



Fact File

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U.S. Army, Europe & Seventh Army Fact File

HISTORY – 172ND INFANTRY BRIGADE



What today is known as the 172d Infantry Brigade was first constituted on August 5, 1917 in the National Army as the 172nd Infantry Brigade, organized on the 25th of that month at Camp Grant, in Rockford, Illinois and assigned to the 86th Infantry Division. As part of the 86th Division it arrived in Bordeaux, France, for combat duty in September 1918 and after serving in World War I it was demobilized in January 1919 at Camp Grant.

On June 24, 1921 the unit was reconstituted in the Organized Reserves as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade, and again assigned to the 86th Division. It was organized in January 1922 at Springfield, Illinois and went through several re-designations, including on March 23, 1925, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Brigade, and August 24, 1936 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade was converted and re-designated the 3rd Platoon, 86th Reconnaissance Troop, 86th Division on March 31, 1942, while her sister unit, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 171st Infantry Brigade, became the remainder of the 86th Reconnaissance Troop. On December 15, 1942 the troop was mobilized and reorganized at Camp Howze, in Gainesville, Texas, as the 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, only to be reorganized and re-designated again on August 5, 1943 as the 86th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized. For the majority of the US involvement in World War II it remained stateside, participating in the Third Army #5 Louisiana Maneuvers in 1943, among other exercises until finally staging at Camp Miles Standish, at Boston, Massachusetts on February 5, 1945 and shipping out from the Boston on February 19, 1945. The 86th Reconnaissance Troop arrived in France on March 1, 1945, acclimated and trained, and then moved to Koln, Germany, and participated in the relief of the 8th Infantry Division in defensive positions near Weiden which on March 28 -29, 1945 and found itself at Salzburg on May 7, 1945. It was then sent back stateside to prepare for operation in the Pacific, arriving back in New York City on June 17, 1945, and proceeded to Fort Gruber in Braggs, Oklahoma before staging at Camp Stoneman at Pittsburg, California, on August 14, 1945. The unit shipped out from San Francisco on August 21, 1945 and arrived in the Philippines on September 7, 1945, five days after the Japanese surrender.

On October 10, 1945 the 86th Reconnaissance Troop, (Mechanized) was again re-designated the 86th Mechanized Reconnaissance Troop before finally being inactivated on December 30, 1946 while still stationed in the Philippines. However the 86th Mechanized Reconnaissance Troop was reactivated again on July 9, 1952 as part of the Army Reserve. Finally on May 20, 1963 the 3rd Platoon, 86th Reconnaissance Troop was converted and re-designated as the 172nd Infantry Brigade, relieved from assignment to the 86th Infantry Division, and allotted to the Regular Army.

The 172nd Brigade was designated a Reorganization Objective Army Division (ROAD), and was activated on 1 July 1963 at Fort Richardson, Alaska with one Light Infantry Battalion; one Mechanized Infantry Battalion; and one Tank Company. Its shoulder sleeve insignia was authorized for use on August 28, 1963 and its distinctive unit insignia was authorized on June 8, 1966. The Brigade was reorganized from Mechanized Infantry to Light Infantry on June 30, 1969, with a reduction to 2 Mechanized Infantry Battalions. In 1974 the 172nd Infantry Brigade was reorganized again to include three Light Infantry Battalions, and once more in 1978 to a structure that included one Infantry Battalion, one Mechanized Infantry Battalion, and one Tank Battalion before it was finally deactivated on April 15, 1986 at Fort Richardson, Alaska.



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On April 17, 1998, the U.S. Army reactivated the "172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate)" and reflagged the 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division as that unit was headquartered at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

In August 2005, the 172nd Infantry Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit deployed to Mosul, Iraq. Its tour was to have ended on July 27, 2006, but the U.S. Army unexpectedly extended its deployment until the end of November 2006.

- 30 -