

THE HISTORY of Company C, 134th Infantry

~ 1875 - 1985 ~



“All hell can’t stop us.”

24 August 1985

The following is a history of Company C. It includes the highlights of the proud organization, but by no means all the details; though many interesting ones, we believe, are present. It is possible that there are inaccuracies in this account. Special thanks should go to Bob Marvin, Charles Brewster, Francis Mason, Herman Genrich, and others for their help in furnishing material and information. References used were The Beatrice Daily Sun files, 1932 Special Edition, War Department General Orders, 1939 National Guard Book, World War II History of the 134th Regiment, and other publications about the 35th Division.

Alvin Lampe

Updating and reformatting the extensive work of Mr. Alvin Lampe (and others) has been most rewarding. The history of "Company C" as presented here is deemed complete through 1 October 1985. Recommend this history be updated annually and republished every fifth year.

Jack W. Van Allen
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry

Important Dates in The History of
Company C

1875--Organized by Captain L. W. Colby as the "Paddock Guards," in honor of Senator Alegernon Paddock.

1879--Designated Company C, 1st Nebraska Infantry. Since that time the letter "C" has been the designation of the Beatrice company in each of the three regiments of which it has been a part--the 1st, 5th, and 134th Regiments of Infantry.

1882--Called to duty during the Burlington rail strike at Omaha.

1890-91--Served to quell Indian uprising in northwestern Nebraska.

1894--Ordered to duty in the Omaha packinghouse strike.

May 9, 1898--Mustered for duty in Spanish-American War.

June 14, 1898--Sailed from San Francisco to Manila aboard the Transport SENATOR.

Feb. 4, 1899--On out-post duty in the Philippines during first firing between insurgent Filipinos and American troops.

Aug. 23, 1899--Relieved from active duty.

March 24, 1913--Called for duty in tornado relief work at Omaha.

Easter Sunday, 1916--Called to control section hands.

June 19, 1916--Called out for Mexican Border service.

July 24, 1917--Mustered into federal service for World War I service.

Oct. 28, 1917--Arrived in France where company personnel were used as replacements.

January, 1921--Reorganized in Beatrice.

June 19, 1935-- Co. C to Omaha during street car strike.

Dec. 23, 1940--Mobilized along with rest of National Guard.

July 15-19, 1944--In action as part of 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment in vicinity of St. Lo, Normandy, France--action which was later to win the 1st Battalion "Battle Honors" from the War Department for "extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance." Casualties from the St. Lo action among original (those called up with the company in 1940) members still with the unit reached nearly 50 percent. The action also won the 1st Battalion the French Croix de Guerre.

Dec. 12-21, 1944--In action at Habkirchen, Germany, which won "Battle Honors" for Company C from the War Department.

Dec. 28, 1944-Jan. 16, 1945-- In action as part of the 134th Infantry Regiment in vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium (Battle of the Bulge). Along with first Battalion elements was one of the first units to break through and link up with encircled units of 101st Airborne Division. Unit awarded third "Battle Honor" by the War Department.

Nov. 21, 1945--Inactivated at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Nov. 11, 1947--Reactivated and organized at Beatrice after World War II. Redesignated Company C, 134th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division.

May 1, 1959--Nebraska National Guard reorganized. Unit redesignated as Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Battle Group, 134th Infantry, 34th Infantry Division. Company Headquarters and one rifle platoon moved to Fairbury. Two rifle platoons remained in Beatrice along with the new Combat Support Company.

Apr. 1, 1963-- All elements of the 1st Battle Group reorganized as the 67th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized). Beatrice unit redesignated as HHC 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry, 67th Brigade.

Oct. 1, 1985--Nebraska National Guard reorganized as part of newly reactivated 35th Infantry Division. Beatrice unit redesignated as Company C, 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry, 67th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), 35th Infantry Division.

"PADDOCK GUARD"

Beatrice has had its own guard since 1875. That was the year the "Paddock Guards" were organized by L. W. Colby, as Captain, (later known as General Colby), a Civil War veteran; Indian fighter and soldier. Purpose of the unit was to protect the city from outside banditry and lawlessness prevailing at that time.

The name Paddock was in honor of Senator Alegernon Paddock who was at that time representing the southeastern section of the state in the legislature.

CHANGE TO "C"

The "Paddock Guards" were held intact until the organization of the first state militia known as the First Nebraska Infantry, in 1879. Company C was the designation given the unit.

With three officers and 50 enlisted men, the unit was called out during 1890-91 to help quiet the Sioux Indian uprising around Pine Ridge, South Dakota. The company did not see action, but experienced campaign conditions.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR:

Under the command of Captain A. H. Hollingsworth, the company was mustered for duty in the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898.

May 16, they entrained at Lincoln for Camp Merritt at the Presidio, San Francisco, and after being equipped at Camp Merritt, sailed on the transport "Senator" June 14 for the Philippines. Five days out, Sgt George L. Geddes died of spinal meningitis and was buried at sea--Nebraska's first sacrifice to the war.

MANILA:

On July 17, the ship landed at Manila and the troops were immediately assigned positions at the outskirts of the city and took part in the engagement which wrested Manila from the Spainards on August 13.

After the fall of Manila, the company was used for guard and police duty in the city. The company was on out-post duty during the night of February 4, 1899, when the first firing took place between insurgent Filipinos and the American troops.

On July 1, the company was relieved and boarded the transport "Handcock", for the United States. Following shore leave at Yokohama, Japan, the company arrived at San Francisco on August 1. There the company was mustered out of federal service August 23. Upon arriving in Beatrice as a unit, the soldiers received a grand welcome.

CASUALTIES:

The casualty report by the company from the war:

Wounded: A. H. Hollingsworth, J. H. Storck, B. D. Wheadon, W. G. Dungan, Orrin F. Curtis, Jesse P. Baird, Charles Brewster, John S. Roller, Henry Epp, Fred C. Kuhn, Roscoe C. Ozman, Roy C. Carnbell, George R. Boomer, Lyvenus S. Burnham, William Logsdon, Burt W. Watts.

Dead: George L. Geddes; William G. Evans, died at Cavite, July 24, 1898; Bruce E. Macy, died April 20, 1898, of wounds received March 29, 1898; Bulius G. Miller, died at Honolulu, December 15, 1898; Frank Knouse, drowned in Pasig River, December 15, 1898.

REORGANIZATION:

As was to be the case after each war, interest in the military lagged and on December 31, 1907, The Sun reported Company C was to disband on January 8. Captain Penrod, commanding officer, said the state appropriation of \$250 annually was not sufficient to meet expenses. But on March 27, 1908, with Postmaster A. H. Hollingsworth as chief promoter, the unit was reorganized. Mr. Hollingsworth was elected captain; Charles L. Brewster, 1st lieutenant and S. F. Nichols, 2d lieutenant. There were 23 privates.

DUTY AT OMAHA:

On March 24, 1913, the day after Easter Sunday, Company C was called out by the state for duty in Omaha following the now-famous Omaha tornado. At the time the company was under the command of Captain Brewster with Lts. Roy Schock and William Hemphill. The unit assisted in guard and patrol duty for one week, after which the organization was relieved by other troops and sent home.

EASTER SUNDAY 1916--CONTROL SECTION HANDS:

Sixty section hands celebrating Easter Sunday, 1916, caused Company C to be called for duty at Beatrice. As Good Friday approached, the men had begun to lay in supplies of liquor. When the celebration had lasted nearly

a week and was approaching the climax, the citizens became alarmed and attempted to have the men removed from the city. Hearing of this, the men threatened to burn the town. A number of shots were fired. When the local police force was unable to cope with the situation, Company C was ordered to take charge.

MEXICAN BORDER SERVICE:

On June 19, 1916, the company with the rest of the regiment was called out by the President for duty on the Mexican border. At this time the company was comprised of 57 enlisted men with Captain Lawrence Jones in command. They were mustered into federal service at the state Fairgrounds in Lincoln, entrained and made camp at Llano Grande, Texas.

While the organization did not participate in any engagements with the Mexicans, the men underwent hard maneuvers around Brownsville, San Bernido, and Harlingen, Texas. While on one of the maneuvers, the entire regiment experienced one of the tropical gulf storms that practically swept their entire camp out of existence.

After eight months of service, the Nebraska regiment was sent to Fort Crook, Omaha, and mustered out February 11, 1917.

BACK HOME AGAIN:

On February 22, The Sun reported "Company C arrived home last night." About 2,000 people were on hand to greet the soldiers. On February 26, a banquet and reception at the First Christian Church was given honoring the men.

The roster of men returning included Lt. Col. A. H. Hollingsworth, Capt. Lawrence E. Hones, 1st Lt. Harry Austin, 2nd Lt. Arlie W. Culer, 1st Sgt. Fred H. Hall, Sgt. A. W. Norman, Sgt. Fritz Koslowski, Sgt. Emmett Powell, Sgt. Merle Coon, Sgt. Robert Warren, Cpl. Earl East, Cpl. Chas Courtney, Cpl. Sam McKee, Cpl. Geo. Hewitt, Cpl. Clarence Richards, Cpl. Ed Hackstadt.

Harold Gidding and Harry Parker were the cooks, Guy M. McGee, the artificer, and William Bittings, musician.

The privates: Ernest Albers, Will Burroughs, Ray Cornett, Frank Cox, Onda DeHaven, Lee DeLebarre, Albert Eckel, Lester England, Jas. Fonler, Floyd Mason, George Sasser, V. C. Buchanan, Tom Hepperlen, Ted M. Barton, Ross Skinner, Jas. Staker, James Rulla, Elmer Young, Holman Valentine, Clifford Thornburg, Sherman Plank, Lon Richardson, General R. Roller, Fulton Jack Jr., William Brooks, Harold Pagels, and Earl Reimund.

WAR DECLARED:

Then on April 6, 1917, The Sun came out with an eight column streamer headline, "Ringing Declaration of War." The resolution passed by both houses declared a state of war existed between Germany and the United States.

On April 25, The Sun reported, "The largest crowd since 'Hughes Day' gathered at Central Park last night to join in the patriotic rally to encourage enlistment in Company C in order to recruit it to full war strength of 100 men."

The speakers were E. L. Hevelone, Fulton Jack, Mayor J. P. Saunders, and General Colby.

THE GREATEST CALL:

General Colby gave the history of Company C up to that time and then stated: "Now comes the greatest call since the Civil War."

The general called it "a rally to the colors to fill not only Company C to war strength but other companies, and I hope the time will not be long when 500,000 brave American soldiers will plant the Stars and Stripes on the ramparts between France and Germany."

May 19, The Sun reported, "President Wilson tonight ordered that a division of regular troops commanded by Major General John J. Pershing be sent to France at the earliest possible date."

WORLD WAR I SERVICE:

On July 24, 1917, Company C was mustered into federal service for World War I. The company was honored with a picnic at Chautauqua Park, The Sun reported. The program included music by the Beatrice municipal band; songs by a male quartet with F. E. Lenhart in charge; a reading by Mrs. Charles J. Reilly; a talk by Capt. Brewster of Company C, and an address by H. E. Sackett.

The camp site for the company was in the old Chautauqua Park and the unit remained there, recruiting and training, until August 17 when it left on the Burlington for Camp Cody near Deming, New Mexico.

REPLACEMENTS:

For the next year the company, as well as the rest of the regiment, underwent a period of intensive training, in preparation for its service overseas. However, in July, 1918, the entire 34th Division, of which the 134th Infantry was a part, was made a replacement division, and all privates and privates first class, were sent overseas as replacement troops to fill other combat divisions.

The remaining officers and non-commissioned officers served as cadre for a new division. This division was filled to war strength with drafted men from the states of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona. Thus a "new" Company C was formed under the "old" Company C officers and non-commissioned officers.

The entire division underwent another period of training until August, 1918, when the division was moved to Camp Dix, New Jersey. While at Camp Dix, the influenza epidemic was raging and a few members of the company succumbed to the disease, fortunately not a large number.

MOVEMENT OVERSEAS:

On October 13, 1918, the company embarked on the English transport, H.M.S. Rhiva at Hoboken, New Jersey, and departed for France. Arriving at Liverpool, England, the morning of October 24th, they re-sailed and reached Cherbourg, France, on October 28. They remained in Lebrado for a week or ten days then entrained for LeMans, France, where the division was once again broken up for replacement troops and its numbers scattered over the entire AEF. On November 11, the Armistice was signed. Company C as such, therefore had not seen action in World War I, but in its tradition it remembered the service of those original members who had gone out to other units for their share of combat service.

A NEW UNIT IS FORMED:

From August, 1919, to January, 1921, a new unit was formed through the efforts of Ed C. Fisher, Charles L. Brewster, Robert Emery, Robert R. Warren, F. H. Stoll, Harold C. Stout, A. H. Kidd and other local businessmen and ex-servicemen.

Fred H. Stoll was the first man to enlist in the unit. The officers prior to muster were selected by popular vote of the company. The selections were Robert Emery for captain; Robert R. Warren for first lieutenant and Fred H. Stoll for 2nd lieutenant. The armory was located over the old Kimball Laundry.

It was pointed out at that time that all the officers of the newly organized unit at one time served in World War I as enlisted men of old Company C.

The 20s and 30s were peaceful years for the company. Drills, inspections and summer camps were the mainfare.

During this time Company C continued to receive honors. Captain Fred H. Stoll and Captain Dean Coonley were company commanders during this period.

Company C, 134th Infantry, was Federally recognized January 26, 1921. This unit served as a Guard of Honor for General Pershing on his visit to Beatrice in August, 1924, and received a warm commendation from him. In 1924 and 1925 the company won the Regimental Efficiency Cup for camp activities, and in 1929, the company became the first Nebraska unit to win the Militia Bureau Trophy for excellence in rifle marksmanship. The company won this trophy six times.

The small-bore rifle team won the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Indoor Rifle Match for Nebraska four years of the six the match was held. Company C was judged the best company in the Regiment for 1930 and 1931, and second best in 1932, 1933, and 1934. The competition ended in 1934. The unit received seven "Very Satisfactory" ratings at its Annual Federal Armory Inspection before this comparative rating was discontinued.

CIVIL DISTURBANCE DUTY:

In 1935, Omaha beckoned again for assistance--this time during a violent street car strike. June 19, 1935, Company C was called out to help maintain order in the city.

WORLD WAR II MOBILIZATION:

It was still "peacetime," but as part of America's mobilization plan against the menace of the Axis, the entire National Guard was mobilized December 23, 1940, at "home stations." Company C men reported to the armory in the City Auditorium and a period of drilling, marching and orientation continued until January 6, when the unit departed for Camp Robinson, Arkansas.

January 6, 1941, The Sun reported: "Beatrice turned out some 3,000 strong in spite of bitter weather and snow-filled air, to bid farewell to Company C, which this morning pulled out for Camp Robinson, Arkansas, for a year in the Army. Beatrice, with a half-morning holiday, gave its company the biggest send-off in the state. Men made up their formation outside the armory at 8:45. Led by the Senior High School Band and followed by 1,200 school children, the company marched up Ella then to Court and the UP station. After storing their rifles, the men had until about 10:20, when the train pulled out, for farewells." Captain Harold Collier was in command at the time. Company C Roster at Camp Robinson, Arkansas: Harrison F. Scott, First Lieutenant; Richard D. Melcher, First Lieutenant; Cecil H. Best, First Lieutenant; L. D. Asher, Second Lieutenant; First Sergeant, Paul R. Carstens; Staff Sergeant, Clyde B. Payne.

SERGEANTS

BAKER, Rex E.
BLACK, Orval V.
BURROUGHS, Edgar S., Jr.
BUSH, Leonard W.
CONLEY, Albert H.
JOOVER, Cleo L.
KENNEDY, Harold R.
LEGATE, Willard E.
McCOWN, Lorin S.
McLAUGHLIN, Merton R.
McRAE, Kenneth J.
MOEHL, Frederic J.
NAUMAN, Donald W.
POTTS, Merwin S.
POTTS, Stanley R.
STARKEY, Raymond K.
VanLIEW, Joe F.

CORPORALS

COATES, Thomas R.
FARIS, James R.
FULTON, Robert W.
HERTZEL, Arthur W.
JONES, Thomas C.
KRUEGER, Charles E.
LAHODNY, Darrell D.
PERSINGER, Leonard A.
REDDICK, Robert H.
SHARROCK, Jack A.
VEON, Clifford H.
WERNER, Robert L.
WEST, Virgil O.
WORDEN, Glennwood R.

PRIVATES, FIRST CLASS

ALWARD, Vincent R.
AMENT, Barney J.
BATES, DeVerne E.
BOETTCHER, Leroy A.
BUCHANAN, James D.
CHURCHILL, Harold
COATES, Lester A.
CRAWFORD, Robert W.
DOBBS, John N.
ENGEL, Donald J.
FULTON, Donald E.
GEORGE, Frederick H.
GILMORE, Lloyd W.
HARMES, Charles J.
HAWKINS, Floyd W., Jr.
HENRY, Carl P.
HOLZENBERG, John G.
HORNEY, Donald M.
HUBBARD, Lloyd E.
JOHNSON, Clifford R.
JOHNSON, Jerome U.
LAMPE, Alvin L.
LARIMORE, Ray E.
LANGLEY, Harvey B.
LENZ, Raymond E.
LePOIDEVIN, John R.
LIEDTKE, John D.
MOOLICK, Harry M.
MONAHAN, William R.
NYDEGGER, William A.
O'KEEFE, David L.
OTTO, Glen W.
POTHAST, Paul A.
POWELL, Ralph D., Jr.
RETCHLESS, Glenn E.
SAGE, Albert O.
SEARS, Eugene E.
SHEPARDSON, Edward C.
SHOFF, Harold J.
SHOWALTER, Earl D.
SMITH, Harold R.
TUMBLIN, Raymond J.
TYNAN, Eugene H.
WALLACE, Dale S.
WILLIAMS, John R.

PRIVATES

BARBER, Glen J.
BEHRENS, Elmer R.
BEHRENS, Lester H.
COMPTON, Lawrence V.
FORKE, Hugo W.
FRIDAY, Fawn F.
GLASGOW, Raymond B.
HOOVER, Chas. W.
JARK, Marvin A.
KITSMILLER, Carl O.
KLEIN, Walter J. P.
McCALL, Charles E.
McMAINS, Donald T.
MIZNER, Omer L.
MOORE, George E.
NEUMAN, Everett C.
PACKARD, George R.
SALTS, Clarence C.
SCHIDLER, Carl R.
SCHIDLER, Herbert D.
SCHIDLER, Leonard O.
SHORES, William
STEVENS, Charles P.
STULL, Donald W. D.
SULLIVAN, Glen P.

ENLISTED MEN

BARNARD, Vernon L.
BRUENSBACH, William M.
BROWN, Ralph S.
BULLER, John R.
BURGER, Earl F.
BURNEY, Gerald A.
COOPER, John G.
CREAMER, Howard E.
CROWLEY, Maurice C.
FAGAN, Robert L.
FISK, Thomas H.
FUJAN, James C.
GEIKEN, Clifford L.
GEIKEN, Marvin J.
GENRICH, William J. H.
GERDES, Thomas O.
GIBSON, Cecil W.
GORACKE, William T.
GRUSSING, John
HARDENBROOK, Donald E.
HARRIS, Arthur G.
HEIDEBRINK, Walter J.
HEMPENLEY, Bernard G.
HENNING, Fred B.
KVECH, John O.
LIGGETT, Charles B.
LYTLE, Kenneth L.
MAGUIRE, Paul L.
McCLARA, DALE M.
McKERNAN, Jeremiah C.
MEINTS, John G.
MEINTS, John H.
MONZINGO, Clyde R.
MUELLER, Henry C.
OTTO, Clarence M.
PACKARD, Virgil E.
PAPKE, Elmer J. W.
POGGENDORF, Richard H.
REHM, Raymond
REMMERS, Ervin H.
ROSZELL, Richard R.
SEVICK, Milton
SHENEMAN, Leland E.
SORENSEN, Freddie A.
TILTON, Harold R.
VALASEK, Ray J.
VANHOUTEN, Horace E.
VEED, Walter W.
WADE, Clarence K.
WALCK, Glenn A.
WHITTAKER, Floyd E.
YOUNG, Charles D.

DAILY REPORTS:

The Sun thereafter seldom missed an issue without a report on Company C at Ft Robinson.

At Robinson, the 134th Infantry Regiment (of which Company C was a part), started an intensive training schedule. During the early part of May, Colonel Butler B. Miltonberger assumed command of the Regiment.

In August the regiment left Camp Robinson for southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana to participate in the largest scale maneuvers ever held in this country. Upon the close of maneuvers, home station once more was Camp Robinson. Upon arrival there, the regiment was received with acclaim to the extent of actually being adopted as native sons of Arkansas by the governor acting in behalf of the citizens of the state.

Meanwhile, Congress had passed the Service Extension Act which put an end to talk of demobilizing the National Guard after a year's training.

WAR IN THE PACIFIC:

Then came Pearl Harbor and exactly seven days after the attack, orders were received for the Regiment to move without delay to Ft. Ord, California.

By day coaches and whatever else could be found, the 134th Infantry and Company C found itself being rapidly transported to the West Coast. Upon arriving at Ft. Ord, the military situation in the Pacific had cleared enough to make it clear that large scale movements were out of the question on the high seas at that time. As a matter of fact, the California coast was looming larger each day as a possible point for the next move by the Japanese.

After a short stay at Camp San Luis Obispo, where the regiment had been ordered in January, the division was ordered to move to the Southern California Sector which they took over.

While on the West Coast the 35th Division was reorganized from a "square" to a "triangular" division, more training was in order. The 2nd Battalion of the 134th Infantry was called to spearhead the seizure of the Andreanoff Islands, adjoining the Japanese base of Kiska.

The following members of Company C were selected as cadre and transferred to bring the 2nd Battalion to authorized strength. Many would later see action on Guadalcanal as members of the 164th Infantry.

Leonard W. BUSH
Donald E. Fulton
Jack A. SHARROCK (Killed)
LeRoy H. BOETTCHER
John N. DOBBS
Carl P. HENRY
Harry M. MOOLICK
Harold R. SMITH
Raymond TUMBLIN

Eugene H. TYNAN
Lawrence CONYSTON
Hugo W. FORKE (Wounded)
Fawn F. FRIDAY
Carl L. KITSMILLER (Killed)
Clarence C. SALTS
Leonard O. SCHIDLER
Wm T. GORACKE (Killed)
Jeremiah C. McKERNAN

Later some of these same men fought with "Merrills Marauders" who won the Presidential citation for their exploits behind Japanese lines in northern Burma.

A NEW BATTALION IS FORMED:

The remainder of the regiment remained on the West Coast, and on Christmas Day, 1942, 900 men and 40 officers were received and formed into a new 2nd Battalion. Immediately following this in January, the division was reconcentrated in Camp San Luis Obispo, and after a short stay for readjustment, headed by train, on March 22 for Camp Rucker, Alabama.

FINAL TEST:

In March, 1943, the 134th Regiment and Company C once again set out on a training program. The period lasted until late November when, the final test that was eventually to lead into combat started--Second Army maneuvers in Tennessee.

In spite of every conceivable bad kind of weather, the 134th emerged in January, 1944, hardened, experienced soldiers.

Although orders to Camp Butner, North Carolina, in January, 1944, for preparation for overseas movement, the stay there was short lived. The 134th Combat Team was ordered to West Virginia for mountain maneuvers.

Upon return to Camp Butner, preparation for overseas movement began in earnest, and on May 12 the first leg of the journey began as the regiment set off by train for the port of embarkation.

The trip to England took 14 days. There the regiment was viewed in various phases of training by General Eisenhower and General Patton. July 3, 1944, the regiment set sail and landed on Omaha Beach July 5th, 1944.

ST. LO:

The first action was when the 2nd Battalion went into the lines on July 8. On July 13th the 3rd Battalion took over a sector north of St. Lo from a unit of the 29th Division.

On the morning of July 15, the entire regiment jumped off on a full scale attack against the heavily fortified city of St. Lo, France.

After three days of the fiercest fighting of the war, St. Lo fell and by July 18 and 19, the city was occupied.

The action won the 1st Battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment "Battle Honors" from the War Department. The War Department "General Orders" dated August 10, 1945, gave a recount of the action.

"The 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment, is cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the vicinity of St. Lo, Normandy, France, from 15 to 19 July, 1944. On the morning of 15 July 1944, the 1st Battalion instituted its initial attack against the enemy in the Villiers-Fossard section, 2½ miles northeast of St. Lo, in a frontal assault on Hill 122, the dominating terrain feature of the German defensive positions before St. Lo.

"The battalion zone was interspersed with sunken roads and checkered with hedgerows composed of large bases of earth surmounted by shrubbery and trees. So strongly emplaced and stubbornly defended were the enemy hedgerow defenses, generally impregnable to all types of fire except direct hits from artillery, that it was necessary for individual soldiers to crawl forward to throw hand grenades in order to silence enemy guns. Under heavy enemy fire of all kinds, across mine fields, the battalion moved forward against seasoned German troops, advancing some 2,100 meters by noon.

"Continuing its determined advance despite increasingly strong resistance and although suffering mounting casualties, the battalion pierced the enemy regimental reserve line, consolidated its position for the night, and repulsed repeated enemy counterattacks, while units on its right and left endeavored to advance to positions abreast the battalion.

"On 17 July the battalion resumed its drive, by dogged determination broke through the enemy's almost impregnable main line of resistance at a great cost to the enemy of men and material, and that night reached the military crest of Hill 122, thereby crushing the main enemy defense in the area. After over-running the remaining enemy position, less than 2,000 yards north of St. Lo, from which point patrols were sent into the town. On 19 July the battalion entered St. Lo to relieve units in defensive positions around its forward perimeter. This operation was conducted smoothly and successfully despite intense fire from enemy guns located in hills south of St. Lo. The Magnificent gallantry, heroism, teamwork, and will to win displayed by the 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment, in this crucial operation, characterized by countless deeds of individual and group heroism, and its tremendously significant part in the action on Hill 122 at the approaches to St. Lo, contributed immeasurably to a major victory for the United States, and reflect the highest credit on the character and training of the officers and men of this unit."

At the time of the action, relatives and friends of men in the 134th Regiment did not know the unit was involved in the St. Lo battle. Wartime secrecy forbade identification of units in battle.

But then came the casualties reports. On July 26, 1944, The Sun reported Sgt. McCall was wounded in action July 15 near St. Lo. He was the first casualty of Company C.

DAILY LIST:

Each day thereafter new casualties were reported as relatives were notified either by the War Department or by the men.

S-Sgt Harvey Langley of Beatrice was the first reported killed in action. Word was received in Beatrice July 31.

By August 7, at least 28 casualties had been reported--including 10 killed in action. Those listed as killed in action were: Staff Sgt. Harvey Langley, S-Sgt. Floyd Whittaker, Sgt. Fred Sorensen, Pfc. John Meints of Pickrell, Pfc. Vernon Barnard of Cortland, Pfc. Marvin Roseman of Diller, T-Sgt. Robert Fulton, S-Sgt. Floyd Hawkins, S-Sgt. William Nydegger, Sgt. Charles P. Stevens.

Those reported wounded in action were Pfc. Clarence Otto, Tech. Sgt. Cleo Hoover, Pfc. Raymond B. Glasgow, S-Sgt. Virgil West, S-Sgt. Alvin Lampe, Sgt. Dean Liedtke, Herb Schidler, Freddie George, Roy Larimore, Eugene McCall, Don Engel, John Grant Cooper, Don Stoll, Clifford Johnson. George Larimore, and Johnson were later killed in action.

A letter published August 22 in The Sun by S-Sgt Charles Young of Filley to his parents told of the price at St. Lo to Company C and the Beatrice area.

It read, in part: "We took the town, but, oh, the price we had to pay. I cannot tell the names of the boys; they will be in The Sun before long. There are so few of us left you would never know it was Company C."

Lt. Col. Alfred Boatsman of Beatrice was in command of the 1st Battalion at the time of St. Lo. Capt. Francis Mason of Beatrice and Capt. Lorin "Lou" McCown were company commanders. Capt. Harlan S. Hefflinger of Beatrice was S-3 (operations officer) of the 1st Battalion.

STIRRING FEATURE:

In one attack by the 1st Battalion supported by tanks, Lawrence Youngman, Omaha World-Herald reporter with the regiment, wrote: "One of the most stirring features of that drive was the manner in which Capt. McCown repeatedly climbed onto the side of tanks to lead and direct the drive." Capt. McCown was wounded in action during the course of battle.

A few days later, the regiment moved on south and fought all the way to the Vire River. This objective was reached on August 5. Thus, after only 22 days of fighting, the 134th Infantry Regiment had broken the main defensive line of the Germans and the armor poured through the break.

Upon being relieved from the lines near the Vire River, the regiment was moved south to a new concentration area and stayed there only a few hours. Leaving, the outfit moved to an attack against the enemy in the Mortain area. For seven days the 134th pushed forward against the famed Das Reich Division of the German's crack SS troops. Upon being relieved from the sector, the 134th moved on south and, turning east, became the southern spearhead for General Patton's Third Army, pushing rapidly through LeMans, Orleans, Montargis, Joigny, and finally going into Division reserve near Aix en Othe.

ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION:

Company C was again awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for action in the vicinity of Habkirchen, Germany, from 12 to 21 December, 1944.

The orders read: "On 12 December 1944, Company C, 134th Infantry Regiment, supported by a heavy weapons platoon, was assigned the mission of leading an assault across the Blies River to establish a bridgehead at Habkirchen, Germany. The river crossing was instituted at 0500 in assault boats. The swift current and debris-covered water caused several of the assault boats to be wrecked, with the attendant loss of eight lives.

Company C with its supporting heavy weapons platoon, the first elements of the Twelfth Corps to effect a landing in Germany, fully exploited the element of surprise to establish a foothold in two buildings on the water front, capturing a number of Germany prisoners.

The alerted enemy then subjected the attacking force to heavy fire of all types, despite which Company C and its machine gun platoon contrived to capture six more buildings, in many instances only after sharp hand-to-hand fighting.

The unit then established a holding position and, during the course of the day, repulsed a number of enemy counterattacks. Heavy enemy fire isolated the troops on the enemy shore, and a rifle company which undertook to follow up the attacking force lost the majority of its strength in the effort. At nightfall on 13 December the enemy launched a counterattack, utilizing an infantry battalion supported by assault guns.

Company C and its supporting heavy weapons platoon repulsed the enemy attack with a marked exhibition of courage and determination after a three-hour period of fierce fighting, during the course of which combat engineers established a foot ridge across the river, enabling reserves to reach the beleaguered force.

The following morning, Company C and its supporting unit again repulsed an enemy counterattack, the impetus of which carried it within hand grenade range. The repulse of the enemy counterattack was followed by an expansion of the bridgehead to include occupation of commanding ground in the vicinity. This expansion resulted in the denial to the enemy of observation of the river and precluded the delivery of accurate enemy artillery fire thereon.

The expansion of the bridgehead further resulted in the establishment of a bridge across the river over which supplies were transported to the attack forces, the footbridge constructed by the engineers the previous night having been demolished by enemy fire.

Despite heavy casualties, Company C remained in active combat with the enemy in that vicinity until the regiment was relieved from the sector on 21 December 1944.

The action of Company C in effecting a river crossing, establishing and expanding a bridgehead in the face of determined enemy opposition by superior force and formidable obstacles, and despite mounting casualties, is in accord with the highest traditions of the military service."

Again in the Battle of the Bulge (officially "Ardennes") the entire 134th Regiment was cited thus awarding Company C a total of three Distinguished Unit Citations.

FRENCH AWARD:

Company C was a part of the 134th Infantry Regiment which was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for participation in the battle at St. Lo. This medal was presented to the 134th Infantry in a ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri, in June, 1946 by the French Ambassador to the United States.

A translation of the award reads: "Magnificent unity engaged in the battle of La Manche. Was particularly remarked for its bravery and its combat spirit at the time of the attack on Hill 122 on July 15, 1944. After having taken by assault this powerful position, fortified, mined and occupied by an enemy very superior in number, the 134th Infantry Regiment exploited its initial success, ending in St. Lo which they disputed during a week and decided to resist the enemy at all cost."

Following the war, the 134th Regiment was returned to the United States and deactivated at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky on November 21, 1945. In October of 1946, it was reorganized again as the Nebraska National Guard.

COMPANY C BATTLE CASUALTIES (WORLD WAR II):

Wounded Officers	10	Officers killed in action or died of wounds	8
Enlisted Men	321	Enlisted Men killed in action or died of wounds	119
Injured Officers	2	Total Officers	20
Injured Enlisted Men	57	Total Enlisted Men	497

DECORATIONS:

- * Normandy
- * Northern France
- * Rhineland
- * Ardennes
- * Central Europe

Individual members and former members of Company C decorated:

SILVER STAR:

BEAULIEU, Joe O. V.
BOATSMAN, Alford C.
BOTTARI, Creste F.
COASTES, Thomas R.
DENNY, Wm. M.
GENRICH, Wm. J. H.
HEDGE, Willard C.
HEMPERLEY, Bernard Q.
JAROY, Howard J.
KELSOE, Joseph E.
MASON, Francis C.

McCOWN, Lorin S.
MEINTS, John Q.
MELOCHICK, George
OGDEN, Raymond
RUMEA, Cuselem R.
STORM, Rex L.
SORENSEN, Freddie A.
VIEHE, Dallas W.
WALTON, James T.
WRIGHT, Gilbert T.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL:

HOGAN, Marvin R.
LYONS, William J.

BRONZE STAR:

ASHER, L. D.
ASTA, Albert P.
BELL, Fernand P.
BOATSMAN, Alford C. (2OLC)
BOWEN, David L.
CARSTENS, Paul R.
CHAPPELL, Wallace P.
CONLEZ, Albert H.
COOKSEY, William E.
COX, Conley G.
DAVIS, John E. (OLC)
DENNY, William M. (OLC)
EVANS, G. W.
FENNESSY, Francis J.
FIELER, Lawrence J.
FLORES, Gilberto
FULMER, Paul D.
GERDES, Thomas C.
HANNA, Michael (OLC)
HARDENBROOK, Donald E.
HAWKINS, Floyd W., Jr.
HEFFELFINGER, Harlan B. (OLC)
HOGUE, Robert N.
JONES, Thomas R.
KARLOVICH, Robert W.

KEANEY, Joe J.
KLEIN, Walter J. P.
KRYDER, George M.
LANGLEY, Harvey B.
MADDEN, Nelsen E.
MAJEWSKI, Chester
MASON, Francis C.
McCLARA, Dale M.
MELOCHICK, George
MOSHER, James E.
MOORE, James R.
NEEL, Daniel A.
NOSSER, Johnnie
PARKER, Donald
PATRICK, Charles H.
PRITT, Rodney R. (OLC)
REESE, Norman C.
RICKETTS, Charles M.
ROBLES, Pete Z.
RUHING, Lawrence R.
SADDLER, Glen W. (OLC)
SUMOSKI, Steve A.
THOMAS, Howard D.
WILLIS, Charles F.
YOUNG, Charles D.

COMPANY C COMMANDERS:

Gen. L. W. Colby
Capt. A. H. Hollingsworth
Capt. Penrod
Capt. Charles Brewster
Capt. Lawrence Jones
Capt. Robert Emery
Col. Fred Stoll
Capt. Dean E. Coonely
Capt. Harold L. Collier
1st Lt. Harrison F. Scott
Capt Kido
Lt. Col. John E. Davis (In Action)

1st Lt. Leeta J. Casner (In Action)
Capt. Michael Hanna (In Action)
Capt. George Molocheck (In Action)
Capt. William Denny (In Action)
Capt. Wallace P. Chappel
Lt. Ralph Hutton
Capt. Robert Norton
Capt. Jeff Warren
Capt. John J. Siefkes
Capt. Kenneth Dermann
Capt. Harold Adams
Capt. Harold Schwab

COMPANY C MEN WHO COMMANDED OTHER UNITS:

Company A:

Loren McCown

Company B:

Francis C. Mason

Company D:

Alford C. Boatsman

1st Battalion:

Fred Stoll
Dean E. Coonely
Alford C. Boatsman
Francis C. Mason

3rd Battalion:

Harlan B. Hellelfinger

Regimental Staff:

Executive Officer: Fred Stoll
Alford C. Boatsman

S-3: Dean E. Coonely
Alford E. Boatsman

WORLD WAR I ROSTER:

Company Officers:

Capt. Chas. L. Brewster
1st Lieutenant Harry A. Austin
1st Lieutenant Robert J. Emery
1st Lieutenant Arthur B. Sperry
2nd Lieutenant Grover B. Harman
2nd Lieutenant Willaim S. Whitfield

Sergeants:

1st Sgt. Chas. Courtney
Supply Sgt. Harold Pagris
Mess Sgts: Merle Coon
 Andy Norman
 Fred Koslowski
 Samuel McKie
 Edgar F. Hackstadt
 Clarence Richards
 Roy Cornett
 John Leidtke
 Joseph F. Zastera
 Thomas Hepperka
 A. R. Skinner
 Clifford Thornburg
 Lee De LeBarre

Corporals:

Ernest Albers	Chas. Hinkle
Sherman Plank	James Rulla
Fred Stoll	Holman Valentine
Owen Griffin	John N. Wolf
Arthur Pileher	Elmer Baker
Jesse Blodgett	Earl Barnett
Burlin D. Basteau	Chas. Sine
Peter Lemere	William Bradford
George Whiterlake	Albert Lowe
Frank Tyndall	Clarence Hazelton
Mervin Kyle	Leo Lang
George Langdale	John Lynch
Wilber McLaughlin	Leland Mathews
Harry Rorahaugh	Earl Reimund
Bryan Tague	John Thober
Emil Schwartz	Chas. Van Buskirk
Robi R. Wilson	

Cooks:

Harold Gildings
Harry Parker
Joe Fowler
Donald Oden
Zoid Twist

WORLD WAR I ROSTER (Continued):

Mechanics: Walter M. Hawkins
General R. Roller

Privates: Bascom Allison
Don Austin
Arlie Ball
Harry Bartow
Jesse Bear
Abe Bernstein
Arthur Bittings
James Billingsly
Louis Big Bear
Sam Big Bear
Chas. Blackbird
Omar Boehme
Carl Brockleman
Ed Brandt
Louis Buchanan
Wm. Burroughs
Chas. Clay
Sam Cook
Ben Compton
Howard Conover
Delbert Cummings
Earl Davis
Frank Davis
Jack Davis
Alfred Darnell
Paul Decora
Tall Decora
George Delaney
Thomas Dick
Allen Douglas
Edward Doerck
Michael Dougherty
Lester England
Chas. Ewing
Chas. Frankhouser
Don Ford
David Four Cloud
William Free
Henry Fox
Walter Frieberg
Frank Frisbie
Louis Grey Hair
Leo Gilpin
Frank Grant

John Scheik, Jr.
John Winslow

Frank M. Grant
Douglas Grizzly Bear
Stewart Griffin
LaVerne Griffin
Clifton Graham
Foster Green
John Gillett
Geo. Habenicht
Henry Harms
Boyd Harman
Oscar Harmon
James Hamilton
Wilbur Harden
Arthur Harris
Carl Herndon
Edward Heerton
George Hewett
Loren Hicks
Oswald Hornas
Bert Hull
Frank Huntling
Mathew Iron
Albert Johnson
John Kendall
Archie Kleman
Earl Kleppinger
Walter Kloeckner
Robert Kreziger
Ernest Kreger
Ernest Kees
Cecil Lash
George Langdale
Chris Langdale
Ernest Langdale
Ira Langley
George Little
Ralva Lutcavish
John Marshall
Gordon Mason
Hyrarn Magnusson
Thos. Mallory
Ernest Metzger
George Morris
Dewey Mosher

WORLD WAR I ROSTER (Continued):

Privates (Continued):

John Morehead
Alfred Menke
Alfred Miller
Mike Mitchell
John Murray
Howard McKee
Bryon McKee
Rex McCauley
James McCauley
Chas. Neuman
George Nicholas
Kassin Nakoie
Patrick O'Donnell
Floyd O'Bryan
Wm. Orluff
Albert Ossowski
Jasen Owens
Ira Parsons
Clyde Peak
George Philips
LeRoy Phelan
Thos. Poe
Anton J. Podany
Henry Priest
Alex Prophet
Wm. Purtzer
Ed Quathamdr
Fred Rahatz
Henry Remmers
Cecil Rhodes
Lon Richardson
Floyd Rife
Bert Rohwedder
Oscar Rosenberg
Frank Robertson
Henry Robinson
John Robinson
Samuel Robinson
Newton Robinson
Louis Robinson
Alex Sample
Ed Sandfort
Renj. Schutt
Gustof Schwartz
Elmer Schellin
Jos. Schiermeyer
James Scott
Peter Sharpback
Ralph Shepherd

Clyde Shores
James Smith
Ernest Smethers
James Snyder
Charles Snowball
Chris Snow
Arthur Strothman
Henry Suhr
Roy Suiter
George St. Cyr
Harry Taylor
Dale Terry
Fred Thober
Will Thomas
Clarence Tunberg
Joseph Twin
Wallace Tyndall
Henry Vollstadt
Henry Weimers
Arthur West
Burrel Walrod
Ivan White
Carl Waechter
Ora Wantz
Reginald Ward
Arthur Walker
Chas. Warner
Fred Weise
Casper Westerman
Alex Whiteside
L. Whitewater
Marvin White
Francis White
Joseph Whitewood
Fred Wichman
LeRoy Williams
Felix Wilson
Albert Witkowski
Herman Wolken
William Woods
Chas. Woods
Chas. Woodard
Everett Woodard
L. Young Thunder
Elmer Young
Mike Zadina
Godfrey Zlomke
John Zarodny

WORLD WAR II ROSTER:

COMPANY C, 134TH INFANTRY (December 1940 - November 1945)

*Killed In Action

Company Staff:

Capt. John E. Davis
1st Lt. George M. Kryder
1st Lt. John J. Mullin
1st Lt. Charles E. Willis

2nd Lt. Michael Hanna
*2nd Lt. Raymond Ogden
*1st Sgt. Thomas F Coates

Tech Sergeants:

ALWARD, Vincent R.
CONLEY, Albert H.
ENGEL, Donald J.
*HAWKINS, Floyd W., Jr.
HERTZEL, Arthur W.
LAMPE, Alvin L.
*LANGLEY, Harvey B.
*LARIMORE, Ray E.

LIEDTKE, John D.
*MEINTS, John G.
*NYDEGGER, William A.
STARKEY, Raymond K.
STULL, Donald W. D.
WEST, Virgil O.
*WHITTAKER, Floyd E.
YOUNG, Charles D.

Sergeants:

ALLAN, John
BIXBY, Herbert E.
*BOTTARI, Oreste F.
*BROWN, Ivan Q.
KARSA, Peter
LAKE, Leonidas

McCALL, Charles E.
REHM, Raymone
*SORENSEN, Freddie A.
*STEVENS, Charles P.
VALASEK, Ray J.

Technicians Grade 4:

GRANDY, Vern L.
WEINSTEIN, Morris

Corporal:

ROWLANDS, William R.

Technicians Grade 5:

HARDENBROOK, Donald E.
HENNING, FRED B.
McCLARE, Dale M.

OTTO, Glen W.
PETERSON, Selmer S.

Privates First Class:

*ALFORD, Fred S.
BARKER, Robert E.
*BARNARD, Vernon L.
BASHAM, Richard S.
BASS, Sylvan
BASTER, George W.
*BEAULIEU, Joseph O. V.
*BERTIG, Merco
*BLACKBURN, John D.

BRANDON, Robert T.
BURGER, Earl F.
CALDWELL, Willie
CARTER, Ancel A.
COOPER, John G.
CORNEAU, Adrien A.
CREAMER, Howard E.
CRENSHAW, Buford K.
*CRIDER, Frederick F.

WORLD WAR II ROSTER (Continued):

Privates First Class (Continued):

DEATON, James H.	MURPHY, Joseph F.
DeMARCO, Joseph	NELSON, Eugene A.
DeNARDO, Nicholas	NELSON, Sanford H.
DRAKE, Elliott J.	NICHOLS, Junior R.
*ECHOLS, Hubert J.	NIEBUR, Florence N.
EHLERS, Frank A.	NIPP, Henry E.
*FAIRCHILD, Donald E.	*O'CONNOR, Thomas F.
GAMBLE, Elmer H.	OGG, Rolla F.
*GEIKEN, Marvin J.	OTTO, Clarence M.
GENRICH, William J. H.	OWENS, William H.
GIBLER, Earl F.	PANGERL, Raymond A.
GLASGOW, Raymond B.	PASTIGLIONE, Bartelomeo A.
HARVEY, Anthony J.	POGGENDORF, Richard H.
HOUGEN, Marvin R.	*RAMOS, Pedro V.
HREHA, Paul L.	REDD, Harry J.
*HUBBARD, Lloyd E.	RIGNEY, John J.
JACOBSON, Emmett I.	ROBLES, Pete Z.
JOCHUMSEN, Rodman B.	RUCINSKI, Bernard E.
KASTEL, Wilber F.	RUMPCA, Anselem R.
KESNEY, Joseph J.	SCHIDLER, Carl R.
KENT, Thomas W.	SCHIDLER, Herbert D.
*KLEIN, Walter J. P.	SHENEMAN, Leland E.
*KYLE, Eldon L.	*SMITH, Everett C.
*LARSON, Arvid G.	SOLTES, William C.
LAW, William H., Jr.	*SPAKES, Howard
*LEE, Luther H.	*SPILLER, Morgan L.
LEEPER, Ray M.	STRICKLIN, Marion K.
LUCAS, Charles F.	SUTTON, Kinney L.
LUEDERS, Elmer J.	*VAN HOUTEN, Horace E.
LYNCH, Marion E.	VIGDAL, William W.
*MADDEN, Nelson E.	WALLACE, Clifford
MAHR, Martin T.	WALTON, James T.
MARCHESE, Sam J.	WATKINS, Gilbert E.
McLEMORE, Auburn C.	WEESE, Thomas P.
MEAD, Harry W.	WELSH, Harry D.
*MEINTS, John H.	WIGGINS, Horace E.
MERDAN, Lawrence L.	*WILKINSON, Herbert P.
MOE, Earl C.	WILSON, Grover E.
MOORE, Samuel J.	WINTER, Frederick A.
*MORRIS, Richard G.	WOOD, Homer G.
MORRIS, Sam J.	

WORLD WAR II ROSTER (Continued):

Privates:

ALES, Donald C.
ATKINS, Ivan D.
BARBER, Glen J.
BARNEY, John A.
BARTHOLOMEW, John J.
BATES, Robert O.
BONCZAR, John J.
BOUCHER, Arthur D.
*BRINKLEY, Herman D,
*BUFFINGA, Donald J.
BURGESS, Walter L.
*CORNELL, Stanley, Jr.
CRISCIULLO, John
CROSS, James J.
DANIELS, Louis S., Jr.
DIEHL, Elmer
*GIANNONE, Benjamin
GLYSEN, Richard C.
HELTON, Robert J., Jr.
*HICKS, Grady T.
JOHNSON, W. D.
LEE, Herbert L.
MANGANARES, Juan J., Jr
MARENO, James A.
*MARINO, Louis A.
MIRESTES, Gust
NICOLETTO, Olico
OZBUN, Dale W.
PELUSO, Michael
PERRONE, Anthony G.
PETTY, John W.
PRITT, Rodney R.
SCHAFFER, Theodore L.
*STEPHENSON, Wilson M.
STOKER, George B.
SUMMERS, Leslie E.
*TERRY, Audney
THOMAS, Millard E.
*TOBIN, Bernard
UBREY, Robert J., Jr.
VETTER, Robert L.
WOLFGRAM, Edward H.

Over 95 percent of the men were wounded.

COMPANY C ROSTER - 1957:

Captain:

SIEFKES, John J.

First Lieutenant:

FINK, Richard E.

Second Lieutenant:

ELWELL, Robert J.

McCOWN, Max G.

SCHEIDELER, Warren E.

Chief Warrant Officer:

WALLS, Luther Jr.

Master Sergeant:

FISHER, Duane K.

LICHTY, Harold E.

RAMMING, John E.

SCHROEDER, Wayne E.

SIEFKES, Ernest D.

Sergeant First Class:

BAKER, George H.

BUSBOOM, Gerald E.

KELLEY, Harold L.

PROBST, Larry L.

SCHROEDER, Allen L.

SCHULTZ, Kenneth F.

SCHUSTER, Edwin W.

TUCKER, James O.

VANOVER, Billy W.

WALLMAN, Eldon W.

Sergeant:

BARTLETT, David R.

BEAN, Kenneth E.

BUSS, Dallen L.

KOENIG, Ronald J.

LENNERS, Henry O.

LOHMEYER, Dewane D.

MORGAN, Duane H.

PARDE, Kenneth E.

RUDDER, Marvin L.

SCHEIDELER, Marvin A.

SCHMIDT, Lorin B.

STIEFVATER, Joe E., Jr.

THOMPSON, Bona L.

VAN ALLEN, Jack W.

VANOVER, Morgan J.

WALKER, Marvin L.

WALTKE, Clarence W.

YOHE, John W.

Specialist Second Class:

CRAMER, Dale R.

STOKEBRAND, Norman L.

Specialist Third Class:

BRANDT, Raymond W.

BROLHORST, Virgil D.

BUHR, Donald J.

CACEK, Marion J.

CREEK, Cecil T., Jr.

DELL, Duane L.

DORN, Harold W.

McKINNEY, Donald L.

NICKESON, Keith A.

O'DONNELL, Robert D.

OTTO, Lenhart M.

PEDERSEN, Charles D.

PHELPS, Robert J.

RUDDER, Johnny G.

SANFORD, Ronald L.

SCHEELE, Allen E.

SCHMALE, Dwayne J.

SCHONEWEIS, Harlan D.

TRAUERNICHT, Walter G.

WHITEHEAD, Larry E.

WOOGIE, Doanld D.

Privates First Class:

BAKER, Darryl D.

BAUMANN, John J., Jr.

BOHRER, Paul A.

BUHR, Leonard A.

BUSS, Marvin H.

CROSBY, Patrick A.

De BUHR, Roger M.

GRONEWOLD, Lawrence W.

HAUSMAN, Larry L.

HUSTON, Kenneth W.

IDEUS, Lawrence G.

JENSEN, Verle H.

JURGENS, Alvin W.

LIENEMANN, Aldean J.

MASCHMEIER, Kenneth E.

McCOURTNEY, Billy A.

McCOWN, Lonnie R.

OTTERSBERG, John H.

PANEITZ, Eugene L.

RUYLE, Marvin

SCHUSTER, Norman L.

SIEFKES, Harlan A.

VITOSH, Melvin D.

WHITE, Wallace G.

COMPANY C ROSTER - 1957 (Continued):

Privates First Class (Continued):

WILHELM, Allen L.
WRIGHT, Roger D.
ZIMMERMAN, Orlalee M.

Privates E-2:

ADAM, Melvin A.
BUHR, Le Roy J.
BUSBOOM, Duane J.
CACEK, Wayne E.
De BUHR, Melvin R.
FUNKHOUSER, John W.
GRONE, Marvin L.
HOFELING, Reinhart
JURGENS, Roger G.
KISLING, Robert A.
KISLING, Russel L.
KUPER, Melvin L.
LENERS, Ronald D.
LIENEMANN, Virgil R.
McCREA, Donald E.
MEYER, Merlin M.
NIEMEYER, Richard F.
OLTMAN, Duane H.
OTTO, Delmar D.
PARDE, Leo D.
PROBST, Billy D.
PROBST, Douglas J.
RADEMACHER, Melvin G.
SCHMIDT, Donald E.
SPILKER, Marvin F.
SPRAGUE, Daniel J.
VAN LANINGHAM, Frederick L.
VITOSH, Arnold G.
VITOSH, Maurice L.
VONTZ, Kale C.
WILCOX, Charles I.
WHITEHEAD, Eldon L.
WILLIAMS, Edward A.
ZUMBAHLEN, Thomas H.

Privates E-1:

BOHLKEN, Herman M.
RAHE, Lowell C.
SARGENT, James R.
SCHONEWISE, John H.
WIESE, Willard R.

HQ COMPANY:

Hq, and Hq. Company, 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry was the first National Guard unit to be organized in Beatrice after World War II, under the command of Captain Francis Mason. Later Mason was advanced to commanding officer of the 1st Battalion and promoted to lieutenant colonel. Captain Oscar L. Clarke, Jr. and Captain William Weaver followed Mason as commanding officers.

Hq. and Hq. Company shares two of the Distinguished Unit citations with Company C--for the Battle of the Bulge and the St. Lo action. The company also holds with Company C, the French Croix de Guerre.

Preparations to reactivate Company C here were made in 1947. Men were enlisted in Hq. Company as a "holding company" pending official reactivation of Company C. Captain Clarke was assigned the "non-existent" company with the duties of recruiting.

COMPANY C REACTIVATED:

On November 11, 1947, Company C was officially reactivated in Beatrice under the command of Lt. Ralph Hutton. Lt. Robert Norton, later replaced Hutton.

The 134th Infantry Regiment was now assigned to the 34th Infantry Division. The division represented units from both Nebraska and Iowa. During the 1950s, Company C was continually recognized as the "Best in the Regiment". Under the leadership of Captain John J. Siefkes (later colonel) the unit earned the Covented Eisenhower Trophy as the BEST unit in Nebraska in 1957.

On May 1, 1959, the Nebraska National Guard reorganized. Regimental units were reorganized into Two Battle Groups. Beatrice retained the Battalion Headquarters Company and two platoons of Company C. The balance of Company C was located in Fairbury.

On April 1, 1963, the state again reorganized. This would see the First Battalion redesignated as the Second Battalion, 67th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized). The designation of Company C was now transferred to Seward and Hastings. In 1969, Company C's colors were located at Hastings.

35TH DIVISION RETURNS:

Department of the Army plans in 1983 called for the reactivation of the 35th Infantry Division (Santa Fe) as a Heavy Division in 1984 and 1985. Nebraska would share membership in the new division with units from Kansas, Colorado, Missouri and Kentucky. The October 1, 1985 reorganization would again see the Beatrice unit redesignated as Company C, 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry, 67th Brigade, 35th Infantry Division.

Company C's colors had returned to Beatrice after an absence of twenty-six years.

ANNUAL REUNIONS:

Company C has had an annual reunion continuously since 1935. The following excerpts highlight elements of each reunion. Comradery, loyalty and dedication have always been the strength of Company C's ranks. All present and past members of Company C share a deep rooted moral obligation to annually convene and maintain our proud tradition. (LAH WE LAH HIS)

THE COMPANY C REUNIONS:

A group of Company C members met at the Legion Hall in Beatrice on August 28, 1935, for the purpose of holding a reunion of veterans of Company C, 134th Infantry. T. A. Hepperten, temporary chairman, called the meeting to order. Capt. C. L. Brewster was elected president by acclamation and T. A. Hepperlen was elected Sec-Treas. Both to serve until the first reunion, to be held in 1936. July 4, 1936 was set as the tentative date, for the first reunion, but was later set for Sunday, August 30, 1936.

August 30, 1936, World War I veterans of Company C met for their first reunion at Graff's Grove. Forty-six members answered roll call. Bob Warren was elected President and Fred Rahatz, Sec-Treas. August 29, 1937, was the date set for the next reunion. A splendid feed with refreshments were handled in fine shape by Loren Abbott. Talks were given by Brewster, Tyndal and Bradford. There is no record of the 1937 and 1938 reunions, but the roll shows there were fifty attending.

August 27, 1939, Meeting called to order by President Smethers. Guests were introduced. 1940 meeting was set for last Sunday in August. John Schiek was elected President, and Fred Koslowski, Sec-Treas. Vote of thanks were given to those making reunion a success.

August 25, 1940, Meeting was called to order by Ernest Smethers, acting for President Schiek. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Salute to the flag was given in behalf of our departed comrades. Discussion was held on having husbands and wives at reunions. Complaint was voiced of insufficient publicity. Cecil Lash was elected President, and Harold Pagels, Sec-Treas. Last Sunday in August was set for the 1941 meeting.

August 31, 1941, Meeting called to order by President Lash. Talks given by Brewster, Cecil Shaw, Barton Doerck, Bob Emery. Letter of thanks sent to Ed Graff for use of grove. Motion passed to invite new Company C to the reunion in 1942. Charles Van Buskirk was elected President, and Clifford Thornburg, Sec-Treas.

August 30, 1942, After usual ceremonies, the motion was made to return the old Company C flag to Company C. Ed Brandt was elected President, and Henry Fox, Sec-Treas.

August 23, 1943, After regular ceremony, talks were given by Brandt, Brewster, Broschinski, and Capt. Smethers told about Company H. John Liedtke was elected President, and William McLaughlin, Sec-Treas.

August 27, 1944, Pictures were taken. Robert Warren elected President, and John Schiek, Sec-Treas.

August 26, 1945, Meeting called to order. Usual ceremony. Company flag of 1898 with 45 stars displayed. Suggested that flag of 1898 be sent into quartermaster for reconditioning. Al Block, elected President, and Joe Van Liew, Vice President. Cecil Rhodes, Sec-Treas.; Tom Hepperlen, Historian.

August 26, 1946, Capt. Gormley elected President, M. McLaughlin, Vice President; Pete Jones, Sec-Treas.

August 26, 1947, Capt. Brewster gave talk on departed comrade, Robert Warren. Committee of three appointed to find a permanent place for Company C colors. Elected: Henry Fox, President; Clif Thornburg, Vice President; Block, Sec-Treas.

August 29, 1948, Guests gave their thanks for being invited to meeting. Comrades Rodabaugh and Hackstaedt had passed away. Harold Conley elected President; George Moore, Vice President; Al Block, Sec-Treas.

August 27, 1949, Brewster suggested since more than one Skipper was President, he would like to drop the name. He also read a letter from Pug Coon of Glendale. The letter mentioned the passing of Norman, Radebaugh, Betting, and Warren. Mason gave history of Company C. Recorded that Harrison, Scott, Don Engel, Huntberg, and Paul passed away. Francis Mason elected President; Joe Van Liew, Vice President; Al Block, Sec-Treas.

August 27, 1950, Ernie Smethers reported on flag, also Colby medal is still worn by Company C. Suggested that committee work on larger turn out. Joe Van Liew, President; Harry Pagels, Vice President; Al Block, Sec.

September 2, 1951, Meeting was held at Legion Hall due to rain. First Sergeant Genrich talked on why more members should take interest. Discussion of membership cards. Morton, President; John Siefkes, Vice President, Al Block, Sec.

August 31, 1952, Meeting again held at Graff's Grove. Capt. Brewster gave inspiring talk about departed comrades Fisher and Charles Van Buskirk. Lieutenant Block gave a talk on conditions in Lorea. Suggested that each member bring a new member for next year. R. Zehring, President; Harry Pagels, Vice President; Al Block, Sec.

August 30, 1953, Harry Pagel opened meeting in absence of President. Tom Hepperlen acted as Secretary in place of Al Block, who passed away. All bowed heads in salute to departed comrades. William Higgins, President; Raymond Starkey, Vice President; K. Baker, Secretary.

August 29, 1954, Raymond Starkey opened the meeting in the absence of Higgins. Harry Bartow and Harry Parker listed as departed comrades. Capt. Brewster missed meeting due to asthma. First time financial report--\$45.00 carried forward from last year. Alvin Lampe, President; Orvin Andersen, Vice President; Herman Genrich, Secretary.

28 August 1955, Graff's Grove: President Alvin Lampe called the meeting to order. A moment of silence observed for departed comrades. Bob Davis and Ralph Coon were reported to have passed from among us during the past year. Captain Brewster and Tom Hepperlen gave very interesting talks about WWI. Herman Genrich talked about WWII. George Baker from the present Company C gave a very nice talk. Alvin Lampe was elected President; Virgil West Vice; Herman Genrich Sec/Treas.

26 August 1956, Graff's Grove: Meeting called to order. Minutes approved as read. Moment of silence. John Rigney reported as passing away this last year (Veteran of WWII). Harold Pagels was asked to find the location of old flag of the 134th Infantry. New business: William Broschinski was reported as seriously ill with cancer in Lincoln. Secretary asked to send card. Two members of the Spanish-American War, Arlo A. Skinner and Robert J. Emery, gave short talks. John Liedke gave a very interesting talk on WWI. Alvin Lampe gave a talk on WWII. George Baker from the present guard unit (Company C), reported the best camp ever. John Ramming stated that Company C received a citation as the best improved company at camp the past year. A nice hand was given to Leslie D. Kennedy for being nominated as the best soldier of the year (Company C). A suggestion was made that the unit bring out and display some of their latest equipment next year. Ernest Albers was reported as the furthestest away (Montica, CA), and next most distant was Eugene Nelson (Little Falls, MN). Officers: Raymond Starkey elected President; Charlie Young, Vice President; Barney Ament Sec/Treas. Motion made by Lt Robert Fralin that a flag pole be erected with a plaque at the base designating location of Company C reunions. Motion carried.

25 August 1957, Graff's Grove: Meeting opened with moment of silence for our departed comrades. Passing members were Marvin Kyle, Lewis Robinson, Earl Davis, Bert Watts, and Harris Holliday from Spanish-American War. Talk on flagpole...whether or not to erect one. Captain Chas Brewster gave talk on importance in maintaining meetings, meeting old friends, keeping contacts. We always consider a talk by Captain Brewster as a privilege. Present Company C was mentioned. Should be at meetings. They are doing great things and should be included! Captain John Siefkes gave a talk and showed plaque won by current Company C Weapons Platoon. Company C won five medals out of eleven. Siefkes mentioned tougher training being given Company C. He also solicited help to get a new Beatrice Armory. President elected was John Ramming from Company C. Raymond Rehm elected Vice President; and Dennis O'Keefe Sec/Treas.

31 August 1958, Shrine Park: Meeting opened with moment of silence for departed comrades at which time flag was raised by Vice President Raymond Rehm, Robert Fralin, and Robert Elwell. Mention was made of the names of the departed including Captain Charles Brewster, William Broschinski, Oliver Giddings, and Abe Bernstien. Short talk given by President John Ramming on events at 1958 camp at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Company C made a very good record as usual. Member which reported earliest encampment at Camp Ashland, NE was Tom A. Hepperlen in 1908. Motion made and seconded to carry over same officers for second year, having election of officers for a two year period instead of one year. Carried.

30 August 1959, Shrine Park: Meeting opened with moment of silence for the departed comrades. Flag was raised by Vice President Raymond Rehm and Harold Smith. A resume of the 1959 encampment was given by Lt Elmer Karstensen. Departed members; Spanish-American War, Bill Hall; World War I, Austin O'Donnell, Ross Skinner and Emmet Powell. Tom A Hepperlen brought a group of old pictures which he gave to the organization. Arlie Ball is critically ill in the Veterans Hospital. Explanation given of Company C reorganization by John Siefkes, currently Assistant S-3 in the new Battle Group. Charles Young elected President; Alvin Lampe elected Vice; and Jerry Johnson elected Sec/Treas.

28 August 1960, Shrine Park: The meeting was called to order by President Charles Young. A moment of silence was given in honor of departed comrades during the previous year. Arlie Ball was the only one mentioned. The flag was raised at this time by Raymond Rehm and Charles Petersen. Hugo Forke offered to donate a flag. Motion carried to accept. Present First Sgt. of Company C gave resume of current summer camp and also a tour of flood duty at Beatrice during spring flood. Company C photos and records were brought to reunion by Lt. Jack Van Allen. The subject of other old pictures offered by members was brought up. This will be taken care of by Sgt. Ramming. Captain John Siefkes mentioned that he would like to have everyone come to Lincoln to see the new Guard building.

27 August 1961, Shrine Park: Meeting called to order by President Charles Young. A moment of silence for departed. Tom Hepperlen was told about organizing first reunion. Members at the first meeting were Harold Pagels, Fred Koslowski, Arthur Strothman, Charles Newman, H. T. Valentine, John Schieck, C. L. Griffin, and Fred Weise. Sgt. Ramming asked to fill us in on 1961 encampment. Reports best encampment since 1957. Company C members won Javelin throwing honors. Recruit Gary Lutz won best soldier award. Major John Siefkes gave a very interesting recap on requirements of armed forces in present day combat. Troops must be much more mobile and have more striking power than previously. He also mentioned necessity of civil defense and how serious the threat of communism was. New officers for coming year: John Ramming elected President; Harold Pagels elected Vice President; and Dean Sackett elected as Sec/Treas.

26 August 1962, Shrine Park: Meeting called to order by Harold Pagels. A moment of silence was observed for departed members. Flag ceremony was observed. Motion made by Jack Van Allen that we write to our senators and congressmen to preserve the Nebraska National Guard. Seconded and carried. Moved that the present officers carry over for the next year. Seconded and carried.

25 August 1963, Shrine Park: Meeting called to order. Moment of silence and flag ceremony observed. Moved that reunion be held first Sunday in September 1964 and 1965, since Guard will be at summer camp during last Sunday in August. Carried. Motion by Ernie Siefkes that unit reunions be held at the new National Guard Armory. Secretary to mail cards indicating location of reunion next year. Current officers retained one more year.

6 September 1964, National Guard Armory: Opening ceremonies conducted. John Ramming gave a report on the trophy case. Tom Hepperlin moved that the trophy case be procured. Departed comrades: Roy Suiter, Earl Klippinger, Joe Van Liew,

and Henry Fox. Moment of silence observed. Present officers to remain for one more year. Members awarded Purple Hearts were recognized.

5 September 1965, National Guard Armory: Color guard presented colors. Report made by President John Ramming stating Store Kraft bid for trophy case was \$480.00. Old business: Trophy case left open. Discussion by Fred Koslowski and John Ramming on old Company C flag being placed in new case. A moment of silence was given for departed comrades; Fred Weise, Ben Ford, Joe Zastera and Glen Otto. Elected officers: President, Pat Sullivan; Vice President, Raymond Starkey; and Secretary/Treasurer, Terrance Moore.

28 August 1966, National Guard Armory: Meeting called to order by President Pat Sullivan. Two bids presented on trophy case: 1) \$480.00, Store Kraft Manufacturing, Beatrice. 2) \$240.00 Juilfs Custom Cabinet and Fixtures, Beatrice. Approved to leave flag in case that it is displayed in. John Ramming to keep looking for bids on Showcase. A moment of silence was conducted for departed comrades. Garold Gormley (President 1947) reported deceased.

27 August 1967, National Guard Armory: Meeting called to order by President Pat Sullivan. Discussion that the Armory is the only place to have meeting as trophy case will be here and its the only logical place to meet. A motion to have the meeting at Beatrice Armory carried 100 percent. Report on present Company C given by Jack Van Allen. A discussion and showing of the proposed veterans memorial was conducted. A moment of silence was given for departed comrades: Dennis O'Keefe, Joe Van Liew, Harry Pagels, and Merle Coons. Election of officers: President, Pat Sullivan; Vice President, Raymond Starkey, and Secretary/Treasurer, Terrence Moore.

25 August 1968, National Guard Armory: Meeting called to order by President Pat Sullivan. President Sullivan gave a talk on new memorial. Funds are still needed. Moment of silence for departed comrades: Dean Sackett, William Wittoski, and John Thober. John Geirlas asked about flag and colors. They are in Seward. He asked also about trophy case. John Ramming made a motion to leave dues at \$3.00 and accept any donations toward showcase. Carried.

31 August 1969, National Guard Armory: Meeting called to order by President Pat Sullivan. George Baker reported in hospital. President told members that the Veterans Memorial was now completed and members should go see it. President Sullivan said that the State Guard was asking for volunteers to join. They will hold one meeting a month at the Armory. They are interested in ex-guardsmen and servicemen. They hope to have ten members in Beatrice. Election of officers: President, Pat Sullivan; Vice President, Raymond Starkey; Secretary/Treasurer, Harold Kelley. There was a silent prayer for departed members: Clifford Thornburg, Alfred Menke, and Albert Wittoski.

30 August 1970, National Guard Armory: Meeting called to order by President Sullivan. John Gierlas not present. State Guard looking for men. Brian Tagge, WWI, passed away. There was a silent prayer. We had ten WWI members present and warmly welcomed them. Talk by President Pat Sullivan on how little respect our servicemen get. John Winslow, age 86, WWI, was the oldest member attending.

29 August 1971, National Guard Armory: Meeting was called to order by President Pat Sullivan. President Sullivan talked about donating the flag and other memorials to the Gage County Historical Society. Harold Kelley said that more people would see them this way. John Ramming made a motion to loan our flag, trophies and memorials to the Historical Society and donate \$50.00 to help buy a showcase for display. Seconded by George Baker, motion carried. Seven WWI Veterans were present. A silent prayer was held for those deceased members (in 1971, Tack Derk, Edward Doerch, and T. A. Hepperlin). Officers elected for 1972-73: President, Jerome Johnson; Vice President, Raymond Starkey; Secretary/Treasurer, Marvin Walker. New President Johnson is going to check on getting the history of Company C printed for members next year.

27 August 1972, National Guard Armory: The meeting was called to order at 1200 hours by President Jerome Johnson. John Ramming made a motion to amend last years motion to read: To give our flag, trophies and memorials to the Gage County Historical Society and donate \$50.00 to help buy a show case for display. Discussed at great length, motion was voted upon and carried. There were a total of 10 WWI Veterans present. The deceased members in 1972 were Fred Koslowski, Beatrice; H. T. Valentine, Fairbury; and E. B. Smethers, from Beatrice. There was a silent prayer for those who had deceased in the year 1972 and all other of our comrades.

26 August 1973, National Guard Armory: The meeting was called to order by President Jerome Johnson. There was a silent prayer for those who had deceased in 1973 and all of our other comrades. Herman Genrich talked about a convention for the old division at St. Louis, MO, September 14, 1973. Twenty-nine members were present, including six WWI Veterans and six WWII Veterans. Elections were held with the following elected; President, John Ramming; Vice President, Harold Kelley; Secretary/Treasurer, Marvin Walker.

25 August 1974, National Guard Armory: The meeting was called to order by President John Ramming. A discussion about reunion of the old 35th Division in Topeka, KS. , 20-21 September 1974, Ramada Inn, was held. There was a silent prayer for those who had deceased in 1974 and all other members who had passed away. Had a discussion on creating an old member list. Twenty-five members were present, including four WWI Veterans and eight WWII Veterans.

31 August 1975: The meeting was called to order by Harold Kelley, Vice President, in the absense of President John Ramming. There was a silent prayer for those who had deceased in 1974 and all other of our past members. New business: 1) Stop in and see new display at Gage County Historical Building. Company "C" has donated many things and there should be much there that most members have never seen. 2) Election of officers for a two year term: President, John Siefkes; Vice President, Carl Wiese; Secretary/Treasurer, Don Wooge. 3) 35th Division Reunion to be held at Topeka, KS., 26-28 September 1975. 4) We need buddy system to keep reunion going.

29 August 1976, Nebraska Armory: The meeting was called to order at 1215 hours by President John J. Siefkes with 47 members and two guests present. The pledge of allegiance was recited with John E. Ramming leading. A minute of

silent prayer was held for deceased members of Company C. Losses in 1975 were Chas Woods of Dewitt; Marvin Walters of Beatrice; and Glen Otto of WWII. WWI Veterans were recognized. Mike Bogish was the oldest. WWII Veterans were recognized. John E. Ramming was the oldest. The 1956 (20 years ago) photograph of Company C sent out to get attendance was recognized for results.

28 August 1977, National Guard Armory: The meeting was called to order by President John J. Siefkes with 51 members present. A silent prayer was held for the departed members. The pledge of allegiance was given with President Siefkes leading. The losses of former Company C members were recorded for 1976-77. They were Carl Wiese, Vice President; and Keith Baker. The WWI Veterans were recognized: Art Strothman, Ed Brandt, Charles Neuman, Walt Purtzer, and C. R. Griffin. The WWII Veterans were recognized with 18 present: Garney Ament, Herbert Schidler, Carl Schidler, Mike Liggett, Hugo Forke, J. Earl Rulla, Earl Burger, Harold Smith, Alvin Lampe, John E. Ramming, Virgil West, George Moore, Donald McMains, Maurice Crowley, Raymond Rehm, Charles Young, Jerry McKerman, and John Holzenberg. New officers elected: Robert D. Fralin President; Luther Walls, Jr. Vice President; Kenneth F. Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer.

27 August 1978, National Guard Armory, 43d Annual Reunion, Company C: The meeting was called to order by President Robert D. Fralin with 46 members present. The National Guard recreated Company G, First Nebraska Veteran Volunteer Cavalry Regiment posted the colors. A 30 second prayer was held for the departed comrades (Fred Ruh and Stephen Klem). The First Nebraska Bugler played taps. President Fralin mentioned that Company C met first in 1935 to organize the first reunion on 30 August 1936. He introduced WWI and WWII members. Over 1,000 member names are now on small file cards. The Master Mailing List is now computerized with labels for mailing. The President presented awards for most meetings attended to Charles Neuman and LaVern Griffin (36) and Art Strothman (32). Awards for 25/20/10/ and five year attendance were presented.

26 August 1979, National Guard Armory: President Robert D. Fralin called the meeting to order with 70 members present. He lead the group in the Pledge to Allegiance to the flag. There was a moment of silence for our departed members (Art Strothman, John Liedtke, John Hubbard and John Funkhouser). The President mentioned that a group met in 1935 to organize the first reunion on 30 August 1936. Our 50th Reunion will be held in 1985. Members of WWI and WWII were introduced. Awards were presented for most meetings attended (37) Charles Griffin, (36) Charles Neuman. Highest attendance 100 percent to Herb Schidler; 97 percent to Raymond Rehm, and 96 percent to Carl Schidler. Perfect attendance for 10 years to Ed Brandt. Purtzer accepted the award for Ed who was in the hospital. Luther Walls was elected President and Terrence Moore Vice President for a two year period (1980-81). John Ramming was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Alvin Lampe showed slides of England where the old Company C was during WWII.

31 August 1980, National Guard Armory, Beatrice: President Luther Walls called the meeting to order with 51 members present. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. There was a moment of silence for our departed members, Charles Neuman, Orval Black, Scottie McRea, Coleman Pope, Roger LaPodivan, and Lyle Bowhey. It was agreed that the money in savings be earmarked for 50th reunion in 1985 and is not to be spent for any other purpose. President recognized WWI Veterans. Door prizes were drawn, two hams, two quarts of whiskey, two-12 packs of beer.

30 August 1981, National Guard Armory, Beatrice: The meeting was called to order by President Luther Walls with 53 members present. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. There was a moment of silence for our departed members. 50th Anniversary box was passed around for donations. Phil Knowles was elected President, Vice President, Duane Oltman, Secretary/Treasurer, Luther Walls. Oldest member present was M. Bogish, 91 years old. The President introduced Colonel Francis C. Mason, (WWII).

29 August 1982, 47th Annual Company C Reunion, National Guard Armory, Beatrice, Nebraska: President Phil Knowles called the meeting to order with 39 members present. He led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. There was a moment of silence for departed members: Orvil Black, Harold Conley, Mike Bogish, Charlie Griffin, Clarence Salts, Thomas Gerdes, Howard Cowle, Joe Schiemeyer, Donald (Red) McMains, Martin H. Jurgens and Raymond B. Glasgow. A letter was read from Mrs. Griffin. The President mentioned that our first reunion was held in 1936 and that is is our 47th meeting. A big celebration is palnned for our 50th reunion in 1985 when the wives will be invited. The President had Gus Knowles, age 90, WWI Veteran stand. (Other WWI Veterans, Purtzer, Frisbie and Stoll unable to attend) a round of applause was given to our WWI Veterans. WWII Veterans were asked to stand for a round of applause. Darrell Wilson was only Company C member here for the first time. Leslie Kennedy had traveled the furtherest--over 500 miles.


CAMP ASHLAND:

It was in 1908 that the first encampment was held near Ashland where the present camp is located. At this camp every man and officer was required to fire on the range. It was the first time some of the men had ever fired the service rifle.

That year it was recommended that the land near Ashland be investigated so that it might be bought for a permanent camp. Previous to this time and up to 1923, the annual encampments, when funds permitted, were held at the points selected by the adjutant general.

ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT LOCATIONS:

1880	- Central City	1915	- Fremont/Crete
1881	- Lincoln	1921	- Camp Dodge, IA
1888	- Wahoo	1922	- Plattsmouth
1890	- Hastings	1923	- Cp Ashland
1891	- Omaha	1936	- Cp Ashland
1893	- Superior/Grand Island	1937	- Cp Ripley, MN
1894	- Lincoln	1938	- Cp Ashland
1895	- Hastings	1939-40	- Cp Ripley, MN
1896	- Lincoln	1941-46	- WWII
1897	- 2-day, home station	1947	- Cp Ashland
1898	- Lincoln	1948	- Ft Riley
1900	- Hastings	1949	- Ft Leonard Wood, MO
1901	- Omaha	1950	- Ft Leonard Wood, MO
1903	- Ft Riley/York	1951-53	- Cp McCoy, WI
1904	- David City	1954-66	- Cp Ripley, MN
1905	- Kearney	1967	- Ft Carson
1906	- Ft Riley	1968	- Cp Ripley
1907	- Lincoln	1969-72	- Ft Carson, CO
1908-09	- Ashland	1973	- Hastings/Ashland
1910	- Ft Riley	1974-75	- Cp Roberts, CA
1911	- Bellevue	1976-80	- Ft Carson, CO
1912	- Pole Mountain, WY/Grand Island	1981-83	- Cp Ripley
1913	- Waterloo	1984	- Ft Carson, CO
1914	- Ashland	1985	- Cp Ripley, MN



I am the Guard

I Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War... of security and honor, for three centuries I have been the custodian, I am the Guard.

I was with Washington in the dim forests, fought the wily warrior, and watched the dark night bow to the morning. * At Concord's bridge, I fired the fateful shot heard 'round the world. * I bled on Bunker Hill. * My footprints marked the snows at Valley Forge. * I pulled a muffled oar on the barge that bridged the icy Delaware. * I stood with Washington on the sun-drenched heights of Yorktown. * I saw the sword surrendered... I am the Guard. * I pulled the trigger that loosed the long rifle's havoc at New Orleans. * These things I knew—I was there! * I saw both sides of the War between the States—I was there! * The hill at San Juan felt the fury of my charge. * The far plains and mountains of the Philippines echoed to my shout... On the Mexican border I stood... I am the Guard. * The dark forest of the Argonne blazed with my barrage. * Chateau Thierry crumbled to my cannonade. * Under the arches of victory I marched in legion—I was there! * I am the Guard. I bowed briefly on the grim Corregidor, then saw the light of liberation shine on the faces of my comrades. * Through the jungle and on the beaches, I fought the enemy, beat, battered and broke him. * I raised our banner to the serene air on Okinawa—I scrambled over Normandy's beaches—I was there!... I am the Guard. * Across the 38th Parallel I made my stand. * I flew MIG Alley—I was there!... I am the Guard.

Soldier in war, civilian in peace... I am the Guard.

I was at Johnstown, where the raging waters boomed down the valley. * I cradled the crying child in my arms and saw the terror leave her eyes. * I moved through smoke and flame at Texas City. * The stricken knew the comfort of my skill. * I dropped the food that fed the starving beast on the frozen fields of the west and through the towering drifts I ploughed to rescue the marooned. * I have faced forward to the tornado, the typhoon, and the horror of the hurricane and flood—these things I know—I was there!... I am the Guard. * I have brought a more abundant, a fuller, a finer life to our youth. * Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the Nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand... I am the Guard. * For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace—of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever... I am the Guard.

