



THROUGH THE LENS

February 5, 2005

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Trickett (left) and Lt. Col. Robert Phillips, 612th Engineer Battalion command team, uncase the organizational colors of the unit during a transfer of authority ceremony in Iraq.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

February 1, 1972: The **196th Public Affairs Detachment** is organized in Worthington as the 196th Public Information Detachment.

February 2, 1813: Gen. William Henry Harrison establishes Fort Meigs on the south side of the Maumee River. The fort was to serve as a temporary supply depot and staging area for an invasion of Canada and was home for more than 2,000 men consisting of U.S. regulars and militia from Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

February 2, 1926: The **812th Engineer Company** is organized in Akron as Headquarters Company, 73d Infantry Brigade.

February 5, 1942: The 37th Infantry Division leaves Camp Shelby, Miss. for Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

February 5, 1945: 2d Lt. Robert M. Viale, Company K, 148th Infantry, is killed during the Battle of Manila. His actions will lead to him being awarded the Medal of Honor.

 Company B, 837th Engineer Battalion

February 7, 1930: The 134th Field Artillery receives War Department approval of its coat of arms.

February 7, 1945: The 37th Infantry Division, led by the 148th Infantry, relieves units of the 1st Cavalry Division at the Malacañan Palace and makes an amphibious assault across the Pasig River. This operation puts the first American troops on the south side of the river.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

CROSSING THE PASIG RIVER, MAJ. CHARLES HENNE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 3D BATTALION, 148TH INFANTRY

“Once in the water, I Company straightened its line and then on order, “Go,” the paddlers churned the water to get going. When the Japs spotted the boats, they pulled the string on machine guns, auto-cannon, artillery and mortars. Machine guns stitched the water. Rapid-fire 20mm and 25mm cannons sent explosive rounds along the line of boats kicking gouts of water into the air. The Jap artillery and mortars took a little longer to bring their fire to bear but soon incoming churned the brown river, threw up gouts of water and scored on some of the boats. Smoke and water obscured the boats. When visible, the boats appeared to be making good headway, but some were taking hits. Many of the boats were hit hard. Whether auto cannon or artillery caused the greatest damage was hard to tell. The Jap shells sent splintered paddles and plywood boat siding high in the air and when falling back to the water the splintered pieces of boats and paddles were carried away by the current.

Transfixed, I wondered if I Company would make it. They did! I Company troopers did what they had to do to take care of themselves and their buddies. When a paddler was hit an able bodied man took his place. When a man lost his paddle, he used his rifle butt. Those dumped into the water might have been lost, but other boats came to pull the wounded into their boat or let the able bodied grab hand-holds on the side rails. Although casualties were many, they were all secured to avoid being carried downstream.”