40th Division.

*Cease fire 1953*

**27 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 625th FA stands down and prepares to move to post-armistice defense positions.

**8 May 1954:** The 625th FA returns with the 40th Division to the United States.

**30 June 1954:** The 625th FA released from active federal service, reverting to California state control.

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<sup>5</sup>Line Minnesota (eastern front): X Corps MLR for the rest of the Korean War

## 625th FA Campaign Participation and Unit Citations

**SECOND KOREAN WINTER 1951-1952**

11 Jan - 30 Apr 52

**KOREA SUMMER-FALL 1952**

1 May - 30 Nov 52

**THIRD KOREAN WINTER 1952-1953**

1 Dec 52 - 30 Apr 53

**KOREA SUMMER 1953**

1 May - 27 Jul 53



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: KOREA  
22 January 1952-15 January 1953, DA GO 50-54

**For All Gave Some... Some Gave All**

**ALVIS, Anthony P:** Pfc, Svc Btry

DOC,<sup>6</sup> 6/23/1952; Garden City; AL

**ANDERSON, Port A Jr:** Pfc, C Btry

DOW, 10/18/1952; Little River County, AR

**CARAWAY, Raymond V:** Sgt, B Btry

DOW, 10/19/1952; Wise County, TX

**GILBERT, Charles Marvin:** Cpl

DOC, 8/6/1952; Cpl, Draper, NC

**GIRARD, Andrew:** Pvt, A Btry

KIA, 9/28/1952; Fayette County, PA

**TAYLOR, Harry L:** Cpl

DOW, 7/26/1953; Chenango County, NY

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<sup>6</sup>Died of other causes.

## **625th FA Bibliography**

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Pruitt, Frank O. *Reminiscence of a Forgotten War*: 1400 Ryan Street, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601.  
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