

McLean County Museum of History

Illinois National Guard Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Collection Information

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 1 Box |
| COLLECTION DATES: | 1947-1962 |
| RESTRICTIONS: | None |
| REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: | Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History |
| ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: | None |
| OTHER FINDING AIDS: | None |
| LOCATION: | Archives |
| NOTES: | Photos in Subject Collection- Illinois National Guard |

Historical Sketch

The following is from the narrative found in Folder 1; the Command Report found in Folder 5; a letter written by Richard T. Dunn to the McLean County Historical Society; and a letter written by Richard T. Dunn to the Daily Pantagraph:

In March 1947, Col. E. Haefer Riley was authorized to lay the groundwork for the organization of a National Guard Anti-Aircraft unit in Bloomington. Several men were contacted and a list of those who were interested in the unit compiled. Sgt. Frank McGuire of the regular army was the instructor assigned. He reported for duty with the battalion the last week of May.

On June 3, 1947, the 396th Anti-Aircraft (Automatic Weapons) Battalion was activated. It was inspected by Col. Edmond O'Neil from State Headquarters and Capt. Goldonie from the regular army. The Charter members included: Col. E. Haefer Riley, Commanding; Capt. Benjamin Arnold, S-2; Capt. Francis Gelsthorpe, S-4; 1st Lt. James Staker, S-1; 1st Lt. Evyn Barnard, MTO; William Bilyew; Howard Centers; Eugene Salch; Ernest Brown; Glen Douglass; Ross T. Selders; Walter Burroughs; Troy E. Phillips; Porter Shannon; and William Sneltjes.

The 369th was reorganized as the 144th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion of the 44th Infantry Division on February 15, 1949.

On September 15, 1951, the 44th Infantry Division was alerted for call-up during the Korean War, and on February 15, 1952 the entire division was mustered into federal service and moved to Camp Cook, California, where it began a two year term of extended active duty.

The mission of the 144th Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled) was to train, by phase, in order to successfully perform a Light Anti-Aircraft Artillery combat mission in the field. The first phase, Basic Combat Training (March 3, 1952 to April 20, 1952) under ATP 21-114 consisted of training each soldier to fight as an infantryman, thereby enabling him to take his place as an infantryman in combat operations should the need arise. The second phase, Advanced Individual Training (April 21 1952 to June 14 1952) under ATP 44-300 consisted of training each soldier to function effectively as an individual or as a member of a squad crew or detachment and develop leader and instructor potentialities and to further the training of individuals in qualifications required by their military occupational specialty (MOS). The third phase, Unit Training (June 15 1952 to September 13 1952) under ATP 44-300 consisted of training each unit so that individuals were welded together so they could operate effectively as squads, crews, platoons, batteries, and battalion. The last phase, Field Exercises and Maneuvers (September 14 to October 11) was to provide field training in tactics, logistics, intelligence, and administrative functions under simulated combat conditions. In December 1952 the division was moved to Fort Lewis, Washington.

Some of the Bloomington guardsmen were chosen to fill gaps overseas. In a letter written to *The Daily Pantagraph* July 16, 1952, Richard T. Dunn states: "The battalion has received its first levy. Twenty-two guardsmen are on this levy. Of these twenty-two, a total of thirteen were volunteers. The remaining nine were selected according to priorities [described in letter]. Eleven of the twenty-two are going to Europe and eleven to the Far East Command. Three local officers have been ordered overseas. Lieutenant Joseph French and Warrant Officer Ned H. Batson of Bloomington have orders to Europe and Captain Eryn G. Barnard of Normal has orders to the Far East."

Scope Note

This collection contains rosters, newspaper clippings, command report, narrative, and other materials related to the National Guard in Bloomington. Collection spans the years 1947-1962.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Organization of the 396th AAA Battalion from June 3, 1947.

- 1.1 Narrative describing the organization of the 396th AAA Battalion from June 3, 1947 through May 1948. 28 pages

Folder 2: Rosters & Correspondence

- 2.1 February 11, 1952. Letter from Richard T. Dunn to the McLean County Historical Society regarding attachment of rosters (4 copies)
- 2.2 Roster of Officers, February 11, 1952. 3 pages
- 2.3 Roster of Battery A. 2 pages

- 2.4 Roster of Battery B. 2 pages
- 2.5 Roster of Battery C. 3 pages
- 2.6 Roster of Battery D. 2 pages
- 2.7 Photocopies of aforementioned rosters.
- 2.8 January 31, 1952. Letter from Harry L. Bolen to Arthur P. Kane regarding being in town for the ceremonies honoring the 144th AAA Battalion
- 2.9 February 2, 1952. Letter from C. Craig Cannon to Arthur P. Kane informing that General Eisenhower will not be able to attend the send-off of the 144th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion
- 2.10 February 5, 1952. Letter from G. C. Thomas to Arthur Kane regretfully declining the invitation to the celebration of the 14th
- 2.11 4 telegraphs to Arthur P. Kane from Adlai Stevenson, A. C. Smith, Lee M. Boyle, and R. L. Maxwell
- 2.12 4 brochures about Departure Day in McLean County
- 2.13 Notice of outstanding accomplishments during Operation 88,888

Folder 3: Lineage and Coat of Arms

- 3.1 Correspondence approving the 144th AAA AW Battalion Distinctive Insignia
- 3.2 Corrected copy of the official statement of lineage and battle honors of the 144th
- 3.3 History of the lineage of Headquarters Battery of the Battalion, beginning with 1827 organization of Captain J.H.S. Rhodes company for the Winnebago War and including all subsequent militia and national guard units through the 144th (3 copies)
- 3.4 Histories of lineages for the five batteries of the battalion

Folder 4: Recruiting and Training Activities

- 4.1 Certificate for HQ and HQ Battery for Efficiency in Training
- 4.2 "Meet Your National Guard" fliers

Folder 5: The Korean War

- 5.1 Rosters of all personnel mustered into the Federal Service on February 15, 1952
- 5.2 Roster of Enlisted personnel for August shipment
- 5.3 Disposition form
- 5.4 Alumni news November 1952
- 5.5 July 16, 1952. Letter from Richard T. Dunn to the *Daily Pantagraph* explaining current Army policy concerning National Guardsman, and the overseas placement program.
- 5.6 Thanksgiving menu, 1952.
- 5.7 Command Report, 144th Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1952-1953 (Report actually terminates with 1952)
- 5.8 Copy of GO no.52 headquarters Sixth Army, April 23, 1953, redesignating the battalion and reorganizing it under a modified Table of Organization and Equipment
- 5.9 Copy of report from the Division Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply and Logistics as to reports of survey as to lost or damaged property.

Folder 6: Relating to Korean War Duty

- 6.1 Camp Cooke Site Plan, Santa Barbara County, California (photos in envelop attached)
- 6.2 "Icy Weather Keeps Farewell for Guard Unit Indoor" Feb. 15, 1952, laminated *Pantagraph* article
- 6.3 "Central Illinois National Guardsmen Arrive at Camp Cooke" February 26, 1952, Laminated *Pantagraph* article
- 6.4 "Some guardsmen prepare for Federal Duty by Going to Schools" February 13, 1952 page in the *Pantagraph*
- 6.5 "Central Illinois Pays Tribute to Departing Guardsmen Thursday" February 13, 1952 page in the *Pantagraph*

- 6.6 *Pantagraph* photo of men of 144th at Camp Cooke May 9, 1952
- 6.7 Guards' Photos Hung in Armory
- 6.8 "Alvey Spices up Dry Lecture" July 1952 in the *Pantagraph*
- 6.9 "Colonel Dunn Shares in Big Blast Command" in the *Pantagraph* February 1, 1960
- 6.10 "Just Handful of Old 144th men at Lewis" Feb 11, 1953
- 6.11 "Central Illinois Felt Impact of Korean War Decade Ago" Feb 18, 1962
- 6.12 "Lt. Col. Dunn Thanks Public for Send-off"
- 6.13 "Gerald D. Hill Le Roy, Wounded in Korean Action"
- 6.14 "Foosland Soldier Gains Officer's Rank in Korea"
- 6.15 "Gibson Captain in Korea"
- 6.16 "Old Guard to Celebrate"
- 6.17 February 27, 1952. Letter from Inez Dunn to Lt. Col. R. T. Dunn, thanking him for files
- 6.18 March 3, 1952. Letter from Arthur P. Kane to Colonel Richard Dunn, wishing him well.
Enclosed note from General Bolen. February 26, 1952. Letter from Harry L Bolen to Arthur P. Kane regarding arrival of Col. Dunn and Battalion at Camp Cooke

Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings

- 7.1 *Pantagraph* clippings related to building of new armory
- 7.2 "Central Illinois Pays Tribute to departing Guards Thursday" February 13, 1952
- 7.3 "Local Antiaircraft Battalion Conducts Its First Maneuvers" May 24, 1948 (2 copies)
- 7.4 "Role of Illinois National Guard in Civil Defense Program" February 16, 1951 (2 copies)
- 7.5 "Armed Forces Day to be observed by Display on Square"

Folder 8: Hand-painted Board

- 8.1 Hand-painted coat of arms with motto "Sine qua non" (Without which it cannot be done)