



Duty First



SPECIAL EDITION

A historical look at the Big Red One





On the cover

Marking the end of an era for the Big Red One in Europe and the start of a new chapter in the Division's history at Fort Riley, Kansas, this special edition of Duty First takes a look at the proud history of the oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army.

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs staff

1st Infantry Division Commander:
MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker

1st Infantry Division PAO NCOIC:
MSG Cameron Porter

1st Infantry Division CSM:
CSM John D. Fourhman

Editor:
SPC Stephen Baack

1st Infantry Division PAO:
MAJ William Coppernoll

Staff writer:
SPC Joe Alger

1st Infantry Division Deputy PAO:
1LT Ryan Gray

Broadcaster:
SGT Bryant Maude



In this issue

World War I.....4-6

MEUSE - ARGONNE

Operation HUSKY...7-8

SICILY

D-Day.....9-11

NORMANDY

Germany to Riley.....12

OPERATION GYROSCOPE

Tet Offensive.....13

VIETNAM 1968

Desert Storm.....14-15

LIBERATION AND DEFENSE OF KUWAIT

Bosnia.....16-17

1997

Task Force Falcon....18

KOSOVO

War on Terror.....20-23

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II

Return to Riley.....24-26

OPERATION GYROSCOPE II

Duty First is an unofficial publication produced under the provisions of AR 360-1, published by Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army or the 1st Infantry Division. All photos are Army photos unless otherwise noted. Circulation is 6,000 per issue, printed quarterly. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to 1st Infantry Division, Public Affairs Office, ATTN: Editor, Unit 26222, APO, AE 09036. Telephone numbers are DSN 350-6408 or 350-6409, commercial 0931-889-6408 or 0931-889-6409, fax DSN 350-6591, commercial fax 0931-889-6591, or e-mail firstid.pao@us.army.mil, or visit Duty First online at www.1id.army.mil.



**Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO**

Trudging through the Verdun sector of France between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River, First Division Soldiers understood what awaited them. Surrounding them were fresh traces of the receding German front, pushed back by their soon-to-be predecessors who were still in the fight. As they marched toward their place on the front lines to relieve the 35th Division, their eyes could not escape the extensive shell damage that spotted the ground, the abandoned trenches accented with tangled wire, the pulverized roads, or the giant craters where houses once stood. And, as if to secure their grim resolve, newly erected, make-shift grave markers from both sides of the war dotted the landscape. These Soldiers understood that for many of them, it was a march toward death.

Encouragingly, by that point the Division not only possessed nearly a year of fighting experience in France, but a steadfast loyalty to the virtues of duty and courage. Acquiring new skills and confidence from having fought successfully in previous battles throughout their year in France was only part of the larger picture.

Comprising the front line of the Division were the 16th, the 18th, the 26th, and the 28th Infantry Regiments. Each having endured



U.S. Army Photo

Division Soldiers march through a town in France in 1918.

extensive combat with Mexico, the regiments were considered to be in top form and were selected to be a part of the “First Expeditionary Division” because they stood as models of fighting efficiency. A portion of each regiment was brought up to war strength by an additional force of volunteer enlistees who joined after the United States declared war April 6, 1917.

The morale was high. Making their way to Hoboken, N.J., to depart for the war, onlookers cheered them on. A majority of the Soldiers were eager and enthusiastic to embark on what lay ahead – what many foresaw as an adventure.

After nearly four months of training following their arrival to France in June, the men of the First Division welcomed the opportunity to finally engage in combat with the Germans for the first time while in the Sommerviller Sector on the Lorraine front. Between the towns of Lunéville and Nancy, the Division’s 6th Field Artillery Regiment unleashed the first American artillery shell. This was also where the first American casualties were suffered and where the first German prisoner of war was taken. This was, perhaps most importantly, the battlefield on which First Division Soldiers acquired a true sense of what lay ahead.

They endured the winter in the Ansauville Sector – the first of the First Division’s citations for gallantry were born from this “quiet” sector. It was here they learned how to conduct raids, as open warfare was nearly impossible due to the strength of each side’s



U.S. Army Photo

E Battery, 56th C.A.C., First Division provides artillery support at dawn in Boulney, France, Oct. 7, 1918.



defenses. Quick, thoroughly thought-out and well-practiced, the raid was a strong attack against a small part of the enemy's defenses – and by this time it was a common tactic in this sector.

The Division found what many consider to be its first real victory in Cantigny, where 4,000 men of the 28th Inf. Regt. recaptured the heavily fortified town from the Germans within 45 minutes. The more costly victory at Soissons followed. Their role and subsequent victory in clearing the St. Mihiel salient would be the last fighting before the final test.

The 1922 book *History of the First Division During the World War: 1917-1918* states that without waiting for the blow at St. Mihiel, the Army Staff prepared plans for this new offensive and scarcely had the last shots been fired in the reduction of the salient before batteries and troops began moving to the new theater of operations.

The mission of the Allied Forces during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive was two-fold. The main objective was to sever Germany's railway system that provided necessary supplies, ammunition and troops. The double-track railway ran west from Metz through Sedan and Mézières. Their auxiliary objective was to strike a final blow to the enemy's defenses to prevent the German front from stabilizing. No one wanted another winter in the trenches.

On the morning of Sept. 26, the fighting began. The men of the First Division, who had not yet entered the front lines and who were preparing for an eastward assault in support of III Corps, slowly realized plans would change. Throughout the first day they heard reports from the front about the growing casualties and



U.S. Army Photo

Soldiers from the 18th Infantry Regiment set up a machine gun nest in “No Man’s Land” during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France.

desperate fighting. The front had stabilized. The Germans would not give up the Meuse-Argonne region easily. Undisputedly, they had held this sector since the bloody battle of Verdun in 1915.

Having received orders Sept. 27 to join the fight, the First Division completed its relief of the 35th Division and elements of the 82nd Division the morning of Oct. 1. As the columns approached the front lines, each of the four regiments split into three groups to assume their places in three ravines that ran parallel to the front line in order to gain cover and concealment. The 1st Field Artillery Brigade also set up their position.

Throughout the first three days, First Division Soldiers endured constant shelling from German artillery. Both sides exchanged relentless rifle and machine gun fire, making maneuvers next to impossible. Casualties amounted to about 500 per day. American batteries searched for enemy positions with their artillery fire.

Meanwhile, the Germans were already advancing their reserves, signaling an advantage. The goal of the First Division now was to drive a wedge onto the high ground of the Aire Valley with the hopes of forcing the Germans to loosen their grip on the Argonne Forest and ultimately be driven backward. The landscape, however, provided excellent cover to German machine guns on the wooded hilltops and poor cover to the advancing First Division troops on the barren slopes. They would need reinforcements.

The additional troops included three tank companies, three cavalry companies, a French regiment of field artillery and an aerial observation squadron. Every move of the Division was preceded by crucial barrages from 108 artillery guns. Thus began the second phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

The first day of the renewed attack saw every range of battle from artillery to hand-to-hand fighting. Commencing the battle was the Division's artillery barrage, which was met by a fierce counter-barrage from the Germans – effectively placing a wall of exploding shells directly in front of them. Augmented by the enemy's rifle and machine gun fire, the scene was later described as a “hell of death and destruction.” It was through this onslaught the infantrymen of



U.S. Army Photo

Division troops keep watch at a lookout post in front-line trenches in the Ansauville Sector. Soldiers of the First Division learned how to conduct raids, as open warfare was nearly impossible due to the strength of each side's defenses.

the First Division made their way. Close-quarters fighting followed with the use of bayonets, rifles and grenades.

The use of machine guns and artillery support throughout First Division's involvement during the entire offensive was absolutely necessary, as counter-attacks from the enemy were frequent, and infantry cover was limited. In fact, artillery use averaged about 1,000 rounds per day, which made out to 7.5 tons of steel fired into the enemy every day during that period of fighting.

After successfully driving their wedge and flanking the enemy, the Division held its line under orders of I Corps, and the 82nd Division entered the fight to assist the 16th Inf. Regt. in handling oncoming flanking fire.

Now under the control of V Corps, the Division waited in especially hostile territory from Oct. 6-8, awaiting orders from First Army to renew the attack against the entire front. It was here casualties mounted beyond the ability of stretcher bearers and burial parties to perform their duties. For the first time in this phase of the battle, 1st Battalion, 16th Inf. Regt. was put in the fray and did not disappoint in achieving their objective: the precipitous Hill 272.

The aforementioned historical book states the assault must ever stand as one of the most brilliant exploits of the Division, and it opened the way for the success that crowned the remainder of the operation.

Each regiment sustained some of the heaviest losses during this period, but did not fall short of their objectives near Fléville. By

Oct. 12, the First Division was relieved by the 42nd Division. The First Division had advanced seven kilometers while defeating elements of eight German divisions. By Oct. 31, the Division was back on the field and entered the fight the next day.

After an extensive barrage that included 608 artillery guns and lasted two hours, separate walls of shells, shrapnel, machine gun fire, howitzer bursts and more shells rained down across a distance of 1,000 to 1,200 meters away. Three divisions of infantrymen – 2nd, 89th and the First – followed the barrages toward the next assault and final objective: the heights of Barricourt.

After a day of fighting near the Stonne-Beaumont road, the stage was set to head toward Sedan, the key objective of the offensive. Five columns of the Division began a torturous march down the valley of the Meuse to the southwest hills of Sedan during the night. Upon nearing Sedan the morning of Nov. 7, First Division regiments met elements of the 42nd Division and the 40th French Division. During the two days prior, First Division Soldiers had marched and fought without stopping to rest. The 16th, 18th and 28th Regiments had marched more than 50 kilometers. The 26th Regiment had marched 71 kilometers.

The Division had been resting and being held in reserve awaiting the next operation when, at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, the armistice and cease-fire were announced. At first the prevailing belief among American troops was that the armistice was merely a delay before a final push for Sedan. Slowly the realization took hold: the war was over.

Big Red One patch remains symbol of pride

*Story by SGT John Queen
69th ADA Brigade PAO*

Take one look at the 1st Infantry Division's shoulder patch and it's not too hard to figure out how the Division got its "Big Red One" nickname.

While that famous nickname is self-explanatory, the origin of the patch's design is still somewhat of a mystery.

Director Samuel Fuller's 1980 World War II epic *The Big Red One* treats the audience with one version of the insignia's origin.

The movie begins with actor Lee Marvin, known only as "Sergeant" throughout the film, in France as a doughboy at the end of the World War I. He's returning to a muddy trench after killing a German Soldier in hand-to-hand combat on the battlefield above. Sergeant joins his commander in a cluttered bunker, and as they talk he pulls the German's cap out of his tunic, cuts off the red insignia and places it on his sleeve.

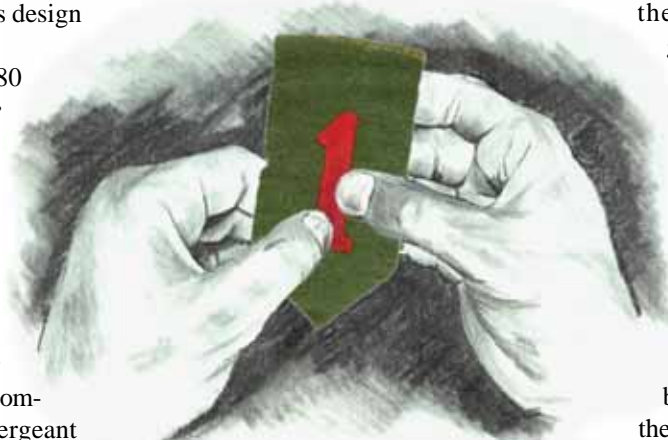
"What do you think?" he asks the captain.

"What the hell is it?" replies the officer.

"It's a one," Sergeant says. "The First Infantry Division – the Red One."

While Hollywood paints a courageous picture of the patch's conception, the actual origin is most likely less gallant.

One story tells of how the Division used supply trucks manufactured in England during WWI. The drivers each painted a huge



Graphic by SGT John Queen

"1" on their trucks to make them easily distinguishable from those of their Allies. It's rumored that the Division's engineers carried the idea a little further by sewing a red patch on their sleeves, which was later replaced by a red number "1".

A more-often-quoted account of the patch legacy involves a general's challenge to a

lieutenant during the build-up and training days of the Division in 1917. In this version, a general officer decided that the Division needed a suitable shoulder insignia, so he sewed the number on the sleeve of his uniform.

Later on, a cocky young lieutenant saw the red numeral and shouted, "The general's underwear is showing!"

The general shouted back, "All right young man, if you're so smart, you come up with something better."

The lieutenant produced a prototype of the modern day patch shortly afterward. It's said he used a piece of cloth from a captured soldier's uniform as a background with a big, red "1" sewed on the face.

Another rendition of the tale combines the stories of the supply trucks and the general's challenge naming LT Herbert M. Stoops of C Battery, 6th Field Artillery Regiment as the patch's designer.

In October 1918 the patch was officially approved for wear by members of the Division.

Regardless of which of these legendary stories is closest to reality, the distinctive Big Red One will always remain the pride of all the members of the 1st Infantry Division.



*Story by SGT Bryant Maude
Broadcast NCO, 1st ID PAO*

If then- Army Chief of Staff GEN George C. Marshall had his way, the invasion of Sicily would not have happened at all. It was his argument that all men and material should be used in a cross-channel invasion of Northern France immediately and not waste time with such a small target as the island of Sicily.

As it turned out, the invasion was a compromise crafted in favor of the British, between American President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, just two months after the American Army began ground operations against the European Axis Powers in Northern Africa Nov. 8, 1942.

As for the 1st Infantry Division, rumors among the troops at the time had everyone believing they would be departing for America soon. After all, they had just successfully invaded North Africa, defeated the Nazis in a bloody battle for Tunisia, and a whole armada of fresh Soldiers, the 36th Infantry Division, had just arrived ready for battle.

But LTG George Patton, the Seventh Army commander, refused to go into Sicily with untested troops. He petitioned higher com-

mand to substitute the battle-tested 1st ID for the newly arrived 36th ID.

“I will not go without the 1st Infantry Division,” Patton said.

GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower agreed, and the Fighting First would take part in Operation HUSKY.

For weeks prior to the invasion, the weather could not have been more ideal for a beach landing. The waters were calm, and the skies were clear. On D-Day minus one, the waters of the Mediterranean turned violent, with the winds clocked in at 40 miles per hour. The plan was to land the 1st ID on six beaches near the town of Gela at 2:45 a.m. on the morning of July 10, 1943; proceed inland to Piano Lupo, where paratroopers from the 505th Regimental Combat Team were to land and secure key terrain in the hills above the city. It was here that the 1st ID, with the help of Navy Artillery fire, would repel a counter-attack led by the Hermann Goering Division.

Retired COL Bryce F. Denno, executive officer with the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, described events during the early hours of D-plus-one.

“Companies E, F and H attacked, encountered enemy tanks and withdrew to a hill near Prilo Sotton where Company G was dug in with recently arrived 37mm antitank guns,” said Denno. “Some men

in the assault companies were crying with frustration because they had nothing with which to fight tanks except bazookas. LTC Arthur Graham, commander of the parachute battalion that had landed in front of us, also had a handful of his paratroopers. Shortly after noon, enemy tanks attacked, and I hit the ground with Company G's executive officer alongside me. 'Hell, let's not wait for them to attack us,' he said. 'Let's attack them first.' These brief words were his last. Hit in the head by a bullet, he died instantly."

By July 29, the 16th Infantry Regiment stopped their pursuit of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division 11 miles short of Troina. Dug in along three hills that commanded the highways three miles short of Cerami, they would wait for further instructions. With the assistance of the 39th Infantry Regiment, multiple elements of the 1st ID would attempt individually to penetrate the areas around Troina.

After three days of combat and little to show for their efforts, MG Terry Allen, 1st ID commander, determined the only way to take Troina was by a large-scale coordinated attack. He would attach a battalion of the 18th Infantry Regiment to the 16th Infantry and charge them with the task of capturing Monte Bianco just south of Troina. With the 39th Inf. Regt. in Monte San Silvestro and the 26th Infantry Regiment poised to move into Monte Basilio, the main attack would commence at 3 a.m. on Aug 3.

By Aug. 5, the combat efficiency of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Divisions was depleted to a point where a real danger of an Allied breakthrough of their lines in Cesaro was a clear possibility. The German commander, GEN Rodt, ordered a fighting withdrawal on successive phase lines, located between the towns of Giarre in the

East to Randozza, Poggio del Moro, and on to the north coast at Cape Orlando, dubbed the Tortorici line.

By dawn of Aug. 6, it became clear to Allen that the Germans were gone. He ordered patrols from the 16th Inf. Regt. to clear the city. They met very little resistance and mostly cheers and flag waving by the hundreds of people who remained in the city. That afternoon the 1st ID commander would relinquish his zone to GEN Eddy and would also relinquish his command to MG Clarence R. Huebner. Troina was the last major conflict in Sicily for the Fighting First. The Germans would give up Sicily after the capture of Messina, Aug. 17, 1943.

In the book *The Sicily Campaign: Recollections of an Infantry Company Commander*, by MG Albert H. Smith, Jr., the lessons learned from the fighting in Sicily were discussed in detail. Smith states the campaign in Sicily that led to the capitulation of Italy proved several things. Like the invasion of North Africa, the Sicilian landing showed that Axis-held Europe was vulnerable to amphibious attack.

It demonstrated the superiority of Allied weapons and equipment. It illustrated the resourcefulness and skill of the German foot soldier, who, despite numerical and technological inferiority, demonstrated once again the fundamental importance of terrain and its use in a struggle between ground forces. It gave the American field commanders in Europe experience, and particularly with respect to the British ally, a maturity not achieved before. Most of all, the Sicilian Campaign, by making possible the Italian surrender, marked a milestone on the Allied road to victory.



Soldiers of the Big Red One march through the town of Troina, Sicily, during Operation HUSKY in August 1943.



DOG RED

EASY GREEN

EASY RED

Operation Overlord

Allies prepare for the 'Great Crusade'

By Kent Bolke and SGT Weldon Svoboda
1st ID Museum

After the Allied Forces achieved military superiority in the Mediterranean area of operations, they were poised to launch an invasion of the European continent. This invasion of Western Europe would open a second front against Germany, which would allow the Soviets to mount an offensive against the Third Reich. Large scale plans for such an attack were made in 1942, and again in 1943, but were delayed until the summer of 1944.



In December 1943, GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower was named the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. Under Eisenhower the plans for the invasion of German-occupied France, codenamed Operation Overlord, were finalized. Geography and logistics limited the assault to two locations: Pass-de-Calais and Normandy. Though heavily fortified, Pass-de-Calais was the logical point of attack; it was the shortest route from England and offered the most direct route into Germany. Nevertheless, the decision was made to strike on the shores of Normandy.



Before the battle, the Allies had carefully mapped and tested the landing area, paying particular attention to weather conditions in the English Channel. A full moon was required both for light and for the spring tide. D-Day was originally set for June 5, 1944, but bad weather forced a postponement. The weather on June 6 was still marginal, but GEN Eisenhower chose not to wait for the next full moon and ordered the attack.



LTG Omar Bradley

The initial invasion plan did not include the 1st Infantry Division. However, when the invasion plan was expanded to include Utah beach, another division was needed and LTG Omar Bradley wanted a combat-experienced unit to supplement the untested 4th and 29th Infantry Divisions.

Bradley would later say, "Although I disliked subjecting the 1st to another landing, I felt that as commander, I had no choice. My job was to get ashore, establish a lodgment, and destroy the Germans ... As a result, the Division that deserved compassion as a reward for its previous ordeals now became the inevitable choice for our most difficult job."



Omaha Beach 1

The Big Red One storms Normandy

By Kent Bolke and SGT Weldon Svoboda
1st ID Museum

From the beginning, everything went wrong. Nearly all of the specially made Duplex Drive Amphibious Sherman Tanks were lost in the English Channel. Strong winds and tidal currents caused landing craft to miss the designated landing points, resulting in the intermingling of units.

Smoke obstructed the view of landmarks on the beach causing mass confusion. Throughout the landing, German gunners poured deadly fire into the ranks of the Big Red One. By 0830 hours all landings had ceased on Omaha and 1st Infantry Division Soldiers, supported with naval artillery blasts, slowly began attacking the German positions.

By 1200 hours, German fire had decreased, and their defensive positions began to fall. Even though 1st ID did not take all of its planned objectives, the assault continued inland, and by nightfall the Division carved a toehold on the coast of France.

The 1st Infantry Division's planned objectives were ambitious. They were to take the beach, push inland and capture the towns of Vierville, Saint-Laurent and Colleville, as well as cut the Bayeux-Isigny road.

Once those objectives were met, 1st ID attacked south and west to link-up with allied troops.



On the 6th of June 1944, 1st ID and the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division, which was attached to the Big Red One for D-Day only, assaulted Omaha Beach at 0630 hours.

The sand and shale beach, however, was only wide enough to land two regiments side-by-side. The initial assault was made by the 116th Infantry Regiment, who landed on the western sectors of Omaha, and the 16th Infantry Regiment of 1st ID, who landed on the eastern sectors of the beach codenamed Easy Red and Fox Green.



Landing Ship Tank (LST)



Landing Craft Infantry Large (LCI(L))



MG Clarence Huebner, 1st ID commanding general; MG Leonard Gerow, V Corps commanding general; and BG William Hoge, Provisional Engineer Special Brigade Group commander, sit on board the command ship for the Omaha Beach Assault, the USS Ancon, June 5, 1944.



Since Big Red One Soldiers were experienced with amphibious assaults, they were hand-picked for the D-Day Invasion. Of the five designated D-Day beaches, Omaha was the most heavily fortified and was manned by veteran German troops. Beach defenses included mines, 13 strong points called "Widererstandsnester," as well as numerous other strategically located fighting positions.



Landing Craft Tank (LCT)



Landing Craft Medium (LCM)



Landing Craft Personnel (Large) LCP(L)



Landing Craft Vechile Personnel (Higgins Boat)

Big Red One moves to Fort Riley during...

Operation Gyroscope

*Story by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO*

This year, as part of Operation Gyroscope II, Soldiers from several units in the 1st Infantry Division are preparing to move their base of operations from Germany to the United States at Fort Riley, Kansas. This isn't the first time in 1st ID history a move like this has occurred as the Division was involved in a similar operation in 1955 during Operation Gyroscope I.

According to Andrew Woods, 1st ID historian, in 1919 the First Division was shipped from Germany to New York, where they had a victory parade on 5th Avenue with all their equipment. The Division was stationed in New York State between the wars.

In 1942 MG Terry Allen and the 1st Infantry Division left from New York to fight overseas in WWII.

After combating the Nazi Germans from Africa to Czechoslovakia for three years, the Division stayed in Europe as an occupation force. With the formation of West Germany and its elections in 1949, the 1st Infantry Division changed its role from occupation forces to a defense force on the East German border between the Soviet forces and the Rhine River. After the Korean War ended, tensions lessened with the Soviets. West Germany rearmed and prepared to join the



NATO military alliance. With the easing of tensions, the U.S. Army looked for ways to rotate units so other divisions would take turns guarding the German border.

At the time, Operation Gyroscope was the first time the Army would interchange entire divisions between overseas locations and their permanent location in the United States. The 1st ID and 10th ID, who had previously been at Fort Riley, were one of the first units to exchange duty assignments.

At the time of the operation, there were several reasons for implementing such a drastic change in Army operations. The new system was expected to raise the morale of troops and their families, increase combat effectiveness of the Army and lower the cost of maintaining the military establishment.

According to GEN Matthew B. Ridgeway, the most important consideration favoring the new plan was the likelihood that troop morale would be improved through greater permanency of enlisted men's assignments.

Under the Gyroscope plan, a career Soldier would know his next assignment for years in advance and could plan accordingly. Soldiers would also be able to travel with their families to overseas assignments as opposed to previous years when they were forced to be away from their families for long periods of time. In addition, by improving morale,

the new system was expected to improve retention and reenlistment rates.

While it was a peacetime operation, Gyroscope I was also intended to improve the Army's war fighting capabilities. The movement of equipment via rail and sea transportation was basically the same method of transportation that would be used in wartime operations. Therefore, Soldiers who participated in the operations gained valuable experience in moving large units overseas.

The Big Red One, which had been overseas in Germany for 13 years prior to the move, was greeted by a large parade after entering the New York harbor on July 23, 1955. It was estimated that the 1st Infantry Division would return to the United States with more than 16,000 enlisted personnel, approximately 825 officers, 5,500 dependents, more than 1,000 private automobiles, and 33 family pets.

According to Woods, the welcoming party in Brooklyn on the flag bedecked pier included MG Terry Allen, who took the Division overseas on Aug. 7, 1942, to begin the longest tour of duty ever served by an American division on the continent.

The Big Red One remained at Fort Riley until 1996 when it moved its base of operations back to Germany.



VIETNAM 1968

Battle-hardened Division tested in troubled land

Story by SGT Bryant Maude
Broadcast NCO, 1st ID PAO

Under the cover of darkness, 19 Vietcong commandos arrived by taxi and quickly blew their way through the wall of the U.S. embassy compound in Saigon Feb. 1, 1968. Within a few short minutes, four U.S. Soldiers lay dead, and the commandos had control. This attack triggered the now infamous Tet Offensive, which many people call the turning point of the war in Vietnam.

By January of 1968, the 1st Infantry Division had been in Vietnam for more than 30 months and had already participated in 49 major combat operations. The Division re-

ceived the news of the Vietcong guerrilla fighters' violation of the temporary truce that same morning. The Vietcong had originally pledged to cease combat operations around the lunar New Year celebrations but instead surged into more than 100 towns and cities, including Saigon.

This attack shifted the war, for the first time, from its rural base into the new arena of South Vietnam's supposedly impregnable urban areas. It was a campaign of "enormous breadth, speed and scope."

The Big Red One immediately shot into action by assisting a Vietnam Army outpost at Bear Cat, killing 48 enemy soldiers and moving the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and A Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment into the Tan Son Nhut Air Base in an effort to keep the air base secure.

On Day Two, multiple columns of Vietcong were spotted near Phu Loi. The Division Artillery Brigade acted quickly by flooding the area with illumination shells allowing several units the opportunity to rain fire across the area, disrupting the Vietcong's planned attack on Di An.

A senior-ranking Vietnamese officer, remembering the ferocity of this battle, later handed the outgoing DIVARTY commander, COL Henry Schroeder, a calendar sheet at the brigade's change of command ceremony that states, "To and frothy arrows passed, the crackling thunder rolled, 'till all the world shone with thy lightning, and the troubled earth shook."

In early March, a new 1st ID commander, MG Keith



U.S. Army photo

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter approaches a landing zone to pick up Big Red One Soldiers serving in Vietnam.

L. Ware, would lead the Big Red One into a multi-division operation called Quyet Thang, which translates to "Resolve to Win."

On April 7, 1968, the Division embarked on the largest operation of the Vietnam War – Operation Toan Thang or "Certain Victory," which involved every allied troop throughout the III Corps tactical zone. One of the primary missions of this two-part operation was to stop the infiltration of the enemy into the Saigon area.

In 1968, nine major battles, including Xom Bung, An My, Tan Hiep and Junction City, would be fought by various elements of 1st ID. The Big Red One would effect great pain on the enemy and would also suffer a great loss – on Sept. 13, 1968, the 1st ID's commanding general was killed near the Cambodian border when his command helicopter was hit by enemy gun fire and crashed. The Division's command sergeant major and six other Soldiers were also lost.

Three and a half years had passed since the Division's advanced party landed at Qui Nhon, Vietnam, and the first Big Red One Soldier, PFC Gerald Werster of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment set foot on enemy soil.

By April 1970, the Division conducted 23 more operations following the Tet Offensive and returned to Fort Riley with three decorations, eleven campaign streamers and eleven Medal of Honor recipients.



U.S. Army photo

A 1st Infantry Division Soldier prepares for another combat patrol during operations in Vietnam in 1968.

BIG RED



Takes Iraq by

STORM

*Story by MSG Cameron Porter
1st ID PAO NCOIC*

Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, and this act immediately precipitated U.S. military involvement in the Persian Gulf.

As the U.S. Army's presence continued to build along the northern border of Saudi Arabia, the 1st Infantry Division was put on alert for deployment on Nov. 8, 1990.

Over the course of the next two months, the Division deployed more than 12,000 Soldiers and 7,000 pieces of equipment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. On the morning of Feb. 24, 1991, under MG Thomas G. Rhame, the Big Red One spearheaded the armored attack into Iraq, leading the way for VII Corps at the start of Operation Desert Storm.

During the next 100 hours, the Big Red One smashed into the Iraqi 26th Infantry Division by breaking through enemy lines and taking more than 2,500 prisoners. At 8 a.m., Feb. 28, 1991, the war was over, and a cease-fire was called. The Big Red One had fought through 260 kilometers of enemy-held territory in southern Iraq and Kuwait, and destroyed 550 enemy tanks and 480 armored personnel carriers. In addition, the Big Red One captured more than 11,400 prisoners – twice the amount of any other unit. Eighteen of the Division's Soldiers were killed in the war.

The Big Red One's 1st Brigade accounted for a majority of the Division's success, which included three major attacks within a

“By the time we began combat operations, we could alert and move the brigade in 10 minutes notice. I don't think anyone else in Operation Desert Storm can claim that capability.”

- Retired MG Bert Maggart, 1st Brigade commander

RM

period of four days and four nights. And retired MG Bert Maggart, the Devil Brigade commander, believes he knows why.

“The keys to our success included the fact that all our senior leaders and many of our junior leaders had at least one rotation at a Combat Training Center, usually (the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.) under their belts,” Maggart said.

In addition, Maggart and his 1st Brigade Soldiers conducted numerous tactical and logistical rehearsals to help make actual combat operations simpler, even with the significant number of changes in the operation’s base plan.

“We formed what we called the ‘whale’ which was a logistical formation that was organized such that each class of re-supply occupied a specific location in the whale, which remained the same regardless of location on the battlefield,” Maggart said. “When battalion re-supply vehicles returned to the whale for supplies, they knew exactly where to find what they were looking for in the formation.”

Maggart, who considers Operation Desert Storm the highlight of his more than 30 years of service to the Army including his time in Vietnam, said he is proud of the fact that “we got the job done in four days.”

Maggart refers to Desert Storm as a “major land battle.” And one of the Devil Brigade’s primary missions during this land war was to breach the so called “Sadaam Line” at its most western point.

“We conducted the breach in 30 minutes and reduced the entire enemy position by mid-day the following day,” said Maggart.

And when the Soldiers of the Devil Brigade were called upon to conduct a night attack on Objective Norfolk, where they destroyed two brigades of the Iraqi Tawakalna Division Republican Guard, they accomplished their mission without flaw, he said. When they fought their final battle against withdrawing elements of three Iraqi mechanized and armored divisions, the 1st Brigade

Soldiers once again accomplished their mission without flaw.

“We did unbelievably difficult and complex tasks without error, which is something to be forever proud of – given the environment, conditions and time that we had to execute,” Maggart said. “By the time we began combat operations, we could alert and move the brigade in 10 minutes notice. I don’t think anyone else in Operation Desert Storm can claim that capability.”

Following the war, the 1st Infantry Division was welcomed home as heroes, said LTC James Stockmoe, who served as the 1st Brigade’s security and intelligence officer during Operation Desert Storm.

“We anticipated massive casualties up to the day of the attack. In the end, we lost four Soldiers to mines and one to friendly fire,” Stockmoe said. “The toughest audience I had to speak to when we redeployed was my nephew’s first grade class ... kids ask hard, thought provoking questions that are sometimes hard to answer.”

But Stockmoe said he could easily explain how he and the Soldiers of 1st Brigade felt following the war.

“Extremely proud,” he said. “We went from one of the lowest combat readiness ratings to a major combat unit overnight, executing flawlessly.”

Stockmoe believes that to this day, the Big Red One remains the greatest division in the Army.

“The Soldiers live up to our great Division motto, ‘No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty first!’ Their feats speak for themselves,” he said.



The 1st Infantry Division destroyed 550 tanks and 480 armored personnel carriers in 100 hours of fighting. Pictured here a demolished Iraqi tank lies dormant near a burning oil field.

★ BOSNIA ★

Division Soldiers play key role in peacekeeping operations

*Story by SPC David Boe
Staff writer, 364th MPAD*

The Soldiers walked slowly along both sides of the muddy street, their weapons ready. Around them were the all-too-familiar ravages of war – crumbling vestiges of once pretty Balkan homes, bent and bullet-ridden street signs, garbage, bricks and rusty carcasses of automobiles pushed into piles along the street. Men, women and children, seemingly numb to the destruction that surrounded them, went about their daily routines of work and play – and rebuilding.

To these residents, the sites of war are common, but for the Soldiers of 3rd platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, Task Force 1-77, it's a whole new world.

"It's two different worlds definitely," said PVT Theodore Cerwin, the patrol's radio, telephone operator. "There's a bunch of mud here, really no paved roads. You can see all the buildings have bullet holes and shrap-

nel from direct hits."

Cerwin, fresh out of basic training, has been in country only a few weeks, and is currently stationed at Observation Post (OP)-9, in the heart of the bombed out town of Omerbegovaca.

Cerwin, however, said he wanted to see this world, and is glad he is deployed to Bosnia.

"I'm ready to do some good work," he said.

Work is what Cerwin, and his fellow Soldiers are doing at OP-9, and a lot of it. The "Ramrods" are the new tenants at OP-9, replacing Task Force 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, which is rotating back to Germany. In addition to performing checkpoint duty at the OP, the Soldiers are required to go out on at least two daily patrols and one night patrol in Omerbegovaca and Dizdarsusa.

Like Cerwin, many of the Soldiers at OP-9 are young and new to the Army. PVT Dario

Troiano entered the military six months ago.

Troiano said when he sees the families in Omerbegovaca struggling to rebuild their lives, it touches him personally. "Because I know – I have my own family at home," he said. "I feel sorry for these people; it's a real eye opener. You hear about war in school, but you don't really feel it until you actually see it first hand."

Troiano said while his family back home is concerned about him being in Bosnia, he reassures them he is doing okay. A lot of that reassurance, he said, comes from his platoon members.

"They're all really nice and they've taught me a lot," Troiano said. "My squad leader, SGT Sullivan, has been extra super. He makes sure we know what he knows, and that we're ready for anything."

At 25, SGT Ryan Sullivan is one of the oldest members of third platoon



Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division conduct a river crossing as part of Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia.

U.S. Army photo

and the only one on his second deployment to Bosnia. This distinction, he said, has allowed him to provide his younger squad members with valuable information on their mission.

"I have little chats with them, tell them things that I did before when I came down here," Sullivan said. "I want to bring them up, kind of mold them to be good Soldiers, the best they can be."

Sullivan said the main mission of the Ramrods at OP-9 are the daily patrols through Omerbegovaca. It's a show of force, he said, to let the local civilians know the U.S. Soldiers are doing their job. No patrol is the same, said Sullivan. One day might be a south patrol looking for unexploded ordnances, the next, a north patrol monitoring resettlement efforts.

"And, of course, we enforce the provisions of the General Framework Agreement for Peace," Sullivan said. "If we see anything wrong we let it be known to higher headquarters."

The Ramrods most recent patrol was the resettlement in Omerbegovaca and Dizdarusa, checking to see if anyone had moved in during the past couple of days and verifying if they had registered with SFOR and civil affairs. "We also check to see how they are doing," Sullivan said. "In other words, to see if they're being harassed."



Photo by SPC Aaron Reed

PFC Patrick M. Kelley, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, keeps a close eye on his section of the Eagle Base perimeter from Observation Post Quebec.

1st ID supports Peace Accord

The 1st Infantry Division's role in Bosnia began when the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment was attached to 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division during Operation Joint Endeavor from October 1995 to October 1996.

The 1st ID then assumed command from 1st AD in a transfer of authority ceremony at Eagle Base, Nov. 10, 1996. Their mission was to provide a covering force for 1st AD units returning to Germany, and following that, continue to support the Dayton Peace Accord through the transition from Implementation Force (IFOR) to the Stabilization Force (SFOR).

During its time in Bosnia, the Big Red One worked in coordination with National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, members of the Navy, Air Force and Marines, and Soldiers from 12 nations in the area known as Multi-National Division North (MNDN).

The Division continued with its mission until October 1997 when it was replaced by the 1st AD and returned to its base of operations in Wurzburg, Germany.



U.S. Army photo

Then SGT Paul R. Smith, 9th Engineer Battalion, sets up concertina wire in Bosnia while serving with the 1st Infantry Division. Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

★ Б О С Н Я ★

KOSOVO

Task Force Falcon upholds peace

*Story by SGT John Queen
69th ADA Brigade PAO*

With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia, having historically been a hotbed for turmoil in the region, once again turned into a pressure cooker for political tension.

During the course of the next 10 years a series of violent conflicts broke out in several provinces of the former communist country over political, cultural and ethnic causes resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of people.

Kosovo was thrust into one of these conflicts in 1994 when Albanian separatists began attacking Serbian civilians and security forces. After five years of bloody fighting and ethnic cleansing, NATO intervened by forcefully restraining both sides with an aerial bombing campaign that lasted more than two months followed by a multinational peacekeeping force.

In the beginning months of 1999 the 1st Infantry Division, headquartered in Wurzburg, Germany, was put on alert

for a possible deployment to Kosovo to support and conduct peacekeeping operations in the war-torn province.

After several months of training, the first elements of 1st ID joined the NATO force and entered Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian. Known as Task Force Falcon, the Division and its attachments of airmen and Marines set up and began operations in June in what became Camp Bondsteel. The Big Red One's initial entry force consisted of elements of 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Shortly after the task force established itself in the area, the Yugoslavia Army and Special Police forces began redeploying from Kosovo in accordance with the Military Training Agreement. Task Force Falcon monitored this withdrawal and ensured it was in compliance with the agreement. Once the withdrawal was complete, the task force shifted its focus to the enforcement of the transformation and demilitari-

zation of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

By the end of 1999, elements of the Big Red One's 3rd Brigade Combat Team replaced their 2nd BCT counterparts.

In June of 2000, with their mission complete, the Division was replaced by the 1st Armored Division and returned to Germany.

Task Force Falcon continues to conduct peacekeeping operations in Kosovo in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 under the Operational Control of the NATO led Kosovo Force (KFOR), to ensure a safe and secure environment is maintained to enable the establishment of a stable society.

The Division was called again to serve in Kosovo from May to November 2002 with 2nd Brigade Combat Team's KFOR 4A rotation. This was followed by 3rd Brigade Combat Team's extended KFOR 4B rotation from November 2002 to March 2003, while major combat action for Operation Iraqi Freedom began in the Middle East.



Tankers from 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment prepare to qualify with their M1 Abrams tanks at the newly built Ramjane Range near Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.



'No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice too Great, Duty First!' was written by COL Aristides Moreno and GEN Harold B. Fiske in 1917.

Moreno was a captain and the adjutant of the 28th Infantry during training in the summer of that year, and Fiske was the 2nd Brigade adjutant, who was later promoted to brigadier general and in charge of training American Expeditionary Forces for combat in France.

The First Division arrived in France in June of 1917, and was manning trenches on the front lines by October. LTC Lucius R. Holbrook, who was commander of the 7th Field Artillery, heard the motto that Moreno and Fiske had written and thought it to be very appropriate.

Later in his career Holbrook served as the 1st ID commanding general in 1935 and remembered the slogan of old 'No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice too Great, Duty First!' He adopted these prolific words and used them to welcome new Soldiers as they joined his Division.

His Soldiers thought highly of Holbrook's motto, and to this day people around the world still recognize the slogan 'No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice too Great, Duty First!' as one of the 1st ID's most widely recognized greetings and salutations.

(Information provided by Research Historian Andrew Woods, COL Robert R. McCormick Research Center, Cantigny First Division Foundation)

'Toast of the Army, favorite son ...'

Story by 1LT Ryan Gray
1st ID Deputy PAO

Too many Big Red One Soldiers, while recalling the details of the Battle of Kasserine Pass, Tunisia, would require a quick update by means of a history book or Internet search. While the vivid memories of the battle have faded with time – 1st Infantry Division Soldiers honor the values and gallantry of the Big Red One's historical success on a daily basis with song.

COL David T. Kellett was a Soldier with the Big Red One, then a captain, during the early days of World War II and was awarded the Silver Star for his gallant actions during the Battle of Kasserine Pass in February 1943.

The following month, while in a Constantine, Algerian, hospital recuperating from a wound received during an attack on Hill 609 at El Guettar, Kellett wrote the Big Red One song. He dedicated the song to MG Terry Allen, the Division commander in North Africa and Sicily from 1942 to 1943.

Kellett led a successful career in the Army and retired as a colonel. He was known for more than his gallant actions at the Battle of Kasserine Pass. By the end of his 30-year career, he was well known around the military services for his marches.

Kellett may also be credited with writing the Spader Parrader – the march of the 1st Infantry Division's Blue Spaders.

Written by (believed) Col. Donald T. Kellett, 1st Infantry Division

Toast of the Ar - my,
fa - vor - ite son! U - til to the
beve: BIG RED ONE! Al - ways the first to
thirst for a fight. No foe shall
chal - lenge our right to vict - ry. We take the field, a
grand sight to see. Prite of the in - fant -
ry. Men of a great div - sion, cour - age is
our trad - ition, for - ward, the BIG RED ONE!

SAMARRA

- OPERATION BATON

*Story by SGT W. Wayne Marlow
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO*

Soldiers and police with Iraqi Security Forces and the 1st Infantry Division continue to search for insurgents two days after a major offensive wrested control on this city from anti-Iraq forces.

The 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment; the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment; and the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment launched a major offensive, "Operation Baton Rouge," early Oct. 1, 2004.

Just after midnight, the Coalition forces began pounding insurgent strongholds, and the firefight continued much of the night. The attack led to heavy losses for anti-Iraq forces, with at least 125 insurgents killed and dozens more detained.

By daylight, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces had gained control over most of the city. There were continued sporadic small arms conflicts with pockets of resistance throughout the city during the morning. Around noon, Iraqi Security Forces stormed the city's Golden Mosque, an enemy stronghold, and cleared the historic site of 25 armed fighters.

Having Iraqi Security Forces enter the mosque, as well as other sensitive sites like the city hospital, were deliberate decisions, according to MAJ Jeffrey Church, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

"Coalition Forces breached the mosque gate" Church said. "But Iraqi Security Forces entered, cleared, and secured the mosque. They entered, cleared and secured the Spiral Miranet and the complex around it. The Iraqi Security Forces also entered, cleared and secured the Samarra hospital."

There were about 2,000 Iraqi Security Force personnel in the operation, and their performance contrasted starkly with what happened in April.



Photo by SFC Johancharles

BARA ROUGE -

“The Iraqi Security Forces that were in Samarra in April ... were not well trained and were poorly led,” Church said. “Because of perceived prior successes they were operating in a semi-autonomous role. When the anti-Iraq forces rose up in April, the poorly-trained, poorly-led Iraqi Security Forces melted away.”

But this time, the Iraqi Security Forces contributed heavily to the operation’s success.

“The difference between now and then is the Iraqi Security Forces that participated in Operation Baton Rouge were much better trained and better equipped,” Church said. “Their leaders had been better trained in military tactics, and their soldiers had all completed, at least, a basic training course.”

Church also credited teamwork with contributing to the success of the operation. “It wasn’t just a U.S. operation. It wasn’t just a Coalition operation. It wasn’t just an Iraq operation. All the forces worked together,” Church said.

Church credited intelligence and shaping operations with contributing to the quick victory. But also important, he said, was that most Samarra residents were resentful of the anti-Iraq forces and welcomed the Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces back into the town.

“We did a lot around the outside of Samarra that showed the residents that we were serious about improving the quality of life and that we could do the same for them,” Church said. “We also started a radio station that gave the Coalition side of the story,

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division conduct house-to-house searches in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 1, 2004.



Photo by SSG Klaus Baesu

A 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Soldier pulls security outside of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 1, 2004. During this major offensive, Iraqi Security Forces stormed the city’s Golden Mosque, an insurgent stronghold, and cleared the historic site of 25 armed fighters.

so that the residents could understand our intent and actions. The vast majority of the population wants security, peace and prosperity for their city, for their families and for Iraq. The operation was successful because the people did not support the goals or objectives of the anti-Iraq forces.”

Now that control has been seized from the insurgents, the focus will soon turn to

rebuilding the beleaguered city. “There are 22 projects for Samarra that amount to about \$1.5 million,” Church said. “Those projects have already been contracted to Iraqi contractors.”

These projects include trash and rubble removal, building repair, road construction, and bringing clean water and electricity to the city.



Task Force 2-2 fights for Fallujah

SGT Brian R. Peterson, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, takes cover in a house in southern Fallujah after taking fire while clearing houses in the sector Nov. 15, 2004.

*Story by SPC Kimberly Snow
Staff writer, 196th MPAD*

Looking west down into Fallujah from its eastern flank Nov. 8, 2004, U.S. troops watched as bombs dropped and artillery whistled by overhead, crashing down and creating a haze of smoke blanketing the insurgent-controlled city.

Soon, their counterparts from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment would create a breach through which all Army and Marine elements would pour into the city to begin an assault, purging the dug-in and deter-

mined insurgency and turning the city back over to the people of Iraq.

The hastily assembled task force was deployed to Fallujah at the request the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at a camp about 10 kilometers west of the city. It was comprised primarily of about 650 Soldiers from 2-2 Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery; 82nd Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop.

On the eve of battle, Task Force 2-2 commander, LTC Peter Newell, gathered the troops around him.

“This is as pure a fight of good versus evil as we will probably see in our lifetime,” he said. “And there is nobody in the world better at what’s going to happen than you.”

Because they knew the movement of such a large force into Camp Fallujah would not go undetected – the combat force alone consisted of about 100 vehicles – they assumed the enemy was also preparing for the assault.

“Yeah, they know we’re coming,” said 1LT Karl E. Gregory, a platoon leader with Alpha Company, 2-2. “But to tell you the truth, I don’t think it matters whether they know we’re coming or not. I don’t think

“I saw some things that I don’t think anyone not there could ever really understand”

- LTC Peter Newell, Task Force 2-2 commander

there’s anything they can do to stop us.”

By the evening of Nov. 11, the northern half of the city had been secured. A Marine element took over so Task Force 2-2 could move south.

Despite the use of extensive underground tunnel and bunker systems and being unusually well equipped – enemy fighters were reported to be wearing flak vests, helmets and using sophisticated weapons systems – U.S. forces and Iraqi Intervention Forces defeated the insurgency in only two weeks.

In the end, Task Force 2-2 killed more than 300 enemy fighters and detained 45. They destroyed five Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices and found around 40 weapon caches, two IED factories and a VBIED factory.

Although Newell said he never doubted the outcome, he didn’t expect the battle to end so quickly. And he couldn’t be more proud of their achievements.

“I saw some things that I don’t think anyone not there could ever really understand,”

said Newell. “I’m talking about the heroics of individuals in the midst of chaos. I don’t think that anyone who wasn’t there could really capture that.”

Newell attributed the success of the operation in part to the support given to the task force, particularly at Division level.

“This is probably the first time since the Vietnam War that we were told to take the gloves off and just go in and do what we have to do to win,” said Newell. “Never once did I have to say ‘I need or I want.’”

But success did not come without great cost. Four Soldiers gave the ultimate sacrifice – Battalion CSM Steven Faulkenburg, A Company Executive Officer 1LT Edward Iwan, A Co. Commander CPT Sean Sims and scout platoon team leader SGT James Matteson.

“I pretend they’re just not here right now, that they’re just someplace else,” said Alpha Company 1SG Peter Smith. “That’s how I deal with it.”



Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow

Infantry scouts with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop’s 2nd Platoon clear a house in Fallujah Nov. 19, 2004.

Operation Gyr



oscope II



*Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

If the saying ‘history repeats itself’ holds any weight, the 1st Infantry Division is on track. As part of the first major Army transformation in 60 years, the first and longest continuously serving division is doing its part to change the Army landscape.

More than 50 years ago, the Division participated in the Army’s first intercontinental, division-level exchange when it moved from Germany to Fort Riley, Kan., and swapped with the 10th Infantry Division. This was known as Operation Gyroscope.

In 1996, the Division headquarters and adjoining units returned to Germany as part of the Army’s restructuring.

The Department of Defense once again sent the Division ‘packing’ when it announced the return of the Big Red One to Fort Riley in July 2005.

Following that announcement, the 1st ID put into action the plan to move its headquarters and a number of subordinate units back to the continental United States. The operation was appropriately coined “Operation Gyroscope II.”

The Division began to draw down personnel, turn-in equipment and make drastic changes across the formation in order to meet the goals of the Army Campaign Plan and the transformation initiatives of the U.S. Army in Europe.

————— *See Gyro, page 26*



Gyro, from page 25

Subordinate units inactivated, converted to become part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, or prepared to return to Fort Riley with the 1st ID headquarters.



A crane lowers a piece of equipment onto a railcar at the Harvey Barracks railhead in Kitzingen.

Operation Gyroscope II activities became quite visible during April and May 2006 as returning units took on the brunt of the work required to move the personnel, equipment and vehicles back home.

It was during Intermediate Staging Area operations when many of the Soldiers realized the significance of what was finally happening.

“Reality really set in,” said 1SG Donald Jamison, first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command. “We’re definitely moving back to CONUS, back to the states – Fort Riley, Kansas. It’s really exciting. The Soldiers are really motivated. We’ve put a lot of preparation into this.”

“A lot of preparation went into this as far as getting the vehicles clean, proper PMCS (Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services) of the vehicles – a lot of preparation was put into this,” said Jamison.

Division Soldiers worked for weeks to ensure their vehicles were as flawlessly clean as they could make them. Vehicles were in-



SGT David Pierce, an intelligence analyst with HHC, 1st ID, spray washes a vehicle and trailer.

spected, cleaned, re-inspected and cleaned again until they passed all tests.

Next, more than five football fields of 1st ID equipment were loaded on to the USNS Mendonca and SS Westward Venture, two nearly 1,000-foot long cargo ships employed by the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Nearly 300,000 square feet of cargo belonging to the Division left the port in late May enroute to its final destination.

This movement of Big Red One equipment and personnel to Fort Riley, Kan., marks the end of yet another era of the 1st Infantry Division in Europe.

BRO veterans groups support 1ID

*Story by 1LT Ryan Gray
1st ID Deputy PAO*

As modern battlefield tactics have evolved, generations of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers have adapted to and defeated an ever-changing enemy. While uniforms, weapons and food have changed, one thing remaining consistent is the Soldier’s story, which only another Soldier is likely to understand.

The Society of the First Infantry Division and the Cantigny First Division Foundation, two organizations of veterans representing the Big Red One, exist to foster this bond between veterans and the Soldiers who still serve today.

Representing more than one million veterans, the Society of the First Infantry Division, located in Blue Bell, Pa., works to maintain the memory of the Division, and most importantly honor the service and sacrifice of its Soldiers and units.

Recently, the foundation collaborated with the National Park Service to rectify the deteriorating First Division Monument in Washington, D.C. They also provided floral arrangements at the monument and other war memorials during ceremonies honoring past and present BRO Soldiers.

Staying true to this mission, the Society has also provided grants to family members of recuperating Soldiers – enabling

mothers, fathers and spouses to stay by their wounded loved-one’s bed-side through the demanding recovery process.

Since the Vietnam War era the Society of the First Infantry Division has maintained an educational foundation providing assistance to families of fallen BRO Soldiers. Today they provide scholarships to family members of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers, past and present.

Another foundation with very close ties to the Society of the First Infantry Division is The Cantigny First Division Foundation.

Located in Wheaton, Ill., the foundation operates the First Division Museum there. Spanning 38,000 square feet, the museum is dedicated to promoting the history of the Big Red One. Upon completion of a multi-million dollar renovation in 1992, the museum now boasts 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art interactive and experiential exhibits.

The members of the Society of the First Infantry Division have maintained a long and philanthropic history, and the society is in a great position to maintain a charitable future as these old Soldiers put “Duty First” in order to take care of Soldiers.

More information is available at www.bigredone.com for The Society of the First Infantry Division, and at www.rrmtf.org/firstdivision/ for The Cantigny First Division Foundation.

Lady Victory

Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO

Less than a year after World War I, the Society of the First Division proposed the construction of a Division monument in the nation's capital to commemorate the Soldiers who died in the war, and afterward veterans of later wars. As a key driving force behind the monument, MG Charles P. Summerall proposed a mythological statue akin to the Battle Monument at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. The Battle Monument's winged female figure, based on Roman and Greek mythology, stands atop a monolithic shaft in West



The First Division Monument, dubbed "Lady Victory," stands atop a 50-foot column at President's Park in Washington, D.C.

Point and grasps a trumpet and wreath, which both represent victory.

The First Division Monument was sculpted by Daniel C. French, who was famous for such works as the sitting statue of Abraham Lincoln inside the Lincoln Memorial. The memorial architect, Cass Gilbert, was best known at the time for designing the tallest building in the world, the Woolworth Building in New York.

Once completed, French's design called for a 15-foot statue depicting the bronze allegorical figure holding a flag in one hand, while the other was to be extended in a gesture of benediction. Gilbert's memorial base design would require construction of a granite column standing more than 50 feet high. The design was a departure from traditional depictions of war heroes or other individuals. The Victory statue was meant to honor the effort of American Soldiers, and symbolized the "spirit of triumphant sacrifice and service."

The First Division Monument was dedicated Oct. 4, 1924. Since that time, the 1st Infantry Division has adopted the design as the distinctive unit insignia and



A child looks up at a variation of the Lady Victory statue at Victory Park in Wurzburg, Germany.

the memorial's "Lady Victory" sculpture has come to represent the high standards traditionally upheld by the Soldiers of the Big Red One.

Insignia of the Allies

Following World War I, an illustration entitled "Insignia of the Allies" by SGT Glidden was made as a tribute to the men of the First Division who fought as comrades-in-arms during the war. The illustration is one of the first depictions of "Lady Victory" as its centerpiece. Lady Victory stands prominently in front of a golden ring adorned by the flags of each Allied nation that fought alongside the United States. Draped across her shoulders is a mantle with the patches of every U.S. Army unit whose actions during WW I directly contributed to the triumph of civilization. On her head, a 1st Infantry Division unit patch, surrounded by a wreath, is mounted and centered on her crown.





In 1942, George Picket, a young Signal Corps lieutenant at Camp Blanding, Florida, was given an order to assign telephone code

names to the 1st Infantry Division using the letter "D."

He tagged units of the Division with names like "Dagwood," "Dexterous" and "Dipper." Little did he realize when he labeled the Division headquarters as "Danger," that he would be starting a war-time tradition for the Big Red One.

Two years after being penned Danger by the Signal Corps lieutenant, on D-Day, June 6, 1944, Soldiers of the Big Red One established its first command post in a captured German blockhouse overlooking the "Easy Red" section of Omaha beach and appropriately named it "Danger Forward."

While traveling on a road in Normandy, a young officer by the name of Orwin C. Talbott noticed a sign that read Danger Forward, which pointed down a small road toward the 1st ID command post.

"It is my dream to one day be a member of the Big Red One," Talbott told to his driver as they passed by the Danger Forward sign.

In 1968, nearly three decades later, the young officer who once dreamed of becoming a member of the 1st ID, was now a brigadier general and serving in Vietnam as the Big Red One's assistant division commander.

When the Division commander, MG Keith L. Ware, was tragically killed, Talbott had an eight foot tall billboard erected along the side of Vietnam Highway 13 as a means to boost morale within the Division's ranks. On the billboard was a large 1st ID patch with an arrow pointing in the direction of the Division headquarters and the words Danger Forward.

More recently the 1st ID's Danger Forward command post was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

*It may be an ominous phrase or an intimidating adage, but no other motto could better depict the war zone command post of the 1st ID
—"Danger Forward."*