



# KOREA

*Ontario's Citizen Soldiers  
Remember the "Forgotten War"  
1950-1953*



Museum of History and Art, Ontario

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART, ONTARIO  
ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

4 JULY 2000

# **KOREA**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The *Korea: Ontario's Citizen Soldiers Remember the Forgotten War* exhibit and commemorative publication were made possible by the generous and kind support of our oral history participants. They not only recounted their stories but provided invaluable personal photographs and archival materials and spent over two months scouring five years worth of *Daily Report* newspapers.

**Bob Ellingwood** returned to the reserves after his Korean war service, serving as Battalion Adjutant. Ellingwood was involved in the establishment of several local armories, including Ontario, Riverside, Hemet, Barstow, Apple Valley and Indio. He retired with the rank of Captain in 1966. Ellingwood was elected Mayor of Ontario in 1978 and served through 1986. He is an active community volunteer and is immensely proud of his granddaughter, who is a U.S. Air Force Captain and fighter pilot.

**Jim Davis** served full-time as Chief Warrant Officer out of Ontario's National Guard Armory from 1948 until he retired in 1967. He worked in the real estate field for several years until he retired for a second time. He is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Vivian, and their family.

**Jim Thomas and Orville Garrison** returned to civilian life after their discharges from the U.S. Army after the Korean War.

Jim Thomas operated a successful insurance agency in Ontario for over 33 years. He is enjoying retired life with his wife, Frances, and his family in Upland. Jim is making a serious effort at improving his golf game every chance he gets.

Orville Garrison served as a bank official in the valley for over 41 years. He enjoys retired life with his wife, Claire, and he, too, is making a concerted and very serious effort at improving his golf handicap.

The National Guard Armory is located at 950 North Cucamonga Avenue in Ontario. It is staffed full-time with California National Guardsmen, HHT 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, present Company Commander is Capt. James McBrearty. The Guard are called to duty not only overseas but have assisted local and state fire fighting efforts and other natural disasters and were involved in Y2K readiness. They continue to train monthly and participate the traditional summer camp training readiness programs.

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# UN Security Council Votes Down Russ Move To Outlaw Nationalist China

If You Miss  
Your Paper,  
Call 611-22  
Up to 7:30 p. m.

## THE DAILY REPORT

The Weather  
FORECAST — Somewhat cloudy  
tonight, Wednesday; warmer.  
Today's Min. Max. Hum.  
Temperatures 86 80 81

Covering the Great West End of San Bernardino County • Ontario, Upland, Chinó, Cucamonga, Alta Loma and Etiwanda

VOL. XI—No. 180 16 Pages—2 Sections

STUNDING EXCEPT SUNDAY  
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ONTARIO-UPLAND, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1950

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Section 1—Pages 1 to 12

PRICE FIVE CENTS

# ONTARIO, UPLAND GUARD CALLED

## Marines Dock at Korea as Red Hordes Push Attacks For Pusan

### Hope New Force Will Help Stem Yanks' Retreat

TOKYO, Wednesday (UP).—The U. S. Marines docked at a Korean port today and prepared to join the thousands of fresh American troops streaming up to the front lines. The troops were armed with a formidable array of weapons including several still on the secret list.

While the leathernecks of the 1st Marine division waited to disembark, the U. S. army's 4th regimental combat team arrived from Hawaii and hurried into the battle on the heels of the 2nd Infantry division.

#### STRIKE FOR PUSAN

The dramatic arrival of American men and arms came at a crucial hour. Massed communist forces hammered the siles back in a general retreat through five key towns. Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced in his midnight communique that the enemy now was striking for Pusan, the U. S. supply port, and Taegu, the provincial South Korean capital. As the communists pressed their battle are toward Pusan and Taegu by sheer weight of numbers United Press Correspondent Jack James reported from a Korean ship in the harbor he tonight

Kuncheon, four miles northeast of Chinye, and six miles southeast of Chinju.

#### COMBAT TEAM LANDS

The 5th regimental combat team, which was hurried to Korea from Hawaii, went ashore immediately on arrival and headed for an undisclosed sector of the front. Believed about 4,000 strong it was the last American occupation force to leave Korea when the southern republic was formed last year.

The famed 1st Marine division, first ashore at Guadalcanal and Tulagi in World War II, still was awaiting disembarkation at a South Korean port. An advance part of marines arrived in Korea a week ago to prepare for the landing, but none of the combat marines had gone ashore from ships in the harbor he tonight

### U. S. Backed 7-3 Balking Russ Move

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. (UP).—The United Nations security council today voted down an attempt by Russia's Jacob Malik to oust nationalist China from its membership by a ruling from the chair. The vote was 7-3 with India and Yugoslavia joining Russia in the minority. Malik did not recognize China's vote.

When he had been voted down, Malik said the majority decision was "illegal" but made no move to renew Russia's boycott.

Malik announced the vote as 7-1. Ambassador Warren R. Austin, chief U. S. delegate, immediately demanded that he announce the vote correctly by including the ballot of nationalist China which made the tally 8-3 against the move to oust it.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. (UP).—Chief Russian Delegate Jacob A. Malik returned to the United Nations security council today and immediately ruled as August chairman



Col. Anson J. Smalley, commander of the 224th Infantry Regiment, points to Korea on a map in the Ontario headquarters of the unit, where officers and enlisted personnel of the National Guard unit assembled minute-man fashion this afternoon. Left to right are Sgt. D. W. Smith (in foreground), Lt. Col. William R. Sheffer, executive officer.

Col. Smalley, Warrant Officer P. S. Swager (in foreground), and Sgt. John Humphrey. The picture was taken at 1:29 p. m. today.

### About 300 Men Will Report On September First

Orders issued today from the White House, calling the 40th Division of the California National Guard to active duty, affects three companies of the 224th Infantry stationed here under command of Col. Anson J. Smalley.

These include the Headquarters company, number 16 officers, 2 warrant officers and 93 enlisted men, the Service company of 4 officers, 6 warrant officers and 89 enlisted men, both groups located in Ontario, and the Medical company, numbering 6 officers and 85 enlisted men, located in Upland.

Col. Smalley said this afternoon that the activation order naturally cancels earlier plans for the field training camp August 12 and that starting at once there will be three paid drills weekly until the companies are inducted into the federal army on September 1.

This week, the drills will be held tonight, Thursday and Friday evening, but starting next week they will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Col. Smalley declared that the fact that the 46th is one of four national guard divisions in the

### Four Guard Divisions Called

WASHINGTON, (UP).—Officials today identified the four national guard divisions called to active duty as the 28th of Pennsylvania, the 40th of California, the 43rd of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont and the 48th of Oklahoma. All are infantry divisions. The defense department had announced yesterday that four

California Ambulance Two Trucks

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## ***Introduction***

On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1950, Regimental Commander Lt. Col. Anson J. Smalley received official orders that the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Ontario's National Guard unit, was to report for active duty service in the U.S. Army. The United States was mobilizing its military forces and would be sending its troops to Korea. The 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment served as part of the U.S. Army's 40<sup>th</sup> Division. Ironically, the last wartime assignment for the 40<sup>th</sup> Division occurred during the Second World War as part of the Allied forces who liberated Korea from over 30 years of Japanese occupation.

Uniforms, maps and photographs become three-dimensional when exhibited side-by-side with the words of four Ontario residents who served in the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Jim Davis, Bob Ellingwood, Orville Garrison and Jim Thomas share their voices and memories with you in this publication and its companion exhibit at the Museum of History and Art, Ontario.



Bob  
Ellingwood



Jim Davis



Jim Thomas



Orville Garrison

These personal stories, photographs and artifacts, combined with newspaper headlines of the day, give tribute to all who served to make the Korean War experience unforgettable.

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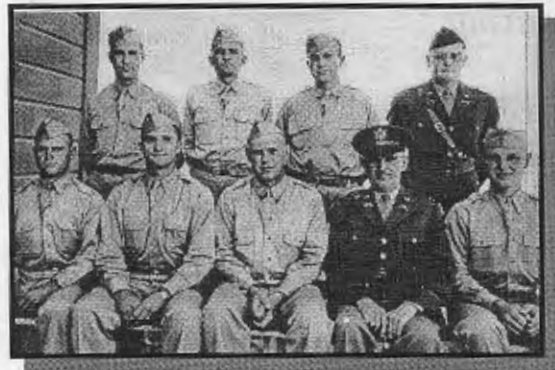
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### ***In the Beginning was Company G***

Ontario's Company G, 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry, California National Guard was activated on March 21, 1930 by its first commander Captain Anson J. Smalley. Its first home was in the basement of the Liberal Arts Building on the Chaffey College and High School campus. In 1933 a section of North Hall at the Chaffey campus was constructed to hold a company size unit of about 80 men. On March 3, 1941, Company G was inducted into the U.S. Army for service in the Second World War. The unit trained at Camp San Luis Obispo and Fort Lewis, Washington and participated in combat operations in the Pacific.

The 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry was honored for its conduct in battles in the Bismark Archipelago, Leyte and Luzon. The regiment performed occupation duty in Korea before it was returned to the U.S. for deactivation at Camp Stoneman, California in April 1946. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion combined with some elements of the 2nd Battalion, including Company G of the 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry was expanded and reorganized as the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, California National Guard on August 5, 1946.



Company G officers, 1941. Col. Smalley, commander, bottom center.

*A. E. Howell, photo*

### ***Call to Arms***

*Daily Report* headline:

Tuesday, August 1, 1950

“ONTARIO, UPLAND GUARD CALLED”

Marines Dock at Korea as Red Hordes Push Attacks for Pusan.”

Ellingwood: The telephone call came in around the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and I just knew that it was either Thomas or Davis. They had just left for lunch and I got stuck. I couldn't pick up their voices so I had to pretend like it was General Hudelson in case it really was. He wanted to speak to Col. Smalley and I told him that the Col. was probably at lunch. The General told me to go get him. And I'm still trying to pick up whose voice was on the phone. So I said, “Yes, sir. Can I tell him what its about?” He paused and then the General said, “Tell him, summer camp has been cancelled.” Boy, I thought that was weird. I didn't know where those two came up with that one. So I went over to Smalley's house – he was having lunch at home.

On the way back to the armory, Smalley asked, “Ellingwood, what kind of gag is this?” I'm not sure, sir. I think the gag is on me. If there is one.”

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Well, he went into the office and he was in there a long time. About twenty minutes later he finally came out of the office and he looked at me and said, "Ellingwood, you're off the hook." I said, "Oh really? What's going on?" He paused for a second and then he said, "Summer camp's been cancelled." Of course, he wasn't going to say anything until he gathered all of the officers in and explain to them that we'd been activated.

### ***Recruitment***

Ellingwood: Our reporting date was September 1st, 1950. Part of the announcement was the beginning of the recruiting campaign. You remember how many guys we had reporting to the armory to sign up, remember that, Jim?

Davis: Yes, I was in the medical company and actually the medical company was the smallest of all units in Ontario. It was then authorized to have more strength than any of the units. We had not recruited very well and we were way under strength so we did an all out campaign in our recruiting and we were authorized at the time to go as high as 141 enlisted men, with 15 officers. By golly, we got to there. We recruited and recruited and we have picked up some of the people that were under aged only known to themselves and their mothers. But they signed that they were the right age and so we recruited them. Later on we had to discharge them but we did a great job in recruiting as well as the Headquarters Company and Service Company. The units gathered their appropriate strength by the time they left Ontario.

Thomas: I remember at Regimental Headquarters, we saw this thing coming and we knew that General Hudelson was hellbent on getting the 40<sup>th</sup> Division activated. And he was willing to falsify the strength of the division in order to do this. We knew it. Freeman knew it. I knew it. I was planning to get married in September, Fran and I, and having the knowledge that we were going to get called to active duty, we planned over a weekend to speed it up and within 5 days we were married. My wife planned it, got her dress ready. We were married on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. We honeymooned in Santa Barbara. but it was, however, cut short when we read in the newspaper that the 40<sup>th</sup> Division has been activated. We caught the train south and it was back to the Regimental Headquarters. Lots of blue stencils to cut, Oh my God, the paperwork was tremendous.

Davis: The transition from the bleachers to the armory – to do the physicals, to get everybody finalized to get ready to go to Camp Cooke was something else. That month of August we pretty much moved in.

Ellingwood: We gave physicals to the whole regiment – we processed over 3000 guys. We processed San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside counties people, in addition to two special units: tank company in Pomona and heavy mortar company in Monrovia.



*201  
201 - Thomas, G.J.*

DEDICATION OF



# California National Guard Armory

950 NORTH CUCAMONGA AVE.  
ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

Friday September 1, 1950 - 3:15 P.M.

COLONEL, ANSON J. SMALLEY, Chairman  
Commander 224 Infantry Regiment  
California National Guard

JOSEPH M. AIME, Master of Ceremonies

Ontario's National Guard Armory was dedicated the same day Korean War draftees were called.  
*Jim Thomas, original program*

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Thomas: Everyone was sleeping all over the floor. The paper work was incredible. The physical was about 4 pages long, processing for 10-12 hours a day. People giving shots that had never given shots before.

Davis: They had to practice on a bushel of oranges beforehand. Sunkist gave us a bushel of oranges to practice on because we had to teach people how to give a shot. You could hear the helmets bouncing all over the floor. Trucking people out from the outlying units, you had to make sure that they had something to eat, water to drink. Everybody had to do their share and it was quite an accomplishment. Most of the people were brand new. They had never been in the service before. Although we were very fortunate to have a lot of sergeants from the Second World War.

Garrison: I remember that I was 21 years old and I guess because I happened to be in the banking business that Warrant Officer Blackwood thought that I had to be a good administrator so right away he put me in charge of research Army regulations to start how to deal with the people that were ineligible to be in the service. That started while we were here in Ontario. And then continued on when we were at Camp Cooke.

Ellingwood: Another paperwork nightmare. After giving these people physicals and then have to get their records converted from National Guard to Army and then to discharge them, it created a paper trail that was unbelievable.

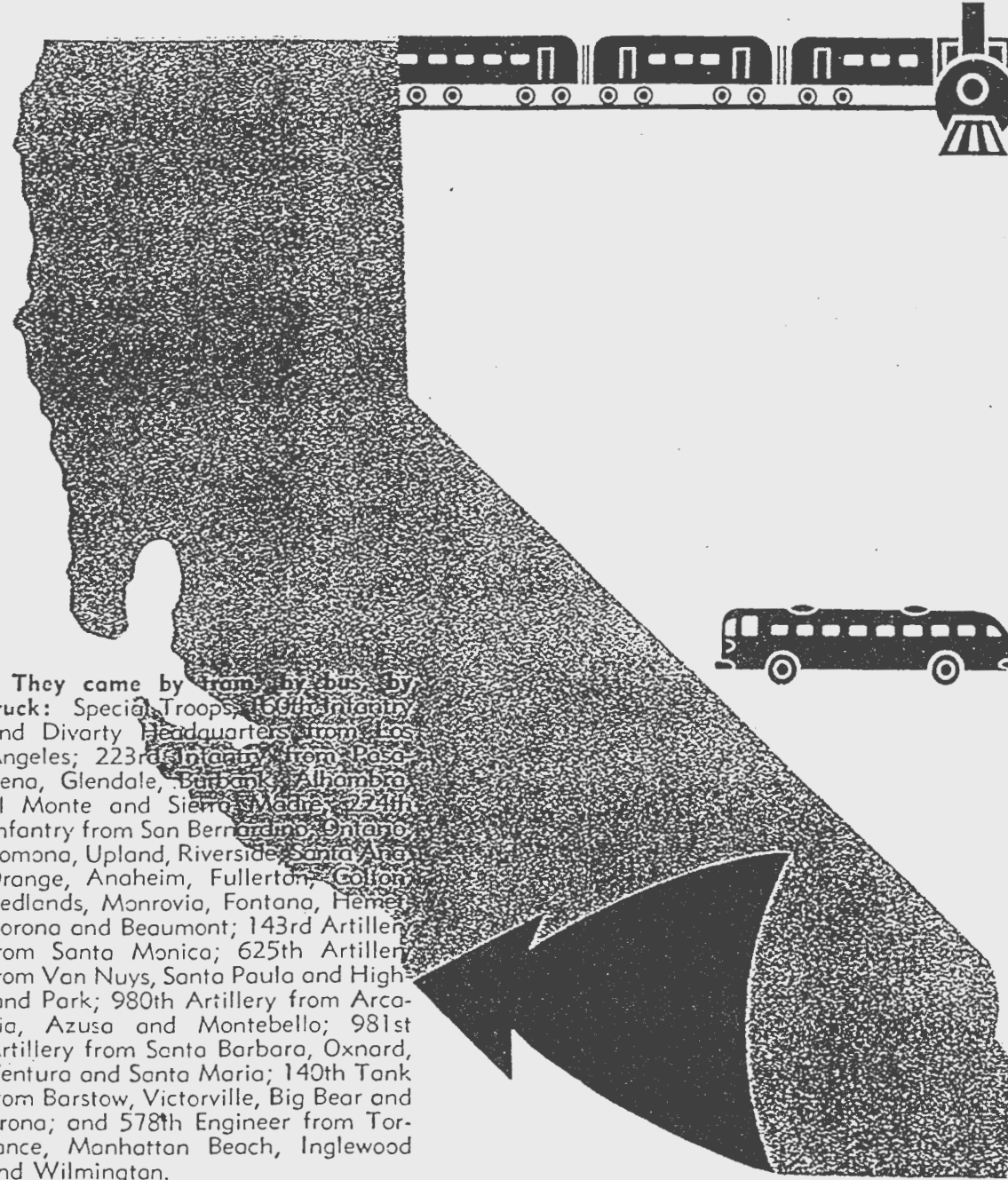
We were activated September 1<sup>st</sup> at the National Guard Armory, located at 950 North Cucamonga Avenue, at John Galvin Park, where it is still located. It seems to me that we were there a week to ten days before we got around to dedicating it. Councilman Joe Aime, from Old Co. G, 185<sup>th</sup>. Aime was M.C. at our dedication. Many of us were making plans to leave our wives and families alone. I had a couple of kids at that point. Trying to figure out how to care for them and how to get the Army stuff done also. What do you remember about boarding the buses to Camp Cooke? Some of us went by truck.

Davis: We went by jeep – most went by bus.

Garrison: All I can remember is that we went. I was still in my honeymoon. And I was trying to figure out how to get quarters at Santa Maria, off the post at Camp Cooke, to get my newlywed up there, which I accomplished.

### ***Camp Cooke: Basic Training***

Davis: Some of the units were put up in the wrong barracks and then we somewhat settled in only to have to pack up and move out, trade barracks around. It was a real mess. And in the meantime, most of the units



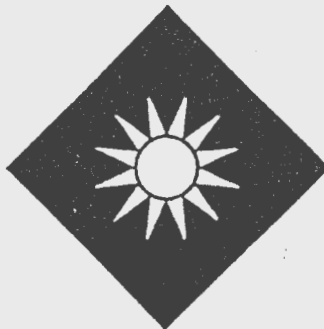
They came by train, by bus, by truck: Special Troops, 169th Infantry and Divarty Headquarters from Los Angeles; 223rd Infantry from Pasadena, Glendale, Burbank, Alhambra, El Monte and Sierra Madre; 224th Infantry from San Bernardino, Ontario, Pomona, Upland, Riverside, Santa Ana, Orange, Anaheim, Fullerton, Colton, Redlands, Monrovia, Fontana, Hemet, Corona and Beaumont; 143rd Artillery from Santa Monica; 625th Artillery from Van Nuys, Santa Paula and Highland Park; 980th Artillery from Arcadia, Azusa and Montebello; 981st Artillery from Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Ventura and Santa Maria; 140th Tank from Barstow, Victorville, Big Bear and Trona; and 578th Engineer from Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Inglewood and Wilmington.

Page from souvenir publication,  
*The Fortieth In Review*, 1952.

The book chronicled the 40<sup>th</sup> Division from regimental activation, through Camp Cooke, transport on the U.S.S. Breckenridge to the training camps in Japan

*The Fortieth in Review*, reprint, 1999.  
Copy courtesy Bob Ellingwood.

# FORTIETH *in review*



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were trying to draw rations, get the mess halls cleaned up. Be ready to prepare a meal, so this mess didn't cause that to happen very smoothly.

Thomas: I remember walking into my quarters – it was a dinky little old place. I said, "This is how officers live?" I remember back in the days of the Navy, how plush their quarters were and here we were with nothing but a little old bed.

Ellingwood: We had an officers BOQ, we were all probably in the same building. I remember a story – remember Col. Sheffer, the old Regimental XO. He came through that Officers quarters and checked to make sure we made our beds and stuff, which I thought was kind of chicken. Particularly, one morning I thought it was chicken because I had gotten up late. We had our names on the door. The door across from me said Maj. Ashbrook. Roy Ashbrook was 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion XO. So I just switched the name plates figuring that Sheffer would no way restrict the Major over the weekend just because his bed wasn't made. Well, lo and behold – he did. And Roy Ashbrook never said a word about it. He actually took my restriction. And he held that over my head for more than a year. Of course, I ended up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, which made it worse because he was my XO. Jim remembers some of the mis-assignments.

Ellingwood: And we were digging out in two shifts because of the proximity to the coast. Over the years it had been deactivated since the Second World War the sand piles had really built up. Of course, the Army figured it was just National Guard troops, they didn't much care. We didn't get any help from anybody.

Then with all digging out and the transferring everybody in the right place, we started immediately training. The Army opened up a lot of schools. Bo Cherbak and I went back to Ft. Benning for Infantry Officers Basic Training, which was actually a special class for National Guard Officers. Four divisions were activated besides the 40th, they activated 45<sup>th</sup> of OK, the 28<sup>th</sup> of PA and the 43<sup>rd</sup> of New England. So there were 200 of us from all over the country. This training was for those of us who had not been in the Infantry. Like Thomas, I had been a sailor, I didn't know a hell of a lot about the Infantry, except what I had learned over the 10-series one weekend at Ft. Mac. Sgt. Krugel was my platoon sergeant and they sent him up to leadership school at Ft. Ord. Did you go any place?

Garrison: No, I was too busy with the regulations. Because of my involvement with the research, getting rid



224<sup>th</sup> Regiment in parade formation, Camp Cooke, 1952. *Jim Davis, photo*

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of the misfits, that I missed basic training. I didn't have to go through basic, which didn't serve very well some months later in Japan when I wound up at a rifle company.

Ellingwood: The medics were doing their own kind of training, in addition to learning a little combat training. You had 150 guys with weapons and they didn't know what to do with them.

Davis: We were not issued weapons so it was really disastrous. We did not get training in weapons but we got them after we arrived in Japan. So in the meantime, I drew 4 months at Ft. Sam Houston (School for the medics). It was an OCS program.

Ellingwood: Of course, we might mention when they replaced Smalley with "Walking" Jim. For many of us who had worked with the Col. and knew how hard he had worked along with Gen. Hudelson to get us all activated. Smalley and Hudelson were activated in the Second World War, Hudelson was Battalion Commander and Smalley was his XO back in 1941 so they had a long kinship. Part of the reason undoubtedly Smalley ended up with the Regiment because it was quite a jump from Co. G, a rifle company in the Second World War to Regimental Headquarters in the Korean War. Shortly after we got Walking Jim, we got night marches. Never forget those night marches. Started out at 5 miles and it slowly progresses to where we were doing 25 miles, with a full pack.

Ellingwood: And this was after the training. After the evening meal, we went on the marches. My first run in with Walking Jim was when I had the regimental security platoon. It was our job to put out the signs for the marches every night and no one knew until the S-3 gave me the route. Nobody knew what the route would be for the night, so no one could cheat, I guess. I got away with taking the jeeps out to put up the signs for a couple of weeks but then we had to pack them out on foot.

Garrison: If I recall on that 25 mile march, there were some people who were critically ill. One of the things I remember was that every person in the regiment would make that walk. Even if you were on your sick bed, like Jim said earlier. There were a lot of people dropouts. There were dropouts in every march.

Ellingwood: Anyway, that was "Walking" Jim's trademark, "walking" and we all participated in the walks. And along this time the draftees started reporting. Draftees were "fillers" as we called them. With all of Jim's recruiting, once we were on active duty your full TO and E went up to the better part of 200. So all of the companies had room for draftees.

Davis: We had to fit them into the unit in the proper slot because most of them had been designated. Some were just going to be litter bearer, assigned out to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, to get in with one of the rifle

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platoons and went with them wherever they went. They had to have some kind of training but we still did not have any weapons, MacNair and that was pretty late in the game. Many didn't know anything about weapons. They may not have much use for them but when you needed them, you would know how to use it. Everyone had to have a weapon. We were issued the weapons on Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon was an inspection by Col. Sheffer.

The Regular Army always seemed to throw the National Guard into the water without a thing to help but the Guard would take it because they could tell the Army, "Yea, but we haven't missed a war yet." National Guard divisions have more days in combat than the regular Army. This was true up until 1960. Of course, there was a time when 2/3 of the military force was reserves and Guard. Today its about 50/50.

Ellingwood: From Service Company standpoint, Orville, what do you remember about the draftees coming into the outfit?

Garrison: There was a process going on at the time – a lot of dovetailing of service between the new people coming in and the old people going out. A lot of the new draftees came into Service Company first, it seemed like. Of course some ended up in truck driving, some in the mail room. I remember having personally to take the unqualifieds down to the paymaster, close to the gate, I guess, to be sure that they actually got out and on their way home. About the recruits, I don't remember nearly as much about those coming in as those going out.

The other thing about processing everyone – now know that we are going overseas. Not only do we have to get proper inoculations but we were also getting involved with allotments for those people who were married and had children. And no one in this outfit knew the process. Once again, I received that assignment and it eventually led to a terrible despising of Warrant Officer Blackwood.

Davis: It was a mess but to get the personnel records together so that you would know something about the individual, where you wanted to put them was difficult. It wasn't just a matter of replacing three guys with another three guys.

Ellingwood: The Army did make room for us in schools but even our regular Army advisors like, M.Sgt. Frantzich, after activation, he reverted back to his Second World War rank of Major. When I got back from Korea in 1952 I reported back to Camp Stoneman and the camp commander was Major Frantzich.

Garrison: Interestingly enough, in listening to our stories brings me back to the biography of Omar Bradley where he recounts the difficulty of trying to bring the National Guard up to snuff with the regular Army

## Aboard the *U.S.S. Breckenridge*



*U.S.S. Breckenridge, 1951.*



Larry Fiora on the *Breckenridge*.

Jim Thomas: It was a pretty nice ship. . . ate with linen and silver – we didn't do that in the Navy!

*Jim Thomas, all photos*



Jim Thomas and Larry Fiora lounging on the *Breckenridge*, April 1951

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during those times. So it puts it into perspective about someone like Walking Jim, who is under a lot of pressure. So he has the heat on and he has an assignment to get the units whipped into shape.

Ellingwood: Walking Jim is a West Pointer and every other officer is from the National Guard.

Thomas: I remember, too, that Walking Jim never had a command. He had always been a staff officer – this was his first command. He wanted combat. That's why he moved out of Zama to Mt. Fuji; it was too soft. He wanted rigorous training.

Ellingwood: Finishing up with Camp Cooke and moving out to the embarkation center in San Francisco. We've got enough training. we can almost feel like soldiers. We've had our shots and every piece of paper is dotted. All the details in their service records.

## ***U.S.S. Breckenridge***

Thomas: To me, leaving was a very vivid memory. Of course, my wife and I had been living in an 18' trailer in Santa Maria, no toilets, very little comforts. I remember there was no housing available at all. I didn't have a car. I'd hitch a ride back and forth to camp. I would have to take the old butane tank over to the nearest service station and walk it back. But when we were shipping back we had to get Fran ready to go back to Culver City where her folks were. She was pregnant now, due in July. So, our last night before we shipped out we went down to the Santa Maria Inn had dinner and got a room there. The next morning, that walk down the hallway after leaving my wife, wondering if I would ever see her or my baby again lingers as long as I'll ever live. And we caught that old train, the arrow was sticking in it – that train was so old – To San Francisco.

Ellingwood: He's making that up.

Thomas: Oh, no I'm not – that was the rickiest thing I'd ever been on.

Ellingwood: I meant the part about the arrow.

Thomas: . . . once we got aboard ship and we set sail and went under the Golden Gate Bridge, I mean, I had put a couple of years on a destroyer, so that wasn't a new experience, but sailing under the Golden Gate under those circumstances was a real memorable experience for me.

Ellingwood: We are off with all of that equipment and all of those people and load them on the ships and



## A Tradition on the High Seas: *Crossing the International Date Line Ceremony*



“Neptune” holding court aboard the *Breckenridge*



Running through the paddle line!



A reverse mohawk haircut if you try to avoid the festivities!



Through the water tunnel. Orville Garrison remembers never moving that fast before or since!

Ellingwood and Thomas participated in the centuries old International Date Line Ceremony during their Navy days in the Second World War. On the *Breckenridge* they got to be on “the giving side rather than the receiving!”

*Jim Thomas, all photos, April 1951.*

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go overseas. We left San Francisco March 29 and docked in Japan on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thomas: Most of the guys didn't have that much to do.

Ellingwood: We had to do our calisthenics.

Thomas: We did paperwork. Remember when we crossed the International Date Line, we had the ceremony and of course, I had been over there in the Second World War so I was one of the few that got to be on the giving side rather than the receiving.

Garrison: I think that I still have my card in my wallet so I never have to go through that again!

Ellingwood: I think I do too.

Thomas: I remember it as a fun event. I remember Chris Zimmerman (Davey Jones), a big shot, and Lt. Holt Smith was having a blast. Blackwood hid out in his quarters. He wouldn't come out and let them initiate him.

Garrison: Zimmerman was going to force Blackwood through it and Walking Jim stopped him. Zimmerman would have forced him – he was big enough. Blackwood wasn't all that big. I never did figure out his excuse – he didn't think it was patriotic. I never did figure out what that meant.

Ellingwood: I was lucky when I went through it the first time while I was in the Navy in the Second World War. Only about three guys had ever done it before so we outnumbered them.

Garrison: I remember that it was the fastest trip I had ever made through a tunnel with water hoses at each end.

Ellingwood: If you have never been through this, you have missed a part of your life that you should go back and recapture.

Thomas: It was a pretty nice ship. We had pretty good quarters. Played bingo. Ate with linen and silver – we didn't do that in the Navy. That was the closest I ever



Neptune and Davy Jones holding court when the Breckenridge crosses the International Date line, April 1951  
*Jim Thomas, photo*



Chris Zimmerman  
*Jim Thomas, photo*

## Camp Zama



Tank at the entrance to Camp Zama  
*Jim Thomas, photo*

“Walking Jim thought Camp Zama was too soft. He wanted us to train hard. That’s why we went and created [Camp] McNair.”



Camp Zama Theater  
*Jim Thomas photo*

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### ***Camp Zama and Camp MacNair***

Ellingwood: Now we land in Tokyo Bay, in the vicinity of Yokohama. One of the things I remember just before we landed, they came in with that scrip. We would turn in our American dollars for scrip and that was before we ever got off the ship. Nobody could get off the ship until everybody turned in their money. I don't know if you have ever worked with scrip.

Thomas: I'll never forget pulling up to the dock and seeing all those little Japanese, still using those split-toed shoe and the old the Second World War wrapped leggings. They were so small. I remember that we were up so high. That was a pretty tall ship, really, probably 5 or 6 decks up. And then there was a little miniature train that took us up to camp.

Ellingwood: That's when we went in different directions. Every one went to Zama but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. I had the exquisite pleasure of going to Club Fuchinobi – we didn't call it a camp there. It was a little teeny post, no room to train, no nothing – Camp Fuchinobi was a small Army camp with a Captain for a commander.. Col. Howell shows up and this Captain greets him and introduces himself as the post commander. Howell right away figures that this is going to be pretty good duty so Col Howell said, "Where's the Officers' Club?" And he said, "Well, its not far because anything was not far." "Is it open?" No, but I'm Club Officer and I've got the keys. Let's open it." A lot of us were not flush with money so a couple of them said that they were a little short and the Capt./Post Commander/Club Officer said, "That's okay – we'll just start chits." He had just met us and already he was very accommodating.

Garrison: Camp Zama is when Mr. Blackwood called me into the office and asked me about taking temporary assignment in the Military Police because they were breaking the division up and the division Military Police could not break itself up enough to handle all of the areas. They were forming temporary regimental Police platoons. And Blackwood was very spit polish guy so he thought I might be good for temporary assignment. I took on that assignment and I got into it and there were a number of experiences of that including going to Camp Drake as an undercover person because another guy and I wound up going to a CID School at Yokohama. We stayed in a converted bank building and we had our own chef. The regular Army CID were stationed there so we went for exposure.

Thomas: Were you taught in Japanese?

Garrison: No, but we were there as part of this temporary police assignment and then we were sent down to Camp Drake to catch some of the black-marketeers. But after we got back together at Camp Sendai, they disbanded the regimental military police so I'm now unassigned, which is how I ended up in the rifle company "I". I think the company commanders name was Jack Jones and I'm in a bunk the evening of the

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day that I had been assigned. I'm thinking, God, that I'm going to be in this rifle company and I'm suppose to be a squad leader and I never even went through basic training! And Capt. Jones came in and said, "Sgt. I've made arrangements for you to get back into your MOS, back into the Service Company and back into administration. You don't even have to fall out in the morning." Boy, was I relieved! I don't think that Blackwood was upset about it. At that point, he wasn't trying to get rid of me with the military police but he did get mad at me when I got on leave of absence and didn't have to go back over there.

Thomas: Zama, I think we should touch on a little bit. It was the West Point of Japan. It was where they trained their officers and it was pretty luxurious, by comparison to everything else. We had good quarters and Richardson was very dissatisfied – he thought it was too soft for the men for their training. That's where he was very, very itchy to get out and get to where he could really train the men. That's where McNair was formed in his mind. And we didn't linger too long.

Davis: We weren't there but a few days.

Thomas: I remember Julian Hart, who wrote for the LA Examiner, there was a comment about even having cross ventilation in our offices there. It was pretty nice there but McNair was a different story.

Ellingwood: We had reassembled the regiment at Camp McNair on the side of Mt. Fuji. McNair was created out of the wilderness. Here we created an Army camp out of tents. There were very few buildings. I always said that we were one of the best trained divisions to ever go in combat because at McNair we went through all kinds of different training to include such things as amphibious landings, where we actually lost some Navy sailors but I don't recall that we lost any Army soldiers. The training was very real. I did all the dud disposal work at Camp McNair with my P and A platoon from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. We had no engineers. Division engineers were some place else. I had this idea that we were eventually going to get hazard pay, like the engineers did but we didn't. Freeman tried to help but it didn't go through. What do you remember about McNair?

Garrison: Cold water for showers and it was wintertime. And it rained pretty good.

Thomas: And it was cold and I remember one of the first things I did was I wrote Fran and asked her to send me some flannel pajamas. We were sleeping on a cot and in tents and the snow was pretty far down on the face of Mt. Fuji. I remember that we went to Tokyo from Zama and we were trying to find our way back to Zama and the cab driver didn't know Zama from a hole in the ground. And his taxi would stall every once in awhile, where he had to burn off the fumes from the coke. He would stop at farmers houses, we finally made it back in the middle of the night. That was some experience.

## Camp McNair and Mt. Fujiyama



Mt. Fujiyama



Camp Zama had permanent buildings but Camp McNair, we created it from nothing. It was a tent city. And it was cold!

*Jim Thomas, all photos*



## On Leave In Japan



Curtis Calhoun, Lanzo Bentley and Jim Davis with some of the local Japanese children



Jim Thomas in Kamakura,  
April 1951



Funeral procession



Jim Thomas in a Japanese garden

While training in Japan, some of the troops did some sightseeing.

*Jim Thomas, all photos*

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Ellingwood: Like Jim said, the snow was not very far from where we were. Mt. Fujiyama was a pretty tall mountain and part of it there was snow on it year round.

I remember Capt. Sims so well that we had an area where the tanks were and it was marshy and the tanks kept getting stuck and chewing up this little creek bed. He told Col. Howell to build a bridge for those tanks so Howell got a hold of the P and A platoon later and he said that we had to build a bridge for those tanks over the drainage ditch. So I went out and chopped down a tree. Well, it's hard in Japan to find a very big tree but I finally found one and it was on the other side of a ravine. I had to fell it across the ravine and drag it back to camp and anyway, we made a tank bridge. Following month, here comes Capt. Sims with this bill for me for \$100 for this tree because it is against the law to chop down a tree without a permit. So I told him that Col. Richardson wanted a bridge and I guess the bridge is going to cost him \$100 because I sure as hell wasn't going to pay for it. So Sims didn't appreciate that answer, he wanted me to cave in and I wasn't about to. We went back and forth all the way through McNair.

Garrison: I remember the Police quarters just out of the camp. We worked in conjunction with the Japanese police because when we would go somewhere, usually it was 2 MPs and a Japanese policeman and we got very well acquainted with this Japanese policeman who was an interpreter. He was a very neat guy. His dream was to come to America. Actually, I was a guest of him and his wife. It was my first exposure to sleeping on the mat with the husband and wife. Of course, he was between us. But the taking off the shoes and all that.

We got into some strange situations with some of the Communist hangouts in some of the off-limits places, where some of the GIs went into. These were bars and they were off-limits. It was of necessity to check some of those places out and we ended up getting into some hot-spot Communist situations sometimes that got pretty scary. They didn't appreciate the Japanese police and the MPs checking them out. And there were GIs in there and they were making money off of them.

Ellingwood: There was an officers section because Rex Melendrez and I were walking across the area, and we ran into Capt. Crane. Crane was the Chaplain from Ontario's Episcopal Church ("C" Street and Euclid Avenue). Crane stopped us and he said to Rex, "Capt., I haven't seen you in church lately." Rex replied that was easy to figure out because he hadn't been there. Crane said, "You know that you command 200 men. You really need to set the example. Don't you ever have an occasion to talk to the Lord?" Rex said, "Oh yes, Father. But what I do is get down on my knees and talk to the Man." That stopped Chaplain Crane for a minute. "Well, Capt., you're in the Army now and you really should go through channels."

Ellingwood: We went from McNair to a more fixed location near Masawa Air Base, on northern Honshu.



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Hachinobe was the city nearby.

We had an interesting experiment there – it didn't start as an experiment – it ended up as one. When we got there it was actually a regimental combat team, in that we had some artillery, some engineers and so forth. The upshot was that this camp was not big enough for regimental combat team; it was short. It was fine for a regiment. So it was decided that one battalion would have to live in tents. Col. Howell got the short straw so 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion ended up in tents there. And we were always hungry. We were fighting with CWO Hal Furbish, he was ration breakdown, and we always said that he was shorting us and giving too much chow to Service Company or whoever. They finally had an investigation and I think Sheffer was put in charge of that. It finally came out that they started inspecting garbage cans and we had a lot less garbage than the other battalions. They finally discerned that because we lived outdoors and the rest of them lived indoors we were burning that much more energy because of our lack of warmth. Finally they increased our rations. We got 20% more than anybody else. It finally equaled out. But it went on for weeks and weeks and weeks.

Here we went into more advanced training. We had the air transport training ability because of Masawa Air Base. Actually, that was the first time I was ever in an airplane. I was given the job of aviation officer or something. My responsibility to load these airplanes with two jeeps, and two trailers with ammunition. This was a C121 with huge clamshell doors in the back. Had 20 men including Jim Davis's brother-in-law, Kurt Calhoon. Kurt was part of the 20 men in that airplane. I remember him because he got sick. So we got up bright and early on Thanksgiving Day 1951 and taxied over to take off, the whole regiment. We were going to fly around Honchu. They invited me up to the cockpit. We were moving very slowly, getting in line. I asked the Capt. about a red light. He said that it meant that the third engine is not quite synchronized – don't worry about it → it'll go out. Of course, I couldn't take my eyes off of that red light. The Capt. ignored it, or seemed to. Finally, I said, "You know, that light has never gone out." And he said, "By jove, you're right." So he radioed the tower and they pulled us out of the flight line. Our little group flew in an empty airplane. By the way, did you know that there are over 100 tie-downs on a jeep? You have to tie it down at this angle and that angle so that no matter how many air pockets you hit, nothing moves. We went to school for about three days to learn how to tie all this stuff down.

We flew along the coast of Honchu. When we landed I received emergency leave orders. My daughter was about to be born and my wife was having problems. So the Col. Howell gave me a jeep and told me to go back to camp, get packed and tell the cooks that we are going to be about two hours late for Thanksgiving dinner, which was planned for 1 p.m. So I went back and reported to the cooks. So I packed and went over to Masawa Air Base, where they flew me down to Tokyo in a C54. There I caught Canadian Airlines. That evening we flew back to Masawa Air Base. I asked if we were having engine trouble. They said that they

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always topped off their tanks at Masawa. Mind you, this was still my first day of flying. We flew to Adac in the Aleutians where we changed flight crews in addition to stopping for fuel. Adac was like a carrier. It was a little island with nothing but an airstrip and one little building. Then we flew from there to Anchorage. We went through customs in Anchorage. Then from Anchorage we flew to SEATAC. Then I caught Western Airlines at SEATAC and flew to Los Angeles. I was in Upland about 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. I spent about 22 hours in the air on Thanksgiving Day – my first day in an airplane.

Thomas: When I got my emergency leave because my dad had a heart attack and wasn't expected to live, he was back in Nashville. I flew back on the plane with Leo Riesen. We flew to Tokyo, the Aleutians, to Shimya – nothing but a strip with a beautiful girl behind every tree. Of course, there weren't any trees. From there we went to Anchorage and there was suppose to be a fresh crew waiting but there wasn't. So we walked around for eight hours while the crew got their rest. Then they flew us to Seattle. "Well I'm going to Tennessee." "Well, your leave starts now – you are on U.S. soil." So I caught a Navy hop to San Francisco. Then I caught a commercial flight to Los Angeles and then on to Tennessee. I didn't go back from leave. My dad survived but he was totally disabled. My wife suffered complications from her pregnancy. After Fran lost the baby, I put in for a release from active duty and got it there at Stoneman. Since I was going to be financially responsible for my family I received an early release.

Ellingwood: When I got back from overseas, Major Frantzich was at Stoneman. While I was home on emergency leave, I went to work for Nixon – working a ranch of his up in Adelanto on the basis that I now had three kids and they were not going to send me back. But because I was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., they made an exception and sent me back anyway. So I had to tell the Senator that I wouldn't be available. When I went back, I went back with a bunch of West Pointers on board ship because it was an emergency to get me home, but it wasn't an emergency to get me back to Korea.

Ellingwood: The West Pointers all got off in Japan because they didn't want to risk all these highly educated soldiers. I was the only one going to Korea, which I managed to razz them about. So I went directly into Korea. The regiment had already moved into Korea a couple of weeks before. I didn't get to experience the landing at Inchon. Nothing like reporting to a foreign country and your unit is somewhere on the front line. Somehow or another, they managed to get me to my unit in a matter of hours from Seoul to the regiment. I reported to Col. Howell for duty that same day I landed.

### **Korea**

Ellingwood: We were well trained in every phase of infantry training. We went onto Hill 770, where we

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had inherited a stagnant position. We would have to take South Koreans – we called them “Chogis” – with us to carry the mortar base plates, to carry the machine gun tripods because our troops were having a great deal of trouble of going up these straight up and down mountains. We finally put together a tram for supplies and for the wounded. We would go up and down this Hill 770 by tram. One day the North Koreans had infiltrated and shot part of “E” company. We had two casualties. One was a superficial wound and the other guy had been hit seriously and it looked like he might lose a leg. He was full of good spirits and telling jokes. The guy who had the superficial wound was “I’m gonna die. . . I’ve been shot” – by the time that tram got down to the bottom, the one with the superficial wound was dead. And the other guy went on. We congratulated him because we knew he was in no position to come back to the regiment. He went to Tokyo General and finally went home.

In that operation we captured some Chinese soldiers. If we captured anybody we were suppose to turn them over to regiment or division immediately. We had a guy in 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Intelligence that spoke a couple of dialects of Chinese and even though we weren’t suppose to interrogate these prisoners, our Corporal interrogated one of the prisoners. They asked him what Army he was in, he said he was in Chiang Kai-shek Army. We said, “Wait a minute, Chiang Kai-shek is on our side and he is on Formosa.” He understood that. But when he originally joined, he was in Chiang Kai-shek Army. He joined in 1938. This was 1951 and he was still a private. We asked him how come he was fighting for the Communist Chinese? He looked at us like we were stupid and said, “Because they are giving me the rice.” And that was his philosophical answer to the questions.

I was transferred to Battalion Operations. I was Col. Howell’s assistant Operations Officer. He took me to acquaint me where the front lines were. We got pinned down with some machine guns while we were up there. Unruffled, Col. Howell said, “Well, I think we have seen enough here.” So we went on down the hill. It was not because we had been shot at but because we had seen everything we needed to see. That was one of two times where Col. Howell and I almost got killed. We had met on the way to supper one night and all of a sudden he said, “Well, go ahead, I forgot something.” So he went ahead down the trail to his bunker and we went down towards the mess tent. A piece of shrapnel landed right where we were standing. Just two seconds later. Usually you don’t connect it with a noise. That proximity fuse would go off 200 or 300 feet in the air and spread shrapnel everywhere. We just looked back, looked at each other and kept going as if nothing had happened.

I had my daylight demolition raid there. Although I was Assistant Battalion Operations Officer, Col. Howell said that it was your platoon. He told me that I would feel more comfortable if you took your own platoon out there. There were 35 of us, took out about 50 pounds of explosives, mostly C3 composition explosive. We went out and blew up those bunkers that the Chinese and/or North Koreans were sneaking in

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at night and shooting up the rear of our lines while we were in this static situation. We were walking along, we knew that with a nice sunshine day that the enemy could see us. I said to my platoon sergeant, "How long do you think they are going to let us walk down this road?" About then, they opened up on us and we all scattered. I hear this voice out of a bush, "You got anymore stupid questions, Lt?" We looked at our map and we were just about where we wanted to be so we started blowing up bunkers, blowing back to our own lines. We had quite a successful mission, except for one little incident when we had the first bunker all laid out with demolitions. We had a flat space there about the size of a football field. I sent the troops back in pairs and they ran behind this little mountain. I said just wait for us. It got down to where it was just the platoon sergeant and I. So I said, "Let's pull the pin and go." the sergeant and I took off and we ran around this same mountain that everybody else had run behind. And this Chinaman tackled me. I had an M-2 carbine and I went down like a John Wayne movie, I rolled over and came up and cut him right in half. Then the fog begins to clear. Well, actually what had happened – it was in the spring and the snow had begun to melt and it melted down to about his waist – he had been dead for months. Rigor mortis had set in. When we got back to our front lines, one of my troops knew someone from "Stars and Stripes" and the story appeared. The story about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. who cut the dead Chinaman in half while his men watched.

Then we went from Hill 770 to replacing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division at the Punch Bowl. That's why at division, when they have the big ceremonies, they always have this punch bowl that they serve, which is actually a duplicate of the Punch Bowl in Korea. It was a midnight replacement. We snuck in and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division snuck out. It was all very hush-hush. Except the next morning, on the hill across from us, in rocks, you read, "Welcome 40<sup>th</sup>." The North Koreans were way ahead of us. They knew we were coming before we got there. And we thought we had been so secretive. But you know, you had those "Chogis" back and forth – whoever was giving them the rice, whoever was paying them – they didn't much care. I never did get much of a handle on the Korean language to tell the South and North Korean apart. Neither could the rest of us. They said that they were constantly changing sides for whatever reason.

We had several casualties just moving in. Mine fields were a big thing in Korea and we lost 3 or 4 people from friendly mine fields. I wasn't there 3 or 4 weeks before it was my turn to go home. I did not hesitate. As a matter of fact, I came home with Freeman and 5 or 6 officers who ended up going to Stoneman. I came back in April or May of 1952. So I was only in combat 4 months. After 90 days in combat you were eligible to rotate. In lieu of rotation I just came home. As far as they knew I was one of the few 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.s to come out of combat alive, most of them got promoted.

Thomas: Young officers, in particular, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.s especially, are cannon fodder.

Ellingwood: It was only thirty days in combat to get promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Freeman must not have been

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around because they kept screwing up my promotion, "Oh, we thought you went home," and this and that. I never made 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. over there. I didn't make it for another 3 or 4 years. When I got to Stoneman, Frantzich told me that if I went to Ft. Ord, I could get out in a week instead of 10 days. Once I was at Ord, they thought I was an enigma and told me that if I stuck around for 90 more days and help assimilate 40<sup>th</sup> Division officers, I could make 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. easy. My future ex-wife would have none of that – I could see why, she had raised those kids by herself long enough. So I said thanks and went home to take care of the family. When I came back in the Guard later on as Chief Warrant Officer, I finally made 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. when I took over the battalion adjutant position in Riverside as part of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion and ultimately made Captain.

The regiment stayed for two more years and in fact, our regimental headquarters did not open for a year after I got back because the regiment was still in Korea. Walking Jim came home in June 1952 and he was about the last to be in Korea. He ended getting 3 stars before he retired.

As for Chaplain Robert M. Crane, the Ontario Episcopal minister, sometime in Korea, when we were on 770 perhaps, the Col. got rid of him and I don't know why. He became regimental chaplain at the 160<sup>th</sup>. His jeep took a direct hit from a Chinese mortar and he and his jeep driver were killed. That was the most serious casualty out of the local boys and he wasn't with our regiment when he died.

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## ***Epilogue***

Thomas: What I remember particularly is the taking of hills and then retreating. I never understood what was the strategy or the point of it all – seemed like a lot of it was show. I'm not talking about the 224<sup>th</sup>, but the Korean War in general.

Ellingwood: Well, what we had to do was to shorten our supply lines and lengthen their supply lines to a comfortable distance so we could have a stalemate. The United States should have proven themselves once and for all. There is no way you can fight a war to a draw. You either fight a war to win it or you stay out of it. But we didn't learn that in Korea, and I'm not sure that we learned it in Vietnam. I don't think that we have learned it yet.

But I remember Rex Melendrez and I talking at the time, that at least our kids would not have to do this. That we were going to end this kind of nonsense. I remember talking with Rex later at La Casita (Ontario restaurant), I had one kid in Vietnam and he had one in some God forsaken place [Iceland].

Thomas: I'm sure that they thought the same thing in the First World War.



224<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Regiment Shield

On July 27, 1953 armistice was signed and the Korean War officially came to an end. North and South Korea remain separated and maintain different forms of government. The United States continues to maintain military bases throughout South Korea.

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### **Tribute to Colonel Anson J. Smalley**

*Charles C. Chapman*



Col. Smalley, 1941.  
*A.E. Howell, photo*

Anson J. Smalley was the first commanding officer of the Ontario unit of the California National Guard. In March 1930, Anson J. Smalley was commissioned Captain and Commanding Officer of Company "G", 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was well qualified by his past service in the Iowa National Guard; his active military duty under Black Jack Pershing during the Border dispute against Pancho Villa in 1916; he was an enlisted soldier in the First World War serving in France where he was promoted to Second Lieutenant on the battlefield July 9, 1918.

Born in Winterset, Iowa on October 28, 1894, Colonel Smalley was a graduate of Grinnel College in 1921. He arrived in Ontario the same year and began his teaching career at Chaffey High School where his first assignment was coaching football, supervising study hall and teaching social problems classes. Later he concentrated primarily on History, Civics and Social Studies. After retiring as a Colonel from the National Guard and

before his retirement from Chaffey, he assumed the role as Commandant of the California Cadet Corps unit at Chaffey. Topping off his career, he continued to inspire the young cadets at Chaffey through his leadership and stature as a superior military role model in the community.

When Company "G" was mobilized into federal service in 1941, the men he had commanded in Company "G" became the primary leaders and cadre for the regiment in the early months of active duty and during the onset of the war. Colonel Smalley was credited with having the sharpest unit with highly trained and capable commissioned as well as non-commissioned officers. By the end of the Second World War, a significant number of Company "G" men had distinguished themselves in many different branches of the Army in both the European and Asian-Pacific Theaters of operation.

Colonel Smalley had, by his own example, set high standards for his men in every rank. He had come up through the ranks himself. In the Iowa National Guard he rose from Private to Colonel to Sergeant between August 1915 and June 1916. He was a Sergeant in federal service from June 9, 1918. He held this rank through April 28, 1919.

Returning from his wartime service in the Pacific where he was Commander of the First Battalion, 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry and later the Commander of Camp Hunter Liggett in California, Colonel Smalley immediately was asked by General Hudelson to organize the new 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment with

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Headquarters at Ontario and Colonel Smalley as Regimental Commander. Units of the regiment were geographically spread throughout San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange

Counties of Souther California. Ontario and Upland hosted three companies: Headquarters Company, Service Company and Medical Company.

Once again, when the North Koreans attacked South Korea in June 1950, Colonel Smalley and his regiment were selected for mobilization along with the 40<sup>th</sup> Division. The regiment was deployed to Japan and then to combat in Korea. Colonel Smalley, however, was ordered to the Sixth Army to the post of Inspector General until his retirement in 1952.

Colonel Anson J. Smalley served his community and his country in an exemplary and inspirational manner. He resided in Ontario and finally in Pomona. He succumbed to a heart ailment in February 1963 at the age of 68 and was laid to rest at Bellevue Mausoleum in Ontario.

In reflection on the character and qualities of Anson J. Smalley, one cannot overlook the tremendous capabilities he exhibited in nurturing and grooming his students and the men he commanded. Yet there is a curious comment attributed to him in the 1922 Chaffey High School Fasti yearbook: "Nobody ever cultivated me." just what prompted this remark remains a mystery. But the fact is clear that he cultivated many others to excel in their achievements and to be of good character.

### **Tribute to Lt. Colonel John L. Freeman**

*Jim Thomas*

Lt. Colonel John L. Freeman, a native of Ontario, California, was born October 27, 1913 to Maude H. and Frank G. Freeman, and died January 18, 1961 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

When I first went to work for then Captain Freeman, March 1948, he had already served in the Second World War before joining the California National Guard. He was recruited away from a position with the Bank of American in Ontario by Colonel Anson J. Smalley, the Regimental Commander of the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Colonel Smalley was very smart in making his selection of Captain Freeman to be his Regimental Adjutant. Before long he was Major Freeman, and really the administrative brains of the regiment. By the time most people could analyze a problem, Adjutant Freeman had already attacked it and had it half solved. His organizational ability was uncanny. He demanded excellence from himself and from those around him. His one flaw was an intolerance for those who thought and acted slower than he did.



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Colonel Freeman was the driving force in moving the new National Guard Armory from the drawing board to its completion and dedication in September 1950. The project had long been a dream of the Colonels Smalley and Freeman and had been met with many obstacles. From the reorganization of the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in 1947 to its induction into federal service in September 1950, Regimental Headquarters had its office under the south bleachers of Chaffey High School's football stadium. These were the most primitive of office quarters, without heat or air conditioning, and the dust was a constant problem. Unbelievably, we used an unvented smudge pot for heat. Naturally we looked forward to and longed for completion of the new armory.

From a personal side, John L. Freeman presented a commanding appearance, tall, smiling and always immaculate in his uniform. He never married. He made his home with his mother at 666 East Fourth Street in Ontario, California. He loved nice things, especially convertible automobiles and Southern California beaches. He also had a love for the theater. I found him pleasant to work for. I served under him as a clerk, sergeant major, and as Assistant Adjutant, until our induction in 1950. In my research on Colonel Freeman, I determined to find his final resting place. To my surprise I found him in crypt 33, corridor E or the Bellevue Mausoleum, just three feet away from his Regimental Commander, Colonel Anson J. Smalley.

### ***Tribute To Lt. Col. John L. Freeman***

*James P. Davis, CWO (Ret.)*

I met Lt. Colonel John L. Freeman in 1948 during the organization of the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Ontario, California. At the time, he was a Major assigned as the Regimental Adjutant – a position he would occupy for the next several years. The growing pains of this new Regiment were met by the strong leadership of Major Freeman who provided the support to the attached units. The examples set by Major Freeman would be put to good use in the near future as the military aggression in the Far East expanded. In July, 1950, the Regiment was notified that it would be called to active duty. This happened on September 1, 1950. The responsibility of preparing the administrative orders for relocating the Regiment to Camp Cooke, California fell upon the shoulders of Major Freeman and his staff. The move was finalized in September of 1950. He had discharged his responsibilities in a most efficient



Then Capt. John Freeman,  
1948. *Museum Collection.*

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manner.

The tour of duty at Camp Cooke featured an intense training program to prepare the Regiment for deployment overseas. This happened in early 1951. With 4000 thousand Officers and Enlisted Men now in the Regiment, Major Freeman and staff prepared and published the orders and directives required for the deployment to Japan. Major Freeman excelled in the accomplishment of his duties. The crossing of the Pacific took 12 days. The Regiment was housed at Camp Zama for a short period of time and then moved to Camp McNair to begin an advanced Infantry Training program to insure combat efficiency. It was then moved to Camp Hachinobe on the northern tip of Honshu island to participate in cold weather and air transport training. With conclusion of this training, Major Freeman faced the most demanding effort of his military career – the administrative preparation for the deployment of the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment from Camp Hachinobe, Japan to Korea lasted until April 28, 1952, at which time he returned to Ontario, California. Major Freeman had served his Regiment and Country honorably and with distinction.

After returning to Ontario, Major Freeman was requested to assist in the reorganization of the National Guard unit when the troops were returned home from service in Korea. Major Freeman was given the responsibility to oversee the return of the company units to the local armories and to see that each was properly staffed and had sufficient supplies and equipment. All equipment and supplies were drawn from Army Depots within the States. Through the determined efforts of Major Freeman, the units attained the required operating performance ahead of schedule. After several months of reorganization, the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment reached it's desired levels of personnel strength and training proficiency. Changes, however, were on the way. The Regiment was reorganized as Combat Command B and assigned to the 40<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. The Regiment ceased to exist at this time and it's colors were retired. The Infantry Battalions of the Regiment were reorganized into Tank Battalions or Armored Infantry Battalions. The Combat Command B designation lasted until 1960 at which time it became 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 40<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. An Adjutant was not authorized in either of these organizations and Major Freeman was reassigned as the Brigade S-3 (Operation & Training Officer). During this time he was promoted to Lt. Colonel and assigned to State Headquarters where he remained until his death in 1961.

Lt. Colonel Freeman has earned the respect and admiration of those who served with him and he will be remembered for his devotion to the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

### ***Tribute to Colonel A. Eugene Howell***

*Charles Chapman*

Alvin E. (Gene) Howell joined the National Guard in 1932, the year he graduated from Chaffey High

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School. Except for a brief period of time when he was away from Ontario, he continuously served his community and his country as a Citizen Soldier rising from the rank of private to colonel over some thirty years and wartime mobilizations and three major reorganizations of the local Guard units.

Enlisting in company G, 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 40<sup>th</sup> Division in 1932, he received a direct commission in 1940 prior to the mobilization of march 1941. During the second World War, Howell served as a platoon leader, company commander, battalion executive officer, and battalion commander, all in the Asian-Pacific Theater.



Col. Howell, 1957

*Jim Davis, photo*

The above summary fails to adequately relate the real rigors of service that Howell faced in the years beginning in March 1941 through August 1945. There were the long months of intensive training on the Island of Kauai in Hawaii; then there was the jungle fighting on Guadalcanal; action on New Britain and the capture of Haskins Airfield; then came the invasion of Luzon, Philippine Island, at Lingayen Gulf in which Howell and his battalion marched and battled their way through the central valley of Luzon; the invasion of Panay Island and then on Negros Island, Howell met with machine gun fire from the Japanese. A burst of fire dented the front of his steel helmet and plastic helmet liner wounding him in the head.

Fortunately, the pot helmet did the job: it saved his life!

Following the Second World War, Howell remained with the unit in Ontario which became the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The division was again mobilized during the Korean War. Howell commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, which had been organized in 1947. Upon return from service in Japan and Korea, the division was reorganized in 1952. Colonel Howell served as executive officer of the 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry and Combat Command B, then in 1962 he was promoted to full Colonel and commander of Combat Command B. Colonel Howell remained as commanding officer when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was designated. His decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge with star.

Colonel Howell resides in Upland with his wife. Colonel Howell was a full time employee of the California National Guard until his retirement.

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## *Tribute to Reginald "Rex" Julian Melendrez*

*Bob Ellingwood*

Rex Melendrez joined Company "G", 185<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the late 1930s. He was sworn in by Captain Anson Smalley, a high school history teacher at Chaffey High School.

Pvt. Melendrez and his brother, Cpl. Wayne Melendrez, were inducted into the U.S. Army March 3, 1941 at Ontario American Legion Post 112.

A week later they moved to Camp San Luis Obispo where with rigorous training they were brought to war time readiness. After Pearl Harbor they were deployed along the California coast. Rex by now was a Corporal and his brother Wayne was a Sergeant.

After only two minor submarine attacks by the Japanese Navy, one near Santa Barbara and the other in southern Oregon, the 40<sup>th</sup> was released for further training at Ft. Lewis, Washington, Hawaii and finally Guadalcanal in December 1943.

In April 1944 the 40<sup>th</sup> moved to New Britain, they captured Haskins Air Field and forced the Japanese to retreat to Rebaul. At the invasion of Lingayen Gulf, Philippines, the 40<sup>th</sup> Division was a major force in the promise of Gen. MacArthur to the Philippine people, "I shall return." Although Japanese Kamikaze planes sunk 20 American ships and damaged 59 others, the 40<sup>th</sup> landed January 9, 1945. Through numerous pockets of resistance, the 40<sup>th</sup> captured Clark Field. Rex was wounded by a Japanese sniper. The 40<sup>th</sup> accounted for over 10,000 Japanese casualties in the Philippines. Sgt. Rex Melendrez was given a battlefield commission and had his platoon in the invasion of Panay Island, which they secured in ten days.

While training for the invasion of Japan, the war ended September 2, 1945, thus saving at least a million American lives. Although thousands of Japanese were killed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki more Japanese lives would have been lost in an invasion.

As the war was over the Company "G" men could come back to Ontario after 4 ½ years. All except 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rex Melendrez. His commission had extended his time. He went on with the 40<sup>th</sup> Division to occupation of Korea. Finally on April 7, 1946 the 40<sup>th</sup> was mustered out at Camp Stoneman, California, the last National Guard Division to be released in the Second World War.

Besides brother Wayne they also had a half-brother, Henry Romero, in Company "G". Wayne Melendrez ended up in Europe where he also received a battlefield commission. Two battlefield

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commissions in the same family in two different fields of operation – unprecedented! Wayne joined the newly formed U.S. Air Force in 1947. He made the military his career and retired as a Colonel.

After returning to Ontario, Rex became involved with the new 224<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Capt. Rex became Headquarters Company Commander and took that unit into federal service September 1, 1950 – 9 ½ years since activation for the Second World War. When Headquarters Company settled at Camp Cooke, Capt. Rex, because of his vast Infantry experience was assigned as company commander of Company "G", a rifle company. Rex took the Company to Japan for advance training and then onto Korea, where the unit distinguished itself in combat. Rex was awarded the Bronze Star in the spring of 1952 for his combat service. When I asked brother Wayne what he remembered about Rex, he said, "He was a great leader and a great guy."

I served with Rex for several years, including combat in Korea and I agree – Rex was a great leader and a great guy.



Capt Rex Melendrez, 1957

*Jim Davis, photo*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The *Korea: Ontario's Citizen Soldiers Remember the Forgotten War* exhibit and commemorative publication were made possible by the generous and kind support of our oral history participants. They not only recounted their stories but provided invaluable personal photographs and archival materials and spent over two months scouring five years worth of *Daily Report* newspapers.

**Bob Ellingwood** returned to the reserves after his Korean war service, serving as Battalion Adjutant. Ellingwood was involved in the establishment of several local armories, including Ontario, Riverside, Hemet, Barstow, Apple Valley and Indio. He retired with the rank of Captain in 1966. Ellingwood was elected Mayor of Ontario in 1978 and served through 1986. He is an active community volunteer and is immensely proud of his granddaughter, who is a U.S. Air Force Captain and fighter pilot.

**Jim Davis** served full-time as Chief Warrant Officer out of Ontario's National Guard Armory from 1948 until he retired in 1967. He worked in the real estate field for several years until he retired for a second time. He is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Vivian, and their family.

**Jim Thomas and Orville Garrison** returned to civilian life after their discharges from the U.S. Army after the Korean War.

Jim Thomas operated a successful insurance agency in Ontario for over 33 years. He is enjoying retired life with his wife, Frances, and his family in Upland. Jim is making a serious effort at improving his golf game every chance he gets.

Orville Garrison served as a bank official in the valley for over 41 years. He enjoys retired life with his wife, Claire, and he, too, is making a concerted and very serious effort at improving his golf handicap.

The National Guard Armory is located at 950 North Cucamonga Avenue in Ontario. It is staffed full-time with California National Guardsmen, HHT 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, present Company Commander is Capt. James McBrearty. The Guard are called to duty not only overseas but have assisted local and state fire fighting efforts and other natural disasters and were involved in Y2K readiness. They continue to train monthly and participate the traditional summer camp training readiness programs.