



JANUARY 9-15, 2023



THROUGH THE LENS

JANUARY 10, 1944: While stationed on Bougainville, Pvt. Jake M. Reynolds, Company M, 145th Infantry, relaxes in a vine hammock with his homemade guitar, pieced together from a banyan tree and tin cans.



WEEK IN REVIEW

- M** **JANUARY 9, 1945:** The 37th Infantry Division is one of four U.S. Army divisions to land at Luzon's Lingayen Gulf as part of the Sixth Army's operations to liberate the Philippines.
- Th** **JANUARY 12, 1888:** The 14th Infantry Regiment armory, located on the corner of Spring and Front streets in Columbus, catches fire at 6 a.m. and is completely destroyed.
- F** **JANUARY 13, 1947:** Thomas J. Herbert is inaugurated as the 56th Governor of Ohio. Herbert, a former lieutenant colonel in the Ohio National Guard, was the first commander of the 112th Observation Squadron, 37th Division Aviation. He is the last Ohio governor to have served in the Ohio National Guard.
- Su** **JANUARY 15, 1952:** The 37th Infantry Division is ordered into active federal service for the Korean War and sent to Camp Polk, La. for training.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Sgt. Otis Earl Hawkins of Company E, 145th Infantry describes the Lingayen Gulf landings on Jan. 9, 1945. This excerpt is taken from his 1999 book, "My Experiences in War and Business: One Man's Story of Success in America."

"The drama of a great show was being unfolded on the morning of January 9, 1945. The great convoy was anchored in Lingayen Gulf. Stretching away from our ship to the horizon in all directions some hundreds of heavily laden transports and supply ships sat motionless. Moving about were the battleships, the cruisers, and the destroyers of the Navy. At quick intervals these would light up as their broadsides were being fired. There was a mighty continuous roar as of a terrific storm. Far away there was a line of light made by the explosions of countless thousands of shells along the beaches and the burning towns and straw stacks of the Filipinos. Overhead swarmed the planes from the carriers and the P-38's that had flown from Leyte to join in the attack. Tiny landing boats, jammed with heavily armed infantrymen, churned the water into tiny waves as they sped around and around their mother ships in the water as if impatient for the shelling to cease and enable them to be on their way to the beaches.

The shelling ceased abruptly and there was a period of deathly quiet. The hundreds of landing boats ceased their crazy circles and headed straight toward the beaches.

In our minds we tried to picture the struggles on the beaches. The human imagination is always more gruesome than the actual scenes of the battle. It was the lot of us on the ships to suffer the silence, the suspense, the anguish. The silence was broken in an incredibly short time by a booming voice over the ship's public address system: "The first wave of troops has landed and advanced five hundred yards inland with no resistance."

A great shout of delight went up from the men. These were the most welcome words that we had ever heard from a navy loudspeaker."

