



COAT OF ARMS

HISTORY OF THE 17th ARTILLERY

Compiled from different sources and references,

Edited by Thomas R. Kurtz

In compliance with War Department directive dated May 14, 1917, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was activated, by the transferring a cadre of officers and enlisted men from the 1st Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas to Camp Roberson, Wisconsin to form the nucleus of the new regiment. The 17th Field Artillery Regiment was officially activated on June 6, 1917 and entered on the official roles of the U. S. Army.

WORD WAR I

17th Field Artillery Regiment

After five months of intensive training the Regiment was ordered to the port of embarkation in New York. On December 14, 1917, the Regiment embarked on the U.S.S. Covington for Brest, France arriving on December 27. On December 31, 1917 the Regiment disembarked at the port of Brest and traveled to Camp Du Valdahon for addition instruction by French and American Officers. Here the Regiment was issued the French Schneider 155mm Howitzers.

In March, the Regiment fired its first rounds near Rupt. On June 1, 1918, the regiment moved to the vicinity of Chateau-Thierry, were on June 4 the batteries went into positions and aided materially in stopping the German drive on Paris.

After a month of severe fighting in this sector during which the Seventeenth Field Artillery participated in the successful assaults on the Bois de Billoua, Bourochos, Vaux and Hill No. 4, the regiment marched to the vicinity of Villers Cortes, where on July 18, 1918, it participated in the great Soissons offensive, the turning point of the war.

After a short rest in a quiet sector the regiment again took its place in the line for the St. Mihiel drive. This action was quickly followed by the attack against the Blanc Mont Ridge which the Germans had held with a tremendous tenacity and fortified with a wonderful system of barbed wire and trenches. Here the Division was with the French under General Gourad. The batteries occupied this position on October 1-2 and the attack began at 06:00 on the third of October.

The American barrage was effective, and the Infantry advanced to its objectives, but it soon clear that the Germans had no intentions of leaving the line without a fight. Their artillery constantly shelled the Americans Infantry and their machine gunners made a desperate resistance; moreover, the Germans guns put up a harassing fire on the American Artillery and on the roads.

The regiment suffered the loss of great many horses but the losses in officers and men were not as large as would be expected from the great amount of shelling that the batteries underwent.

The Second Field Artillery Brigade remained in line and supported the 36th Division Infantry, which relieved the Second Division Infantry, until October 27, then by forced march it rejoined the Second Division in the line in the Meuse-Argonne.

The attack in the Argonne commenced on November 1, 1918, and on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, the regiment was in the town of Beaumont, France. The Regiment fired 119,021 155mm rounds during the war.

The Regiment served in six campaigns during the War: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, Sr. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine 1919 and Ile De France 1918.

In recognition, of their service the Regiment was awarded two French Croix de Guerre with Palm for AISNE-MARNE and MEUSE-ARGONNE (WD GO 11, 1924) and the Croix de Guerre Fourragere. In addition, Battery D was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star for SOISSONS (WD GO 11, 1924), becoming the only separated U. S. Battery to receive a Croix de Guerre.

(Reference) Book: Historical and Pictorial Review Seventeenth Field Artillery, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1941

The Regiment on November 17, 1918 departed Beaumont, France to become part of the Army of Occupation in Germany. The Regiment arrived in Bendort, Germany on December 13, 1918 and remained there until February 4, 1919 where the Regiment moved to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, at Coblenz, arriving there on February 5, 1919. The Regiment departed the fortress on July 18 to Brest, France and the trip back to New York arriving on August 4. Here the Regiment was paraded through New York City and during remaining of the month the emergency soldiers were discharged with the remainder soldiers were moved to Camp Travis, Texas.

On January 5, 1921 the Regiment departed Camp Travis by train to Camp Bragg, North Carolina, arriving on January 11, 1921. At Camp Bragg the Regiment was placed under the 13th Field Artillery Brigade which was formed the same week that the 17th arrived.

In 1930, the 3rd Battalion (Batteries E and F) were reconstituted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas armed with 155mm howitzers. In 1931, the 3rd Battalion moved to Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

WORLD WAR II
17th Field Artillery Regiment
17th Field Artillery Battalion

With the start of World War II with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Regiment went under many changes and trained for many months at Fort Bragg. Late in March 1942, as part of the 13th Field Artillery Brigade the Regiment moved to Camp Blanding, Florida. Little than three months later, in July 1942, the Regiment was ordered to take part in the Carolina maneuvers, but two weeks later orders were received to proceed without delay to Fort Bragg for final equipment and staging before going overseas. After a week at Fort Bragg, the Regiment entrained for Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and three days later to New York for embarkation. The HMS Orcades sailed from New York Harbor early in the morning on August 5, 1942 and arrived in Liverpool, England on August 17, 1942. The Regiment then moved by different train to the Royal Armored Corps barracks at Perham Downs, near Tidworth, Here the Regiment went through further intensive training. On November 22, 1942 orders were received to proceed to Liverpool to embark once again with the destination unknown, On November 27 the Regiment sailed by convoy to Oran, Algeria. The Regiment was spilt up so there were no more than two batteries on one ship during the voyage. There was one ship was detained at Gibraltar for several days to undergo certain mechanical repairs. The Regiment landed at Mere el Kabir, just west of Oran on December 6, 1942.

Early in February 1943, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to Tebessa, Algeria. On February 14 the battalion, while in position at Faid Pass, Tunisia, was severely mauled by the German of the 12th Panzer Division. The battalion loses were approximately one-half of the officers and men and twelve 155mm howitzers. The humiliating defeat with was quickly avenged. The 2nd Battalion was temporarily equipped 105mm howitzers. and soon thereafter the Regiment went into position near El Guettar in support of the 1st Infantry Division. Early in the morning of March 23rd, the 110th German Panzer Division attacked in force with planes, artillery, tanks and infantry. The front line gave away and the Germans overran two friendly artillery battalions' positions but were stopped 1000 yards short of the 17th position. As a long line of German infantry attacked with the objective of penetrating the pass, a mass concentration of airburst halted the attack and decimated the line as it thinned, wavered and fell back. The 17th repulsed three determined attacks by the enemy who sustained heavy losses in men and 32 tanks before withdrawing.

The Regiment remained in the line until May 3, 1943, when the German in North Africa surrendered. On July 13, 1943, the regiment boarded LCIs and LCTs at Tunis, Tunisia as part of the invasion force of Sicily and landed at Gela, Sicily on July 14th. The campaign in Sicily was short 38 days.

On September 3, 1943, the Regiment supported the invasion of Italy by the British by firing an hour and forty-five minutes preparation across the Straits of Messina. The 1st Battalion crossed the Straits of Messina and came ashore at Salerno, Italy on September 23rd. Regimental HQ. Battery and the 2nd Battalion followed on October 16th and moved forward to join the 1st Battalion in support of VI Corps north of the Volturno River.

On December 10, 1943 the Regiment was assigned the mission of supporting the C. E. F. (French Expeditionary Corps), and spent the winter months of 1943-1944 south of Cassino pounding strongly defended Gustav Line,

Early in February 1944, the 2nd Battalion was reorganized and reequipped with 8-inch howitzers, and on February 14th it was re-designated the 630th Field Artillery Battalion. Regimental Headquarters Battery and the 1st Battalion were reorganized the 17th Field Artillery Group and the 17th Field Artillery Battalion respectively, effective March 1, 1944.

On July 25, 1944 the 17th Field Artillery Group and the 17th Field Artillery Battalion, while in position in the vicinity of Sienna, Italy, were ordered to proceed to Orbetello, Italy for rest, maintenance of equipment and reassignment to southern France, The Group sailed from Naples, Italy and landed near Cavalarie, France on December 4th. The Battalion left Naples September 6th landing at St. Tropez, France on September 9th.

Upon arriving in southern France, the Group and Battalion were attached to the American VI Corps, which was then located so far inland that a five-day road march was necessary to reach the front lines, The Group went into position at Besancon, and the Battalion fired its first in France September 21st in the vicinity of Girancourt.

During the winter months of 1944-45, both units were active in the bitter fighting through the Voges Mountains and on the Alsation plains. The Group crossed the Rhine River at Worms on March 29th and the Battalion crossed the Rhine at Mannheim on March 31st. Both the Group and the Battalion participated in the rapid drive across Germany. On VE day the Group was in position at Augsburg, Germany and the Battalion was in position near, Imst Austria.

From March 1942 to May 1945, the Battalion participated in eight campaigns, and expended a total of 150,014 rounds, and had support fourteen American and five French divisions. It served under five Army Corps – American, British and Canadian.

The Group and the Battalion received numerous decorations, including the French Croix de Guerre with Silver –Gilt Star for ROME-ARNO (DA GO 43, 1950) : the 630th Field Artillery Battalion received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for VOSGES and the Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt for ROME-ARNO(DA GO 43, 1950). The 17th Field Artillery Group and 17th Field Artillery Battalion and 630th Field Artillery Battalion served in seven campaigns: Tunisia, Sicily (with Arrowhead), Naples-Foggia, Roma-Arno, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe (17th Artillery Lineage and Honors).

In May 1945 the Battalion took up duties as security police in now occupied Germany. Their duties were to establish road blocks, to guard electrical, industrial, and similar installations, to guard houses, to assist the Burgomaster in solving any civilian problems, to apprehend, interrogate and dispose of all Prisoners of War, NSDAP party members and civilians wanted by the Allied Military Government.

(References) (1.) Travels of the Seventeenth Field Artillery, 5 August 1942 – 5 August 1945, A Combat History of the 17th F. A. Group “The 666 Days”, World War II Notes of Headquarters Supply Sergeant: Part Two: A Combat History of the 17th F.A. Battalion WW II. (2.) (VI Corps Newsletter) VICORPS News Vol 1-No2, Munich, Germany, 28 June 1945.

On its return to the United States, the 630th Field Artillery Battalion was inactivated on February 22, 1946: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Group was inactivated on February 27, 1945 and the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was inactivated on April 16, 1946 all were inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The 630th Field Artillery Battalion was re-designated the 537th Field Artillery Battalion and was activated at Camp Carson, Colorado on February 22, 1946

On August 1, 1946, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was activated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with the mission of serving as school troops for the Artillery School.

In December 1948, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was reorganized as an 8-inch howitzer battalion (tractor drawn).

KOREAN WAR
17th Field Artillery Battalion (Persuaders)
1950-1953

After World War II, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was deactivated on April 16, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. The re-activation, for the 17th Field Artillery Battalion, came again August 1, 1946, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The battalion was used, as school troops, for the Artillery School. In December 1948, the battalion was reorganized and equipped with 8-inch (Towed) Howitzers (Tractor-drawn).

When North Korean invaded South Korea, on June 25, 1950, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was located seven thousand miles away at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Two months later, on August 25, 1950, elements 17th Field Artillery Battalion landed at Pusan, becoming the first heavy U. S. Army Artillery, in Republic of South Korea. The battalion was assigned to the Eighth U. S. Army Korea. Short of personnel and with an inadequate supply of ammunition. Only one firing battery, Battery C, plus two howitzers, with crews from Battery A, were initially committed to action. The battalion was also assigned two officers and two hundred soldiers, from the Republic of South Korea Army to be used as cannoneers, wiremen and machine gunners.

In mid- September1950, the battalion was attached to I Corps, in support of the 1st Cavalry Division. Battery C fired the battalion’s first rounds, during a registration, on September 14, 1950. An hour later, Battery C fired its first counter-battery mission, which destroyed two North Korean artillery pieces. Not since April 29, 1945 had the 17th Field Artillery Battalion fired their howitzers, in combat, supporting American ground forces.

In late September 1950, United Nation troops broke out of the Naktong Perimeter, attacking north to link up with the troops of the Inchon Landings. The battalion then moved northwest to Waegwan. At Waegwan, Batteries A and B remained in an assembly area; while Headquarters Battery, Battery C and Service Battery followed in the rapid pursuit of the North Korean Army. During this time period there were series of long road marches with very little firing.

Batteries A and B moved north from Waegwan, in October 1950, to rejoin the battalion on the outskirts of Kaesong. There the battalion was placed in Eighth Army reserve, for training and maintenance. When the advance elements, of the United Nation Forces, reached the Yalu River, in early November 1950 and there was a possibility of the war ending early. The attached two hundred, Republic of South Korean Soldiers reverted back to the control of Republic of South Korean Army. A brief ceremony was held in their honor, at which time the 17th Field Artillery Battalion Colors made their first official appearance, in Korea.

The training and maintenance period were cut short in mid- November 1950. The battalion then moved north, to the vicinity of Kunu-ri, and was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, minus Battery B. Here the battalion occupied different firing positions and Battery A fired its first rounds of the war. Battery B was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and occupied its first combat position, a few miles north of Sinanju. Later in November 1950, Battery B rejoined the battalion, in the Kunu-ri area.

On November 23, 1950 the battalion was relieved of its mission supporting the 1st Cavalry Division. The following day they were attached to IX Corps, supporting the 2d Infantry Division. That morning, the battalion moved into new positions, in the vicinity of Kujang-dong, still expecting to move north to support the 2d Infantry Division, in their rapid pursuit of the North Korean Army. Here an air observer spotted an estimate two hundred enemy soldiers. At the time, they were thought to be North Korean. No one realized then, that they were Chinese Communist Forces soldiers. In late November 1950, the Chinese Communist Forces were moving into positions; to infiltrate, cut off and destroy the United Nation Forces in a counteroffensive of massive attacks.

In the morning of November 25, 1950, the battalion had recon positions to move further north. Due to the roads being jammed, the move was put off and they planned to move the following day. Early that night, the Chinese Communist Forces waded the Chohgchon River and attacked, in force the units of the 23rd Infantry Regiment and overran the 61st Field Artillery Battalion, just north of the battalion's location. The following morning, the battalion was ordered to move south towards Sunchon. Over the next couple of days, with enemy pressure, on the entire 2d Infantry Division, the battalion moved south. The Chinese Communist Forces had also overran the South Korean Divisions, located on the right flank of the 2d Infantry Division. The battalion moves were often delayed or temporarily halted due to the supply road being jammed with vehicles. When the battery commanders reconnoitered for new positions south along the road to Sunchon, they found road south of Kunu-ri, for several miles jammed with vehicles. Vehicles returning, from the south, also reported that the road had been cut, by the Chinese Communist Forces and it was impossible to get through from Kunu-ri, south to Sunchon.

On November 29, 1950, the battalion fired defensive fires covering the withdrawing units of the 2d Infantry Division. During the night Battery A, started firing its missions at thirteen-hundred yards, charge seven. By the early the next morning, fire missions were being fired at one-thousand yards, charge one. Here the battalion commander laid out plans for three courses of action for the battalion. One was to

return to Kunu-ri, block the traffic on the road to Anju, long enough to move the battalion on the road west, to Anju. Second was to move south, on the road to Sunchon, on orders from the 2d Infantry Division, when the roadblock south of Kunu-ri was open. Third was stay and fight, until forced to destroy their equipment. Then fight its way south on foot as a battalion. The 2d Infantry Division had sent the remainder of the 9th Infantry Regiment to clear the foothills along the roadblock south of Kunu-ri. On morning of November 30, 1950, the remaining fighting elements of the 23d Infantry Regiment were committed to help the 9th Infantry Regiment in clearing the Kunu-ri roadblock, as the combat power of the 9th Infantry Regiment fighting had been greatly reduced from previous combat.

At 0800 hours on November 30, 1950, the battalion received orders to move south on the Sunchon Road. The battalion commander gave orders to move the battalion as a fighting column, with the tractors and howitzers in the lead, followed by the wheeled vehicles with the rest of the equipment. Vehicles tops were to be taken off, windshields down, machine guns mounted and the men equipment to fight as infantrymen. Order of march was Baker, Able, Headquarters, Service and Charlie. The battalion began moving south slowly towards Sunchon at about five miles per hour.

Around noon the battalion was halted near a deserted quartermaster supply dump of the 25th Infantry Division. Here many the soldiers of the battalion, lacking proper winter clothing, loaded up on quartermaster supplies, especially overcoats. The delay was for about two hours, during which time the remaining fighting forces of the 9th and 23d Infantry Regiments attempted to reduce the enemy forces position along the flanks of the roadblock.

Near the quartermaster supply dump there had been approximately one hundred American and South Korean soldiers sleeping on the ground under command of a captain. These soldiers loaded up on Battery A vehicles prior to the battery moving again. With the temperature around zero, vehicles bumper to bumper, the column moved down the road. The road was dry and most places wide enough for two-way traffic. There were low hills along both sides of thousand-yard wide valley. After moving in a slow and halting manner, for about two miles, the column passed between Chinese Communist Forces firing machine guns and mortars from both flanking ridges. With single lane and clogged traffic, the battalion attackers had to be beaten off by 30 Cal. and 50 Cal. machine guns mounted on the prime movers. Vehicles were often stopped, as the soldiers would take cover in the ditches along the roadsides. Occasionally friendly aircraft would strafe the hills along the road that would quiet the enemy machine guns. This action would offer a chance for the column to start moving again slowly again, until enemy machine guns opened up again. During one halt, a large number of South Korean soldiers came through the enemy occupied hills on the columns left flank, which joined the column. They were disorganized and some were without.

Just before dark, when it looked like the battalion would be stuck in the middle of the roadblock, the column started moving again. Additional help came, as a twin 40mm came past the column to take the lead in front of Battery A and started firing at all suspected enemy positions. The battalion kept moving at night, driving in blackout drive. This made it difficult to identify abandoned vehicles along the side of the road. The battalion had passed between twenty-five to thirty abandoned vehicles, along the seven-

mile roadblock. The column had moved slowly, not only due to enemy fire from the flanks. But also, at the southern end of the roadblock, a two-lane concrete bridge had been destroyed. This causes the withdrawing vehicles to use a bypass and ford a several foot-deep stream. Upon reaching the south end of the bridge bypass, the battalion found it blocked by two abandoned vehicles. As the battalion was clearing the abandoned vehicles, in the ford, two tanks came from the south with their lights on. The tanks lights lit up the soldiers trying to clear the ford, which cause the enemy forces to open up with mortar and machine gun fire. After this action, the tanks turned their lights back on and fired at the enemy positions. With the ford cleared and it wasn't until 2130 hours that the last of vehicle of Battery A moved pass the ford. The remainder of the battalion's column followed, with the wounded inside of the vehicles or being carried on the fenders. The battalion had loss twenty-two vehicles, eleven trailers and one howitzer, with one soldier killed and sixteen wounded; during the battalion's withdraw thru the Kunu-ri roadblock. The other artillery battalions and units of the 2d Infantry Division that followed were not so fortunate. Soon after the battalion column cleared the ford, An M-6 tractor towing a 155mm howitzer stalled in the middle of the ford, which effectively blocked the withdraw route for the units that followed. This resulted in the vehicles north of the ford being abandoned and the personnel walk out. On the afternoon of December 1, the battalion was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and occupied positions near Chasan, five miles south of Sunchon.

The first part of December 1950, the battalion continued firing in support of the United Nation Forces on their southward withdraw to the area around Seoul. With additional equipment losses, during this time period, the battalion assigned the personnel and equipment, from Battery C to the other two firing batteries. This left the battalion with only two firing batteries, one with five howitzers and the second with four howitzers. Late in the month of December 1950, the battalion reorganized again, to three firing batteries.

With the start of a new year, the battalion was placed in Eighth Army reserve and order to move south by rail and road to Pusan. At Pusan, the battalion was attached to the 2d Logistical Command for a period of maintenance, training and re-equipment. There the battalion personnel additionally performed miscellaneous duties, which included convey protection in the rear areas.

After the re-equipment and training, in early February 1951, the battalion again was ordered to move north, by road and rail, to support I Corps. During the months of February and March 1951 the battalion or its batteries supported the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. In late March 1951 the Chinese Communist Forces offensive grounded to a slow halt.

In early April 1951, Battery B was supporting the 1st Cavalry Division, at the Hwachon Reservoir. The remainder of the battalion was moved, to join Battery B, when additional fire support was required. It was during this operation, that a battalion-wide contest was held for a battalion name. The name selected was "*PERSUADERS*". Late in April, an enemy penetration, on the battalion's left flank, caused the battalion to displace and still support the withdrawal of the 1st Marine Division.

From late April 1951 to July 1951, the battalion or its batteries supported I Corps, IX Corps, 7th Infantry Division, 24th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st British Commonwealth Division. During July 1951, the employment of a single howitzer, or by platoon, was started against special targets. A single howitzer or a platoon would move forward, at daybreak, fire its missions and return by dark. Special missions continued during the months of August to December 1951. In mid-October 1951 Battery A was issued two self-propelled 8-inch howitzer, to replace two of their 8-inch towed howitzers. When the two towed howitzers were returned, Battery A became a six-gun howitzer battery. The two self-propelled howitzers proved to be useful in deployment with direct fire, assault fire and indirect fire against critical targets.

The two self-propelled howitzers, in early November 1951 thru January 1952, were placed at different time periods under the operational control of the 9th, 10th, 936th and 955th Field Artillery Battalions. When the self-propelled howitzers returned to battalion control, one self-propelled was placed in Battery A and the second self-propelled was placed with Battery C.

In the months of November, December 1951 and January 1952, the battalion or its batteries supported units of I Corps, IX Corps, 1st British Commonwealth Division and the 1st Republic of Korea Division.

In mid-January 1952 the two self-propelled howitzers, as a platoon, were placed under the operational control of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Infantry Division. In February 1952 this platoon was expanded with additional equipment and personnel, from the resources within the battalion. Thus, Battery D, 17th Field Artillery Battalion was formed. There had been an earlier attempt, to form an additional battery, in October 1950, which never became operational.

From January 1952 thru July 1952, the battalion or its batteries support units of I Corps, 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Marine Division and 1st British Commonwealth Division. Battery D became non-operational in July 1952 and its equipment and personnel were redistributed within the battalion. Again, the self-propelled howitzers were returned, one each to Battery A and Battery C. At the end of August 1952, the battalion had been in Korea for two years, during which, the battalion fired a total of 168,700

The remainder of 1953, in the final months of the war, the battalion was deployed along the western front lines. They were one of seven artillery battalions attached to I Corps. With the positioning, of the firing batteries, the battalion could cover, from the Yellow Sea inland seventy miles. The firing batteries were positioned, with Able Battery on the right, Baker Battery in the center and Charlie Battery on the left. Here the battalion stayed in their positions until the armistices was signed on, July 27, 1953

From August 1950 to July 1953, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion had fought in harsh weather climates ranging from extremely cold winters, heavy rains of the monsoon seasons, and hot humid summers. The battalion had moved the length of Korea, over rough mountain terrain, often along unimproved and at times dangerously narrow roads. During which, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion supported all three Corps, of the Eighth Army, and twelve divisions of the United Nations Forces.

The 17th Field Artillery Battalion, during the Korea War, had no organic ground forward observers' sections and had to depend on their Aviation Section and outside resources for their targeting.

(Reference 1-17 Artillery 68-69 yearbook)

During the Korean Conflict, forward observers and aerial observers credited the 17th with destroying almost 1100 artillery pieces, 125 mortars, 65 machine guns, 40 tanks and 25 self-propelled weapons. The Persuaders neutralized or damaged roughly 220 bunkers, 100 artillery pieces, and 150 ammunition dumps and inflicted over 7000 casualties on enemy personnel. All told, the 17th fired more than 172,000 rounds against the Communists.

Decorations won by the men of the 17th in Korea included two silver stars, One Legion of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 24 Bronze Stars Medals with "V" devices for Valor, 23 Bronze Star Medals for meritorious service, and 23 Air Medals.

In those three years, the 17th served all three corps of the Eighth Army, in support of 12 different United Nations divisions. The 17th fired a total of 172,000 rounds against the enemy. The 17th earned the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for KOREA 1950-1952 (DA GO 41, 1955). Battery B earned the Presidential Unit Citation for HOMGCHON (DA GO 72, 1951), and Battery C earned the Navy Presidential Unit Citation for WONJU-HWACHON (DA GO 38, 1957) and the Naval unit Commendation for PAMMUNJON (DA GO 38, 1957). The 17th Field Artillery Battalion served in 10 campaigns: UN Defensive, UN Offensive, CCF Spring Intervention, First UN Counteroffensive, CCF Spring Offensive, UN Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Korea, Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter and Korean, Summer 1953(17th Artillery Lineage and Honors).

After the armistice, the 17th Field Artillery Battalion remained in South Korea and was assigned to I Corps Artillery Group. The 17th Field Artillery was inactivated on June 1, 1958.

(References) (1.) "The Persuaders in Korea" A brief unofficial history of the 17th Field Artillery Battalion (August 1950 – August 1952), Compiled by David Jones, dated 1953. (2.) Army Historical Series, "Combat Action in Korea, CMH Publication 30-2, Chapter 5, Artillery at Kunu-ri, by Russell A. Gugeler. (3.) Excerpts from; The Guns of Korea, The U.S. Army Field Artillery Battalions in Korea, by MSGT A. L. Hanson,

In early 1954, the 537th Field Artillery Battalion moved from Camp Carson, Colorado to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

REORGANIZATION

In conjunction with the reorganization of the Army division the Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker on January 24, 1957 approved the new Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS), developed by the Army Staff to maintain continuity of distinguished combat units without restricting the organization trends of the future. Under CARS, units had both earned and shares honors. All elements of the parent regiment shared regimental campaign participation credit and decorations, and other color-bearing units displayed their own contribution to these honors by means of earned honor devices on campaign decoration streamers for their colors. Members of all elements in each CARS regiment wore the same distinctive insignia, although different

shoulder sleeve insignia depending upon the division or other commands in which their elements was assigned.

The results of the reorganization of the Army and the CARS the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was reorganized into eight battalions, active and reserves. Each new regiment organization traced its heritage to an element of the regiment as it existed prior to World War II.

1st Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery activated June 1, 1958 in Korea (17th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated on the same date)

2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery activated June 25, 1958 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (537th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated on the same date)

3rd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery activated June 25, 1958 in Germany (802d Field Artillery Battalion inactivated on the same date)

5th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Reserves) activated March 19, 1959 at Beaumont, Texas and assigned to the 90th Infantry Division

6th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Reserves) activated April 1, 1959 at Bogalusa, Louisiana

4th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Reserves) activated April 29, 1959 at Raleigh, North Carolina

7th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery activated July 21, 1959 at Fort Benning, Georgia assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division

8th Battalion, 17th Artillery activated July 31, 1959 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

17th Field Artillery Group, 17th Field Artillery Battalion and 537th Field Artillery Battalion consolidated under 17th Artillery Legend and Honors on July 31, 1959

On July 1, 1965 the 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia and 1st Cavalry Division in Korea, exchanged colors, thus the colors of the of the 7th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery moved to Korea.

6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Reserves) on December 31, 1965 was inactivated

VIETNAM
2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Persuaders)
2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery (Persuaders)

United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV)
Attached to 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

1st Field Forces Vietnam (1FFV)
Attached to 41st Artillery Group,
52d Artillery Group and
Provisional Artillery Group
1965 – 1971

On 25 June 1965, exactly seven years from the re-designation of the 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (25 June 1958), the battalion received a classified message from Department of the Army alerting it for possible deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

The battalion's TOE equipment, including its howitzers and wheeled vehicles, were shipped from Beaumont, Texas on 1 August 1965. On 14 August the Fort Sill installation bade farewell to the 2/17th in a special ceremony held at 2000 hours. The main body of the battalion departed Fort Sill later that night by troop train and the port advance part departed in the early morning hours of 15 August by bus to Oklahoma City's Will Rogers Airport. From there, the advance party traveled via two jet airplanes to Oakland, California, arriving shortly after daybreak.

The battalion's TOE equipment including its 105mm (M101A1) towed howitzers and vehicles were shipped from Beaumont, Texas on August 1, 1965. The main body of the battalion departed Fort Sill on August 14, by troop train to Oakland, California. Thus, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion became the first battalion size unit to deploy from Fort Sill to South Vietnam. After preparation and boarding the United States Naval Ship (USNS) General William H. Gordon the battalion sailed from Oakland on August 17 with nearly 4000 troops in 35 separated units aboard. Originally the battalion was scheduled to be the last unit to debark the ship in Saigon, but orders were changed en- route and the battalion would be the first unit to debark in Qui Nhon. So, after a 17 day voyage the USNS Gordon anchored in the harbor of Qui Nhon, South Vietnam on the evening of September 3, 1965. The battalion debarked from the USNS Gordon, by LST on September 5, to the beach at Qui Nhon. After a lunch of C-Rations the battalion was transported by truck west 50 miles inland, on Highway 19, to the old French build airstrip located outside of An Khe. Security for the convoy and the route along Highway 19 and through An Khe Pass was provided by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Upon arrival the battalion was located at the north end of the old French airstrip and provided security there until the move to the new base camp under construction. The battalion was assigned to the United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV) and attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery with a mission of General Support.

September saw the battalion along with all units of the 1st Air Cavalry Division struggle against the hot sun and the jungle and the rice paddies to establish a live able tent city for base camp at An Khe. The base camp later was named "Camp Radcliff". With three weeks of construction, arrival of the battalion's equipment, training and general organization the battalion was ready to introduce itself to the Viet Cong. At 2140 hours on September 11, 1965 Battery B fired the first round in Vietnam for the 1st Air Cavalry Division, as well as the first round in Vietnam under a division-artillery type organization. The Battalion Commander, LTC Harry O. Amos pulled the lanyard on the first round that was fired.

The end of September saw the first two operations for the battalion which involved reconnaissance of the areas around An Khe and a route recon from An Khe to the Song Ba River. (Operations Anne-Marie and Operation Brigitte.)

The first taste of combat for the battalion came on October 4, 1965 to October 9, 1965, as Battery B displaced by air using Chinook helicopters from the 1st Air Cavalry Division base camp to north of Phu Cat, near the Vietnam Coast to reinforce a Vietnamese Artillery Unit (B/222 Artillery) for a five day operation supporting the 22d ARVN Division, the battalion fired 221 missions for a total of 1300 rounds with an estimated enemy killed 93 and 30 wounded. (Operation Phu Ly Bridge).

This was followed by the battalion participation in Operation Shiny Bayonet, from October 10-14, supporting the fires of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery and the 22d ARVN Division northeast of Phu Cat. Battery C occupied their position by air assault (CH 47s), Headquarters Battery, Battery A and Battery B moved by road. All but two missions were fired in support of the 22nd ARVN Division. The battalion fired 33 missions for a total of 1677 rounds with no estimate of enemy casualties.

October 20-23 Battery B moved further northwest of Phu Cat, near Bong Song, to support Operation Claudine in support of the ARVN Airborne Brigade operation southwest of Bon Song. Movement was made by organic transportation to Phu Dat and by CH 47 to front positions. In addition, the battalion fired in support of the ARVN Marine Task Force with both tube and aerial rocket artillery. The battalion fired 77 missions and expended 1,562 rounds with an estimated of enemy 144 KIA and 253 wounded. The Marine advisor's after-action report specifically mentioned the Artillery support as the bright spot in their operation.

October 23- November 11. 1965 the battalion was attached to the 2/19th Artillery for Operation Long Reach. Movement was made by CH 47 and ¾ ton truck, fired 252 missions with 1379 rounds expended.

October 26-28. 1965, Operation Elise, BN (-) the mission was to support the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 22nd ARVN Division in the Tuy Hoa area. Movement was made by organic transportation to Qui Nhon and by LCU, and LCM to Tuy Hoa. Logistical support was provided by LCU and HU-1 from Qui Nhon. Fired 77 missions and expended 513 rounds and an estimated 3 KIA. One mission was a 300 rounds preparation.

The night of October 29, the Battalion Fire Direction Center controlled a Time on Target (TOT) mission which included naval gunfire from the USS Epperson (Destroyer) and ARVN artillery located in Tuy Hoa.

November 2-4, 1965 Operation Eugenie the Battalion (-B) continued support of the 22nd ARVN Division in a direct support role as no ARVN Artillery was within range. All movements were made by CH- 47, with additional perimeter security provided by an ARVN Battalion. The Task Force consisted of the 47th Inf. Regt, and two battalions of the ARVN Airborne Brigade. Operation was compromised. Naval gunfire was also utilized. Fired 77 missions, expedited 964 rounds with estimated 2 KIA

November 7-12, 1965 Operation Francoise the battalion (-B) continued Direct Support of the ARVN Task Force in Tuy Hoa area. Movements were made by CH-47. Fired 76 missions with 2,782 rounds expedited 16 KIA and 8 WIA confirmed and additional estimated 49 KIA and 87 WIA. Movement to Qui Nhon was made by both CH-47 and LCM, final movement to An Khe by organic transportation.

(*Pleiku Campaign) At first light on the morning of October 23, Task Force Ingram, composed mainly of the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and Battery B, moved by air from Camp Radcliff to Camp Holloway, at Pleiku, to reinforce II Corps Operations (ARVN). Here Battery B was attached to the 2d Battalion, 19th Artillery for Operation Long Beach to support operations in the relief of the Special Forces Camp at Plei Me from October 23-November 11. Battery B returned to An Khe for two days and deployed again with the 2d Battalion, 19th Artillery to west of An Khe along Highway 19 (November 13-19) to support RVNAF Marine Task Force for Operation Leatherneck.

Late in the afternoon, of November 14, 1965, the Battalion Headquarters Command and Control Element and Battery C moved by road from Camp Radcliff to Katecka Tea Plantation (South of Pleiku). On morning of November 15, Battery C was air lifted from Katecka Tea Plantation by CH-47 to Landing Zone (LZ) Columbus (AR 802446) with the mission to support the fires of 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. LZ Columbus was established 4 ½ kilometers to the northeast of Landing Zone X-RAY and was midway between LZ X-Ray and LZ Falcon. Batteries A and C of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, were located at LZ Falcon. Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery and Battery C were located on LZ Columbus.

On November 18, Battery C moved from LZ Columbus to LZ Crook (YA 974035) to assume a direct support mission for the two task force headquarters and five battalions of the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade, located north of the Ia Drang River along the Cambodian border. For the next twelve days the battery fired almost continuously in their support. On November 20, the 6th Battalion observed that the 3rd Battalion moving across its front was being followed by a reinforced NVA Battalion disposed to assault the 3rd Battalion as soon as they stopped. The 6th Battalion attacked this force followed closely by its artillery support. The Forward Observers (2/17th Artillery) with the 6th Battalion and 3rd Battalion during this time period fired two batteries each, for two hours to successfully break up a major NVA attack, route the enemy forces and enable both Airborne Battalions to launch an effective counterattack with a minimum of casualties. By the time the mission was over, Battery C had one howitzer with blown seals on its mechanism and one howitzer had sunk so far into the mud that the gunner was on his hand and knees laying for deflection. Replacement for the down howitzer were taken from Battery A, flown in from Katecka Tea Plantation to LZ Crook by CH-47. Battery A was providing perimeter support for both the Katecka Tea Plantation and Camp Holloway at Pleiku from 20-26 November. Battery A returned to

An Khe by organic transportation on November 26. From 15 November to 26 November Battery C fired 520 missions with 8,125 rounds expedite

(Operation Heloise –November 26-30) Immediately following their direct support mission to the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade Battery C and its attached HQs' control element moved by CH-47 from LZ Crook to Duc Co Special Forces Camp to support a three day search and clear operation of the village of Plei Ya Kavn being conducted by CIDG forces in that area. Fired 100 missions with 389 rounds expedited

During December 1965 the battalion was given a rest from major actions and only given four one day on call missions of convey security along Highway 19 between An Khe and Pleiku on 5, 9, 10 and 11 December (Operation Isabelle). The battalion provided two firing batteries and the battalion's command and control element for this mission. The remainder of the month was spent on base development and preparation for the Christmas seasons. On Christmas Eve the battalion's NCO-EM Club, "Persuaders Inn" was formally opened. Christmas Day 1965 was celebrated at base camp.

From January 4-21 the battalion departed base camp to support the 1st Cavalry Division, Operation Matador, near Pleiku. During this period the battalion made fifteen battery moves by road and air with a general support mission and to reinforce the fires of the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery and 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery.

The next mission for the battalion (January 26-February 21) was during Operation Masher in the Bong Song area. The battalion was placed under the operational control of 1st Field Forces Vietnam, reinforcing the fires of the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade which operated east of Highway One from Bong Song north to the I Corps boundary. The battalion functioned almost as a direct support battalion with the exception that all fires were controlled from the Combat Support Coordination Center located at the Airborne Brigade Command Post.

The battalion also worked closely with Republic of Korea's Tiger Division and hosted their liaison teams and forward observers who worked out of the battalion's field command post.

On February 18 Bravo Battery returned to Camp Radcliff and was the first into action at midnight on February 19 when the base camp was attacked by Viet Cong mortars. Due their efficient action the battalion suffered no injuries and only vehicles and tents were damaged from the 26 82mm mortar rounds that fell in the motor pool and gun park.

Operation Masher was followed by Operations Eagle's Claw and White Wing in the Bong Song area of operations. February 21 – March 5. The battalion rotated one firing battery at a time for these operations. On March 6, LTC Amos pulled the lanyard on Battery C, 4th Howitzer's Section and fired the 50,000 round for the battalion since their arrival in Vietnam. A change of command was held on March 15, LTC Norman P. Chandler replaced by LTC Harry O. Amos as Battalion Commander of the Persuaders.

From March 13-20, Battery A had a mission of general support of the division and provided fire support for the Forward Support Element located in Vinh Thanh Valley (east of An Khe). From March 25 to April

9, Batteries B and C participate in Operation Lincoln around the Pleiku area. Battery C was position along Highway 19 west of An Khe and was given a mission of providing convey security and remained in that position until May 3. Battery B remained in same general operational area from April 9-18 for Operation

Mosby I. Battery A moved to Kontum where it was attached to 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery to support Operation Mosby II, April 21-May 3. Two howitzers from Battery B left Camp Radcliff to participate in Operation Cochise in the Pleiku area from April 28-30.

Operation Davy Crockett kicked off on May 3, which saw Battery A returned to the Bong Song area to support the 3rd Brigade until May 13. Meanwhile, Battery C was committed to Task Force Colt for a security role as part of I Field Force Vietnam Reaction Force, in Pleiku Province, for Operation Hooker near the Cambodian border from May 7 to June 22. Battery C during this time period sent two howitzers to Bon Brieng to support the 8th Engineer Battalion in building of an airstrip. On May 20, Battery B moved to Vinh Than Valley to support the CIDG camp there, as situation developed, during Operation Crazy Horse, the Battalion Command and Control Element with Battery A were committed to this operation.

The battalion moved back to Camp Radcliff on June 1 and reassumed the mission of reinforcing the security of the base camp. Battery B remained in Vinh Than Valley for one additional day, before returning to Camp Radcliff. Battery A, upon their return, deployed along Highway 19 to provide support for the road security forces. After three days in Camp Radcliff Battery B moved to Kontum to support the division reaction force and remained in the area until June 20. From Kontum, Battery B moved to the Tui Hoa region to participation in Operation Nathan Hale-Henry Clay until July 18. Battery A provided support for security forces along Highway 19 from July 26 to September 16.

On August 1 Battery C was airlifted to LZ Oasis to participate in Operation Paul Revere II in the Western Pleiku Province. On August 19 the battalion command and control element deployed to the area of operations for Paul Revere II and assumed control of Battery C, as well as Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, Battery B, 3rd Battalion 6th Artillery and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery to support the 22 ARVN Airborne Division for Operation Than Phong 18. The operation terminated on August 28.

From September 5 until October 11, Battery B supported Operation Benning V and VI and Dazzlem from a position west of Mang Yang Pass. The remainder of the battalion continued its mission on support of the defense of Camp Radcliff. On September 20 the battalion provided one Liaison Team and three Forward Observer Teams to the 22d AVN Airborne Division for a joint US, ARVN Operation called Thayer I, which was to search an area south of Bong Song and clear it of enemy. This operation continued until September 26. This operation was continued with Operation Irving which found one Liaison Team and two Forward Observer Teams again supporting the ARVN Airborne. In addition, Battery C was alerted on September 30 to move the Irving area of operation. On October 2, Operation Irving started and continued for 23 days. On October 22 Battery A replaced Battery C and remain in the area through Operation Thayer II. Battery B replaced Battery A on December 21. On December 27, Battery B fired 1,333 rounds in support of the defense of LZ Bird.

A provisional four-gun 155mm (M114A1) towed battery was formed effective November 6. As in the Korean War the 17th Artillery in the time of war had formed a provisional battery, Battery D.

On December 3 LTC Fred C. Parker III assumed command of the battalion replacing LTC Norman P. Chandler.

The end of the year on December 31, 1966, found the battalion supporting the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) with Batteries A and D in support of the defense of Camp Radcliff. Battery B in support of Operation Thayer II in the Bong Song area and Battery C in support of security forces along Highway 19. Since the arrival of the battalion on September 5, 1965 a total of almost one quarter of a million rounds had been fired.

On January 2, 1967, Battery A fired the battalion's 200,000 round since arrival in country. On January 6, 1967 the battalion was reassigned from United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV) to First Field Forces Vietnam (1FFV), to which the battalion had been previously attached. The battalion remained further attached to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Airmobile). The Battalion (-) with Batteries A and C continued their mission of General Support Reinforcing to the 1st Battalion 21st Artillery, for the defense of Camp Radcliff and artillery support of the security forces along Highway 19. Battery B was still supporting the Thayer II Area of Operation (AO). Battery D completed building their new position and after completion of its airmobile training, the battery deployed to the Thayer II AO on January 22, 1967. The battalion furnished two forward observer parties to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, one Liaison Officer and party with the ARVN Airborne Task Force; on January 25, 1967 the Airborne Task Force was replaced by ARVN Marines. The attachment of the Liaison party to the ARVN Marines ended on April 2, 1967. The battalion also provided two supervisory NCOs to the Special Forces Camp in Vinh Thanh Valley for the two 105mm Howitzers located there.

On February 11, 1967 the battalion assumed all the artillery responsibilities, including Division Artillery Rear requirements, for Camp Radcliff, this included operational control of as many five tube artillery batteries, a battery minus of Aerial Rocket Artillery, two counter mortar radars, and a platoon minus of searchlights. In addition, one officer and one NCO were furnished to the Fire Support Coordination Center (FSSC) at the 1st Cavalry Division (Rear). The battalion still held the mission of artillery defense of Camp Radcliff and artillery support for security forces along Highway 19 east of Mang Yang Pass to An Khe Pass. The battalion also provided two firing batteries in the support of Operation Thayer II AO, which ended with the start of Operation Pershing on February 12, 1967. For the remainder of 1967, Batteries A, B or C rotated in and out of the Pershing AO in support of the 1st Cavalry Division. Battery D continued its General Reinforcing Mission of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Pershing AO. From February through April elements organic or attached to the battalion conducted two artillery raids north of Camp Radcliff and elements were moved out of base camp three times to support operations in the Radcliff AO. The battalion fired its 300,000 rounds during the month of April. The battalion also supported the Division Replacement Training Center and the Division Combat Leadership School with instructors, forward observers, coordination of artillery fire and demonstrations. The battalion, in addition, conducted service practice for the Division Artillery Reconnaissance Sergeants School and conducted a

Division Artillery Forward Observer School. By the end of October 1967, the battalion had conducted ten Forward Observer Schools, training 67 observers in techniques used in Vietnam.

On October 15, 1967 the battalion was released from its attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery and attached to the First Field Forces Artillery with further attachment to the 41st Artillery Group and assigned the tactical mission of reinforcing the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, designated as the Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) for Camp Radcliff and directed to continue to provide fire support for demonstrations and training schools conducted for the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery Schools. The battalion continued providing two firing batteries in support of Operation Pershing AO. From November 7, 1967 to November 11, 1967 Battery B supported Operation Hanh Quan 823 in the Phu Cat District.

The beginning of 1968 the battalion still maintained its mission of reinforcing the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery with the additional mission of direct support of Camp Radcliff Base Defense Maneuver Battalion, Fire Support Coordination Center for the defense of Camp Radcliff, and providing artillery support to the 1st Cavalry Division Replacement Training Center and to the First Field Forces Vietnam Forward Observer School. The battalion, during this period, had operational control of up to five firing batteries, a platoon from Battery A, 2d Battalion, 20th Artillery (Aerial Rocket Artillery), one search light from Battery B, 2d Battalion, 29th Artillery and two to three counter mortar radars, two twin 40mm Dusters, and one Quad 50 from the 4th Battalion, 40th Artillery.

In the middle of January 1968, the 1st Cavalry Division received orders to move northward to reinforce I Corps Tactical Zone. Operation Pershing was curtailed, as the division scaled down offensive operations in Binh Dinh Province. Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery was attached to the battalion from January 17, 1968 thru May 27, 1968. The battalion was given an additional mission on January 19, 1968 of direct support to the 3rd Battalion, 503d Infantry.

On February 1, 1968 the mission of the battalion was the direct support of one of the infantry battalions from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which was responsible for the defense of Camp Radcliff, security of Highway 19 from An Khe Pass to Mang Yang Pass and the "WALKER" Tactical Area of Operations (TAOR). From April 8, 1968 to June 20, 1968 security Highway 19 became the responsibility of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor with the fire support provided by the battalion. The battalion continued its support of the 1FFV Forward Observer School and the 1st Cavalry Division Replacement Training Center with artillery demonstrations.

On February 7, 1968 Battery D, which had been in general support of the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery (Operation Pershing), returned to Camp Radcliff and on February 9, 1968 the provisional battery was discontinued. Most of its personnel reassigned within the battalion and its four 155mm howitzer were placed in Battery C. Five of the 105mm howitzers from Battery C were placed in administrative storage at Camp Radcliff.

(Note: During the administrative storage of Battery C five 105mm howitzers, the howitzers were used at different time periods by the firing batteries within the battalion or were on loan to other U. S. artillery units under the control of 1FFV Artillery)

From February 2, 1968 to February 27, 1968, Battery A under the control of 1FFV Artillery supported CIDG Operations in the Quin Nhon area. On February 28, Battery C deployed to replace Battery A. Battery C was then attached to the 41st Artillery Group in Tuy Phuc District and to support the Quin Nhon Support Area Command (QNSAC).

On March 6, 1968 the battalion assumed operational control of Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery (105mm, M108, SP). The battery was placed along Highway 19, just east of Mang Yang Pass to provide additional fire support in the area. Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery remained under operational control of the battalion until May 14, 1968.

The 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery was re-designated the 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery on April 1, 1968.

On the morning of April 3, 1968, an enemy sapper unit of unknown size attacked Battery C, which was occupying fire base LZ George, located at Ky Son Mountain near Tuy Phuc, in Binh Dinh Province. The attack started at 0130 hours and the enemy withdrew at approximately at 0530 hours. This attack resulted in the highest number of one day casualties suffered by the battalion.

The battalion, still attached to the 41st Artillery Group, continued its mission through the summer of 1968 in General Support of United States, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and Free World Military Armed Forces in the Walker TAOR, with the priority of fires to the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry, which was responsible for the defense of Camp Radcliff, Highway 19 from An Khe Pass to Mang Yang Pass and the Walker TAOR. The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor assumed security of Highway 19 from the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry, for the period of April 8, 1968 to June 20, 1968. Subsequently, on August 17, 1968 the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry assumed the mission of the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry. The battalion continued to provide fire support to the 1FFV Forward Observer Training Course. Battery C remained under the operational control of the 41st Artillery Group with a mission of General Support of United States, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and Free World Military Armed Forces in Binh Dinh Sector Defense Area and the Quin Nhon Support Command Defense Area (QNSCDA). Battery C from July 11, 1968 to July 16, 1968 supported operations of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Infantry Division.

Battery C, 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery moved to Camp Radcliff on 3 July 1968 with a mission of General Support Reinforcing of the battalion. They departed Camp Radcliff on July 12, 1968

On October 11, 1968, Battery C status was changed to "special attachment to the 41st Artillery Group for fire planning and clearance of fire by the Fire Support Coordinator, Binh Dinh Self Defense Area".

From November 2, 1968 to November 20, 1968 Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery was attached to the battalion to assist in providing fire support for additional maneuver forces in the Walker TAOR. In addition, one platoon from Battery A, 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery occupied different position in the Walker TAOR with a General Support Reinforcing mission to the battalion from November 24, 1968 to

December 11, 1968. The platoon departed the Walker TAOR on December 11, 1968 and returned to the control of its parent unit.

On November 12, 1968, SFC Victor V. Evans, Chief of Firing Battery, Battery A (Forward) (LZ Action) fired the 750,000 rounds for the battalion since the battalion arrival in Republic of South Vietnam in September 1965. SFC Evans had served with the battalion continuously since before its deployment to Vietnam.

An 8-inch platoon, from Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, arrived at Camp Radcliff on November 28, 1969. On the following day the platoon converted to 175mm guns. Starting on November 30 the platoon occupied different positions in the Walker TAOR to fire at long range acquired targets. This platoon returned to parent unit control on April 14, 1969 and departed the Walker TAOR.

Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was assigned a mission of General Support Reinforcing to the battalion and arrived at Camp Radcliff on December 13, 1968. On December 16, 1968 the battery was airlifted to LZ Ann to support Mike Strike Forces (MSF) south of Camp Radcliff. The operation terminated on January 24, 1969 and the battery returned to its parent unit on January 27, 1969.

Effective February 1, 1969, the "Walker" TAOR was renamed the "Marshall" TAOR. On February 9, 1969, Battery C, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery was assigned the mission of General Support Reinforcing to the battalion with the priority of fires to the 2d Battalion Mike Strike Force. On February 15, 1969 the battery departed the Marshall TAOR and returned to their parent unit.

Two of 105mm howitzer in administrative storage (Battery C), plus one howitzer from Battery A (Fwd) moved to the location of Battery B (LZ Schueller) on March 5, 1969 to support Operation Stingray I. Additional personnel from Battalion Headquarters were sent to Battery B to insure that all nine howitzer were operational and manned.

From March 7, 1969 to March 25, 1969 Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery, assigned a mission of General Support Mission, operated in the Marshall TAOR with its fires being coordinating by the battalion.

Battery C was returned to the full command of the battalion, on March 24, 1969, with the 41st Artillery Group responsible for fire planning and clearance of fires, which were accomplished by the Fire Support Coordinator, Binh Dinh Self Defense Force. (*Disposition of Battery C howitzers April 1969: Battery C is deployed with four each 155mm howitzers and one each 105mm howitzer, one each 105mm howitzer with Battery B, two each 105mm howitzers on loan to the 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery, deployed with a provisional battery in Task Force South and two each 105mm howitzers in administrative storage at Camp Radcliff.)

The AN/MPQ 10 radar that had been attached to the battalion was relieved of its operational control to the battalion on April 13, 1969 and left the Marshall TAOR to the Qui Nhon Defense Support Area.

On April 14, 1969, Headquarters Battery and Battery B, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery arrived at Camp Radcliff, followed by Battery A, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery on April 15, 1969 to support the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry.

The brigade took over as the maneuver force of the Marshall TAOR as of 15 April 1969. On the same date the 1st Battalion (Mech), 50th Infantry was replaced by the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor as the security force for Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Passes. ("Marshall" TAOR was renamed "Hines" TAOR)

Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was temporarily attached to the battalion on April 15, 1969 as a General Support Reinforcing unit, with the mission of fire support to the Hines TAOR with the priority of fires to 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (-) On April 15, 1969 the battalion (-) was attached to the 52d Artillery Group with a General Support (GS) mission with the priority of fires to the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, who replaced the 1st Battalion (Mech), 50th Infantry along Highway 19. In addition, on April 15, 1969, the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division took over the mission of defense of Camp Radcliff and the Hines TAOR with 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery assuming the responsibilities of the Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC). Battery C was temporarily attached to the 41st Artillery Group and further attached to 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

The battalion assumed command and control of the perimeter defense of Camp Radcliff on May 1, 1969 and established a Tactical Operation Center (TOC) and Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) for the "GREENLINE" TAOR. The Camp Radcliff Augmentation Security Detachment (Provisional) and the 54th Infantry Detachment (Ground Surveillance) was attached to the battalion effective June 10, 1969. The battalion's priority of fires continued for the security force along Highway 19.

On June 13, 1969 Battery A (Rear) departed Camp Radcliff for Ban Me Thout for further deployment in the vicinity of Duc Lap. The battery occupied LZ Francine, until June 28, 1969, in general support of the 3rd Battalion Mike Strike Force (MSF).

Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery on July 22, 1969 was released from the attachment to the battalion.

On August 8, 1969 the battalion assumed operational control of one 175mm gun from Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, which was located at LZ Schueller. This gun moved from LZ Schueller to LZ Action on September 6, 1969

On August 28, 1969 the battalion assumed operational control of Battery C. Battery C moved from Ky Son and relocated to Camp Radcliff with 4 each 105mm Howitzers pending arrival of air transportation for a move to the Duc Lap area. Battery C departed An Khe on August 31, 1969, by C130, with 3 each 105mm Howitzers and command and fire control elements and came under the operational control of the Provisional Artillery Group. The remainder elements of Battery C departed An Khe on September 2, 1969 for Ban Me Thout.

The battalion assumed operational control of one platoon (155mm howitzers) from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery on September 8, 1969. This platoon was air lifted to LZ Mattie on September 9, 1969. On September 25, 1969 the platoon returned to Camp Radcliff and departed the AO on September 26, 1969.

Battery A (Rear) moved to LZ Hardtimes on September 10, 1969, while there they integrated the one Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) howitzer into the firing platoon and begun providing fire direction training, howitzer crew training, and maintenance assistance of the CIDG Fire Direction Center (FDC) and howitzer crew. Battery A (Rear) returned to Camp Radcliff on September 21, 1969.

The one 175mm gun from Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery located at LZ Action departed on September 23, 1969 for LZ Blackhawk and operational control was turned over to the 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery.

One 8- inch howitzer from Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was place under operational control of the battalion and located at LZ Action. The 8- inch howitzer departed LZ Action on October 18, 1969 and returned to LZ Blackhawk, were operational control was passed back to the 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery

A Battalion Light Command Post was dispatched on December 3, 1969 from Camp Radcliff to Nhon Co Special Forces Camp and assumed operation control of a platoon from Battery C at Bu Prang and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery (-). Its mission was to coordinate artillery fires and logistic support for US elements in Quan Duc Province. Due to decrease activity in the area and in anticipation of withdrawal of US Artillery elements, the Battalion Light Command Post terminated operations and returned to Camp Radcliff on December 21, 1969

Battery A was reunited, on December 3, 1969, when Battery A (Rear) closed out at Camp Radcliff and moved to LZ Action. On December 26, 1969 a ten-man advance party from Battery A departed An Khe by air to Nha Trang to set in motion the first move of Battery A under Operation "Metro Media". (Operation Metro Media was a re-stationing plan for US Artillery in the II Corps Tactical Zone (IICTZ)). In addition, on December 27, 1969 an eighteen-man advance party from Headquarters Battery departed An Khe by air for Ban Me Thout and a twelve man advance party from Battery B also departed An Khe by air for Dalat.

The battalion assumed operational control of a platoon (175mm) from Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery on January 3, 1970, with one gun arriving on January 3, 1970 and the second gun arriving on January 4, 1970. The platoon mission was to support 4th Infantry Division operations in the Hines TAOR, from Camp Radcliff.

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery (-) (four 155mm howitzers) were placed under operational control of the battalion at Camp Radcliff on January 7, 1970.

The first elements (three howitzers section) of Battery A started their move, on January 7, 1970, from LZ Action to Quin Nhon by road, where they boarded a LST for their move to Nha Trang. The first element

arrived in Nha Trang on January 9, 1970. The remainder of Battery A (-) moved from LZ Action on January 11, 1970 to Quin Nhon by road where they boarded LSTs for their move to Nha Trang. The second element of Battery A arrived in Nha Trang on January 13, 1970. Battery A on January 14, 1970 reverted to operational control First Field Forces Vietnam Artillery.

Battery A, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery (105mm) was placed under operational control of the battalion on January 11, 1970. On January 12, 1970 Battery C, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery (-) departed Camp Radcliff by road to LZ Emilia to support operations of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in the Hines TAOR. They returned to Camp Radcliff on January 16, 1970.

Battery B began their two-part movement from LZ Schueller to Dalat on January 18, 1970. Both elements travel by road to Camp Radcliff where they traveled by air to Dalat. The first element closed Dalat on January 19, 1970. The remainder of the battery departed LZ Schueller on January 19, 1970 and arrived in Dalat on January 20, 1970. The battery reverted to operational control of the Provisional Artillery Group with a mission of general support to Tuven Duc Province.

On January 19, 1970 the 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery relieved the battalion at Camp Radcliff and assumed operational control of the battalion's area of operations and all operational controlled of all attached units.

On January 21, 1970, Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Battery and Service Battery began movement, by road, in two elements from Camp Radcliff to Ban Me Thout with an overnight stay at Pleiku. Each element consisted of two series. The first serial departed Camp Radcliff on January 21, 1970 and arrived in Ban Me Thout on January 22, 1970. The second element departed Camp Radcliff on January 22, 1970 and arrived at Ban Me Thout on January 23, 1970. The battalion (-) was attached to the Provisional Artillery Group on January 22, 1970 with a mission of General Support of United States Armed Forces, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, and Free World Military Armed Forces in Darlat and Quang Duc Provinces, 2d Military Region.

On January 26, 1970 the battalion relieved the 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery and assumed operational control of the AO and Battery C (2/17), Battery B, 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery (8 inch) (Reinforcing 2/17(-)), Radar Detachment 253 and Radar Detachment 6, located in the Ban Me Thout area. With the relief of 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery the battalion's portion of Operation Metro Media was complete.

As of February 1, 1970, the battalion (-) was deployed with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Service Battery and Battery C at Ban Me Thout East. Battery B was located at Dalat, with one howitzer at Duc Trong. Radar Detachments 253 (Q4) and 6 (Q10) and a composite automatic weapons platoon of four M42's, two M55's and one 23-inch searchlight (jeep mounted) remained under operational control of the battalion. Battery B, 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery was still attached with a reinforcing mission. One Liaison Team from the battalion was located the 23rd ARVN Division Tactical Operation Center/Fire Support Coordination Center. Battery A was located at Nha Trang under the operational control of 1FFV Artillery.

Battery C moved from Ban Me Thout East to Fire Base (FB) Doris K. on February 1, 1970. Then from February 14, 1970 to February 26, 1970 Battery C displaced one platoon by road to unnamed fire base to support operations by the 75th Rangers. The platoon returned to Fire Base Doris K upon completion of the mission. Battery C also displaced one platoon by road to Fire Base Dead Man's Hill to support Rome Plow operations along QL 14. The platoon returned to FB Doris K on February 26, 1970.

Battery A displaced one platoon to support operations of the Special Forces Group Recondo School from February 22, 1970 to February 25, 1970.

The battalion sent an assistance team consisting of one officer and two NCOs to the Trang Phuc CIDG Camp on March 9, 1970 to spend a week training the CIDG artillery. They returned March 14, 1970

Battery B moved one platoon on March 11, 1970 to Tam Mi replacing an ARVN platoon deployed to support an ARVN operation. This platoon returned to Dalat on March 27, 1970.

MET Section II, of the 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery, was placed under operational control of the battalion on March 20, 1970 and was emplaced at the Fire Base of Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery at Ban Me Thout East.

Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery (two 8 inch and two 175mm) moved to Ban Me Thout East on March 29, 1970 with a reinforcing mission of the battalion and to replaced Battery B, 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery, which departed for a new position at Song Mao on March 30, 1970.

Battery A moved one platoon by barge to Hon Tre Island on April 5, 1970 and the platoon returned to Nha Trang on April 9, 1970.

The battalion's assistance team conducted a one week of training of the CIDG Artillery at Tien Atar CIDG Camp from April 6, 1970 to April 11, 1970.

A platoon from Battery C moved by helicopter on April 10, 1970 to Buon Blech to support Rome Plow operations along the road from Cheo Reo to Buon Blech and returned on April 22, 1970.

On May 17, 1970 Battery B moved one platoon by fixed wing aircraft from Dalat (Fire Base Colgan) to Ban Me Thout and then moved by road to Fire Base Buon Ho to relieve ARVN artillery located there in place. The platoon returned to Ban Me Thout on July 2, 1970 and then moved by fixed wing aircraft back to Fire Base Colgan on July 3, 1970.

Battery C also moved one platoon by road on May 17, 1970, to Fire Base Quang Nhieu, to relieve ARVN Artillery in place. The platoon returned to Fire Base Doris K on July 2, 1970.

On May 19, 1970, one platoon of 8 inch and one 175mm gun from Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery under the operational control of the battalion, moved to Fire Base Lem with the priority of fires to the

23d ARVN Division for Operation Binh Tay III, in Cambodia. At the same time a Liaison Section from the 17th Artillery, and a two-man visual Metro team from 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery collocated with the 23d ARVN Division Forward Command Post at Duc Lap. All elements returned to home stations on June 11, 1970. The displaced elements of Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery were released from operational control of the battalion and assumed reinforcing mission to the battalion.

Battery A moved by road one platoon to Fire Base Chu Kuk to relieve Battery D, 320th Artillery, 101st Airborne Division in place. The platoon was placed under the operational control of the battalion during their stay at this position. Upon returning to Fire Base (FB NAAPT), Nha Trang the platoon reverted to operational control of 1FFV Artillery as of Jun 29, 1970.

On July 4, 1970 a small ceremony was held at the location of Battery B (Fire Base Colgan, Dalat), during which, Colonel Tuck, the Provisional Artillery Commander, fired the 1,000,000 round of the battalion since its arrival in Vietnam.

Battery B displaced one additional howitzer to Fire Base Apollo at Duc Trong on July 15, 1970. The section was placed under the operation control of the 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery.

The Q4 Radar, Detachment 6, departed Ban Me Thout on September 4, 1970 to Cam Ranh Bay. The detachment then moved to Duc Trong and was placed under operational control of the 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery.

Battery A displaced two platoons to Fire Base Windy to support operations of the 22d ARVN Rangers. The first platoon departed on September 7, 1970 with the second platoon departing on September 8, 1970. Both platoons returned to FB NAAPT on September 14, 1970.

One of the howitzers from Battery B under the operational control of the Battery A, 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery, at Fire Base Apollo, returned to its battery control at Fire Base Colgan for maintenance on September 14, 1970. The other Battery B howitzer at Fire Base Apollo returned to Fire Base Colgan on October 7, 1970. Battery B also moved a platoon from Fire Base Colgan to Fire Base Warlock on October 7, 1970 to support operations of the 53d Regiment, 23d ARVN Division. The platoon was moved again on October 17, 1970 from Fire Base Warlock to Fire Base Andrea to continue its support of the 53d ARVN Regiment. The platoon returned to Fire Base Colgan on October 22, 1970.

On November 4, 1970 Radar Detachment 6 was again placed under the operational control of the battalion and arrived back at Ban Me Thout on November 8, 1970. The radar was placed at the 155th Aviation Company Compound in Ban Me Thout and became operational on November 9, 1970.

Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery departed Fire Base Aquarius for Song Mao on November 9, 1970. A security force from the battalion assumed the security for Fire Base Aquarius.

1FFV Artillery released Battery A back to operational control of the battalion on November 20, 1970. Battery was still located at Fire Base NAAPT (Airport at Na Tranh).

Radar Detachment 253 (Q4) was moved from the compound of the 45th ARVN Regiment to Fire Base Aquarius. Also, on November 28, 1970 one Engineer Platoon from Task Force Sierra arrived at Ban Me Thout and billeted at Fire Base Aquarius with a mission of working on QL 21 from Ban Me Thout to Knauh Dung.

Two howitzers from Battery C in a first part of a three-part permanent movement were moved from Fire Base Doris K to Fire Base Aquarius on December 21, 1970. The second two howitzers moved Fire Base Aquarius on December 26, 1970 with the final two howitzers moved on January 3, 1971.

One platoon from Battery C departed Fire Base Aquarius on January 12, 1971 to support the 538th Land Clearing Company Rome Plow Operations from Duon Ho to Duon Blech. The 538th Land Clearing Company signed for Fire Base Doris K on January 13, 1971 and all security elements from the battalion were removed from Fire Based Doris K. The platoon supporting the Rome Plow operations returned to Fire Base Aquarius on February 6, 1971.

One day artillery raids were conducted on:

January 22, 1971 – Battery C (-) (Fired on 56 intelligence targets developed by G2, 23d ARVN Division)

January 24, 1971 – one platoon Battery B (Fired on 20 intelligence targets developed by Task Force South)

January 25, 1971 – Battery C (-) (Fired on 50 intelligence targets G2, 23d ARVN Division)

January 26, 1971 – one platoon Battery B (Fired on 20 intelligence targets developed by Task Force South)

January 28, 1971 – one platoon Battery B (Fired on 20 intelligence targets developed by Task Force South)

February 28, 1971 – one platoon Battery B (Fired on 26 intelligence targets developed by Task Force South)

On February 28, 1971 Met Section II, 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery was released from operational control of the battalion to begin a stand-down in preparation for inactivation.

Radar Detachment 253 was released from operational control of the battalion on March 2, 1971 and attached to the 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery

An advance party from the battalion on March 13, 1971, departed Ban Me Thout to Cam Ranch Bay to set up billets and marshalling areas. On March 14, 1971 the battalion received official notification for the stand-down of the battalion.

The battalion's stands down dates were: Battery A – March 25, 1971, Battery B – April 1, 1971, Battery C – April 4, 1971, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Service Battery – April 4, 1971

One platoon from Battery B conducted a one-day artillery raid on March 15, 1971 firing on 52 targets developed by Task Force South

Two howitzers from Battery C were deployed to support operations of Task Force Sierra from March 22, 1971 to March 30, 1971.

On March 25, 1971 a forward command post, under command of the Battalion XO, was established at the old 566th Transportation Company area in Cam Ranh Bay.

With start of Battery A, on March 24, 1971, dismounting two howitzers sections from their primary firing positions at Nha Trang and being replaced by howitzers from Battery C, 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery, the stand down for the 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery in the Republic of South Vietnam started.

A platoon of Battery C fired the last rounds for the battalion on March 28, 1971 in the support of operations for Task Force Sierra. Battery C stood down on April 4, 1971. With the stand down of Headquarters and Service Batteries brought the end of the battalion service in the Republic of South Vietnam.

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (DA GO 40, 1967) and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm (DA GO 54, 1971). The battalion served in thirteen campaigns: Defense, Counteroffensive, counteroffensive, Phase II. Counteroffensive, Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive, Phase IV, Counteroffensive, Phase V, Counteroffensive, Phase VI, Tet 69 Counteroffensive, Summer-Fall 1969, Winter-Spring 1970, Sanctuary Counteroffensive, and Counteroffensive, Phase VII. (17th Lineage and Honors)

(References) Quarterly Operational Reports of 2nd Battalion 17th Artillery from 31 December 1965 to 3 April 1971

Re-designated 1 September 1971 as the 2d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery

On April 26, 1971 the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery was inactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington