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A MAN can choose no more honorable profession than wegring the uniform of his country in the defense of freedom and in safeguarding the right of men to choose their own destiny. Basically, this is what we are doing in Vietnam.

General Harold K. Johnson,
Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

Men of U. S. 1st Infantry Division keep alert for sniper fire while advancing near Bien Hoa, Vietn. m.



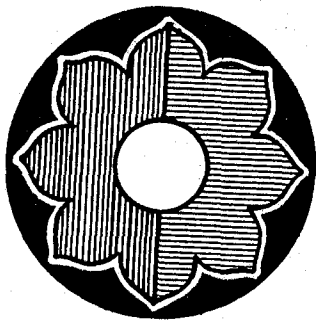
COVERS: "The Old Reliables" are back. With the formal activation of the U. S. 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley in February, the banners which flew from Tunisia and Sicily to Normandy and the Rhineland in World War II, and more recently in Germany and Fort Carson, have been unfurled again to mark the accession of a seventeenth Regular Division to the Army's fighting strength. Cover art by Frank Laccano, Society of Illustrators.

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The mission of ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST is to keep personnel of the Army aware of trends and developments of professional concern. The DIGEST is published under supervision of the Army Chief of Information to provide timely and authoritative information on policies, plans, operations, and technical developments of the Army. The DIGEST is published for the Army and is available to all Army Reserve. It also serves as a timely source of information for the Army and the Chief of Staff and assists in the achievement of information objectives of the Army. Manuscripts of general interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to: Editor, ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. Unless otherwise indicated, material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the DIGEST and the author. Military unit distribution: From the U.S. Army AG Publication Center, 2800 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21226, in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements submitted by commanders. Individual paid subscribers should address inquiries regarding renewals, change of address to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Use of funds for printing this publication approved by Headquarters, Department of Army, 8 May 1963.

"Old Reliablers" to Active Duty



9th Infantry Division Activated --

Another Division Added to Active Army Rolls

Mark C. Endsley

“Chief,” the last Cavalry horse on the rolls of the Army, will view from his Fort Riley stable a new infantry division form up at his home on the Kansas plains. The 9th Infantry Division—the “Old Reliablers” of World War II fame—was activated early in February at the post which once was the “Cradle of the Cavalry.”

The last retired Cavalry mount has already met the 9th Division commander, Major General George S. MARK C. ENDSLEY is Information Officer, Headquarters, Fort Riley, Kansas.

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Eckhardt, who came to Fort Riley last September from Iran to get the post ready for the division which has been on inactive status since 1962.

Initially, its mission will be “train to retain,” but by midsummer the young soldiers, their cadre and seasoned replacements will be entering the phases of combat readiness training that will give the Army another ROAD unit.

By the time the “Old Reliablers” are ready for large-scale maneuvering, the post’s 51,091 acreage will be

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Just beyond hedge facing one of the Old Reliablers is a pillbox of Siegfried Line which the 9th Division assaulted in autumn 1944.

Activated 1 February at Fort Riley, the 9th Infantry Division will be organized under the ROAD concept. It will include nine maneuver battalions, a cavalry squadron, an engineer battalion and division artillery. It will have three brigade headquarters, an aviation battalion, signal battalion and the typical support command setup with headquarters company and band, administration company, medical battalion, supply and transport battalion, and a maintenance battalion. In addition, there will be a division headquarters and headquarters company and a military police company.

Standard in a ROAD setup are brigades numbered one through three—1st, 2d, 3d Brigade—consisting of a headquarters and headquarters company. Under the ROAD organization, any of the other elements of the division can be attached to any brigade upon decision of the commander during field problems or combat. This flexible arrangement makes it possible to tailor a fighting force for any type of warfare.

The Infantry units will be the 2d, 3d and 4th Battalions, 39th Infantry; 2d, 3d and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry; 2d, 3d, and 5th Battalions, 60th Infantry. The 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry will be mechanized. The Cavalry is the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, and the maintenance battalion will be the 709th. Artillery organizations will be the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery; 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery; 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery; and 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery. There will also be an Honest John battalion, known as the 3d Battalion, 28th Artillery.

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doubled. A portion of the Milford Dam conservation area may be used for amphibious operations.

The Kansas post has all the natural elements conducive to hardening men for combat—hot in summer, cold in winter, rough terrain, steep hills. During a recent visit to Fort Riley, General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, likened areas of the post to portions of Vietnam.

Riley has been a permanent Army post since 1852 when it was set up as an operations base for Cavalry to protect pioneer wagon trains from marauding Indians. (See "Assignment—Fort Riley," July 1965 *DIGEST*.)

Organized 18 July 1918 at Camp Sheridan, Alabama, the 9th was training when World War I ended. It established its reputation as the "Old Reliables" in World War II, by crushing Axis forces in North Africa, Sicily, and Central Europe. Its proud heritage will be an asset in training a combat-ready division. With officers

and experienced noncommissioned officers returning to the United States to share their combat skills with the younger soldiers, the 9th should advance to combat-ready posture in record time.

The shoulder patch of the 9th Infantry Division is a double quatrefoil, a device dating back to the 15th century, when it was customary for each son to have an individual mark of distinction. Under the rules of heraldry there are eight foils or positions. Heraldic rules gave the double quatrefoil to the ninth son to denote that he was surrounded by eight brothers.

Colors of the double quatrefoil are red and blue, designating colors of an Infantry division headquarters flag. Surrounding the double quatrefoil is a rim of olive drab—the color of the Army uniform in previous years. The center is white.

Many of the 9th's units have impressive combat records. The first

soldiers to enter Germany during World War II were infantrymen wearing the double quatrefoil. The emblem was worn at the defeat of Rommel in North Africa, and by the liberators of Belgium.

The division was inactivated following World War I, then reactivated in 1940. Its first elements departed in September 1942 for the North African Theater of Operations. Elements took part in Operation Torch when the 39th Regimental Combat Team landed at Algiers, the 47th Regimental Combat Team hit the beaches at Safi, French Morocco, and the 60th Regimental Combat Team fought on the beaches at Port Lyautey, Morocco, and secured the "Citadel" (Kasba). In March 1943 the 60th fought at Maknassy, Tunisia, while the remainder of the division moved to El Guettar, to relieve pressure on British forces. On 7 May 1943 its troops rolled through Bizerte and mopped up the final enemy resistance

in Tunisia.

On 9 August 1943 the 9th went into action at Troina in Sicily until it was officially announced on 20 August 1943 that Sicily was free of the enemy.

The division next went to England where it trained for the invasion of Fortress Europe. It landed on the Normandy beaches on 10 June 1944 and its 39th Infantry Regiment captured Quineville. The 9th then drove across the Douve River, and within a week reached the east coast of the Cotentin Peninsula.

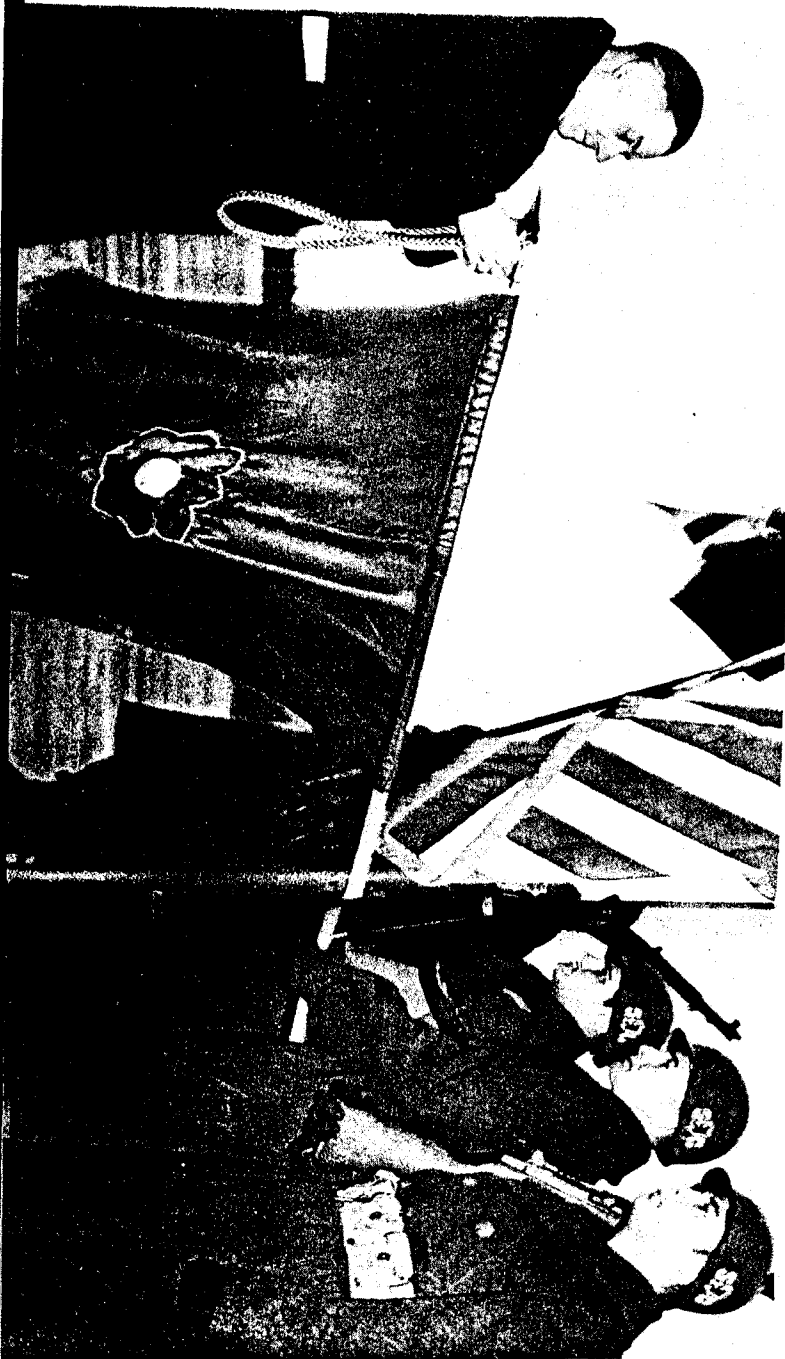
After its efforts cut off the Cotentin Peninsula, the division turned north, seizing Octeville and capturing the senior German army and navy commanders of the Cherbourg area. By 1 July, the division had cleaned up the Cap de la Hague area and later that month spearheaded the St. Lo breakthrough and joined the chase which eventually closed the Falaise Gap. On 2 September the 9th laid

For its part in liberating his country, Leon Munder, Minister of National Defense, presents Belgian Fourragere to Division in November 1945.

9th INFANTRY DIVISION BATTLE CREDITS

(Campaign Streamers)
World War II

- Tunisia
- Sicily
- Normandy
- Northern France
- Ardennes
- Rhineland
- Central Europe





Moving up to engage enemy shortly after the division landed in Normandy, a reconnaissance unit moves through streets of Bourdan, in late summer 1944.

claim to being the first Allied unit to begin the liberation of Belgium when a unit entered Monigues.

The Meuse River was crossed on 5 September 1944 and the Division moved into Germany, battling through Saarlautern and pushing on to action near Aachen. On 16 December it moved to Monschau Forest where it took part in the Battle of the Bulge.

High point of its World War II record was the crossing of the Rhine in the early spring of 1945. By the morning of 7 March 1945, all bridges across the Rhine had been blown except one—the Ludendorff Bridge below the small town of Remagen. After a forced march the 47th Infantry's 2d Battalion deployed over the bridge, crossing against heavy artillery to become the first infantry regiment to battle across the Rhine barrier since the Napoleonic Wars.

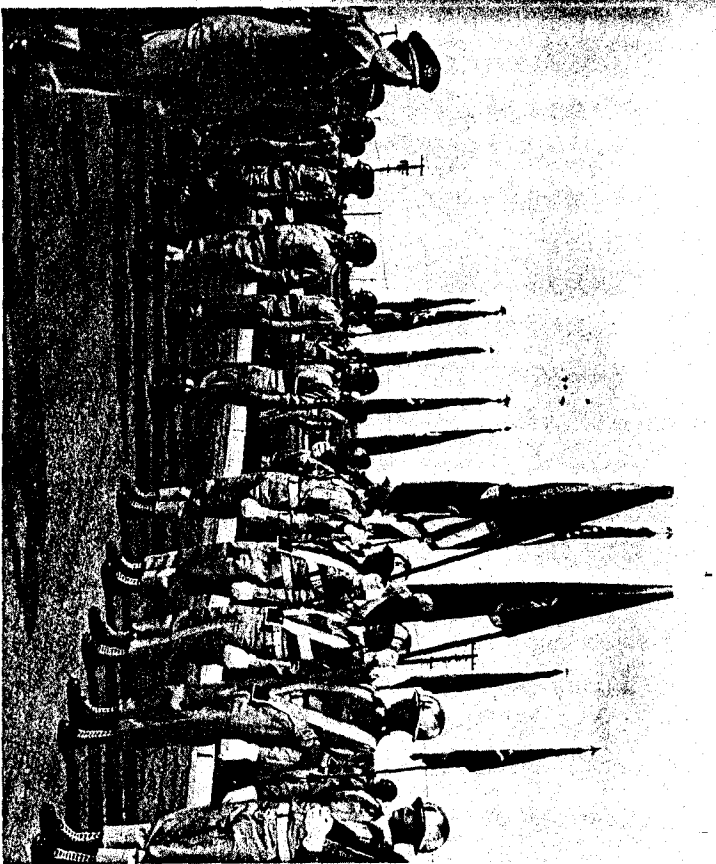
Soon the 60th Infantry made a

daring dash across the battered bridge followed by division support units. Meanwhile, the 9th's Military Police Platoon, despite murderous artillery and air attacks, kept traffic moving and sometimes doubled as medics and evacuation men.

By Sunday, 11 March, all combat teams of the 9th were over the Rhine. On 17 March the bridge collapsed, and further crossings in the central sector by Allied troops had to rely on pontoon bridges erected by Engineers. By 20 March, the 9th had conquered the entire central bridge-head area between the Rhine and Wied Rivers, securing a front from which the final blow was struck at the heart of Germany.

Following World War II, the 9th was inactivated, but on 15 July 1947 it was reactivated at Fort Dix, New Jersey, as a training division. On 25 May 1954 the 9th was transferred

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On taking command of division at Fort Carson in May 1960, then Brig. Gen. Ashton Manhart salutes colors of honor guard.

to replace the 28th Infantry Division in Germany. Here the 9th served as a part of NATO until the fall of 1956 when it was rotated to Fort Carson, Colorado, where it remained until its inactivation 31 January 1962.

During World War II the Division recorded 23,277 casualties, including 8,550 deaths. Medals of Honor were awarded to four men of the Division—Sergeant William L. Nelson, Company H, 60th Infantry; Private First Class Carl V. Sheridan, Company K, 47th Infantry; Lieutenant John E. Butts, Company E, 60th Infantry; and Technical Sergeant Peter I. DeLassandro, Company E, 39th Infantry. DeLassandro now lives in New York; the other medals were awarded posthumously.

"Alumni" of the 9th Division now serving in the Army include General William C. Westmoreland, Commanding General of U. S. Military Assist-

ance Command, Vietnam; Major General Ashton H. Manhart, Vice Director, Joint Staff, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Major General Van H. Bond, Commanding General, XXI Corps, Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. General Westmoreland was Division chief of staff during World War II combat in Europe as a colonel; General Bond as a colonel commanded the 39th Infantry Regiment in 1944; and General Manhart commanded the Division at Fort Carson, just prior to its 1962 inactivation.

Division commanders during World War II included Major General R. E. D. Hoyle, General Jacob L. Devers, Lieutenant General Manton S. Eddy, and Major General Louis A. Craig. Major General George S. Eckhardt, who last served with the Military Advisory Assistance Group and Army Mission in Iran, has been named to command the "Old Reliables."

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