



The 45th Infantry Division

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The National Guard

The Army National Guard is older than the United States of America. The first **National Guard** units were the colonial militias used to defend the original thirteen colonies. For most of US history militia units served as the largest part of the **US Army** in times of war. The states, rather than the federal government, trained and armed these militia units. This meant that many of the units had inferior weapons or lacked proper training. At the start of World War I, the US government created the National Guard from the state militias of the United States. Since then, the US Army has funded and trained the National Guard and used National Guard Units in times of war or emergency.

The 45th Infantry Division was a National Guard Unit. Men from the state militias of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma made up the division. In September of 1940, the War Department called the 45th Infantry to federal service and began training for a possible war with Germany and Japan. During World War II, the 45th served in Italy, France, and Germany. The symbol for the 45th Infantry is an American Indian "Thunderbird," so people call the 45th the Thunderbird Division as well.



This icon was on the left arm shoulder patch of every soldier's uniform in the 45th Infantry Division. The image is a Thunderbird, an American Indian symbol common to the American Southwest, where all of the 45th Infantry Division's soldiers came from, originally (image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).



This is a painting of the Massachusetts Militia's first muster in 1636. A muster is when troops gather to train and prepare for combat. The 101st Engineer Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, and the 181st and 182nd Infantry Regiments are descendants of the militia units first mustered in 1636, making the National Guard over 375 years old (image courtesy of the National Guard).

World War II

A **world war** is a conflict that involves different nations and is fought on continents around the world. World War II is the largest and most deadly war in the history of the world. Over 60 million people died during the war, which is the same as about 20 percent of the US population today. During World War II battles were fought in Asia, Africa, Europe, the South Pacific, and in the United States. Two different groups fought in World War II. The **Allies**: the United Kingdom, France, the United States, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics fought against the Axis powers: Nazi Germany, Italy, and the Empire of Japan. When the 45th Infantry started fighting in World War II, the Axis powers controlled almost all of Europe and even occupied France.

The Holocaust was a part of World War II, as well. Nazi Germany and its collaborators perpetrated the **Holocaust**, which was a genocide. **Genocide** is when a government persecutes and kills a group of people because of their race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, political views, disabilities, or sexual orientation. Nazi Germany brought about the deaths of 11 million people in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Most of them were Jewish, but the Nazis also targeted the Polish, Soviet prisoners of war, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents, and the mentally and physically disabled.

The 45th Infantry Division fought in Europe from Italy, to France, and finally to Germany. The 45th served for 511 days of combat and participated in four **amphibious** assaults. At the end of the war, the 45th Infantry helped liberate the concentration camp at Dachau, Germany.



This is a Victory Medal. Every soldier that served in World War II received one of these medals. The medal depicts the Greek goddess Nike breaking a sword and crushing the helmet of the Greek god Mars. Nike is the goddess of victory. The sword represents the Axis armies. Mars is the god of war, so crushing his helmet means an end to war and the beginning of peace (OHS Collections).



This poster is from the 4th War Loan. During the war, the US Government borrowed money from the citizens of the United States by selling them bonds. A **bond** is an investment, so the government was promising to pay the people back with interest after the war. People in the US spent as much of their extra money as they could on war bonds to contribute to the war effort in some way, even if they weren't fighting on the frontlines (OHS Collections).



This map shows the occupied nations of Europe, shortly before the 45th Infantry Division landed in Sicily. The Axis controlled the white area, the Allies controlled the red areas, and **neutral** countries (who were not involved in the war) are the gray areas (image courtesy of the US Army).

Sicily and Italy

The 45th Infantry Division was the only unit to ship straight from the United States into the battle to take the Island of Sicily from the Axis Powers in June of 1943. The other units who fought had been in North Africa for a year and were already veterans of the war. Despite being a "green" unit, the 45th fought as well as any of the other divisions in taking Sicily.

After taking the Island of Sicily in thirty-eight days, the Allies then launched an attack on Italy. Italy was a member of the Axis Powers. After the Allies took Sicily, Italy surrendered. Because the Nazis occupied Italy, soldiers in the 45th fought only German troops from now on.

Italy is a small **country** with many mountains, so the fighting was slow because it was hard to move trucks, food, tents, and ammunition through mountains. The Allies tried a risky attack to sneak behind the Germans. They landed troops in boats at a place called Anzio. The Germans were ready for the attack, though, and they trapped the 45th in Anzio for 135 days. The Germans attacked the 45th every day during those months, but the 45th never gave up. The 45th was able to break out of the siege and capture Rome, the capital of Italy, on June 4, 1944.



A wrecked Panzer IV on the beach near Salerno (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers from the 45th Infantry marching towards Messina, Sicily (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers of the 179th Infantry Regiment on the way to the front, north of Salerno, as Italian citizens watch while gathering water from a well (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers from the 157th Regiment marching towards Ponte, Italy. One of them has stopped to pick a tomato (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



The Anzio beachhead was under almost constant fire from German Artillery for months. If a structure couldn't be built into the ground for protection, the ground had to be built up around the structure with sandbags and piles of dirt (OHS Collections).



Allied gunners are fending off a German air raid at night. The streaks of light are tracer rounds, meant to help gunners see where they are shooting when in low light conditions. There is usually one tracer round for every five live rounds (OHS Collections).

Important Battle: Anzio

The Italian campaign was very difficult. The mountain terrain made the armies move slowly and gave the German defenders an advantage. Late in 1943, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a plan to take some of the troops from the Allied forces in Italy and land them from naval craft in an amphibious assault behind enemy lines, just south of Rome, near the city of Anzio. There was a lot of arguing about the plan. Some people thought it was too dangerous, and others thought it needed more men than Minister Churchill had put forward.

The attack, codenamed Operation Shingle, was scheduled to begin on January 22, 1944. The Allies attacked with two divisions, the US Third Division and the British 1st Division with the 45th Infantry in reserve. The first few days were greatly successful for the Allied soldiers, as they caught the Germans by surprise. The Allied troops used this time to set up supply depots and defenses on the **beachhead** while taking some territory from the Germans. The Germans responded to the landings quickly and three days after the Allied landings, they had the beachhead surrounded by eight divisions with five more on the way.

The Allied troops buttoned up and dug in for defense. The 45th Infantry moved forward to the center of the Anzio defensive line, the most important position in defense. For the next six months the men of the 45th would hunker down as German artillery shelled the beachhead day and night. There were many times when German attacks pushed deep into the 45th lines, but they never broke. Eventually, the Germans wore themselves out attacking the entrenched Allies, and the Allies took that chance to attack. On May 31, the Allies at Anzio broke out of the beachhead and raced towards Rome. Five days later, on June 5, 1944, the troops would take the Italian capital city of Rome.

The fighting at Anzio cost the lives of 7,000 Allied soldiers, with 36,000 wounded or missing. The Germans lost 5,000 soldiers, with 30,500 wounded or missing and 4,500 taken prisoner.



In order to move safely from place to place, soldiers dug slit **trenches** that a person could dive into if a German artillery barrage began (OHS Collections).

Despite being under fire every day, soldiers on the Anzio Beachhead tried to carry on normal life activities like getting married. Lt. Genevieve Clarke of Pennsylvania married Lt. Thomas Rose of Ohio on March 27, 1944. After the wedding, Lt. Clarke cut her wedding cake with a trench knife (image courtesy of Google News).



France

A separate army of Allied Troops invaded northern France at a place called Normandy on June 6, 1944. The 45th left Italy with some other troops to attack southern France in August 1944. The terrain in southern France is flatter and easier to move across, so the 45th chased the Nazi troops east towards Germany quickly. Eastern France is mountainous, so the 45th had to fight slowly and with difficulty again.

The other problem was the rivers in Europe. Europe has big rivers, like the Rhine, that are difficult to cross without bridges. The Rhine is a wide river that separates Germany from France, so the Nazis destroyed the bridges across the Rhine as they retreated home. The 45th Infantry had engineer units, so they rebuilt bridges or built new pontoon bridges to get across the rivers and into Germany.



Soldiers from the 45th are under German artillery fire in the French town of Niederbronn (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers of the 45th load up on a tank to chase after German soldiers withdrawing from Bourges, France (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers of the 171st Field Artillery are sending Adolph Hitler a Christmas present (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).



Soldiers from the 180th Regiment are marching past a burning building in Wingon, France (image courtesy of the National Archives Signal Corps Records).

Important Battle: Epinal

After chasing the German Army through Southern France, the Moselle River stood between the Seventh Army and the territory of Alsace-Lorraine. Germans during World War II thought Alsace-Lorraine belonged to Germany. It was a territory taken by France from Germany after World War I, which Germany had taken from France after the Franco-Prussian War. It was also populated mostly by German-speaking French peoples. This meant many of the German soldiers fighting in this area felt like they were fighting for their own home, so they fought more fiercely for it.

The 45th Infantry Division was tasked with crossing the Moselle River at Epinal and taking the city. To do this, the 157th Regiment attacked north of Epinal at Igney and the 179th attacked south of Epinal at Arches. The 180th Regiment had the hardest time, fighting head-on through the city of Epinal. It took two days of fighting for the 180th to reach the western border of Epinal, and then they had to fight building to building to clear the town. The 180th was in a hurry because French spies had told them there were two bridges across the Moselle River that were still standing. These bridges could help the 45th get tanks and artillery over the large river.

The Germans realized they were losing, so they planned to evacuate and blow the bridges after they crossed. This only slowed the 45th for a day, as men crossed in boats and the 40th Combat Engineers built a Bailey bridge for the bigger trucks and tanks, all while being shelled by German artillery.

While the 45th were still liberating France for a few weeks, the Germans were now fighting for their homes.



A Bailey bridge, built by H company, 40th Combat Engineers, over the Moselle River in Epinal. The Bailey bridge used the pylons from the original bridge, which was destroyed by the retreating Germans, as its supports (image courtesy of Don Jackson).



This picture shows the destruction in Epinal, shortly after the Germans withdrew (OHS Collections).



A French map of the Alsace-Lorraine region, which France and Germany had been warring over for seventy years by the time the 45th arrived. The Moselle River runs through Nancy and south to Epinal (courtesy of World Atlas).

Germany

By the time the 45th Infantry Division made it into Germany, the German army was in bad shape. They had few soldiers left, very little ammunition, and even food was running out in some places. German soldiers began surrendering to the Allies in large groups; 325,000 soldiers and civilians surrendered in the Ruhr Pocket. That is the same as four football stadiums full of people.

The 45th Infantry still fought small pockets of resistance, but they ultimately ended up in Southern Germany. The war ended nine days after the 45th Infantry reached a large camp in Dachau, Germany. The camp was a concentration camp where parts of the Holocaust were carried out. The 45th Infantry was one of the first units into Dachau, where they helped liberate tens of thousands of prisoners. The 45th was headed to Munich when it found the concentration camp, so the Thunderbirds quickly moved on after a hospital unit was able to take over care of the liberated prisoners.

The 3rd Infantry, 42nd Infantry, and 45th Infantry took control of Munich by May 1, 1945. The Empire of Germany surrendered six days later, on May 7, 1945.



As the 45th moved into Germany, the German Army was losing more and more troops. The soldiers the 45th fought in Germany were often young boys or old men that the military had pressed into service (OHS Collections).



Nazi Germany built the first “interstate” in the world, the Autobahn. Allied troops were happy to use these roads after driving through sand, mountains, and mud for three years (OHS Collections).



World War II is an example of a **“total war.”** This means that the armies involved attacked cities and civilians as well as each other. Allied bombers destroyed this church, possibly the Heilig Geist Kirche (Church of the Holy Spirit), in Munich (OHS Collections).

Important Battle: The Liberation of Dachau and the Holocaust

The **Holocaust**, or *Shoah* in Hebrew, was the systematic and brutal genocide of somewhere between 11 and 14 million people between 1933 and 1945, perpetrated by Nazi Germany and their collaborators. This is equal to the approximate number of people who live in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Iowa. The two largest groups targeted by the Nazi Regime were people of Jewish heritage and the Slavic-speaking people of Poland and the USSR. The Nazi SS, or *Schutzstaffel* (Protection Squadron), was the paramilitary group primarily responsible for carrying out the genocide on behalf of the Nazi government, though they would not have been so successful without the aid of civilian and military collaborators throughout Europe.

The camps found in Nazi Germany were forced-labor concentration camps. The death or extermination camps, like Auschwitz, were all located outside of German borders. In a **forced-labor** camp, Nazi perpetrators subjected prisoners to terrible and cramped living conditions, substandard food, and random acts of torture and murder. All of the prisoners were expected to work in support of the Nazi war effort, either making weapons and ammunition or building roads and structures. Many of the people who died in these camps starved to death, while others were executed for being too weak or sick to work.

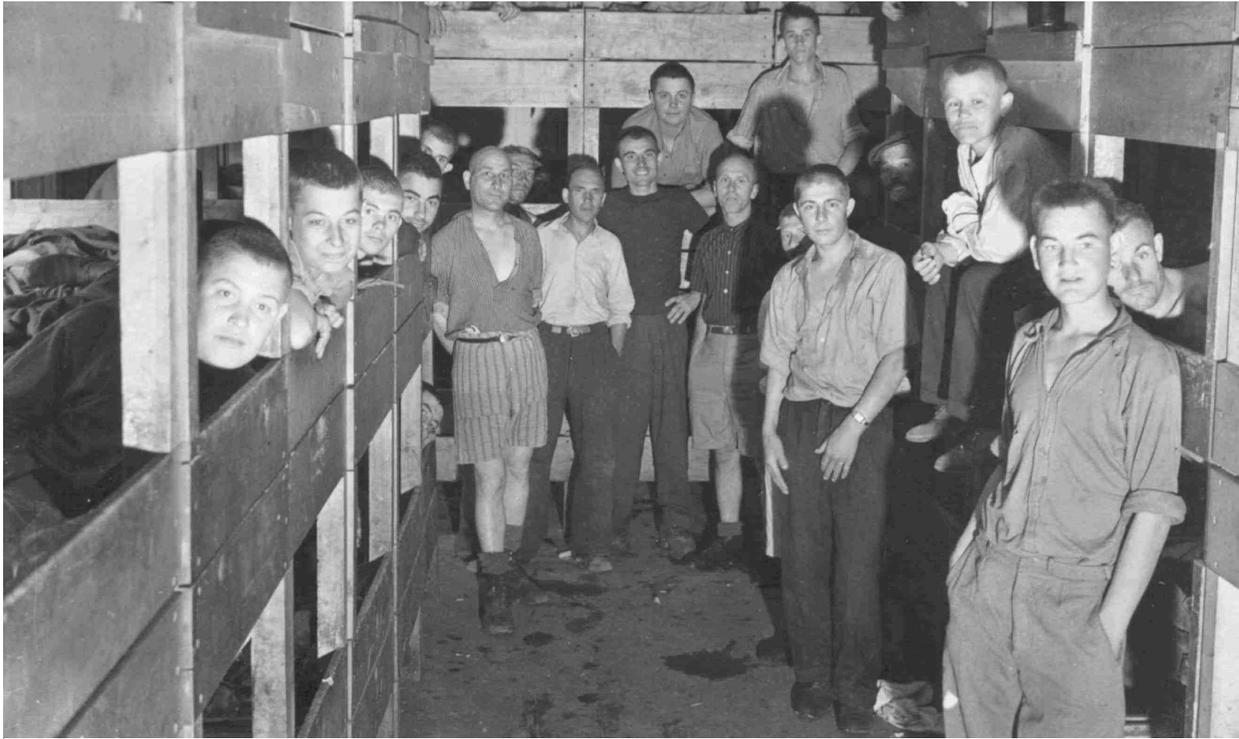
Dachau was the first concentration camp, established in 1933 by the Nazi Party. At first Dachau held only 4,800 prisoners, but by the end of the war the camp at Dachau and all of its satellite camps throughout southern Germany held approximately 67,000 prisoners, which is 10,000 people more than the population of Midwest City. Of those prisoners, 21,000 were Jewish. Over the years, more than 188,000 prisoners stayed at Dachau. Between 1940 and 1945, at least 28,000 of those prisoners died of disease, starvation, or execution. There are no accurate records for those who died between 1933 and 1939, so the total number of those who died at Dachau is unknown to this day.

On April 29, 1945, orders came down for the 45th Infantry Division to occupy and secure the concentration camp at Dachau, ten miles northwest of Munich. While other units in the Allied forces had found other, smaller camps, the men of the 45th had only heard rumors about what they might find in the camps. Most of the soldiers thought they were just like POW camps they had liberated before. All of them were unprepared for what they found at Dachau.

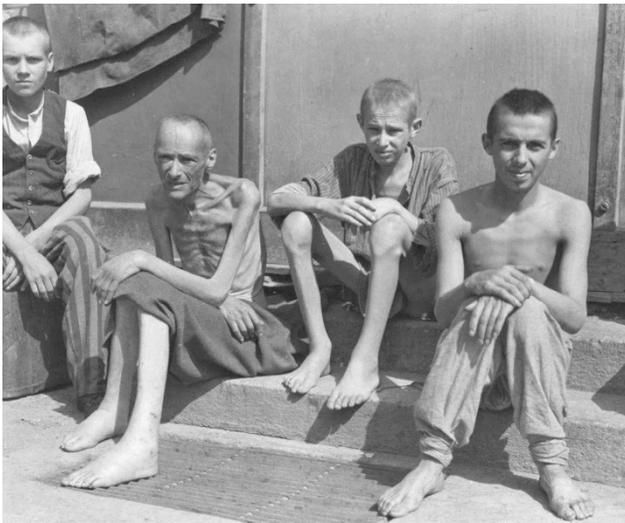
While most of the 45th controlled the area around the camp and the town of Dachau that is west of the camp, I Company and elements of M Company of the 157th Regiment moved to secure the camp. The men took over the camp in short order but were horrified by what they found. All of the living prisoners were starving, and many were sick with or dying of Typhus. Thousands of prisoners were dead, stored in boxcars or stacked in rooms next to the crematorium. Journalists traveling with the 45th took photos or filmed everything they saw, under orders from General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander:

The same day I saw my first horror camp. It was near the town of Gotha [in Germany]. I have never been able to describe my emotional reactions when I first came face to face with indisputable evidence of Nazi brutality and ruthless disregard of every shred of decency. Up to that time I had known about it only generally or through secondary sources. I am certain however, that I have never at any time experienced an equal sense of shock.

I visited every nook and cranny of the camp because I felt it my duty to be in a position from then on to testify at firsthand about these things in case there ever grew up at home the belief or assumption that



Even though Allied forces had freed the prisoners of Dachau, there was no medical facility large enough in the area to help the more than 30,000 people suffering from starvation and Typhus. Unfortunately, the former prisoners had to recuperate in the same barracks where the Nazis had sought to work them to death only weeks before. This time the Allies gave them proper bedding, clothes, food, water, and medical care before eventually releasing them.



All of the prisoners liberated at Dachau were in various stages of starvation (OHS Collections).



The Nazis used guards, attack dogs, barbed wire, cement walls and moats, machine-gun towers, and electrified fences to keep the prisoners inside the concentration camps. Here, a US soldier is on guard to protect the former prisoners and keep others out to prevent the typhus epidemic from spreading (OHS Collections).

The 45th in Korea

After World War II, the 45th returned to its National Guard classification. This time it was headquartered in Oklahoma only. With the outbreak of conflict between North Korea and South Korea in 1950, the prestigious Thunderbirds were called overseas once again. The 45th were one of only two National Guard divisions deployed to Korea. The division served in the Yonchon-Chorwon area, Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and Luke's Castle areas of then Korea. Many men were sent home by 1952, but soldiers from the 45th remained in Korea until the end of the war in 1953. In all, the 45th Division saw 429 days in battle, participating in four campaigns. The 45th Infantry Division was officially disbanded in 1963, ten years later.



Men from the 45th at a makeshift church sermon in Korea (image courtesy of Korean War Educator).

"Thunderbirds Prepare Deadly Greeting to Reds. Five Oklahomans, members of the 45th Division's 189th battalion, are shown cleaning their 155 millimeter howitzer during a lull on the Korean battlefield. Battery C of the 189th was the first unit of the former National Guard division to swing into action against the communists in Korea. From left to right are Pfc. Lawrence W. Leighton, 523 SW 34; and Pfc. Joe Brown. Cpl. Bob Boyer, Pfc. Fred L. Marquardt and Pfc. Hale Abernathy, all of Blackwell." 45th Division News Photo by Ron Pyer. Original photo undated. (Published February 1, 1952, *The Oklahoma City Times*).





Charles George (image courtesy of the Charles George VA Medical Center).

Charles George, a Cherokee originally from North Carolina, is the only member of the 45th to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor in the Korean War. George threw himself on top of a grenade to save his fellow men in November of 1952.

His medal citation reads:

Pfc. George, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade

into their midst. Pfc. George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The 2 soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. Pfc. George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

Important Leaders

Axis:

Fascism: an **authoritarian** and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization

Nazi Germany

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945)

Leader of the National Socialist German Workers (Nazi) Party, 1921–45

Chancellor and Dictator of Germany, 1933–45



Adolf Hitler (image courtesy of Wikimedia).

The Italian Empire

Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)

Leader of the National Fascist Party of Italy, 1922–43

Dictator of Italy, 1930–43



Benito Mussolini (left) and Adolf Hitler (image courtesy of *Daily Express*).

Absolute Monarchy: a form of government in which the monarch has absolute power among his or her people

The Empire of Japan

Hirohito (1901–89)

His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, 1926–89



Hirohito (image courtesy of Wikimedia).

Allies:

Representative Democracy: founded on the principle of elected officials representing a group of people

The United States of America

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945)

32nd President of the United States of America, 1933–45



(Franklin Roosevelt (image courtesy of *U.S. News and World Report*)

Harry S. Truman (1884–1972)

33rd President of the United States of America, 1945–53



Harry S. Truman (image courtesy of Wikimedia).

Constitutional Monarchy: a form of government in which a monarch acts as head of state within the parameters of a written, unwritten, or blended constitution

The United Kingdom

Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, 1940–45

Minister of Defense, 1940–45

Leader of the Conservative Party, 1940–55



Winston Churchill (image courtesy of the *Daily Mail*).

Communism: a political theory derived from Karl Marx, advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Joseph Stalin (1878–1953)

General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1922–52

Chairman of the Council of Ministers, 1941–53

People’s Commissar for the Defense of the Soviet Union, 1941–46



Joseph Stalin (image courtesy of *The Telegraph*).

World War II Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients from the 45th

Van T. Barfoot (Choctaw)

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, US Army, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Carano, Italy, 23 May 1944

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23 May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d Lt. Barfoot (then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a direct hit on it with a hand grenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans. He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun emplacement, and with his tommy gun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers. Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and consolidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce armored counterattack directly at his platoon positions. Securing a bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of 3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the disabled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his tommy gun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Barfoot, though greatly fatigued by his Herculean efforts, assisted 2 of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.



(All images and medal citations are courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division.)

Ernest Childers (Muscogee (Creek))

Rank and Organization: Second Lieutenant, US Army, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division

Place and Date: Oliveto, Italy, 22 September 1943

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy. Although 2d Lt. Childers previously had just suffered a fractured instep he, with 8 enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall



overlooking a cornfield and 2d Lt. Childers ordered a base of fire laid across the field so that he could advance. When he was fired upon by 2 enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machine gun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the 2 occupants of the nest raised up, he shot 1. The other was killed by 1 of the 8 enlisted men, 2d Lt. Childers continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single handed, captured an enemy mortar observer. The exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed by 2d Lt. Childers were an inspiration to his men.

Almond E. Fisher

Rank and organization:

Second Lieutenant, US Army, Company E, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Grammont, France, 12-13 September 1944

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on the night of 12-13 September 1944, near Grammont, France. In the darkness of early morning, 2nd Lt. Fisher was leading a platoon of Company E, 157th Infantry, in a single column to the attack of a strongly defended hill position. At 2:30 A.M., the forward elements were brought under enemy machinegun fire from a distance not more than 20 yards. Working his way alone to within 20 feet of the gun emplacement, he opened fire with his carbine and killed the entire gun crew. A few minutes after the advance was resumed, heavy machinegun fire was encountered from the left flank. Again crawling forward alone under withering fire, he blasted the gun and crew from their positions with hand grenades. After a halt to replenish ammunition, the advance was again resumed and continued for 1 hour before being stopped by intense machinegun and rifle fire. Through the courageous and skillful leadership of 2nd Lt. Fisher, the pocket of determined enemy resistance was rapidly obliterated. Spotting an emplaced machine pistol a short time later, with 1 of his men he moved forward and destroyed the position. As the advance continued the fire fight became more intense. When a bypassed German climbed from his foxhole and attempted to tear an M1 rifle from the hand of 1 of his men, 2d Lt. Fisher whirled and killed the enemy with a burst from his carbine. About 30 minutes later the platoon came under the heavy fire of machineguns from across an open field. 2d Lt. Fisher, disregarding the terrific fire, moved across the field with no cover or concealment to within range, knocked the gun from the position and killed or wounded the crew. Still under heavy fire he returned to his platoon and continued the advance. Once again heavy fire was encountered from a machinegun directly in front. Calling for hand grenades, he found only 2 remaining in the entire platoon. Pulling the pins and carrying a grenade in each hand, he crawled toward the gun emplacement, moving across areas devoid of cover and under intense fire to within 15 yards when he threw the grenades, demolished the gun and killed the gun crew. With ammunition low and daybreak near, he ordered his men to dig in and hold the ground already won. Under constant fire from the front and from both flanks, he moved among them directing the preparations for the defense. Shortly after the ammunition supply was replenished, the Germans launched a last determined effort against the depleted group. Attacked by superior numbers from the front, right, and left flank, and even from the rear, the platoon, in bitter hand-to-hand engagements drove back the enemy at every point. Wounded in both feet



by close-range machine pistol fire early in the battle, 2d Lt. Fisher refused medical attention. Unable to walk, he crawled from man to man encouraging them and checking each position. Only after the fighting had subsided did 2d Lt. Fisher crawl 300 yards to the aid station from which he was evacuated. His extraordinary heroism, magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank enemy fire is an inspiration to his organization and reflects the finest traditions of the US Armed Forces.

William J. Johnston

Rank and organization: Private First Class, US Army, Company G, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Padiglione, Italy, 17–19 February 1944

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. On 17 February 1944, near Padiglione, Italy, he observed and fired upon an attacking force of approximately 80 Germans, causing at least 25 casualties and forcing withdrawal of the remainder. All that day he manned his gun without relief, subject to mortar, artillery, and sniper fire. Two Germans individually worked so close to his position that his machinegun was ineffective, whereupon he killed 1 with his pistol, the second with a rifle taken from another soldier. When a rifleman protecting his gun position was killed by a sniper, he immediately moved the body and relocated the machinegun in that spot in order to obtain a better field of fire. He volunteered to cover the platoon's withdrawal and was the last man to leave that night. In his new position he maintained an all night vigil, the next day causing 7 German casualties. On the afternoon of the 18th, the organization on the left flank having been forced to withdraw, he again covered the withdrawal of his own organization. Shortly thereafter, he was seriously wounded over the heart, and a passing soldier saw him trying to crawl up the embankment. The soldier aided him to resume his position behind the machine gun which was soon heard in action for about 10 minutes. Though reported killed, PFC Johnston was seen returning to the American lines on the morning of 19 February slowly and painfully working his way back from his overrun position through enemy lines. He gave valuable information of new enemy dispositions. His heroic determination to destroy the enemy and disregard of his own safety aided immeasurably in halting a strong enemy attack, caused in enormous amount of enemy casualties, and so inspired his fellow soldiers that they fought for and held a vitally important position against greatly superior forces.



Salvador Lara

Rank and organization: Private First Class, US Army, Company L, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Aprilia, Italy, 27–28 May 1944

Medal Citation:

Private First Class Salvador J. Lara distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the Squad Leader of a rifle squad with 2d Platoon, Company L, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Aprilia, Italy on May 27 and 28, 1944. On the afternoon of the 27th, Private First Class Lara aggressively led his rifle

squad in neutralizing multiple enemy strongpoints and in inflicting large numbers of casualties on the enemy. Having taken his initial objective, Private First Class Lara noticed that the unit to his right was meeting stiff resistance from a large, well-entrenched enemy force in a deep ditch. Private First Class Lara quickly gathered three men and attacked a wide section of the enemy position, killing four, forcing fifteen others to surrender and causing two enemy mortar crews to abandon their weapons. His fearless and efficient performance enabled both his own unit and the unit to his right to continue to their objective. The next morning, as his company resumed the attack, Private First Class Lara sustained a severe leg wound, but did not stop to receive first aid. His company suffered heavy casualties as a result of withering machinegun fire coming from an enemy strongpoint on the right flank. After requesting permission to destroy the enemy machineguns armed only with a Browning Automatic Rifle, Private First Class Lara crawled alone toward the nearest machinegun. Despite his painful wound and the extreme danger of the task, he rose and fearlessly charged the nest, killing the crew members. Another machinegun opened fire on him, but he quickly neutralized this weapon with accurate fire from his Browning, killing three more of the enemy. His aggressive attack forced two other machinegun crews to flee their weapons. After rejoining his company, Private First Class Lara continued his exemplary performance until he captured his objective. Private First Class Lara's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Jack C. Montgomery (Cherokee)

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, US Army, 45th Infantry Division

Place and Date: Near Padiglione, Italy, 22 February 1944

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 22 February 1944, near Padiglione, Italy. Two hours before daybreak a strong force of enemy infantry established themselves in 3 echelons at 50 yards, 100 yards, and 300 yards respectively, in front of the rifle platoons commanded by 1st Lt. Montgomery. The closest position, consisting of 4 machineguns and 1 mortar, threatened the immediate security of the platoon position. Seizing an M1 rifle and several hand grenades, 1st Lt. Montgomery crawled up a ditch to within hand grenade range of the enemy. Then climbing boldly onto a little mound, he fired his rifle and threw his grenades so accurately that he killed 8 of the enemy and captured the remaining 4. Returning to his platoon, he called for artillery fire on a house, in and around which he suspected that the majority of the enemy had entrenched themselves. Arming himself with a carbine, he proceeded along the shallow ditch, as withering fire from the riflemen and machine gunners in the second position was concentrated on him. He attacked this position with such fury that 7 of the enemy surrendered to him, and both machineguns were silenced. Three German dead were found in the vicinity later that morning. 1st Lt. Montgomery continued boldly toward the house, 300 yards from his platoon position. It was now daylight, and the enemy observation was excellent across the flat open terrain which led to 1st Lt. Montgomery's objective. When the artillery barrage had lifted, 1st Lt. Montgomery ran fearlessly toward the strongly defended position. As the enemy started streaming out of the house, 1st Lt. Montgomery unafraid of treacherous snipers, expose himself daringly to assemble the surrendering enemy and send them to the rear. His fearless, aggressive, and intrepid actions that morning, accounted for a total of 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded. That night,



while aiding an adjacent unit to repulse a counterattack, he was struck by mortar fragments, and seriously wounded. The selflessness and courage exhibited by 1st Lt. Montgomery in alone attacking 3 strong enemy positions inspired his men to a degree beyond estimation. security of the platoon position. Seizing an M1 rifle and several hand grenades, 1st Lt. Montgomery crawled up a ditch to within hand grenade range of the enemy. Then climbing boldly onto a little mound, he fired his rifle and threw his grenades so accurately that he killed 8 of the enemy and captured the remaining 4. Returning to his platoon, he called for artillery fire on a house, in and around which he suspected that the majority of the enemy had entrenched themselves. Arming himself with a carbine, he proceeded along the shallow ditch, as withering fire from the riflemen and machine gunners in the second position was concentrated on him. He attacked this position with such fury that 7 of the enemy surrendered to him, and both machineguns were silenced. Three German dead were found in the vicinity later that morning. 1st Lt. Montgomery continued boldly toward the house, 300 yards from his platoon position. It was now daylight, and the enemy observation was excellent across the flat open terrain which led to 1st Lt. Montgomery's objective. When the artillery barrage had lifted, 1st Lt. Montgomery ran fearlessly toward the strongly defended position. As the enemy started streaming out of the house, 1st Lt. Montgomery unafraid of treacherous snipers, expose himself daringly to assemble the surrendering enemy and send them to the rear. His fearless, aggressive, and intrepid actions that morning, accounted for a total of 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded. That night, while aiding an adjacent unit to repulse a counterattack, he was struck by mortar fragments, and seriously wounded. The selflessness and courage exhibited by 1st Lt. Montgomery in alone attacking 3 strong enemy positions inspired his men to a degree beyond estimation.

James D. Slaton

Rank and organization: Corporal, US Army, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Oliveto, Italy

Medal Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy in the vicinity of Oliveto, Italy, on 23 September 1943. Cpl. Slaton was lead scout of an infantry squad which had been committed to a flank to knock out enemy resistance which had succeeded in pinning 2 attacking platoons to the ground. Working ahead of his squad, Cpl Slaton crept upon an enemy machinegun nest and, assaulting it with his bayonet, succeeded in killing the gunner. When his bayonet stuck, he detached it from the rifle and killed another gunner with rifle fire. At that time he was fired upon by a machine gun to his immediate left. Cpl. Slaton then moved over open ground under constant fire to within throwing distance, and on his second try scored a direct hit on the second enemy machinegun nest, killing 2 enemy gunners. At that time a third machinegun fired on him 100 yards to his front, and Cpl. Slaton killed both of these enemy gunners with rifle fire. As a result of Cpl. Slaton's heroic action in immobilizing 3 enemy machinegun nests with bayonet, grenade, and rifle fire, the 2 rifle platoons which were receiving heavy casualties from enemy fire were enabled to withdraw to covered positions and again take the initiative. Cpl. Slaton withdrew under mortar fire on order of his platoon leader at dusk that evening. The heroic action of Cpl. Slaton were far above the call of duty and are worthy of emulation.



Jack Treadwell

Rank and organization: Captain, US Army, Company F., 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Nieder-Wurzbach, Germany, 18 March 1945

Medal Citation:

Capt. Treadwell (then 1st Lt.), commanding officer of Company F, near Nieder-Wurzbach, Germany, in the Siegfried line, single-handedly captured 6 pillboxes and 18 prisoners. Murderous enemy automatic and rifle fire with intermittent artillery bombardments had pinned down his company for hours at the base of a hill defended by concrete fortifications and interlocking trenches. Eight men sent to attack a single point had all become casualties on the bear slope when Capt Treadwell, armed with a machinegun and hand grenades, went forward alone to clear the way for his stalled company. Over the terrain devoid of cover and swept by bullets, he fearlessly advanced, firing at the aperture of the nearest pillbox, and when within range, hurling grenades at it. He reached the pillbox, thrust the muzzle of his gun through the port, and drove 4 Germans out with their hands in the air. A fifth was found dead inside. Waving these prisoners back to the American line, he continued under terrible, concentrated fire to the next pillbox, and took it in the same manner. In this fort he captured the commander of the hill defenses, whom he sent to the rear with the other prisoners. Never slacking his attack, he then ran across the crest of the hill to a third pillbox, traversing this distance in full view of hostile machine gunners and snipers. He was again successful in taking the enemy position. The Germans quickly fell prey to his further rushes on 3 more pillboxes in the confusion and havoc caused by his whirlwind as-saults and capture of their commander. Inspired by electrifying performance of their leader, the men of Company F stormed after him and overwhelmed resistance on the entire hill, driving a wedge into the Siegfried line and making it possible for their battalion to take its objective. By his courageous willingness to face nearly impossible odds and by his overwhelming one-man offensive, Capt. Treadwell reduced a heavily fortified, seemingly impregnable enemy sector.



Edward G. Wilkin

Rank and organization: Corporal, US Army, Company C 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division

Place and date: Siegfried Line in German, 18 March 1945

Medal Citation:

He spearheaded his unit's assault of the Siegfried line in Germany. Heavy fire from enemy riflemen and camouflaged pillboxes had pinned down his comrades when he moved forward on his own initiative to reconnoiter a route of advance. He cleared the way into an area studded with pillboxes, where he repeatedly stood up and walked into vicious enemy fire, storming 1 fortification after another with automatic rifle fire and grenades, killing enemy troops, taking prisoners as the enemy defense became confused, and encouraging his comrades by his heroic example. When halted by heavy barbed wire entanglements, he secured bangalore



torpedoes and blasted a path toward still more pillboxes, all the time braving bursting grenades and mortar shells and direct rifle and automatic-weapons fire. He engaged in fierce fire fight, standing in the open while his adversaries fought from the protection of concrete emplacements, and on 1 occasion pursued enemy soldiers across an open field and through interlocking trenches, disregarding the crossfire from 2 pillboxes until he had penetrated the formidable line 200 yards in advance of any American element. That night, although terribly fatigued, he refused to rest and insisted on distributing rations and supplies to his comrades. Hearing that a nearby company was suffering heavy casualties, he secured permission to guide litter bearers and assist them in evacuating the wounded. All that night he remained in the battle area on his mercy missions, and for the following 2 days he continued to remove casualties, venturing into enemy-held territory, scorning cover and braving devastating mortar and artillery bombardments. In 3 days he neutralized and captured 6 pillboxes single-handedly, killed at least 9 Germans, wounded 13 took 13 prisoners, aided in the capture of 14 others, and saved many American lives by his fearless performance as a litter bearer. Through his superb fighting skill, dauntless courage, and gallant, inspiring actions, Cpl Wilkin contributed in large measure to his company's success in cracking the Siegfried Line. One month later he was killed in action while fighting deep in Germany.

Biographies

Lt. Jack C. Montgomery



Jack C. Montgomery (image courtesy of the US Army).

Jack Montgomery was born on July 23, 1917, in Long, Oklahoma. He was a member of the Cherokee Nation and a graduate of the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School. He is one of three graduates from Chilocco to have earned the Medal of Honor, making the Chilocco School one of the smallest schools in the United States to have graduated so many Medal of Honor recipients. While attending Bacone College, Jack joined the 45th Infantry Division in 1936. Montgomery left in 1938 to attend Redlands University in California and returned to Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1940. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jack Montgomery signed up with the 45th again and served with his old unit, the 180th Infantry Regiment, through the entire war in Europe until 1945.

By February of 1944, Jack Montgomery was a First Lieutenant in I Company of the 180th Regiment. While defending the beachhead at Anzio, Lt. Montgomery's platoon came under fire from three fortified German positions. Lt. Montgomery single-handedly assaulted those positions with covering fire from artillery and his men. His actions that day earned him the Medal of Honor.

Later that day, Lt. Montgomery was wounded by mortar fire and taken to the field hospital on the Anzio beach. He was eventually evacuated back to the United States where he recovered and returned to service with a training army in Texas. He was serving there when he received his medal from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Jack Montgomery left the service in 1945 and spent the rest of his life in Oklahoma. During World War II, Jack Montgomery was awarded the Medal of Honor, two Silver Stars, and two Purple Hearts. He passed away at the age of eighty-five and is buried in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery. The Veterans Health Administration medical center in Muskogee is named after Lt. Montgomery.



Bill Mauldin at work (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Sgt. Bill Mauldin

Bill Mauldin was born on October 29, 1921, in Mountain Park, New Mexico. He grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and took some courses at an art school in Chicago before joining the 45th Infantry Division in 1940 at the age of 19.

It was not long before his friends in the 45th noticed his ability to draw cartoons. By the time the 45th was shipping out to Sicily, Bill was a regular contributor to the *45th Division News*, a paper printed by and for the men of the 45th. Eventually, people outside the 45th noticed his drawings and liked them as well. Bill's most famous cartoons were of two soldiers named Willie and Joe. Bill drew Willie and Joe as a way to poke fun at many of the problems that soldiers faced on the front lines. The soldiers in the 45th and elsewhere

loved Willie and Joe, and Bill's cartoons led to him getting a job with *Stars and Stripes*, the Army newspaper. Soldiers all over Europe would come to love Willie and Joe as much as the men in the 45th did.

Not everyone liked Bill's cartoons. Often, Willie and Joe complained about the officers in the Army, and this did not make some officers very happy. One famous example is General George C. Patton. General Patton was in command of the American forces that invaded Sicily, and he thought that Bill's cartoons bordered on being mutinous. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was in command of all Allied forces at that time, forbade General Patton from punishing Sergeant Mauldin because he knew how much the soldiers at the front liked Willie and Joe. This didn't stop General Patton from saying he would arrest Sergeant Mauldin if he "ever saw him again" to a journalist giving him an interview.

Sgt. Mauldin's cartoons even made it into some of the papers in the United States. One of those cartoons even won him a Pulitzer Prize at the age of 23, making him the youngest person ever to receive that award. Mauldin went home to his wife and son after the war and continued drawing cartoons. He won the Pulitzer Prize again in 1959. He lived until the age of 84, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in 2003.

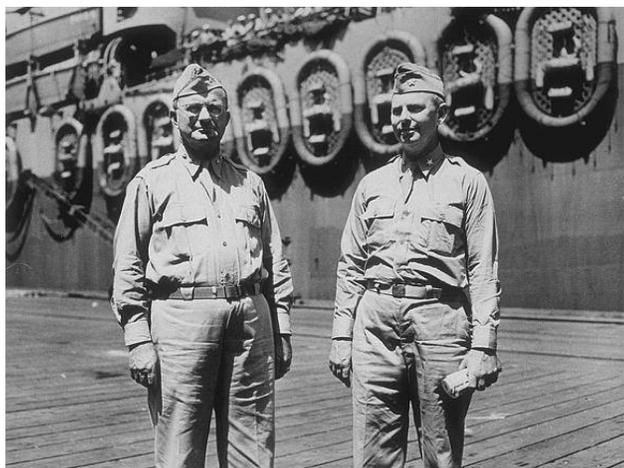
Sgt. Mauldin on drawing the "dogface" soldier:

I don't make the infantryman look noble, because he couldn't look noble even if he tried. Still there is a certain nobility and dignity in combat soldiers and medical aid men with dirt in their ears. They are rough and their language gets coarse because they live a life stripped of convention and niceties. Their nobility and dignity come from the way they live unselfishly and risk their lives to help each other. They are normal people who have been put where they are, and whose actions and feelings have been molded by their circumstances. There are gentlemen and boors; intelligent ones and stupid ones; talented ones and inefficient ones. But when they are all together and they are fighting, despite their ... griping and goldbricking and mortal fear, they are facing cold steel and screaming lead and hard enemies, and they are advancing and beating...the opposition.



The Prince and the Pauper, Bill Mauldin, February 28, 1944 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Major General Troy H. Middleton



Major General Troy Middleton (left) and Brigadier General Ray McLain at Hampton Roads, Virginia, before shipping off to Sicily (image courtesy of the Library of Virginia Special Collections).

General Middleton was born in Copiah County Mississippi on October 12, 1889. He grew up on his father's 400-acre plantation, until he left for school at Mississippi A&M (now Mississippi State University), in 1904. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1909, and hoped to go to West Point. He was unable to get an appointment to the Military Academy, so he signed up as an enlisted man in 1910.

Middleton quickly distinguished himself in the army as a talented rider, able clerk, and a popular football player. At that time, football was a sport endorsed by the US Army, and General Middleton once said he "never met a good football player who wasn't also a good soldier." After two years in the army, then Corporal Middleton passed an exam

at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to earn a commission as a Second Lieutenant. He then transferred to Texas in the 7th Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Middleton and the 7th Infantry Regiment participated in the occupation of Veracruz, Mexico in 1914 but returned to Texas after seven uneventful months. He married Jerusha Collins in Galveston, Texas, in 1915 and traveled with the 7th Infantry Regiment into Mexico again, this time under the leadership of General Pershing, to chase after Poncho Villa, a Mexican revolutionary who had attacked American border towns.

Lt. Middleton was promoted quickly as World War I approached, and he traveled with the 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division to Europe as a Captain. There he would serve as a reserve unit for the badly battered 42nd Division. Middleton rose through the ranks quickly, serving with distinction and leaving World War I as a Colonel. He and other officers formed the first instructors of the Camp Benning Infantry School, and would spend the next ten years of his career as an instructor or student at various war colleges across America. One of his students was a young man from Abilene, Kansas, future general and president Dwight David Eisenhower even though Middleton was only a year his senior.

Middleton served in the Philippines with Eisenhower, both of them were Lieutenant Colonels at the time, when Lt. Col. Middleton decided to retire in 1937. Eisenhower had tried to convince him to stay, but Middleton decided against it and moved to New Orleans with his wife.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, Middleton was dove hunting with his son. When they returned to his home for lunch, his wife informed them of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Middleton immediately wrote to the War Department to offer his services. He was reinstated as a Lt. Colonel and told to report to Camp Wheeler, Georgia.

After some quick promotions, now Major General Middleton was placed in command of the 45th Infantry Division and took over their training at Camp Pine, New York. General Middleton commanded the 45th Infantry through Sicily and Italy, but had to leave before the amphibious landing at Anzio. He had injured his knee playing football as a young man, and now the pain was so bad he could barely walk. Despite this, Eisenhower wanted General Middleton in command of VIII Corps in England. A sergeant who was a physical therapist before the war was assigned to care for the general's knee until the end of the war.

While in Europe with VIII Corps, Major General Middleton commanded his troops with distinction, earning him a Distinguished Service Medal from Lt. General Patton. He also managed to upset General Patton when, in December 1944, he refused to withdraw his troops from Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Middleton commanded VIII Corps until the end of the war, when he retired from the Army for good. He spent the rest of his career at Louisiana State University. He retired in 1962 as the LSU President. Despite retiring, Troy Middleton spent the rest of his life in public service to the State of Louisiana in various roles. He passed away in 1976, three days before his 87th birthday. He is interred in the Baton Rouge National Cemetery with his wife who died in 1980.

Glossary

absolute monarchy: A form of government in which the monarch has absolute power over his or her people.

alliance: A union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organizations.

amphibious assault: A military operation involving forces landed from the sea.

army: An organized military force equipped for fighting on land, typically made of two or more corps.

authoritarian: Favoring or enforcing strict obedience to authority, especially that of the government, at the expense of personal freedom.

beachhead: A defended position on a beach taken from the enemy by landing forces, from which an attack can be launched.

bond: An investment to the government that is paid back after the war with interest.

casualty: A person killed or injured in a war.

communism: A political theory derived from Karl Marx, advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs.

concentration camp: A place where large numbers of people, especially political prisoners or members of persecuted minorities, are deliberately imprisoned in a relatively small area with inadequate facilities, some times to provide forced labor or to await mass execution. The term is most strongly associated with the several hundred camps established by the Nazis in Germany and occupied Europe in 1933–45, among the most infamous being Dachau, Belsen, and Auschwitz.

constitutional monarchy: A form of government in which a monarch acts as head of state within the parameters of a written, unwritten, or blended constitution.

country: A nation with its own government.

courage: The ability to do something that frightens one or the strength to accomplish something despite pain or grief.

fascism: An authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization.

forced-labor: Where people are employed against their will by the threat of destitution, detention, violence.

frontline: The military line or part of an army that is closest to, and actively fighting, the enemy.

genocide: The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

heroes: People that are admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

holocaust: Destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially the mass murder of Jewish people under the German Nazi regime from 1941 to 1945. More than 6 million European Jews, as well as members of other persecuted groups, were murdered at concentration camps such as Auschwitz.

National Guard: The primary reserve military force, partly maintained by the states but also available for federal use.

nationalism: An extreme form of patriotic feeling, principles, or efforts, especially marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries.

Nazi: A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or a member of an organization with ideology similar to Nazism.

neutral: Not helping or supporting either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc.

representative democracy: Founded on the principle of elected officials representing a group of people.

symbol: A thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.

total war: A war in which armies involved attacked cities and civilians as well as each other.

trench: A long narrow ditch.

world war: A conflict that involves different nations and is fought on continents around the world.

Activities

Political Cartoons

A political cartoon is a drawing that uses symbols and images to communicate a message. Some cartoons use words as well, but the image is the focus of a good cartoon. Political cartoons have a long history in newsprint in the United States. There are political cartoons that were drawn during the American Revolution that are still used to communicate messages today.

As a member of the *45th Division News* and *Stars and Stripes*, Sgt. Bill Mauldin drew cartoons about the life of the average soldier on the front line. These cartoons were able to communicate to the public the life of a soldier better than written reporting. They also helped soldiers have a laugh during hard times and keep up morale. Here is an example of one of Sgt. Mauldin's cartoons:



*"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago.
Stop wiggling your fingers at me."*

(Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.)

Study the image and answer the following questions:

1. What do you see in this image?
2. How does this image make you feel?
3. Can you tell what the message is? Hint: S-2 is the army designation for Military Intelligence Officer in a unit.
4. What parts of the cartoon tell you what the message is?

Try drawing your own cartoon on this page. If you like, use this message as a guide:

Front line soldiers don't always get enough sleep.

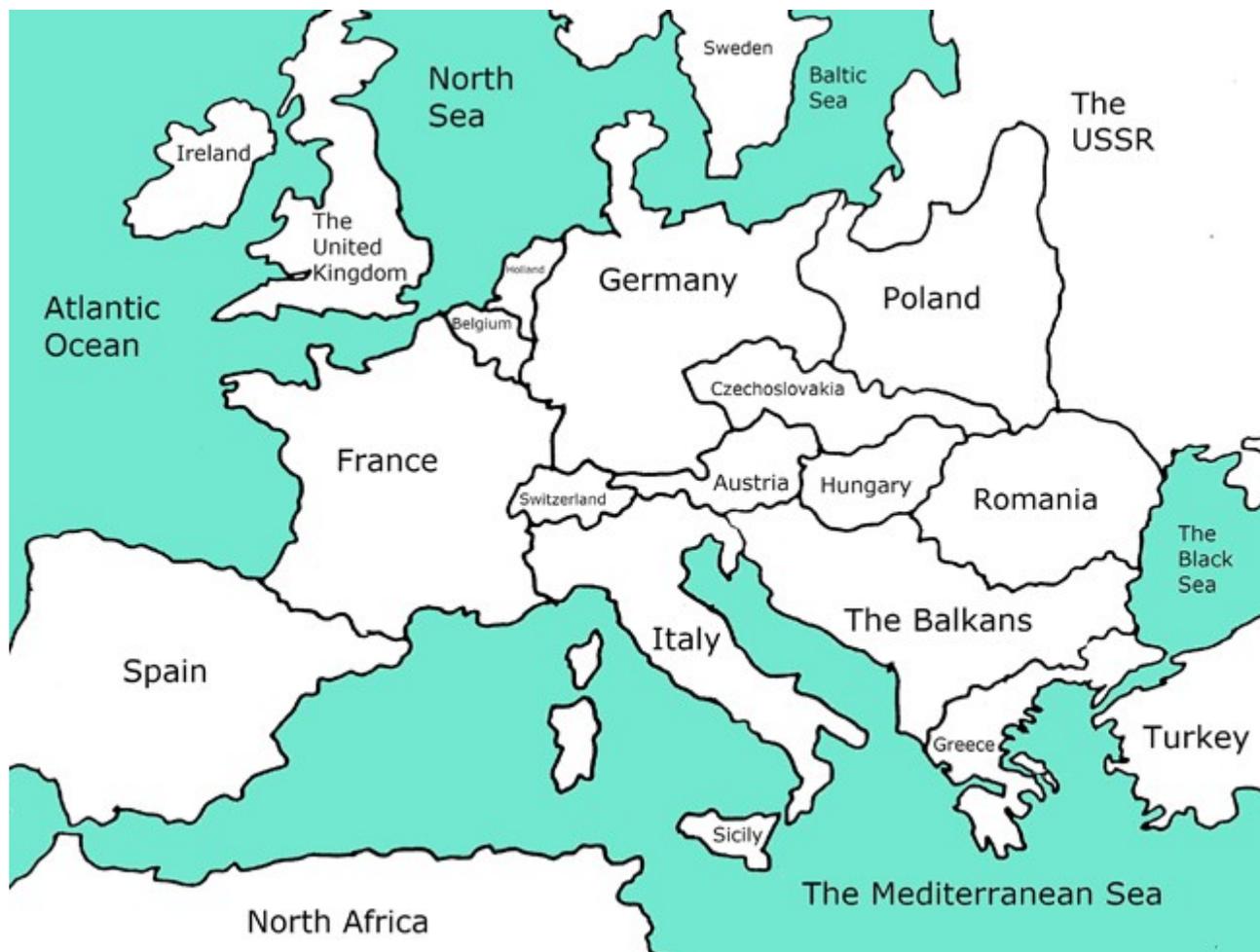
Here is Sgt. Mauldin's cartoon conveying that same message:



"Maybe Joe needs a rest. He's talkin' in his sleep."

What is different about your drawing? What is the same?

European Geography



This map shows Europe in 1937, before the war. The borders may look a little different than you are used to. Use colored pencils or crayons and the attached map to learn what Europe looked like, where the 45th Infantry Division fought, and which countries fought together or were occupied during World War II.

First, mark all of the countries where the 45th fought by outlining them in red. The 45th fought in:

- Sicily
- Italy
- France
- Germany

Next, color all of the Axis nations in gray. The Axis Nations were:

- Germany
- Austria
- Italy
- Sicily

By 1940, the Axis countries invaded and occupied many other nations. Color these nations in yellow. The Occupied Nations were:

- Poland
- France
- Belgium
- Holland
- Czechoslovakia
- Hungary
- Romania
- The Balkans
- Greece
- North Africa

Now, color all the Allied Nations (who fought against the Axis) in green. The Allied Nations in Europe were:

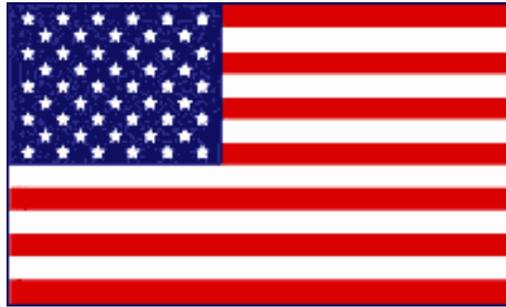
- The United Kingdom
- The USSR

Finally, color the nations that stayed neutral, or didn't fight in the war, in brown. The neutral nations were:

- Sweden
- Ireland
- Spain
- Turkey
- Switzerland

Symbolism and Heraldry

Symbolism is when one image or word stands for, or represents, something else. A good example of this is the American flag. You probably see the flag every day, but here is an image of it if you need a reminder:



The flag stands for the United States of America but each of its pieces stands for something else, too.

- There are fifty stars for each state in the United States and thirteen stripes for the thirteen original colonies.
- The color red stands for valor and bravery.
- The color blue stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice
- The color white stands for purity and innocence.

The 45th Infantry division had its own symbol as well, its own shoulder patch. Every unit in the US Army has a shoulder patch to identify it. This is the 45th Infantry's patch:



The shoulder patch stands for the 45th Infantry, but each of its parts stand for something as well.

- The yellow symbol is a Thunderbird. A Thunderbird is an American Indian symbol for power and strength
- The 45th Infantry was originally a National Guard unit drawn from Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas. Each of the four sides of the patch represents one of those four states.
- Red is a symbol of bravery and valor.
- Yellow is a symbol of warmth or energy.

Below is a list of colors and symbols and their meaning. Use this list to create your own shoulder patch for yourself, your classroom, your school, or your family.

Colors:

Silver/white: truth, sincerity, peace, innocence, purity

Gold: wisdom, generosity, glory, constancy, faith

Black: wisdom, grief, constancy, prudence

Green: abundance, joy, hope, loyalty

Blue: loyalty, truth, strength, faith

Red: military strength, warrior, martyr

Purple: temperance, justice, royalty

Orange/yellow: ambition, wealth, power, the sun

Symbols:

Acorn: independence, strength

Dog: courage, loyalty

Dragon: valiant, powerful, fearsome

Deer: peace, harmony

Wolf: tough, hard working

Horse: readiness

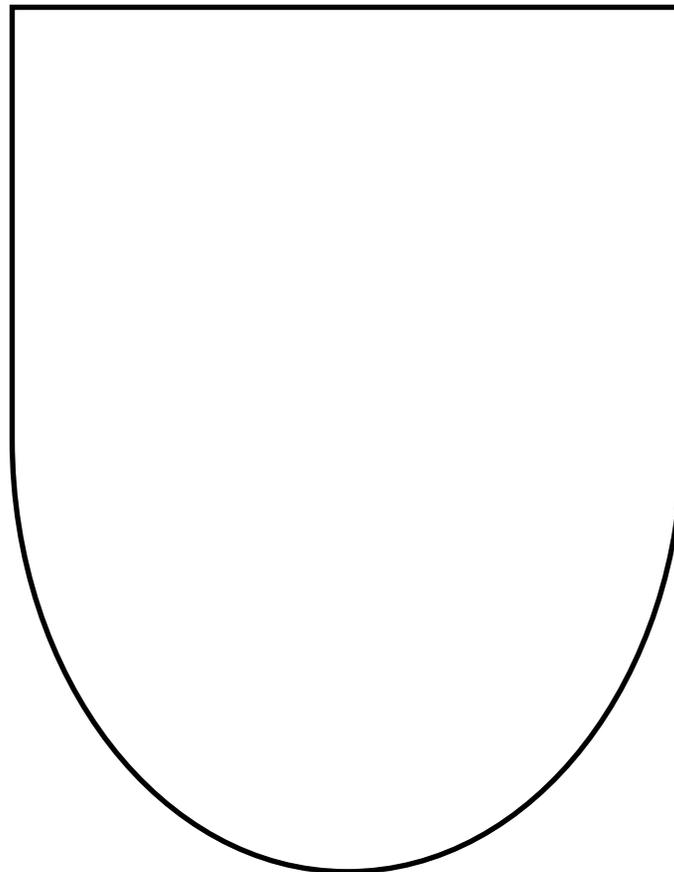
Raven: intelligence, cunning

Tree: life

Book: knowledge, wisdom

If you don't find a symbol you like, you can find more symbols at the American College of Heraldry website, here: <http://www.americancollegeofheraldry.org/achsymbols.html>

My Shoulder Patch



Primary Source Photo Analysis

Study the photo below taken of some of the wounded from the 45th after the Battle of Anzio in 1943.



(Image courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division.)

Discuss the following questions with your class or in small groups:

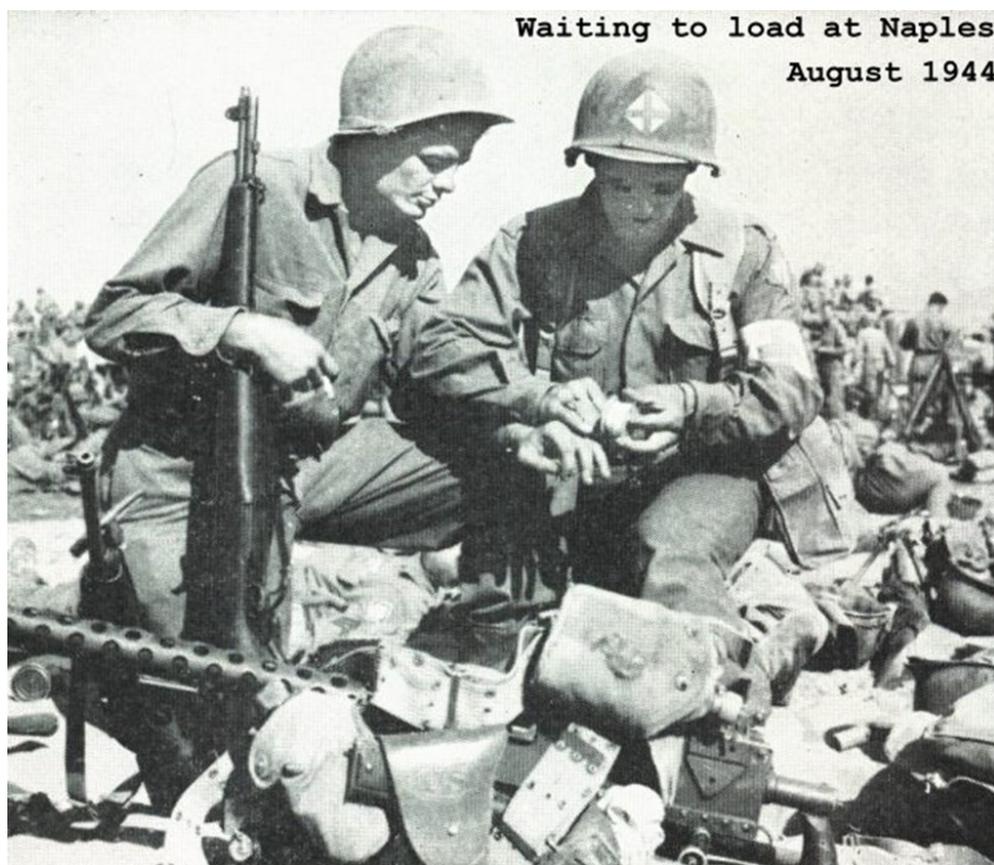
1. What do you think is happening in this photograph?
2. Why do you think the person who took this photo thought it was important to capture or preserve this moment?
3. How does the photo make you feel about war and the sacrifices of our veterans?
4. What questions does this photo leave you with? What do you want to know more about?

Creative Writing Activity: Diary or Journal Entry

After studying the photo of two 45th soldiers below, have students do a free write about their observations and feelings about the piece. Provide the following prompts:

1. How old do these men or boys look?
2. What is their physical condition? (Do they look healthy, properly clothed, happy?)
3. What task or activity do you think they are performing?
4. Why do you think these members of the 45th decided to join the war effort?

Next, have students create a diary or journal entry for one of the men in the photograph. Have them describe what the man is like (their name, how old they are, what they are doing) and their life during WWII as this new character. Be sure to have students write this entry in first person and to include their reasons for enlisting and how they feel about their duties and the war.



(Image courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division.)

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Resources and Guides for Teaching the Holocaust

United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum
<http://www.ushmm.org/educators/teaching-about-the-holocaust>

PBS Teachers: Studying Genocide
<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/genocide/index1.html>

University of Minnesota: Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies
<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/genocide/index1.html>