

1944

17th Airborne Division

United States Army

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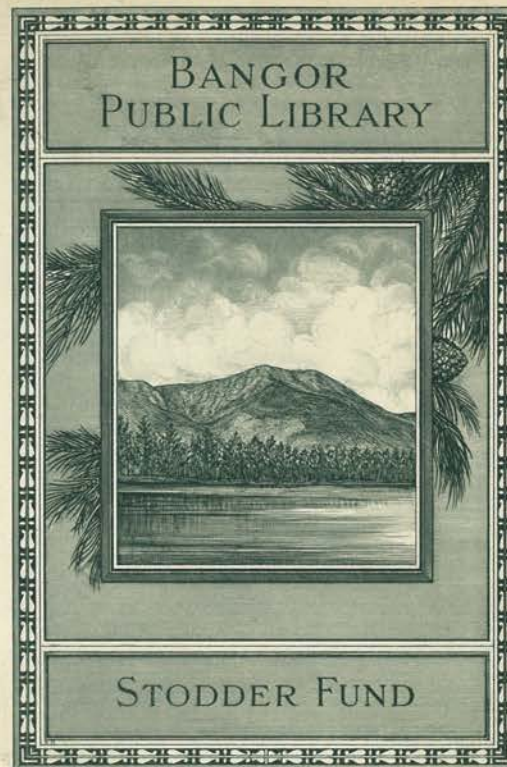
VOLUME 1



17th

17th AIRBORNE DIVISION

THUNDERBOLT



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Major General William M. Miley
Division Commander

HEADQUARTERS 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

1 June 1944

SUBJECT: "The Thunderbolt"

TO : The men of the 17th Airborne Division

1. I am sure that in future years when looking through this book it will be a never ending source of pleasure in recalling memories of your friends and the pleasures and hardships you went through together.

2. I am equally as sure that when this war has been fought to a successful conclusion that you will be proud to look through these pages and know that you were a member of the finest fighting organization in the Army--the SEVENTEENTH AIRBORNE DIVISION.

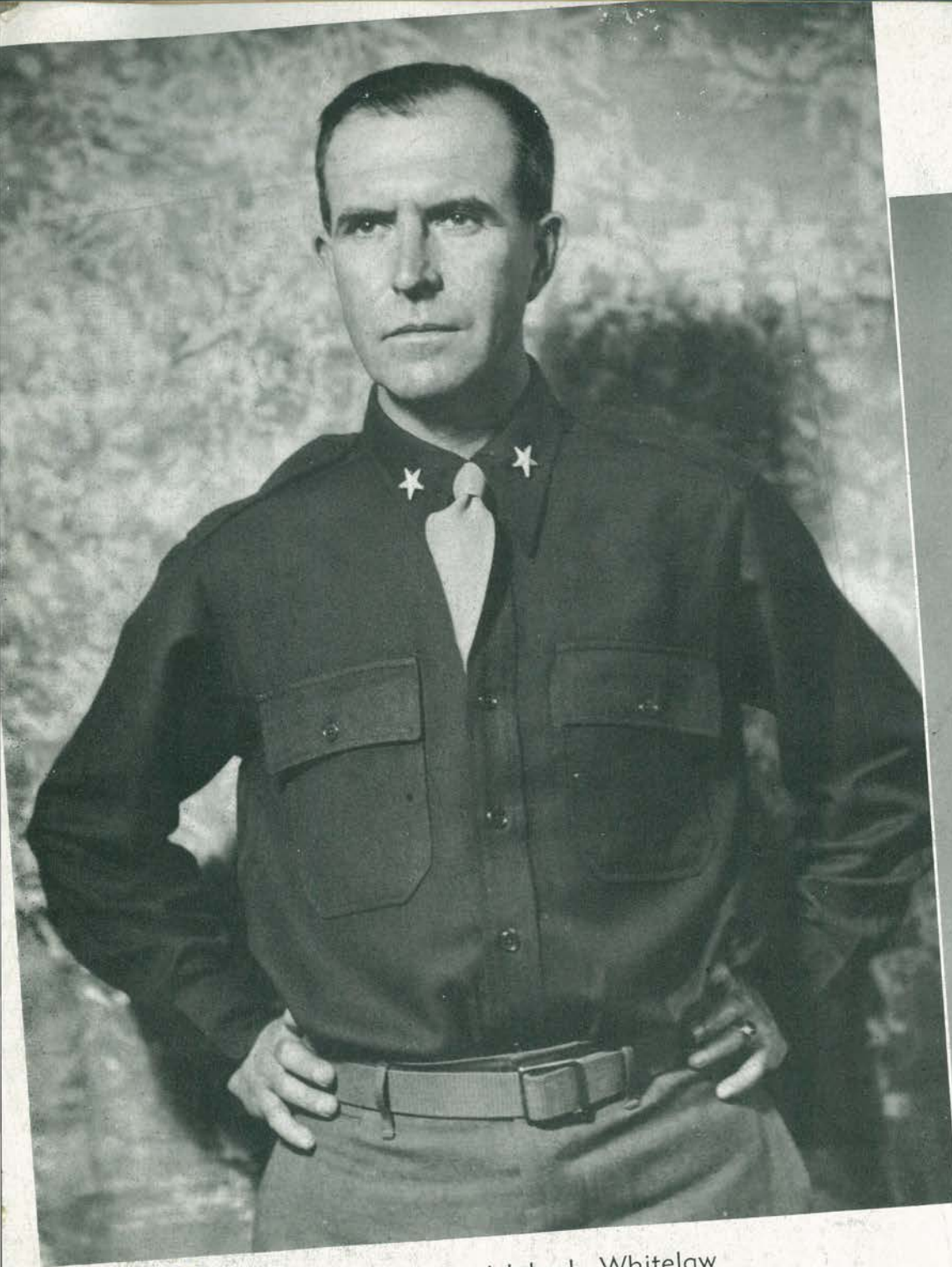
W. M. Miley
W. M. MILEY,
Major General, U. S. A.,
Commanding



Brigadier General Joseph V. Phelps
Division Artillery Commander



Brigadier General John L. Whitelaw
Assistant Division Commander





Colonel Willard K. Liebel
Chief of Staff



G-1. Lt. Col. Lewis R. Good



G-2. Major Lyle N. McAlister



G-3. Lt. Col. Edwin J. Messinger



G-4. Lt. Col. Charles W. Koester



SPECIAL

LT. COL. GABE W. LEWIS, JR.
Division Adjutant General

LT. COL. ALBERT S. LIENBY
Division Judge Advocate

LT. COL. EDWARD SIGERFOOS
Division Surgeon

LT. COL. EDWARD S. NELSON
Division Inspector General

STAFF



LT. COL. WILSON THOMAS
Div. Chem. Warfare Officer



LT. COL. R. H. TIFFANY
Division Quartermaster



LT. COL. S. T. B. JOHNSON
Division Engineer



MAJOR ARTHUR C. SMALL
Division Finance Officer



MAJOR ALLEN V. SAPORA
Div. Special Service Officer



MAJOR RAYMOND W. SMITH
Division Ordnance Officer



MAJOR HOWARD P. PAULIN
Headquarters Commandant



MAJOR MAX W. FORESMAN
Division Chaplain



CAPT. JOSEPH P. AHERN
Division Signal Officer





AN AIRBORNE DIVISION IS BORN . . .

AIRBORNE SOLDIERS ARE MADE



THE RAW MATERIAL



RESULT

EYES AND
HEAD TO THE
FRONT

CHEST
OUT

STOMACH
IN

HIPS LEVEL
AND DRAWN
SLIGHTLY
INWARD



SHOULDERS
LEVEL

ARMS HANG
AT SIDE
NATURALLY

HANDS CUPPED
NATURALLY -
THUMBS AT
SEAMS OF
TROUSERS

KNEES STRAIGHT
WITHOUT STIFFNESS

HEELS TOGETHER -
FEET AT 45°
ANGLE

RECRUITS . . . Men who didn't know their destination stepping off the train to find that they were AIRBORNE!! . . . A monumental day in their memories . . . the sand dunes of Carolina . . . nothing but sand and pines as far as the eye could see . . . this was to be home for a while . . . this to be their locale for their education in the grim business of killing or getting killed . . . and they went at it with a vengeance. . . .





At ease
down there!!

The long Mile . . .

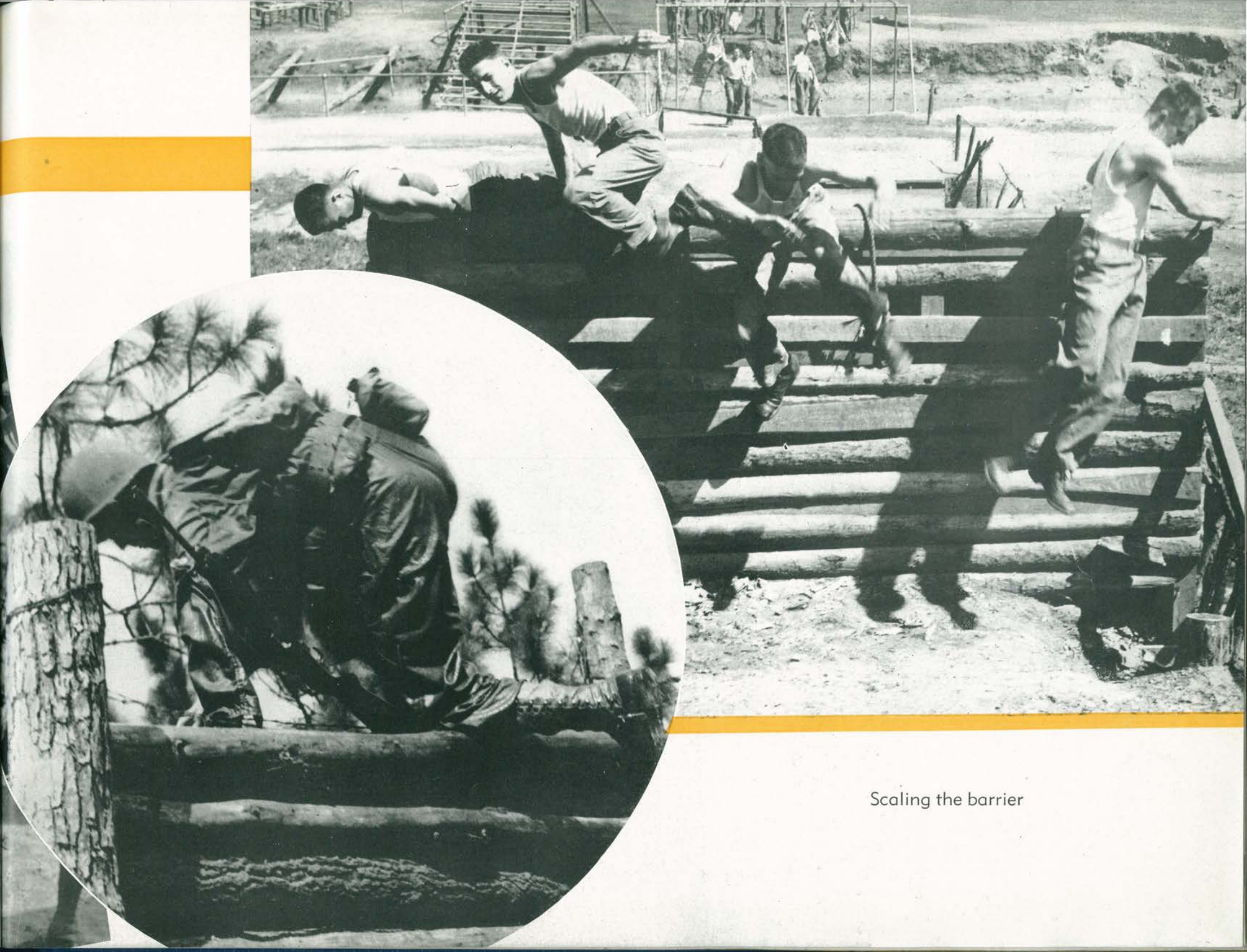


And to think
they call
them trains!!



Piston-like precision—
the result of that daily
half-hour double time





Scaling the barrier

TRAINING

NOW, WE'LL DOUBLE-TIME ONE MORE BLOCK AND THEN SING, "THIS IS THE ARMY MR. JONES"

AND I USED TO CHASE JACKRABBITS

WHAT MORALE!

MEDIC

THE 17TH'S HAPPY WARRIORS HARDEN UP FOR THE DIVISION PHYSICAL TEST!

THE TEST

26, 27, 28

I USED TO DO DIS IN DE TOLD GRADE

300 YDS - 45 SEC.

33 PUSH-UPS

NOW CRAWL!

WHOOOPS! I'M A COMMANDO

75 YDS - 20 SEC.

UP, DOWN, UP, DOWN, UP, DOWN

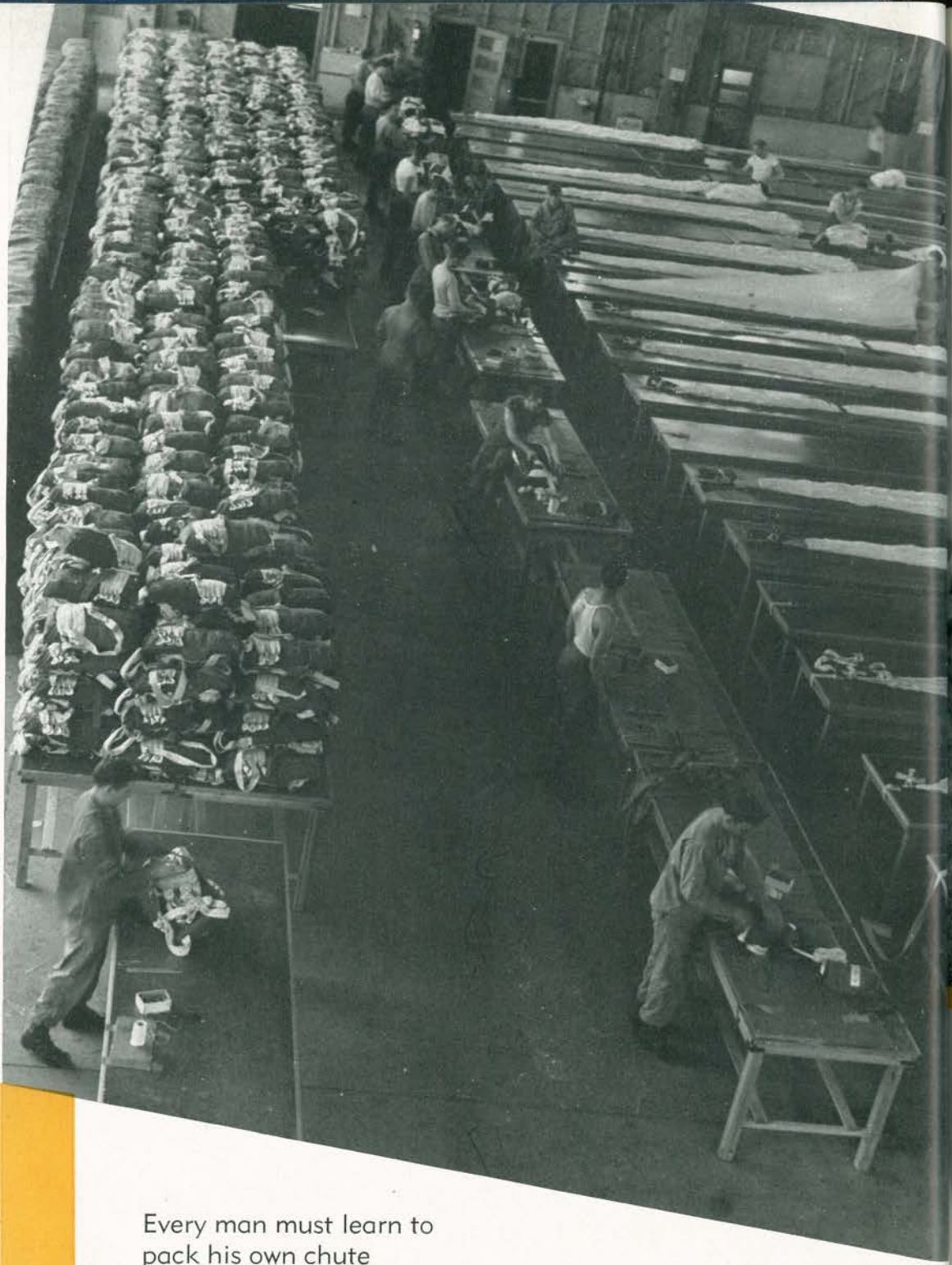
75 YD. AGILITY RUN

DID SOMEBODY SAY AIRBORNE?

11 BURPEES - 20 SEC.

4 MILE MARCH

RESULTS



Every man must learn to pack his own chute

Oh, my Airborne back



until the real thing comes along

Say your prayers



Let 'em down
... not so easily

Barbed wire



Dry firing



Prepare to throw



Long thrust



Sweating it out . . .



that first trip upstairs

Holding their breath

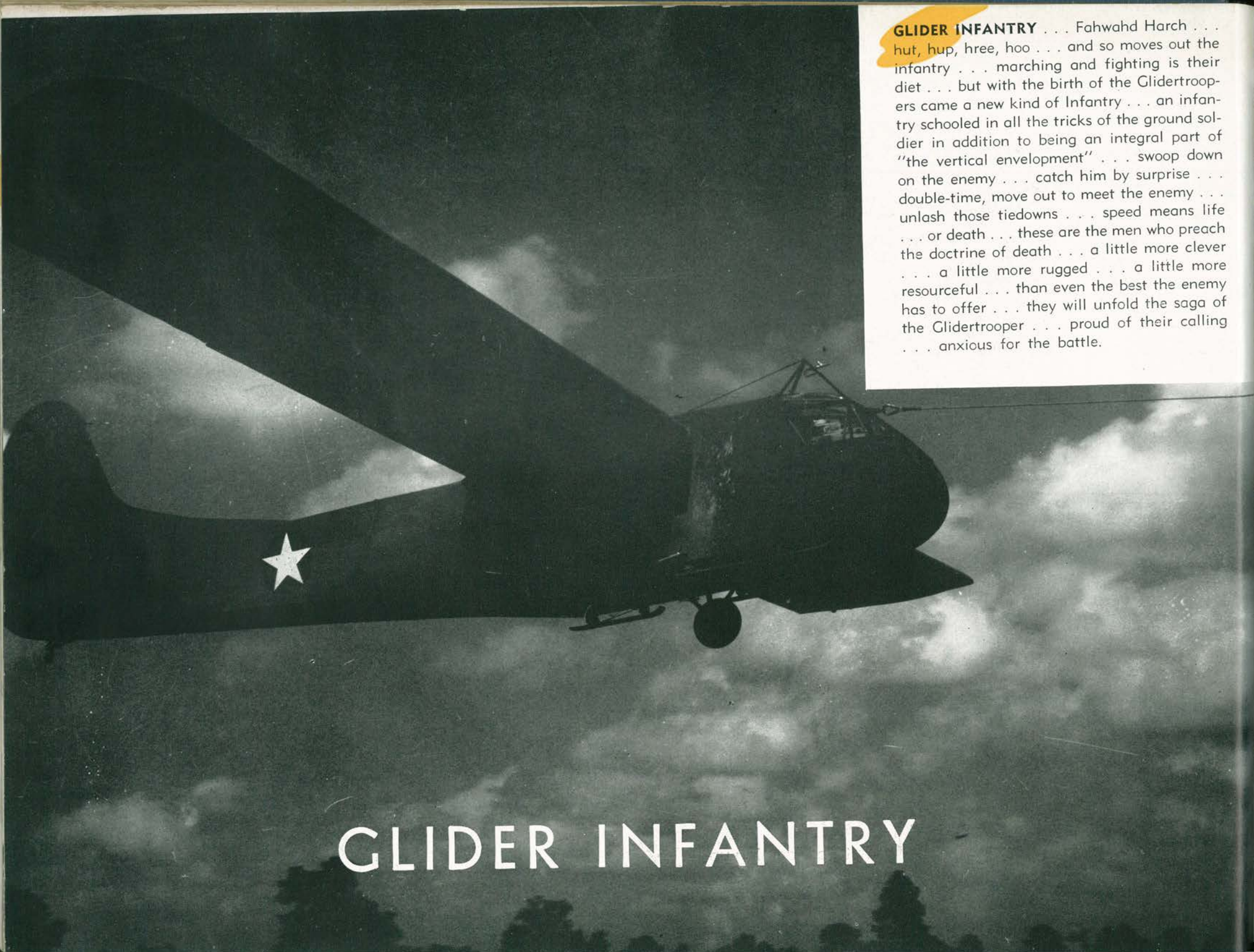




First floor coming up

The skies bear fruit . . .





GLIDER INFANTRY . . . Fahwahd Harch . . .
hut, hup, hree, hoo . . . and so moves out the
infantry . . . marching and fighting is their
diet . . . but with the birth of the Glidertroop-
ers came a new kind of Infantry . . . an infan-
try schooled in all the tricks of the ground sol-
dier in addition to being an integral part of
"the vertical envelopment" . . . swoop down
on the enemy . . . catch him by surprise . . .
double-time, move out to meet the enemy . . .
unlash those tiedowns . . . speed means life
. . . or death . . . these are the men who preach
the doctrine of death . . . a little more clever
. . . a little more rugged . . . a little more
resourceful . . . than even the best the enemy
has to offer . . . they will unfold the saga of
the Glidertrooper . . . proud of their calling
. . . anxious for the battle.

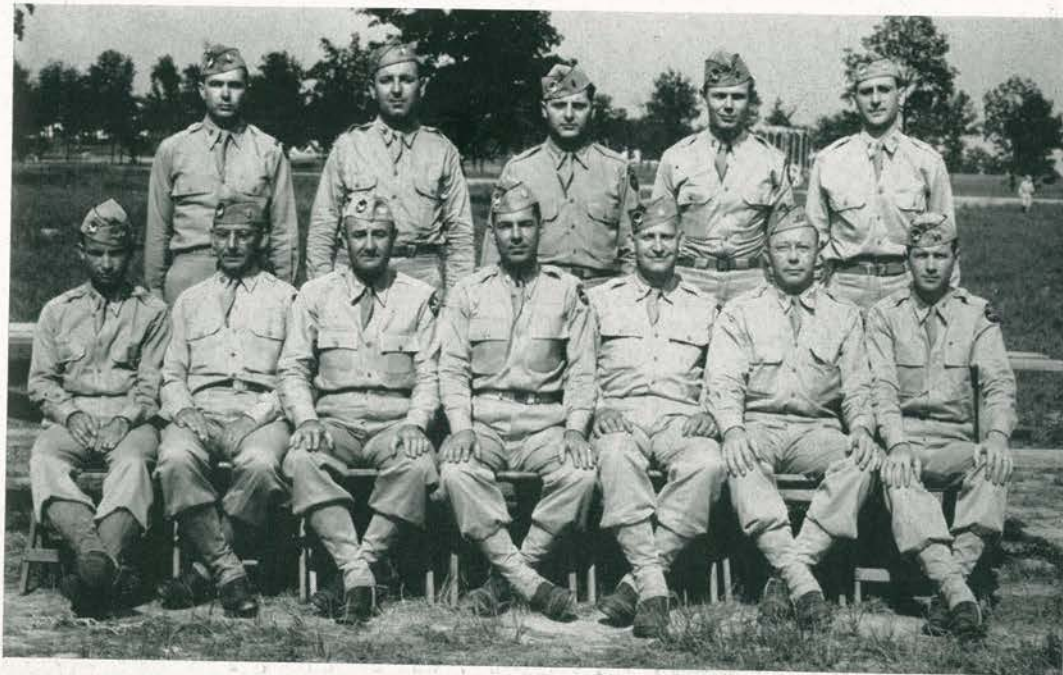
GLIDER INFANTRY



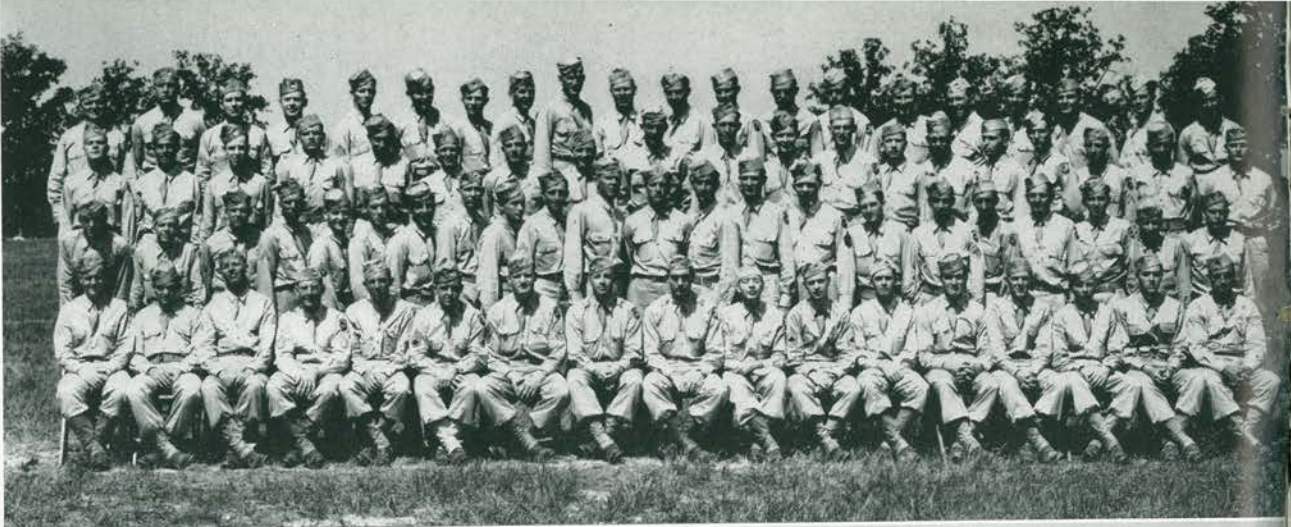
Lt. Col. David P. Schorr, Jr.
Executive Officer,
193d Glider Infantry



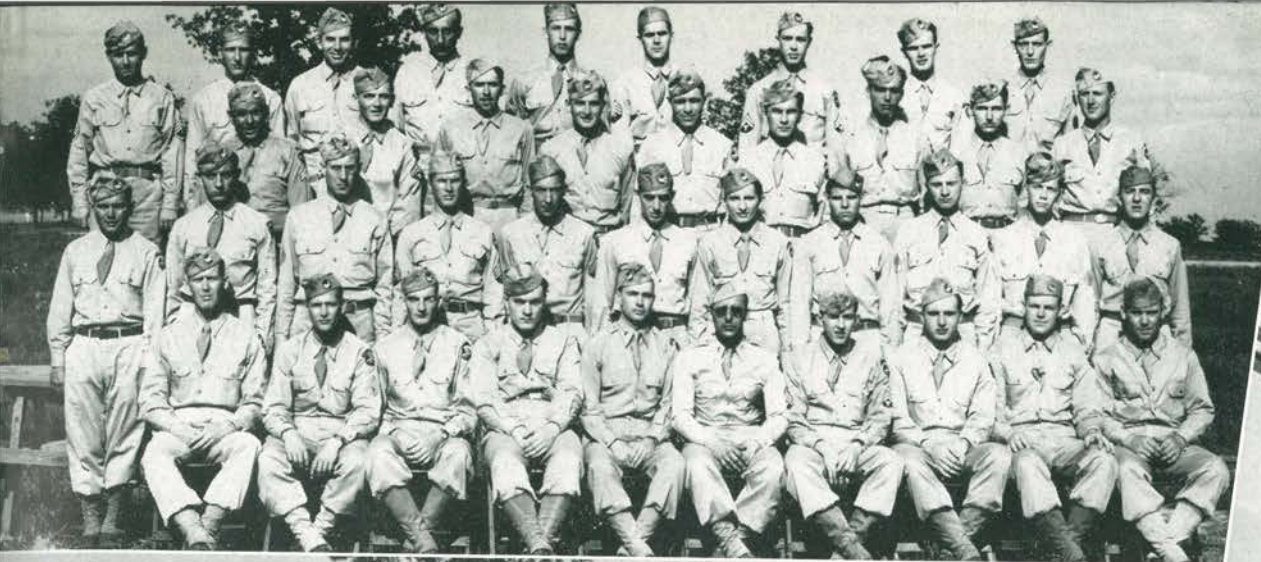
Colonel Maurice G. Stubbs
Commanding,
193d Glider Infantry



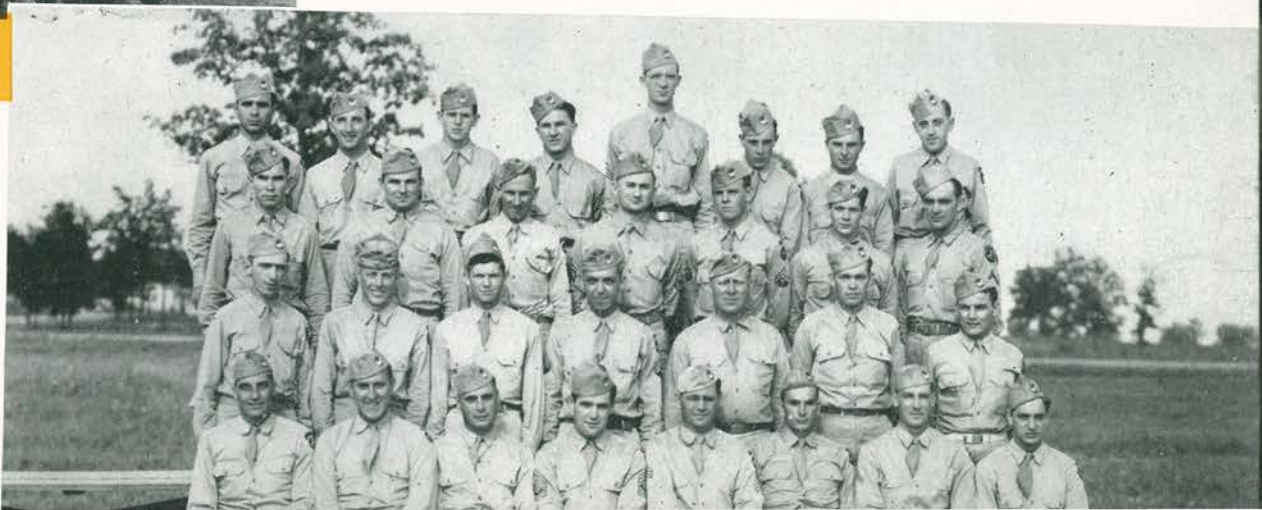
193rd GLIDER INFANTRY

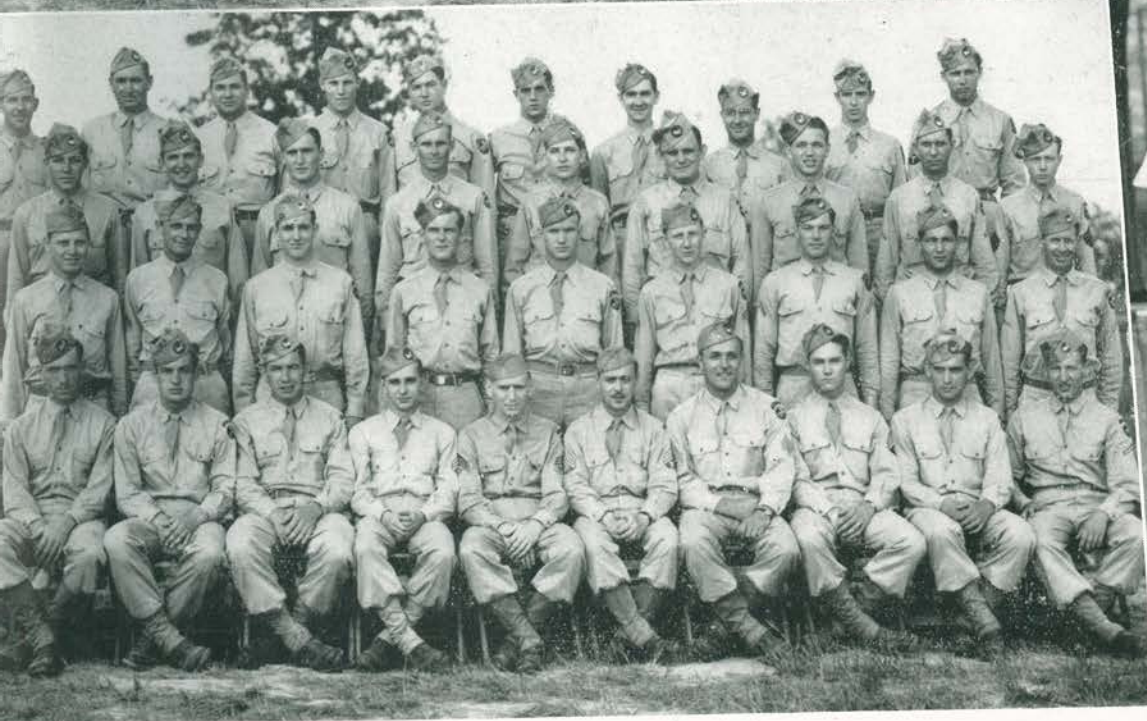
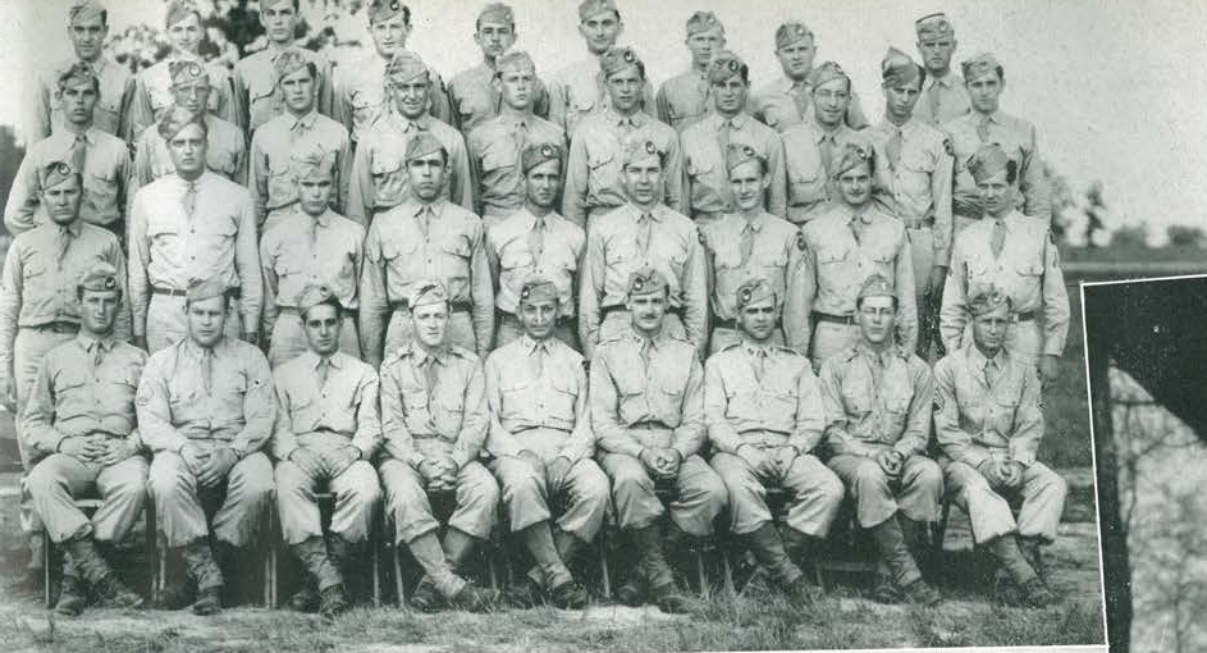


HEADQUARTERS &
HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY



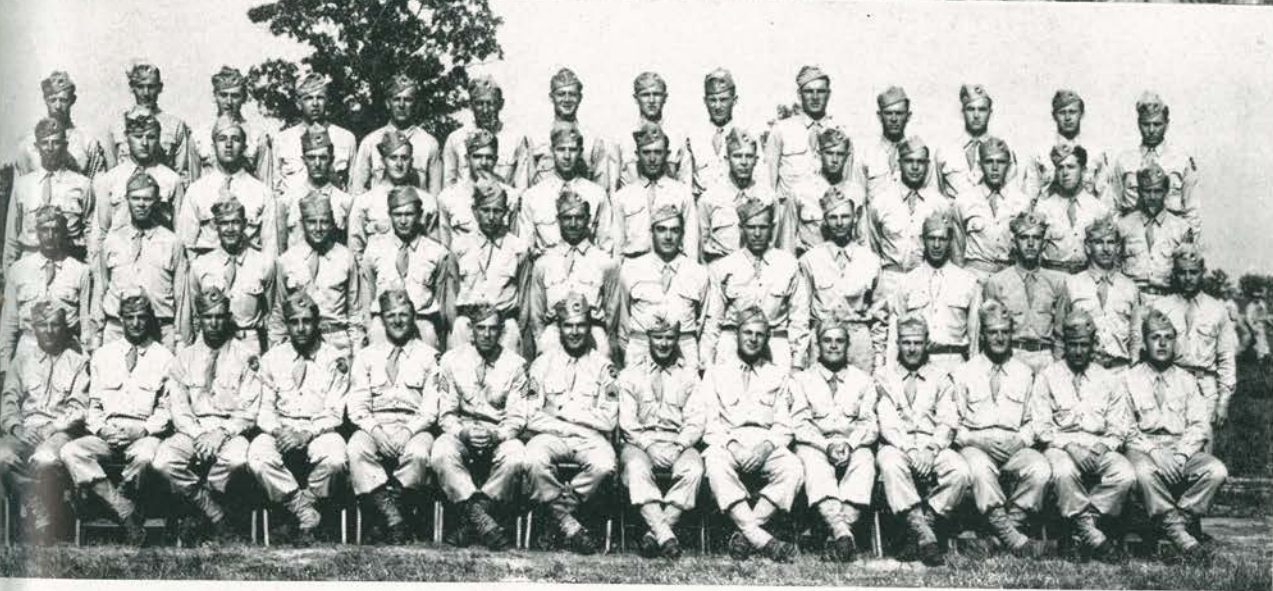
SERVICE COMPANY



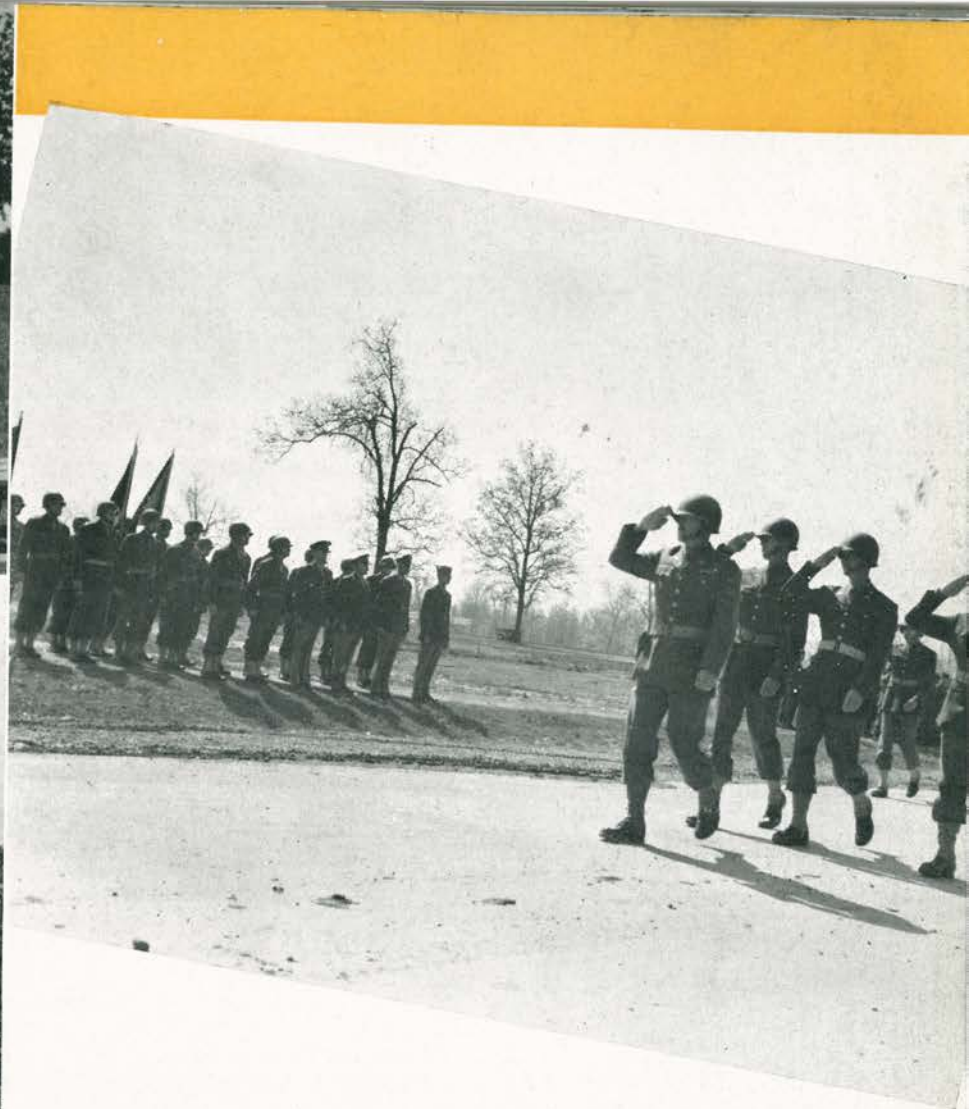
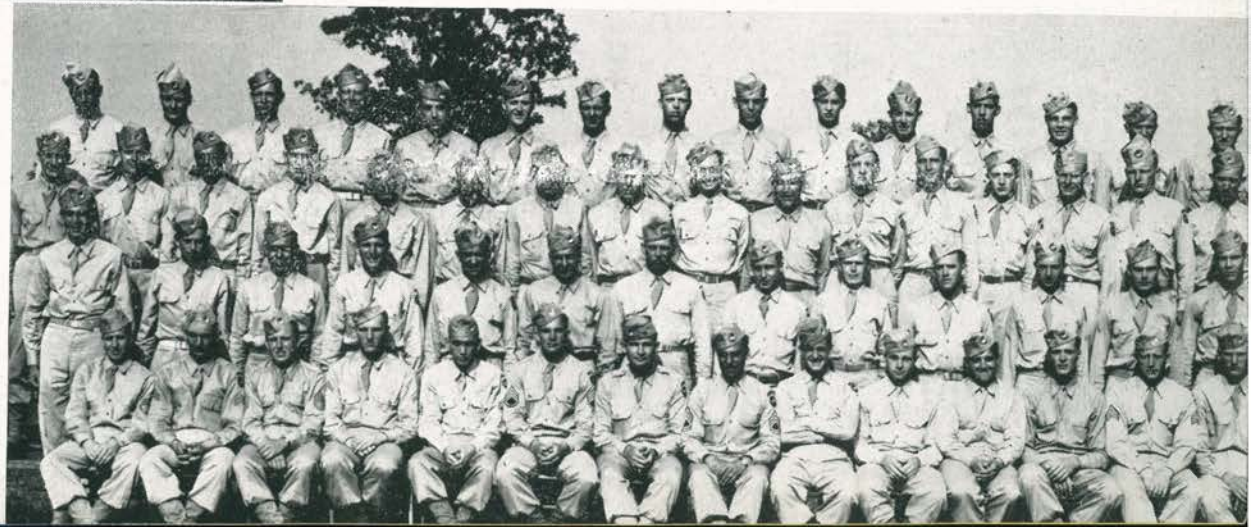


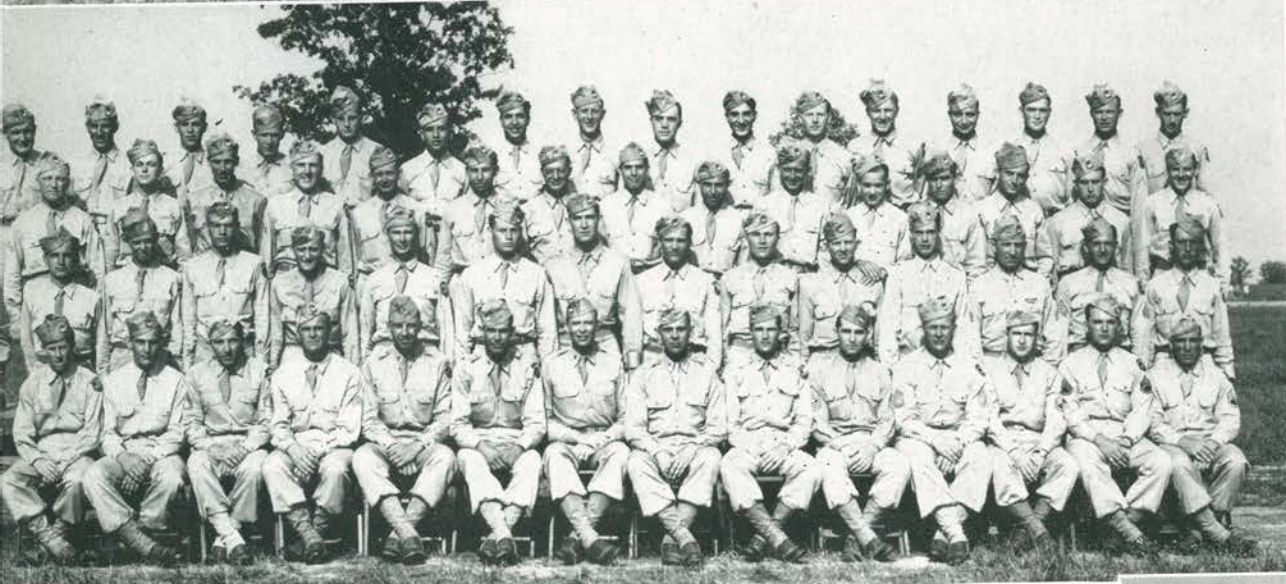
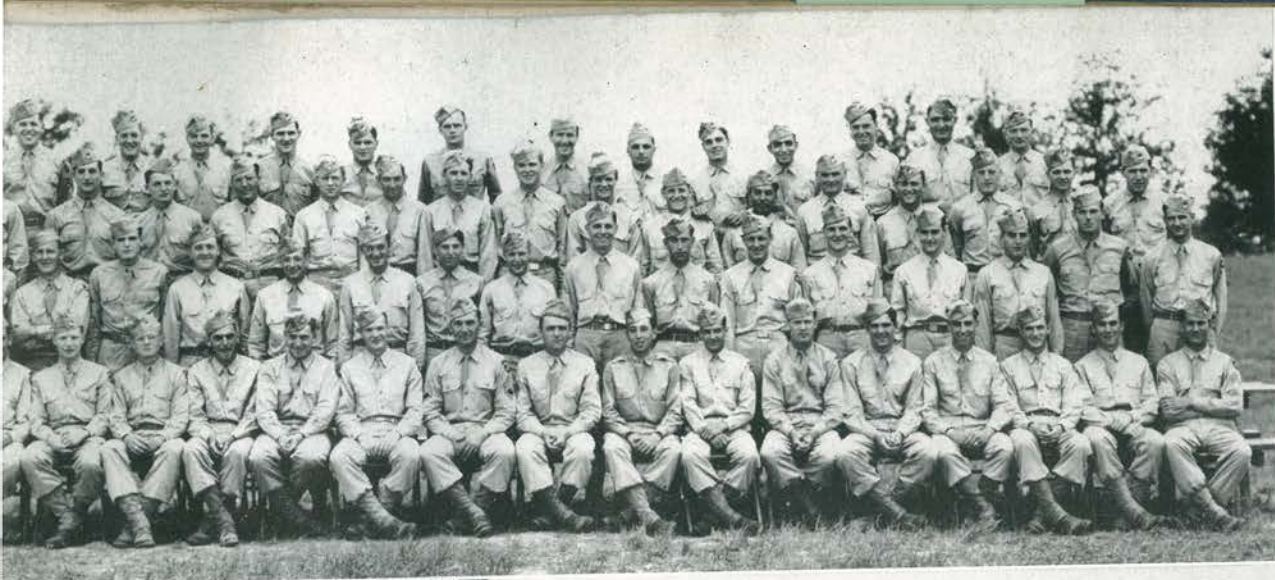
MEDICAL DETACHMENT



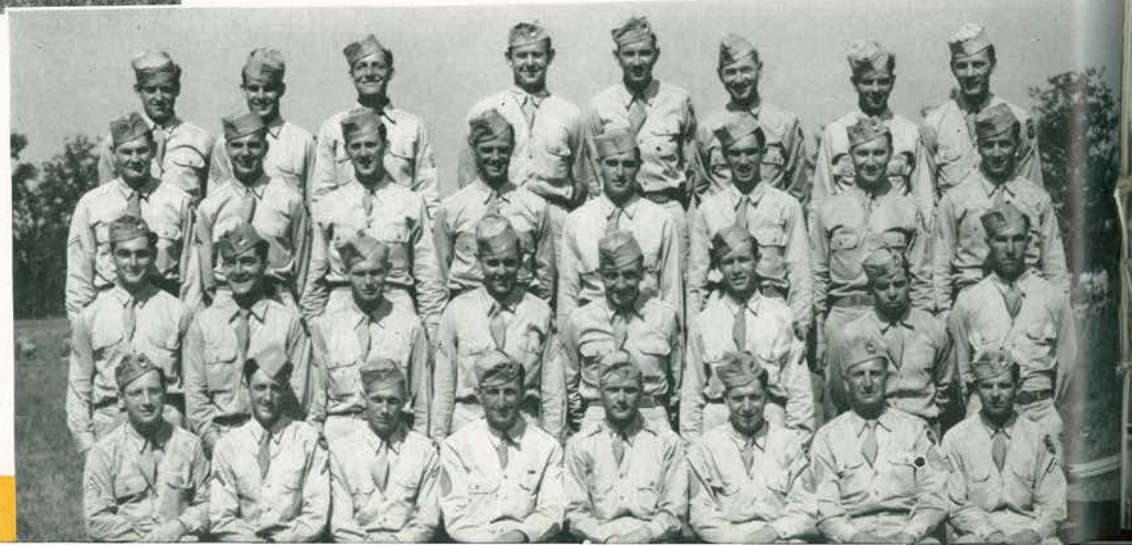


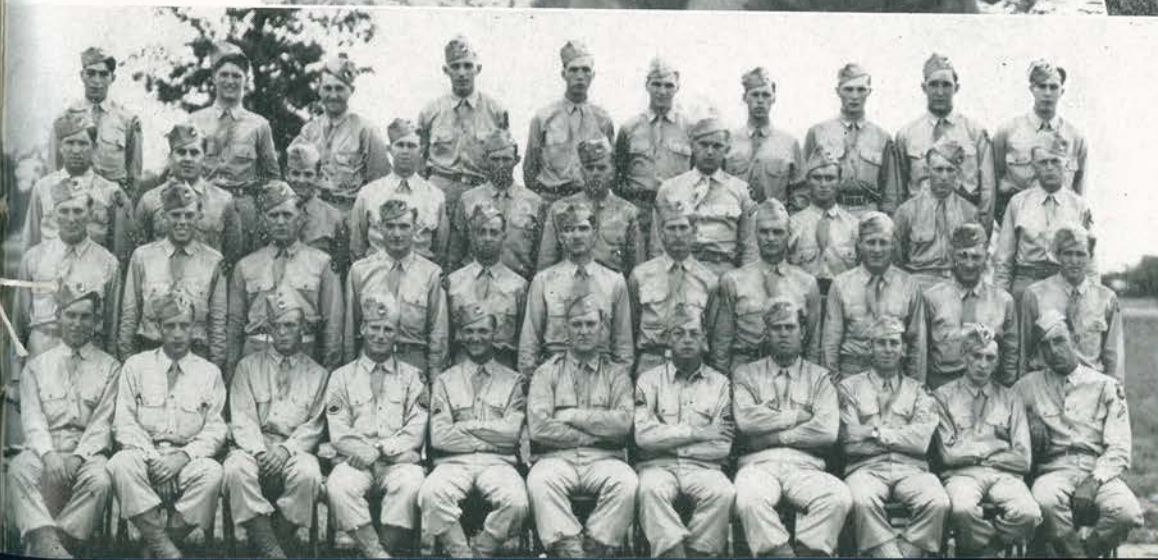
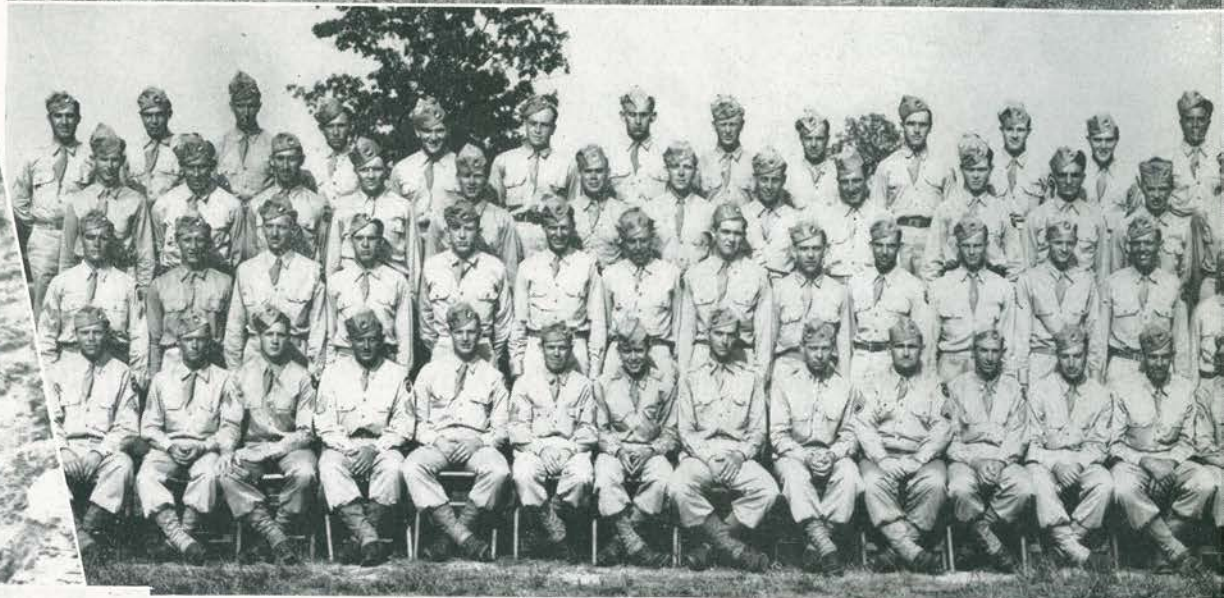
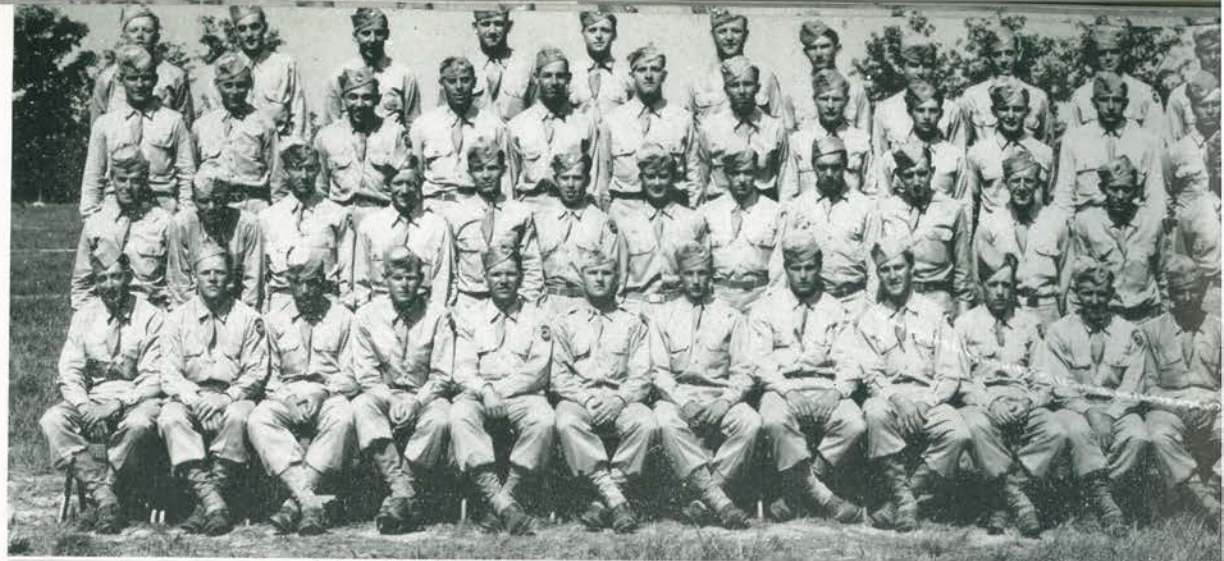
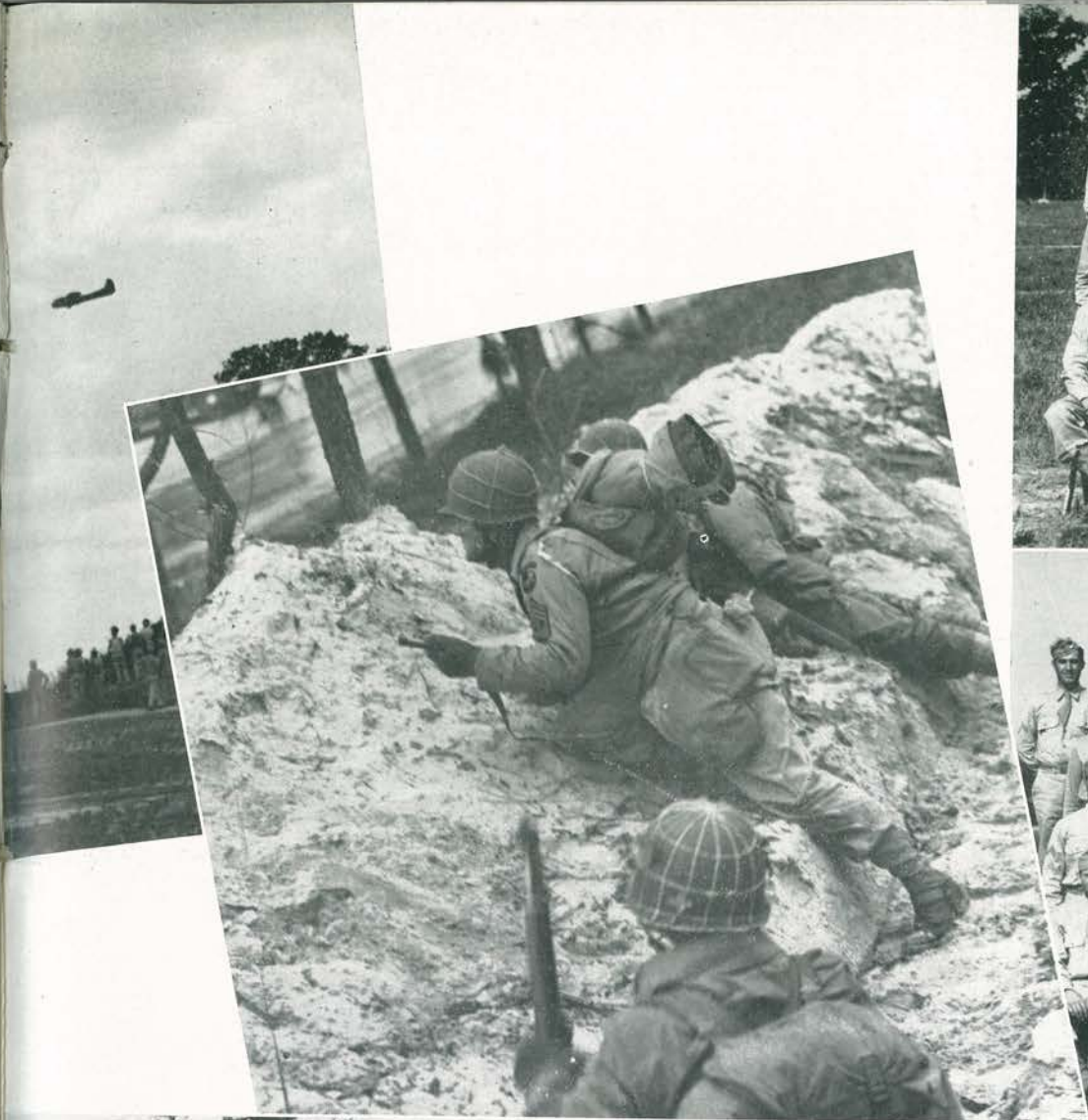
HEADQUARTERS &
HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY
1st Battalion



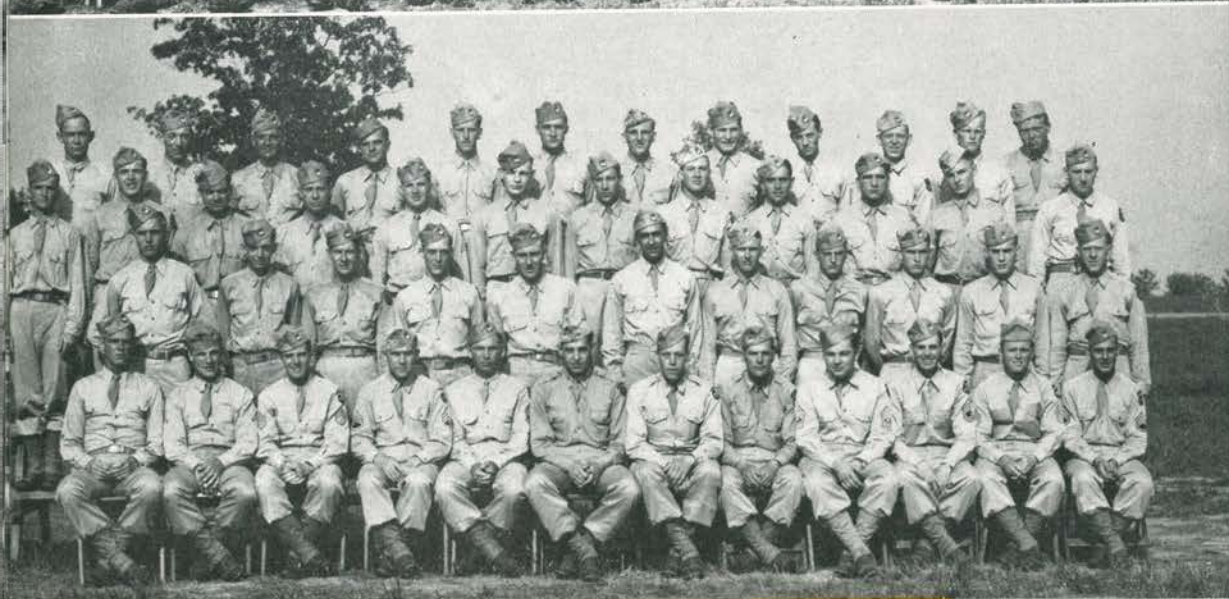


COMPANY "A"
1st Battalion



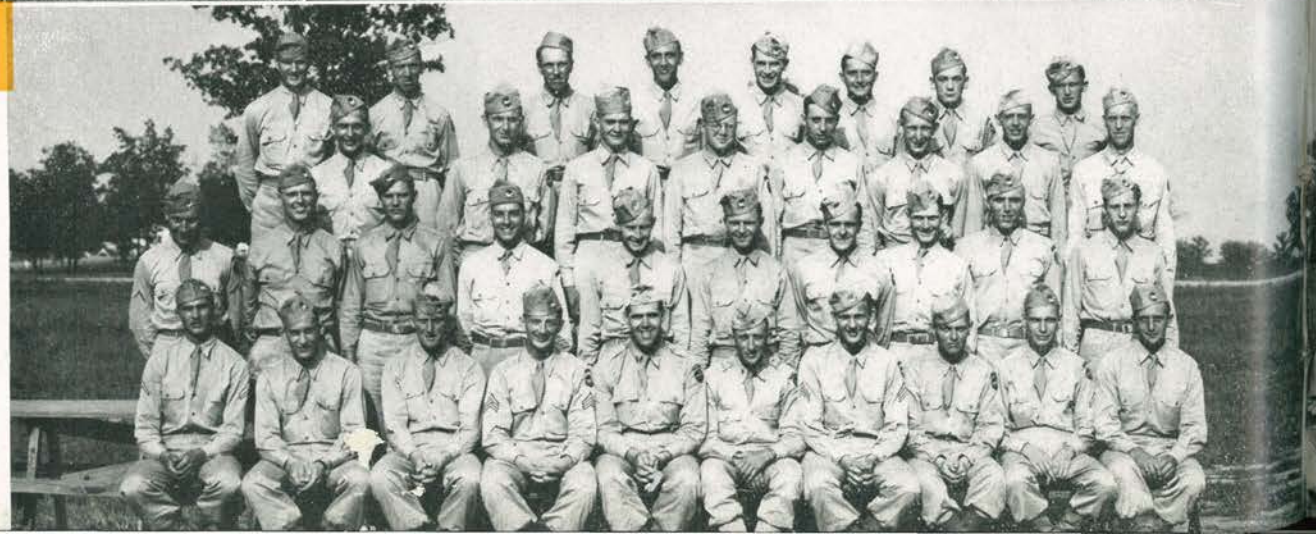


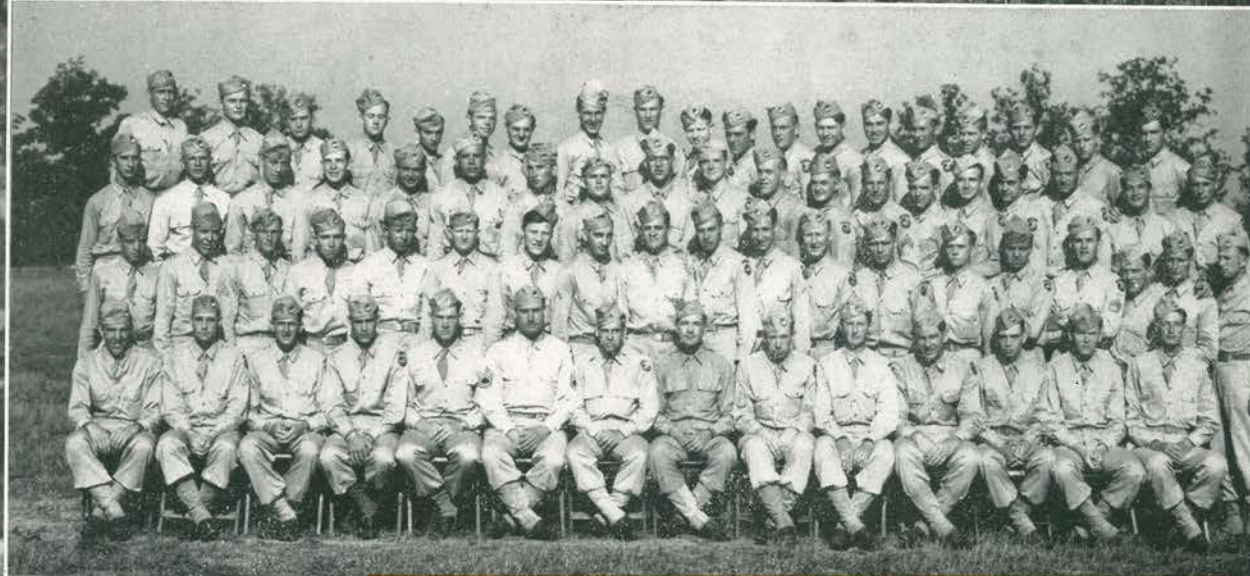
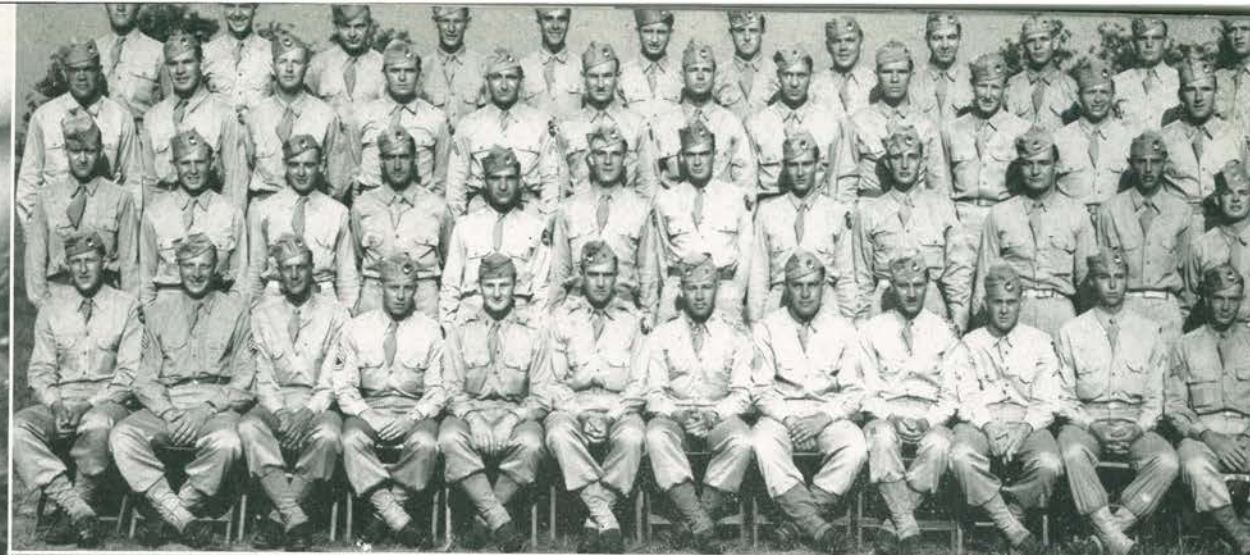
COMPANY "B"
1st Battalion



COMPANY "C"

1st Battalion



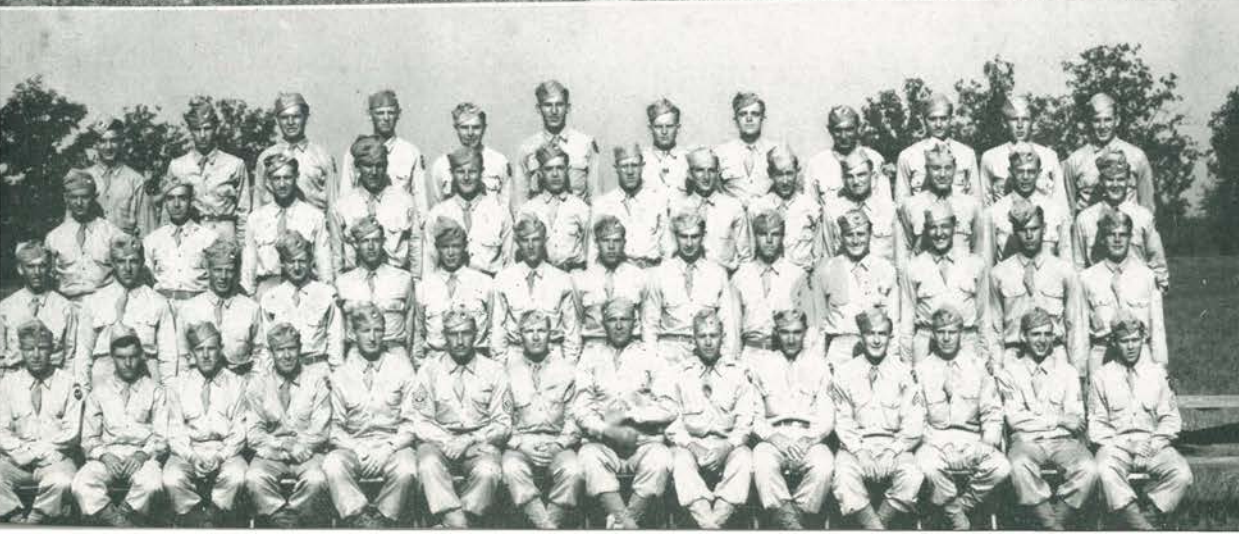


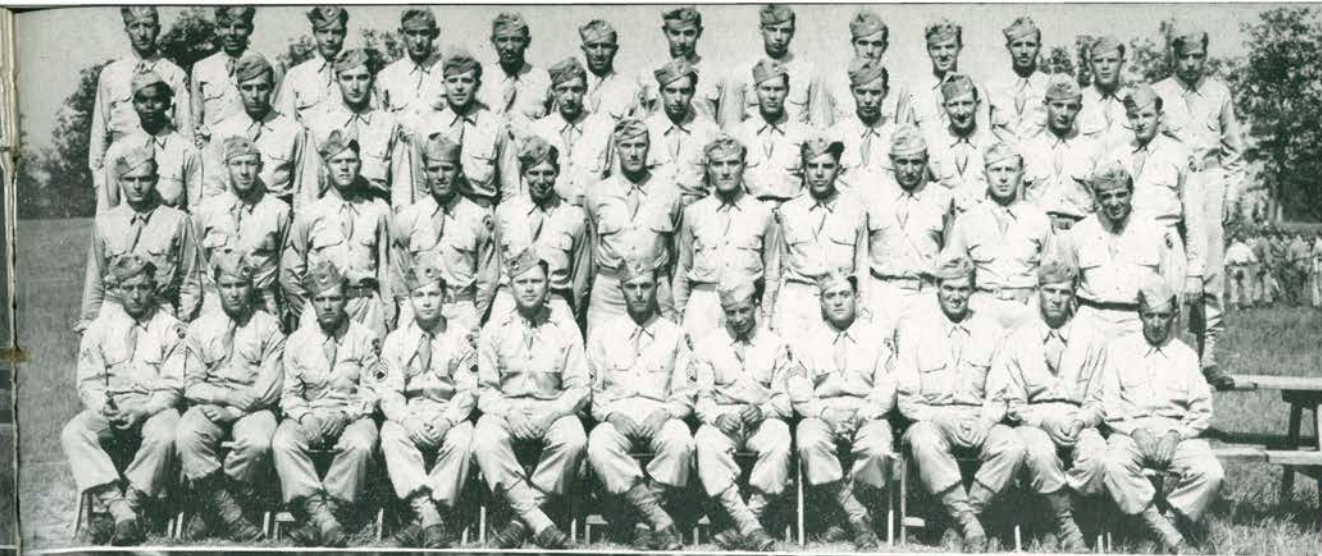
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

2nd Battalion

COMPANY "D"

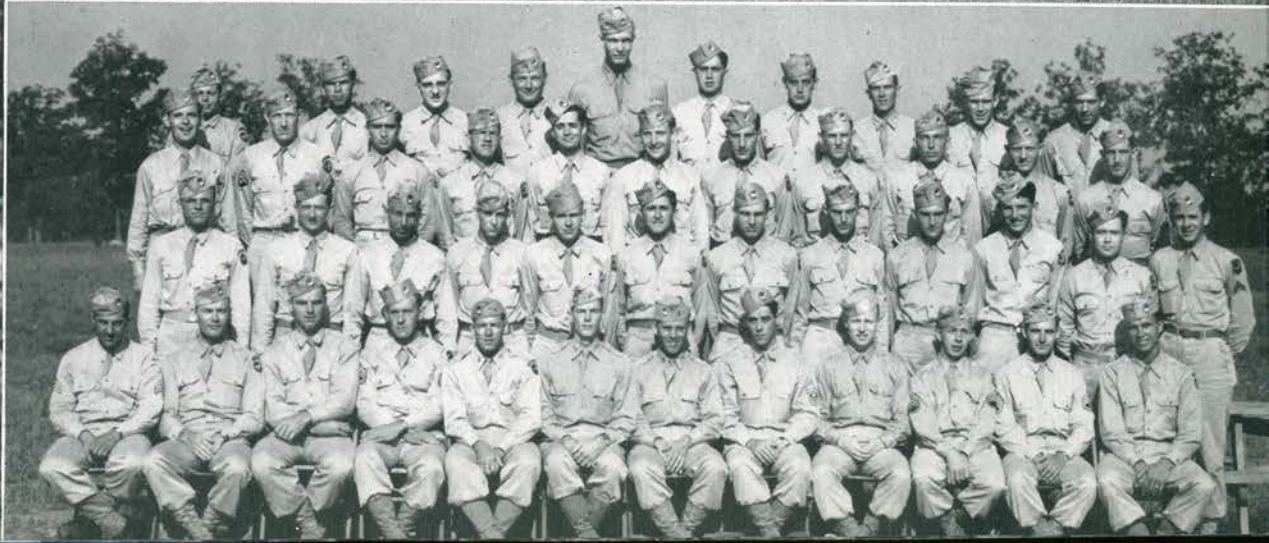
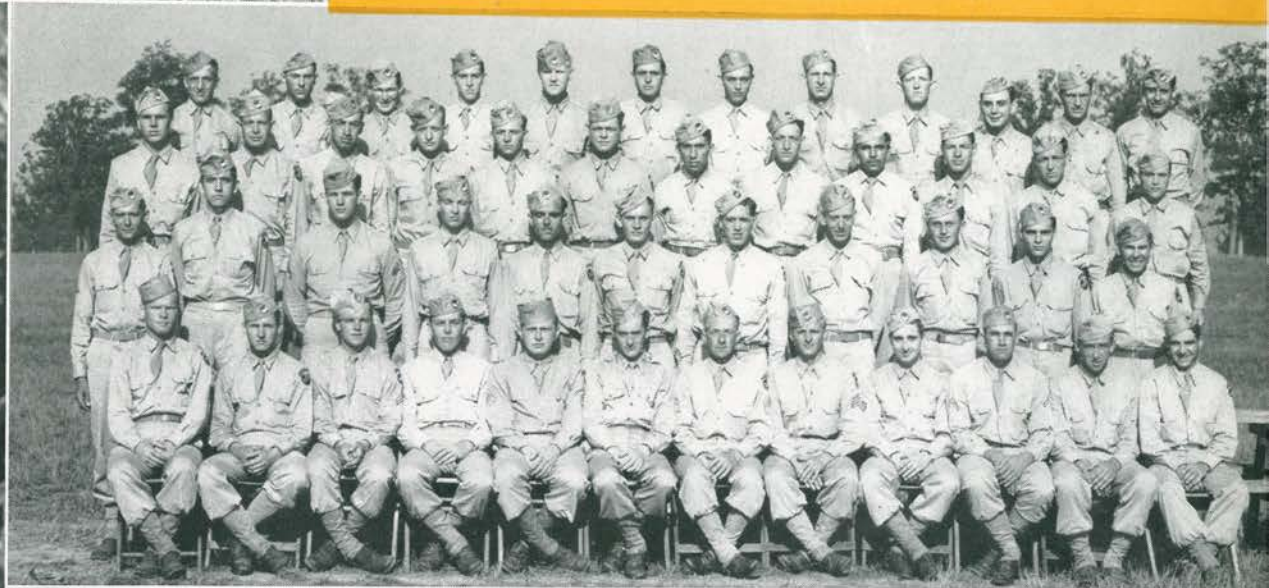
2nd Battalion

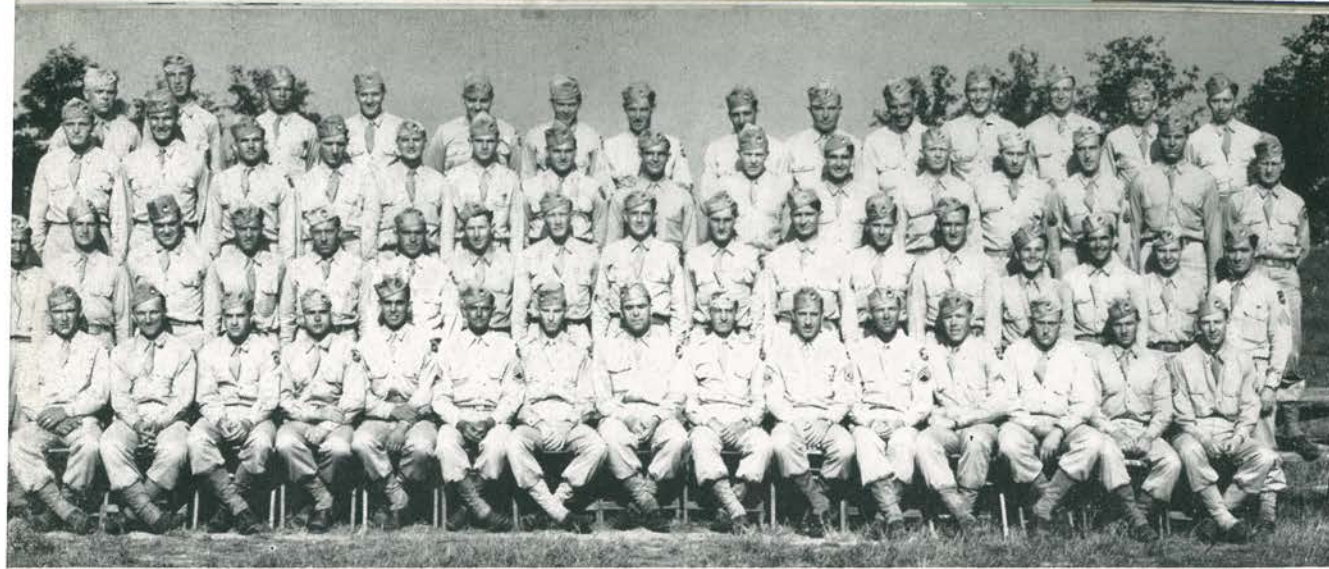




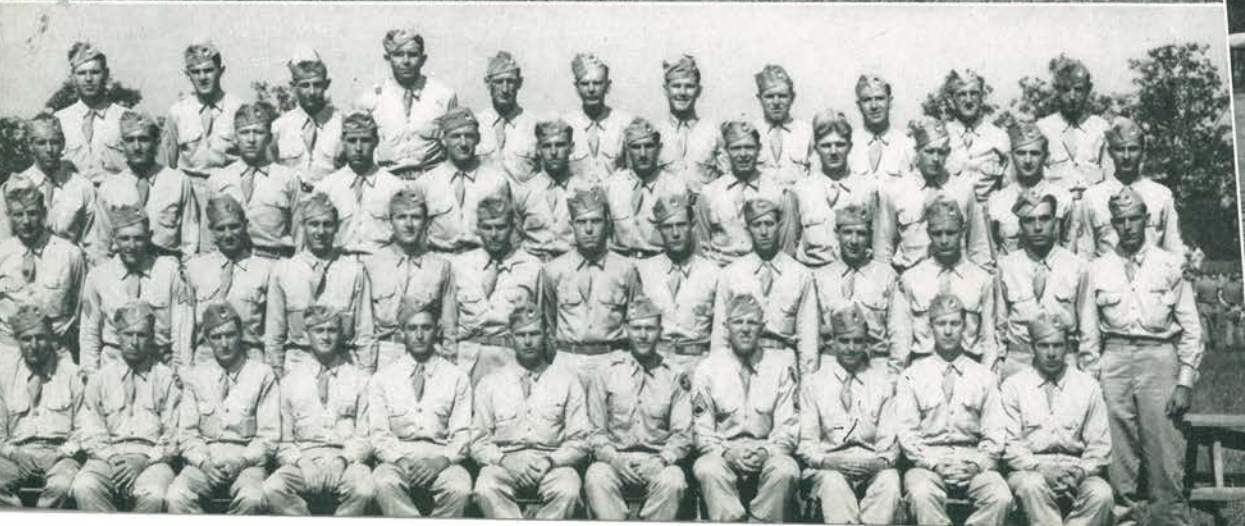
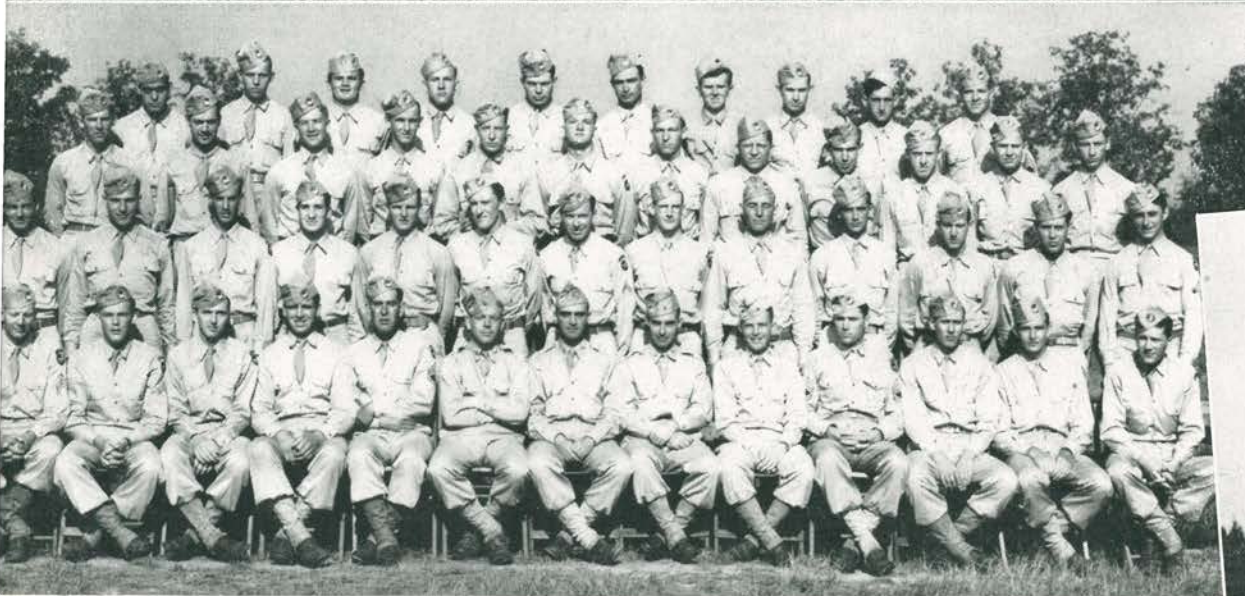
COMPANY "E"

2nd Battalion





COMPANY "F"



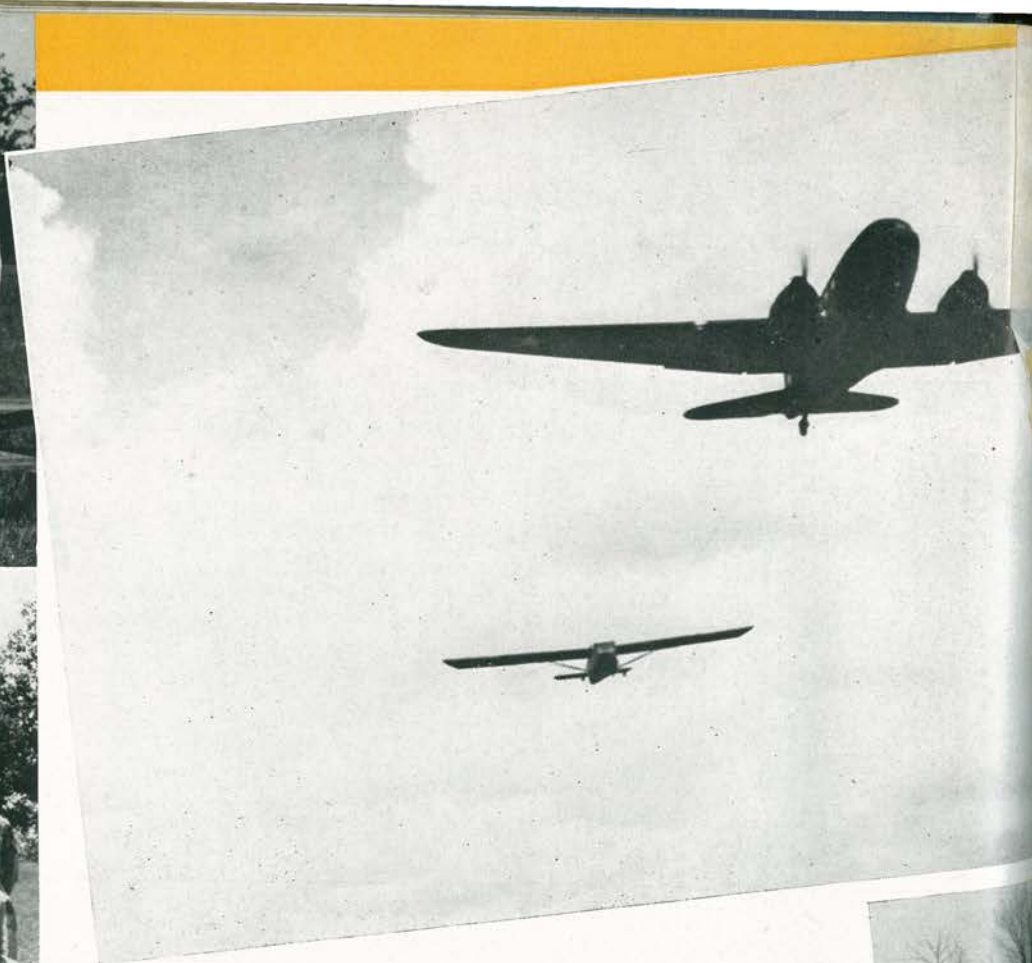
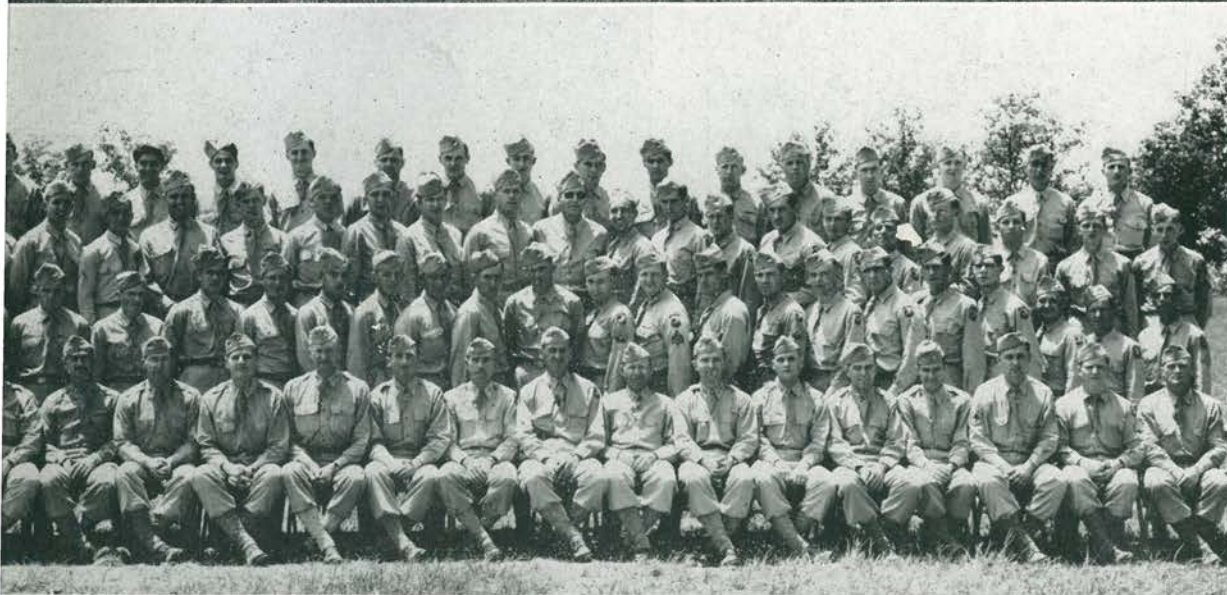
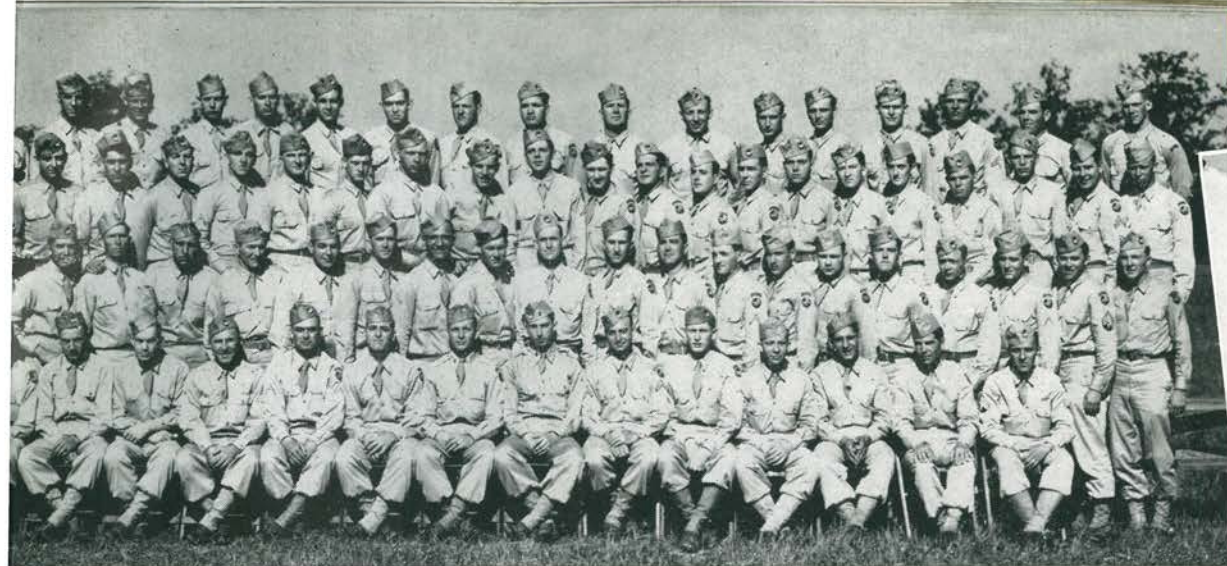
194th GLIDER INFANTRY



Lt. Col. Clark N. Bailey
Executive Officer,
194th Glider Infantry



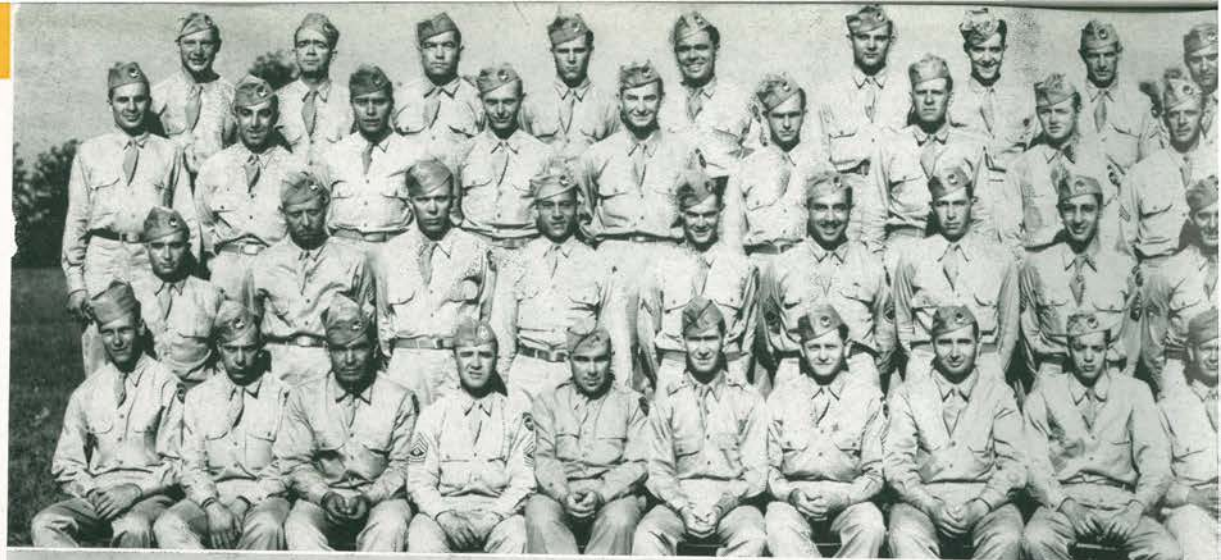
Colonel James R. Pierce
Commanding,
194th Glider Infantry

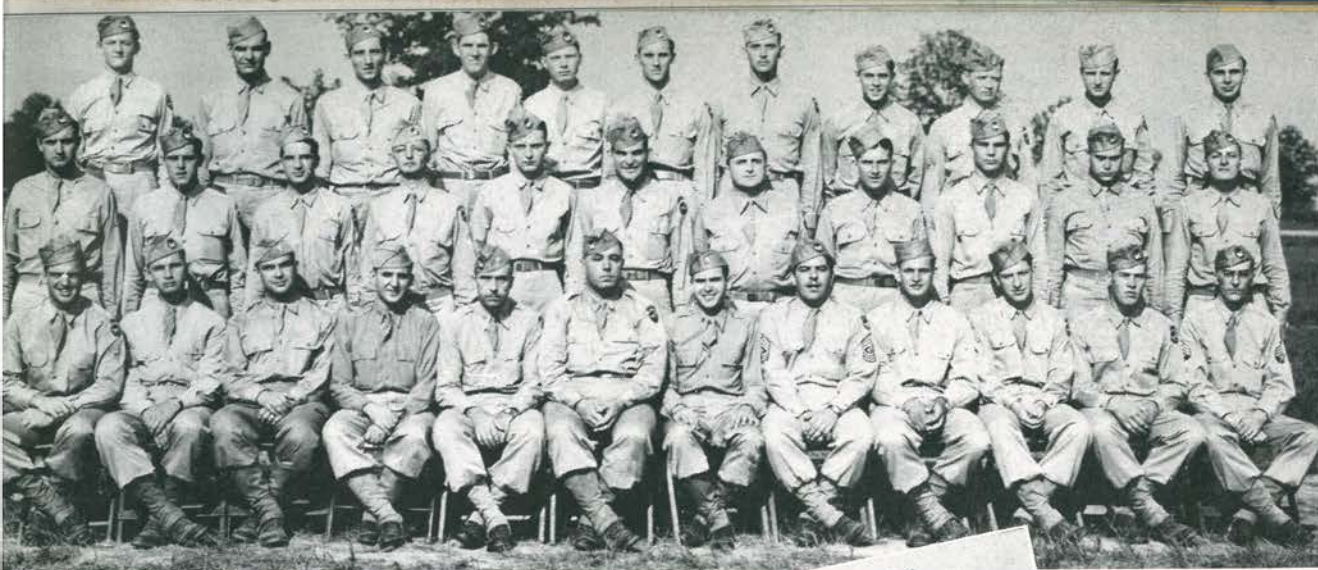


HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



SERVICE COMPANY





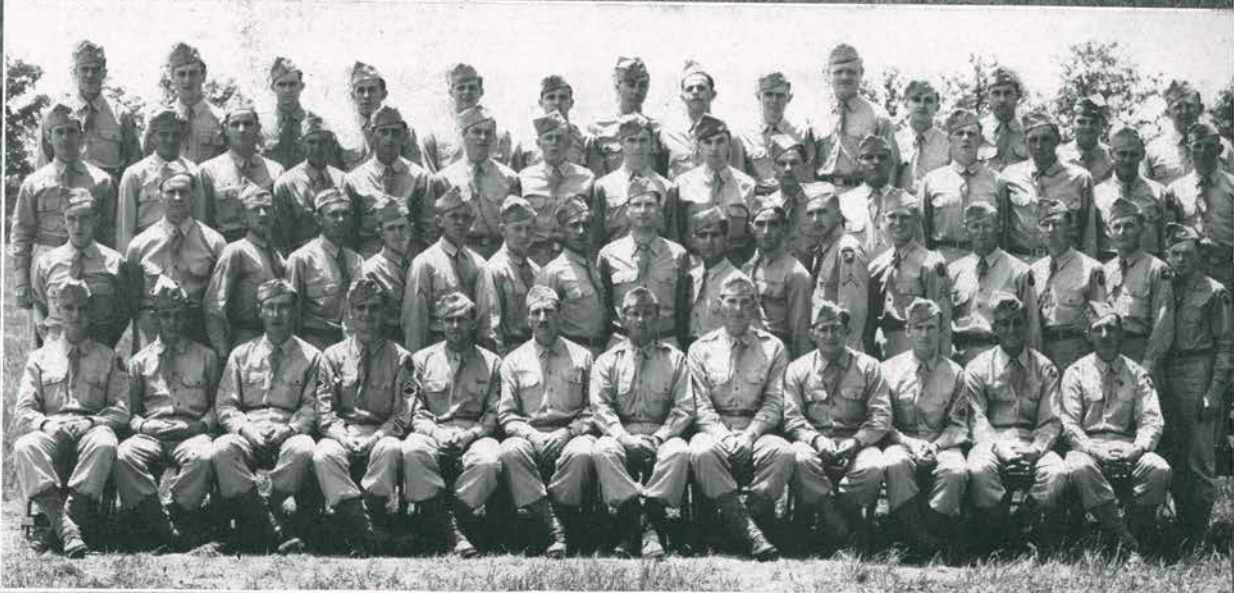
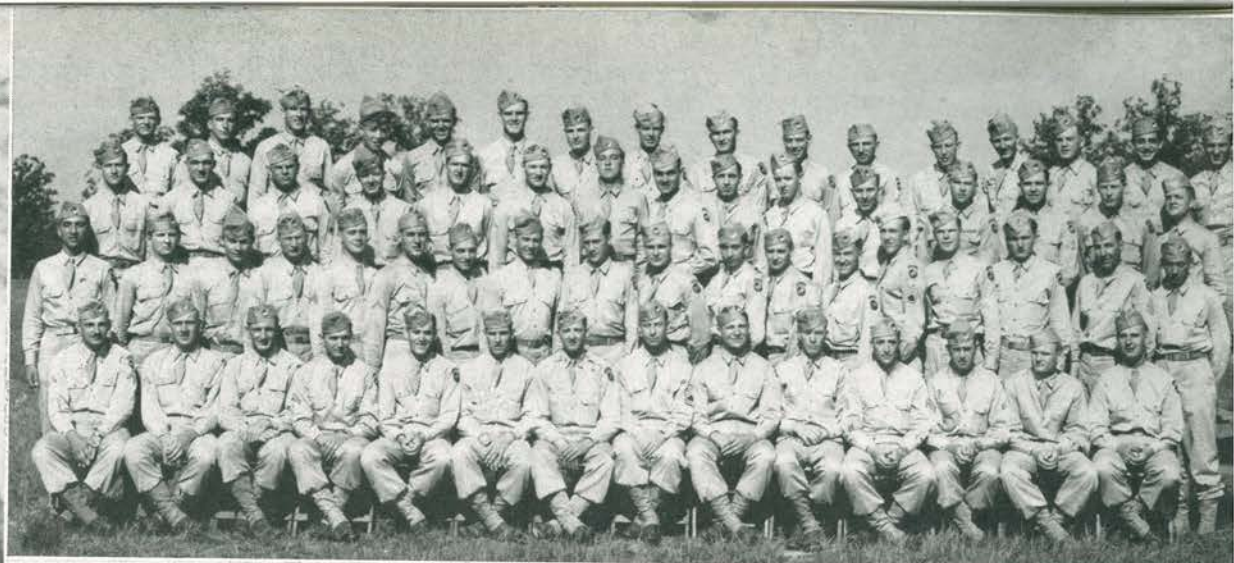
MEDICAL DETACHMENT



Division Parachute School—Calisthenics



NAT H. YOUNGBLOOD JR.

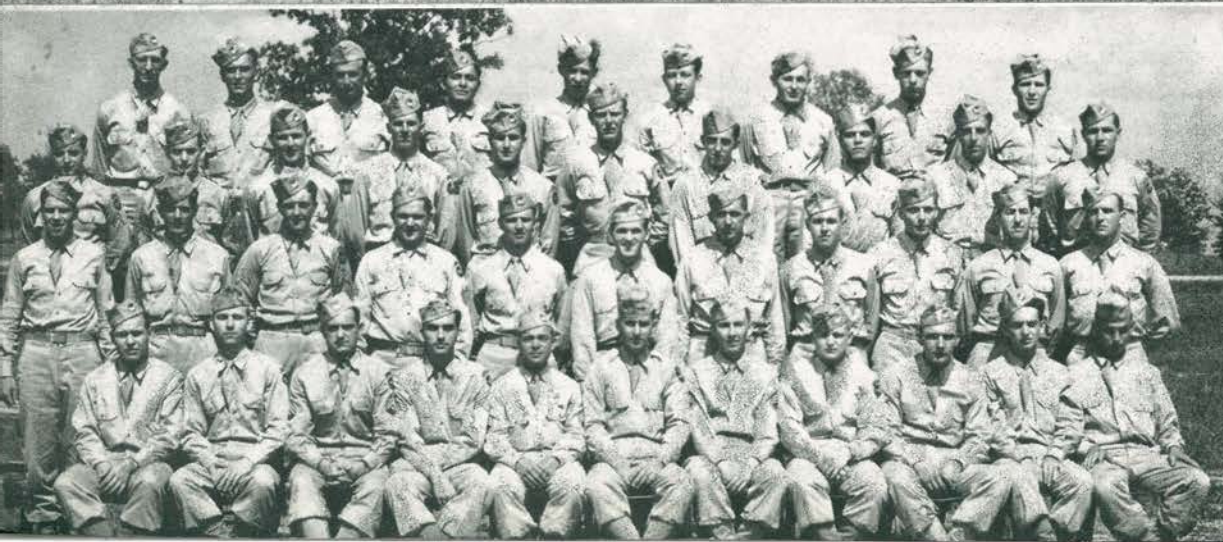
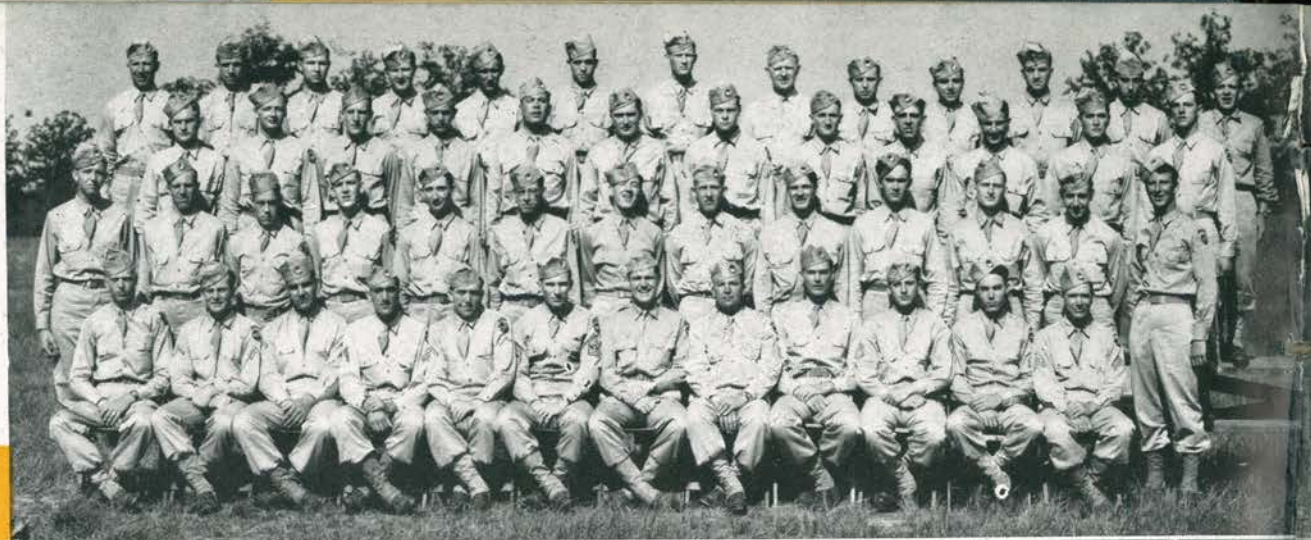


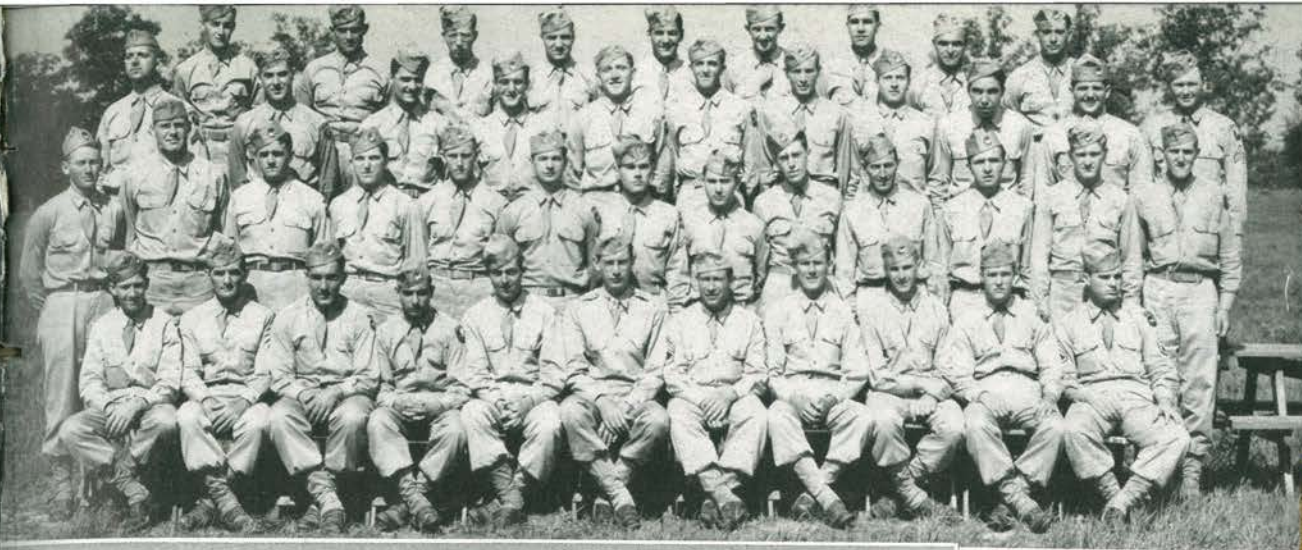
HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Battalion

COMPANY "A"

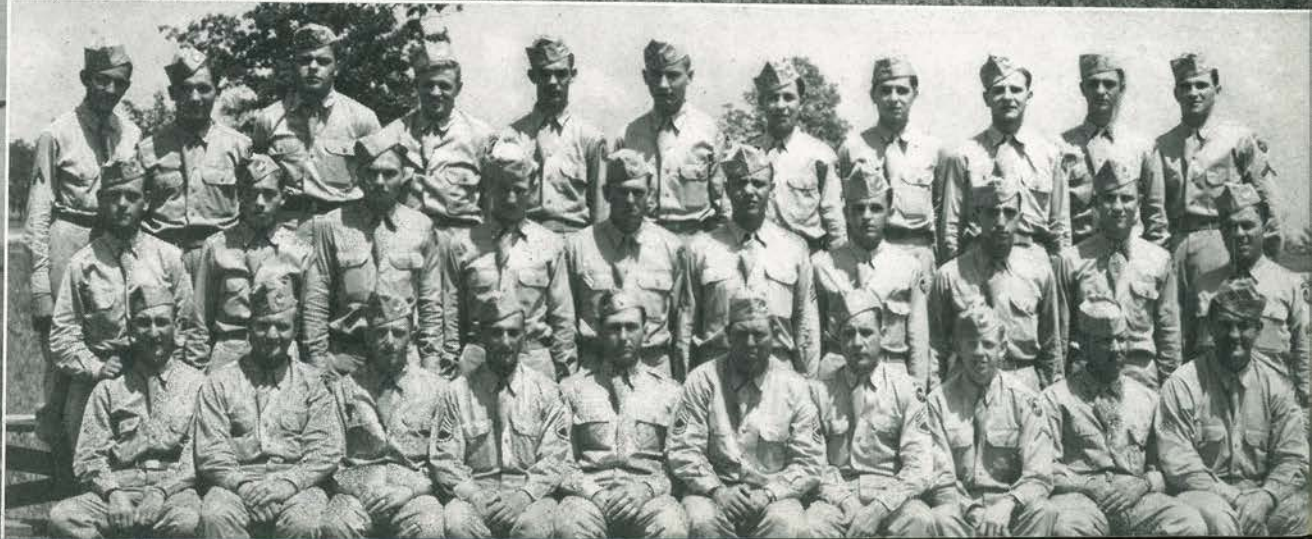
1st Battalion

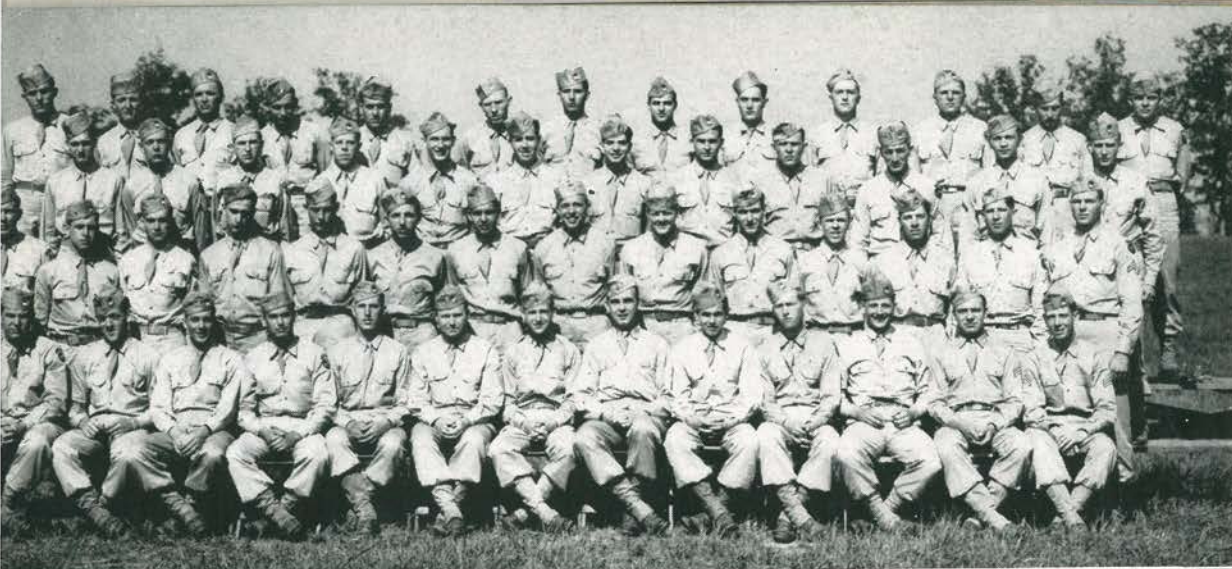




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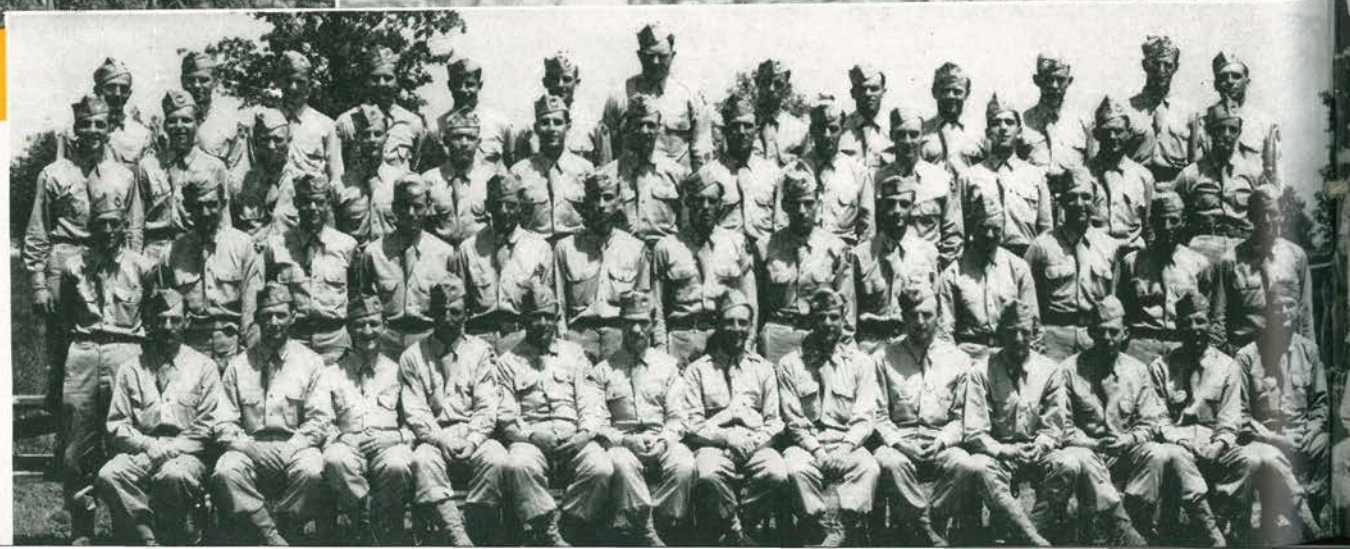
1st Battalion

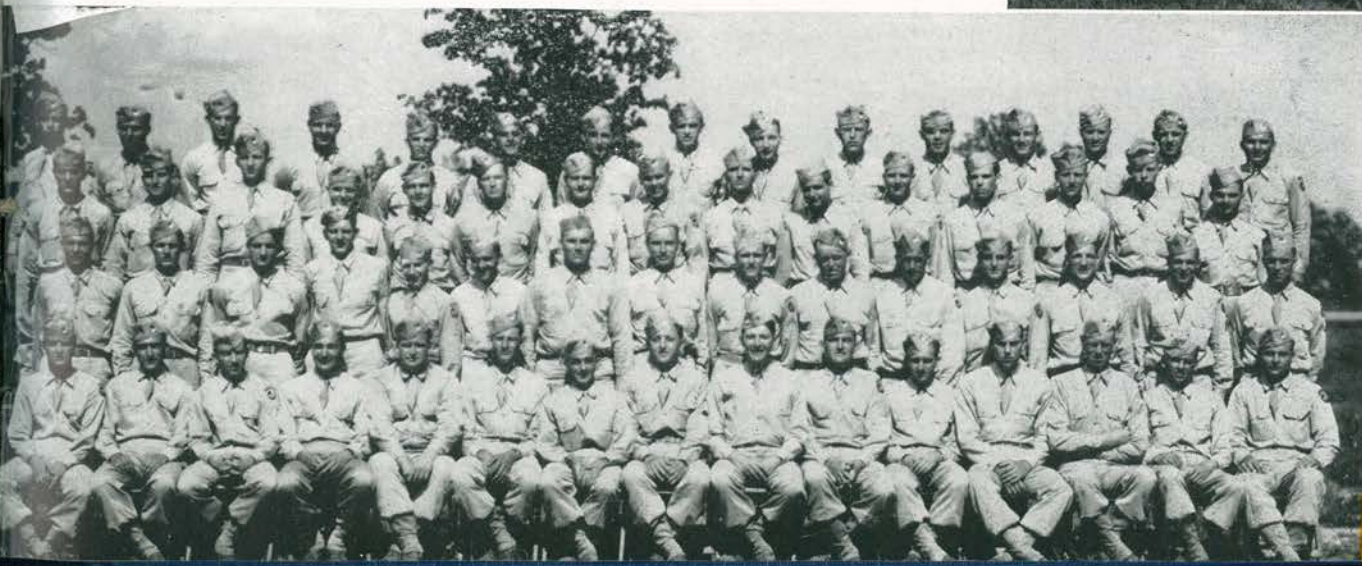
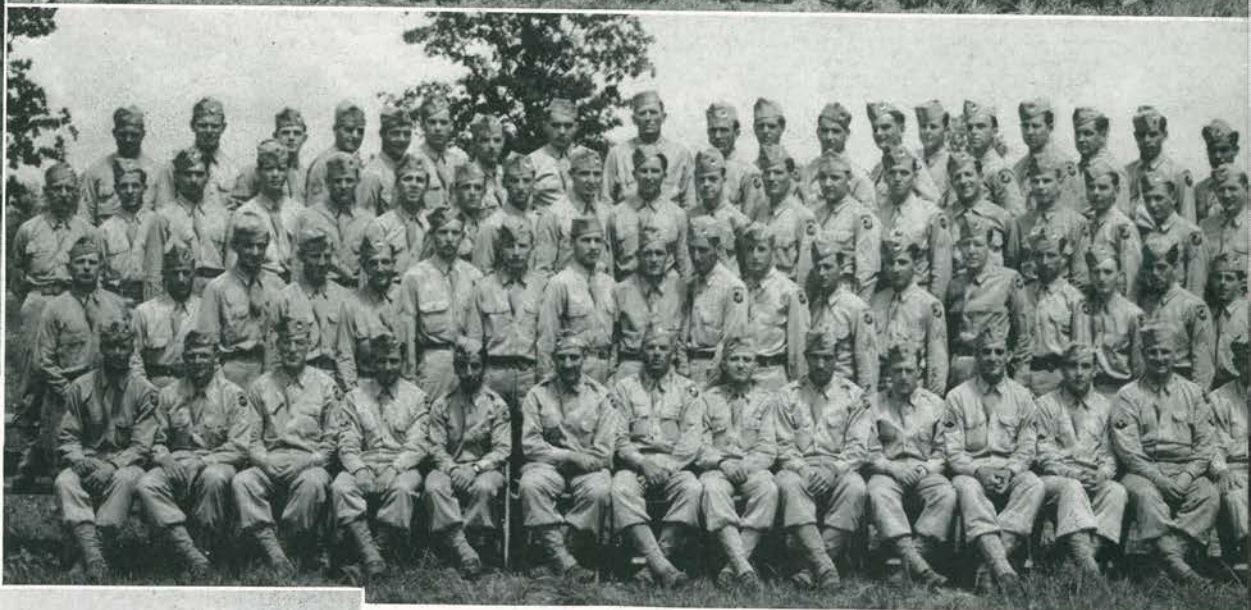




COMPANY "C"

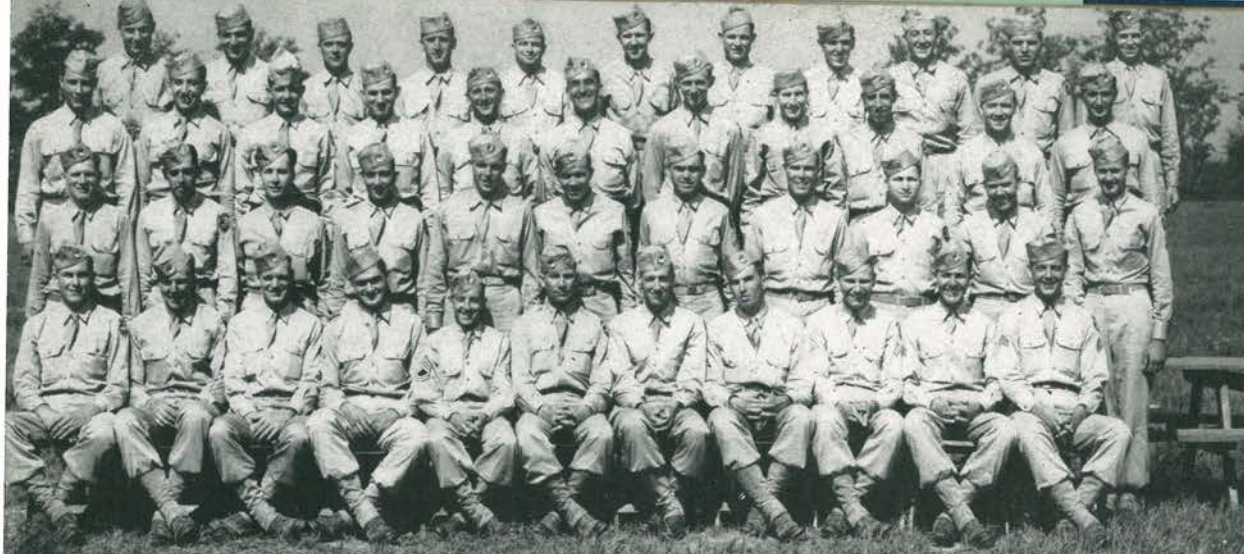
1st Battalion



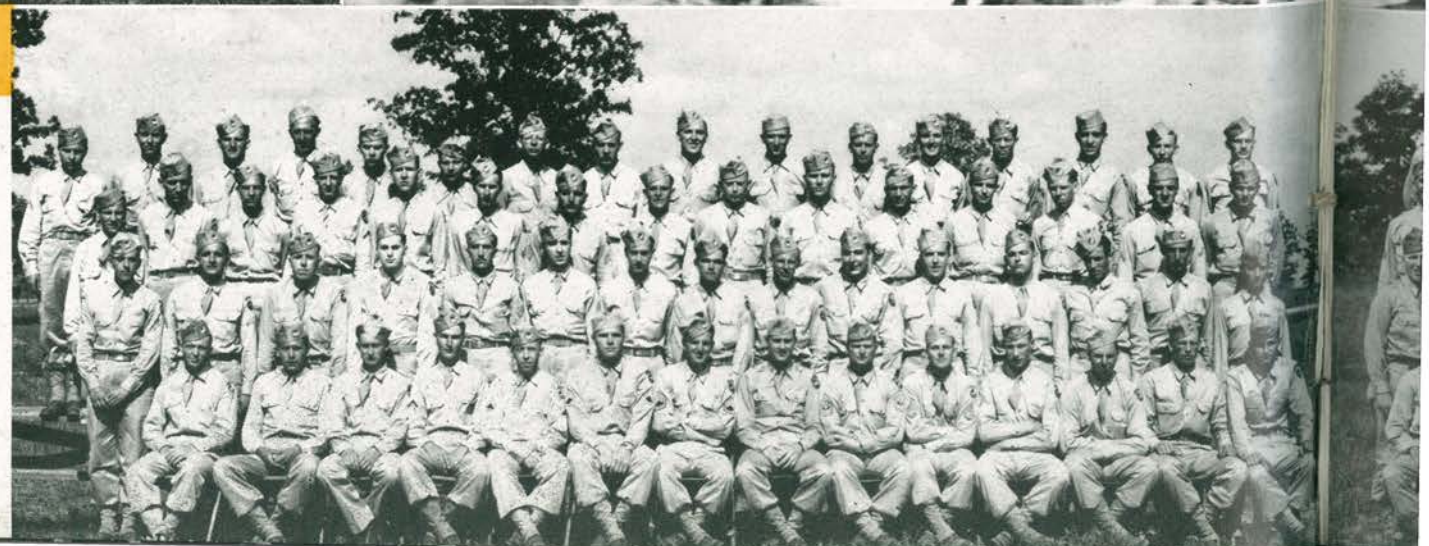


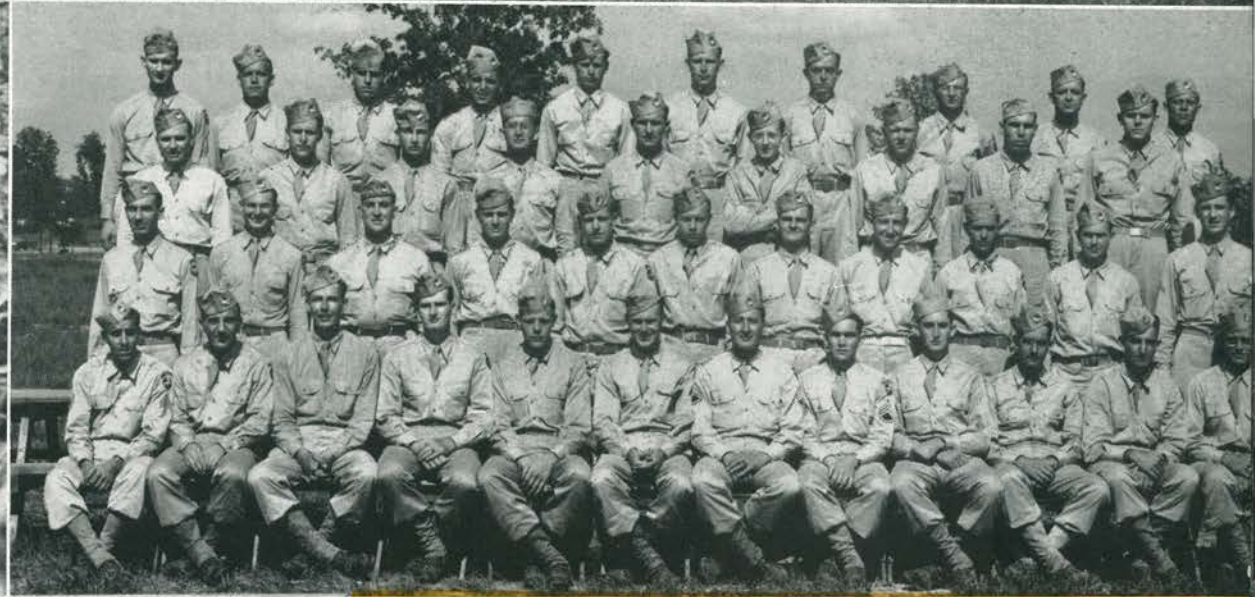
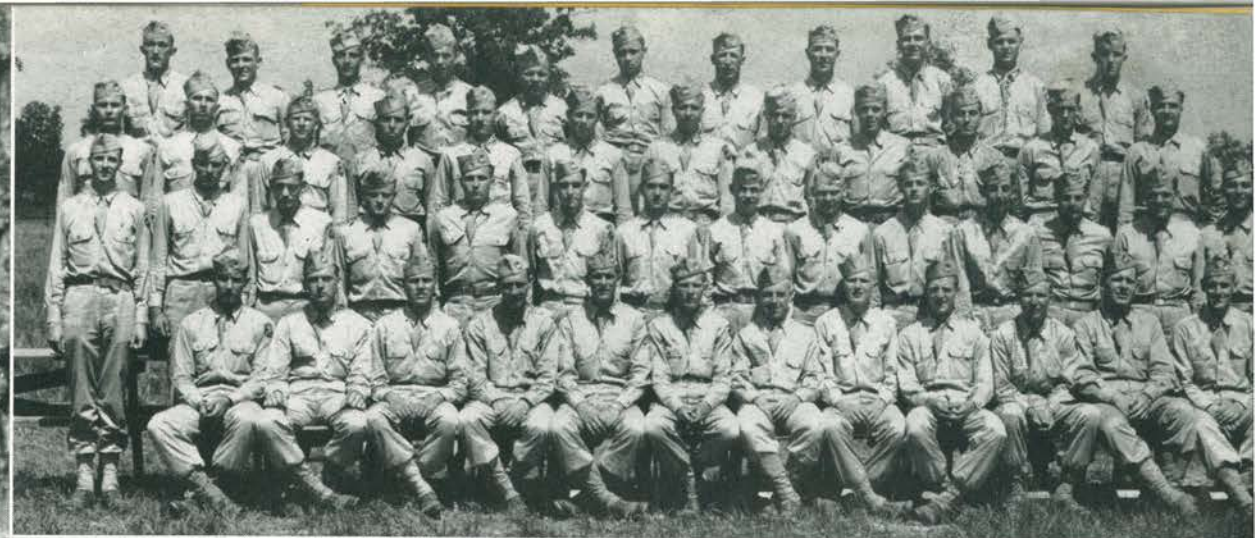
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2nd Battalion

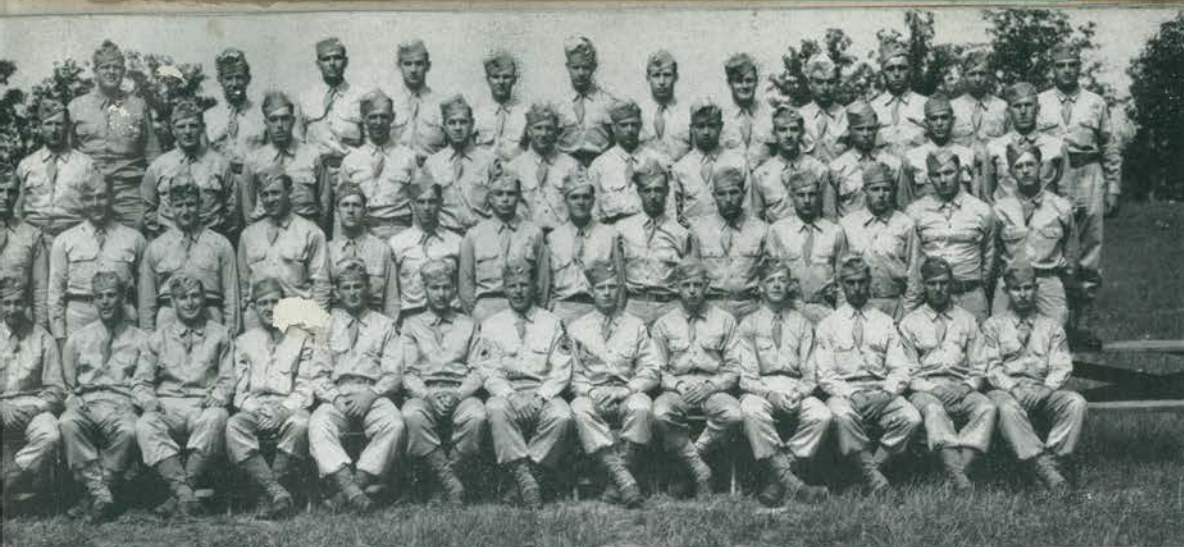


COMPANY "D"
2nd Battalion





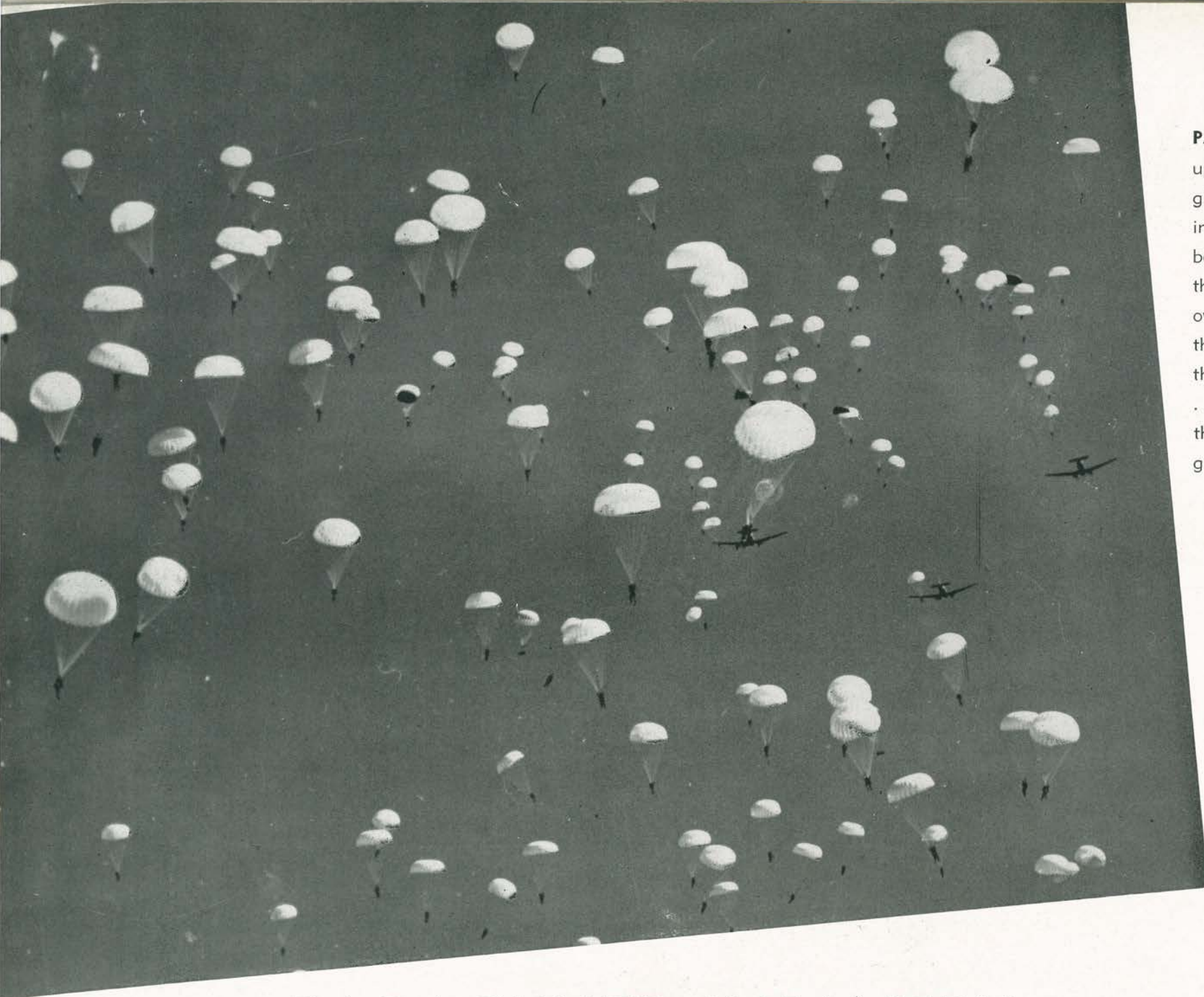
COMPANY "E"
2nd Battalion



COMPANY "F"
2nd Battalion







PARACHUTE INFANTRY. "Stand up, and hook up!" . . . password to glossy boots and silver wings . . . an integral component of the Airborne's lightning, striking force . . . these men are trained to know their own qualifications, trained to realize that their task is one that requires the utmost of long, hard training . . . they literally "eat it up" . . . their demeanor is of men who can give and take and ask no quarter.

PARACHUTE INFANTRY



Lt. Col. Ward Ryan
Executive Officer,
513th Parachute Infantry

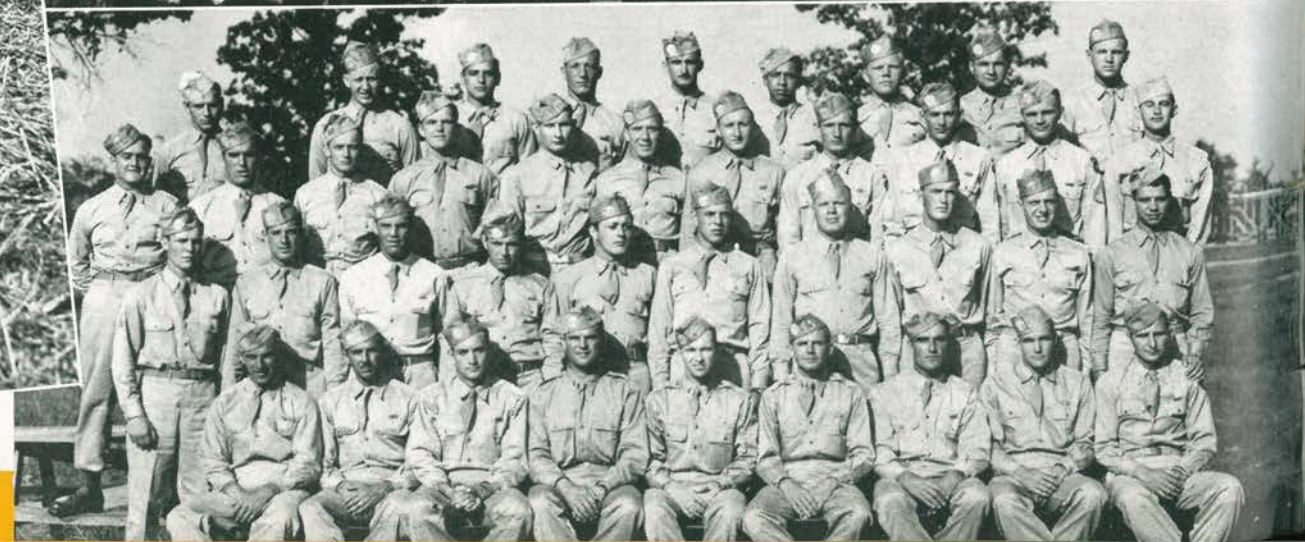
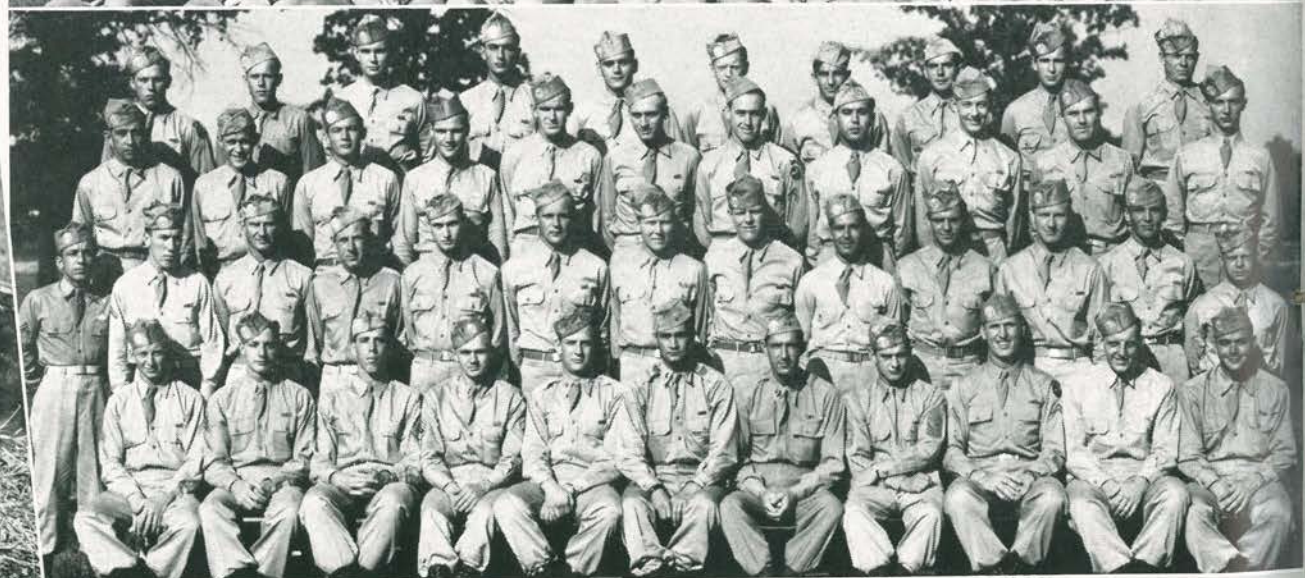
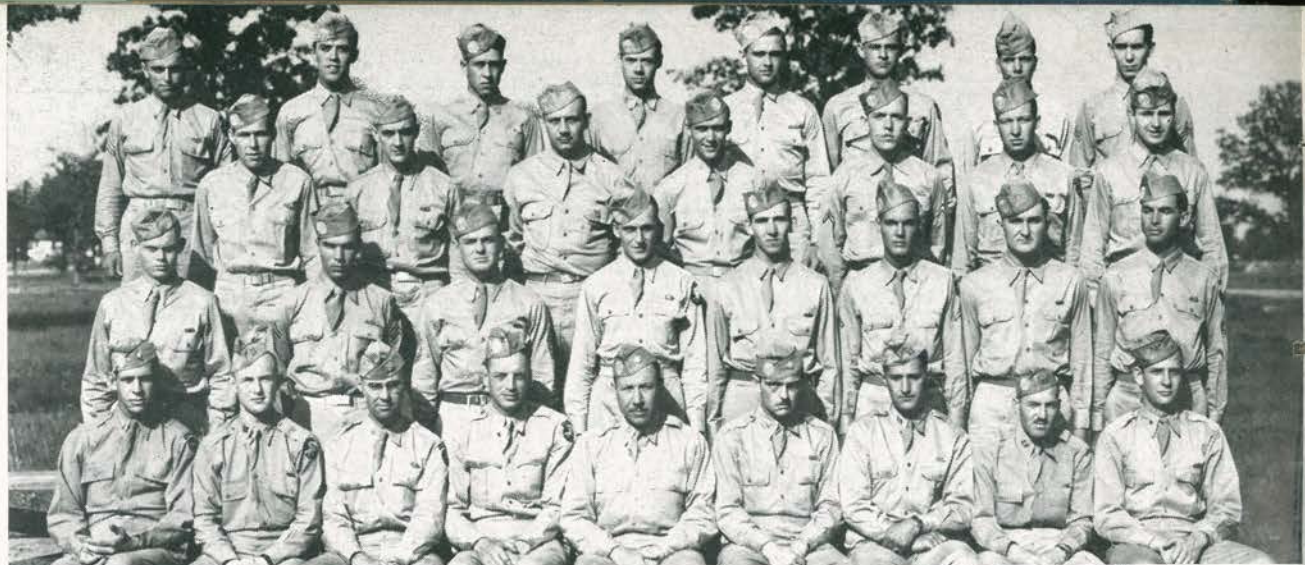
513th PARACHUTE INFANTRY



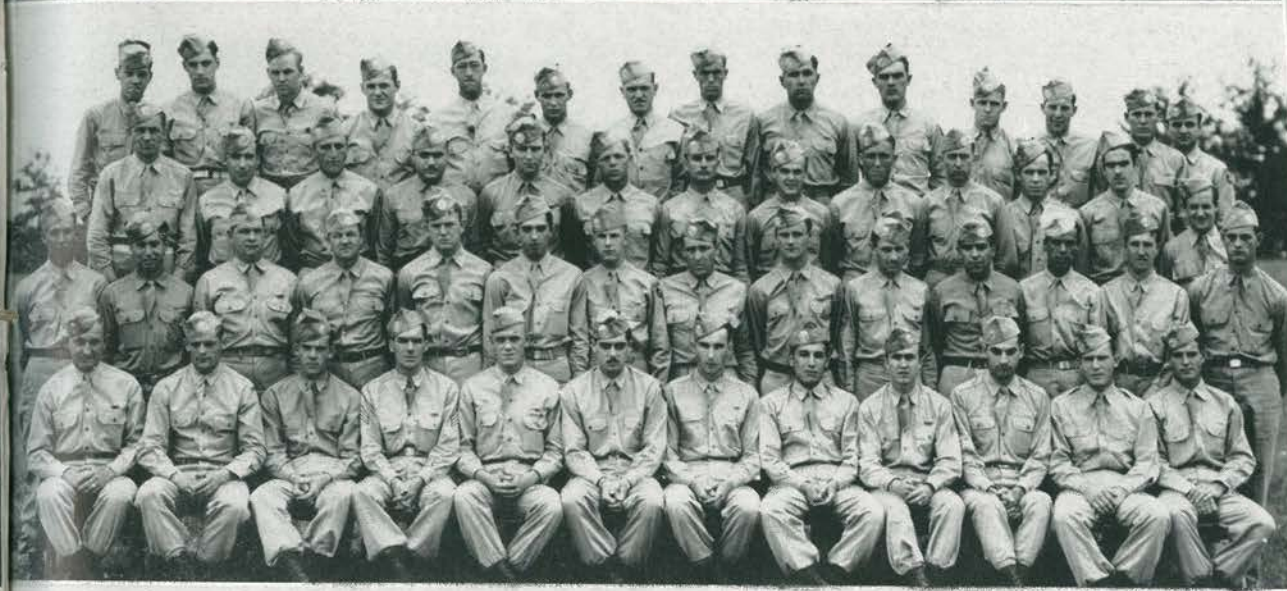
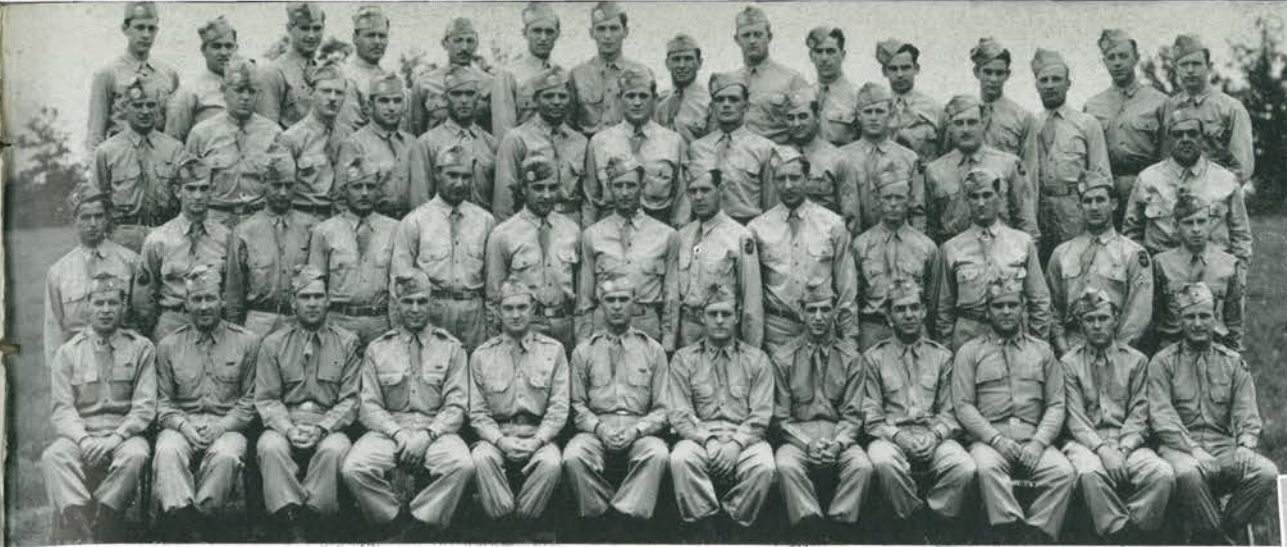
Lt. Col. James W. Coutts
Commanding,
513th Parachute Infantry

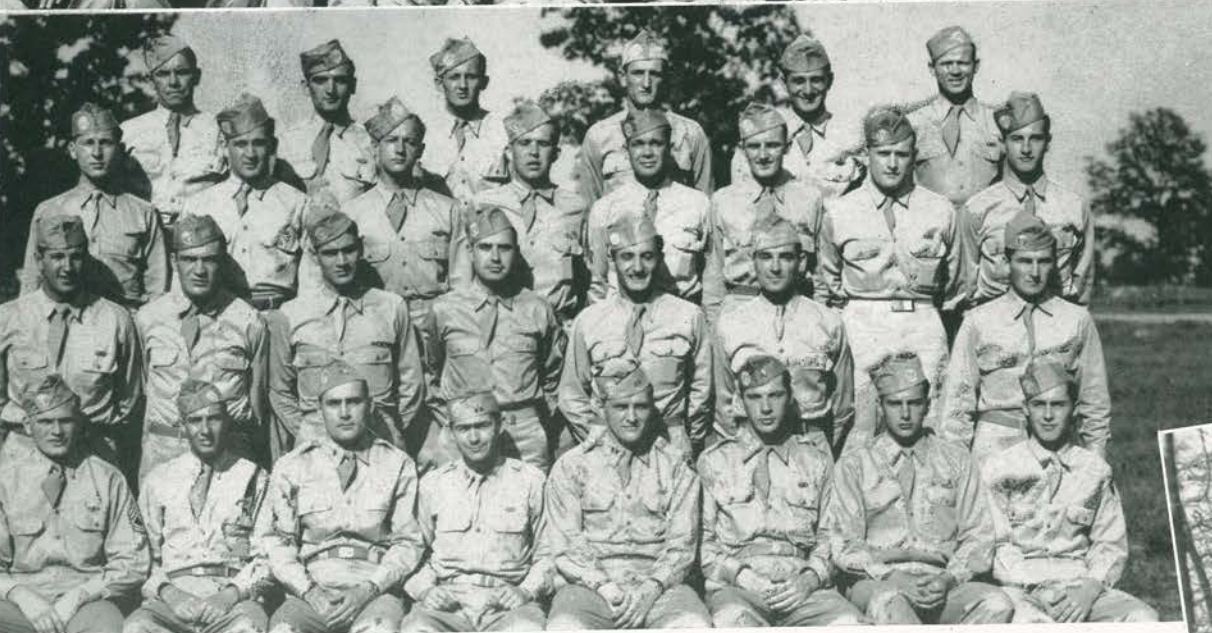


HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



SERVICE COMPANY





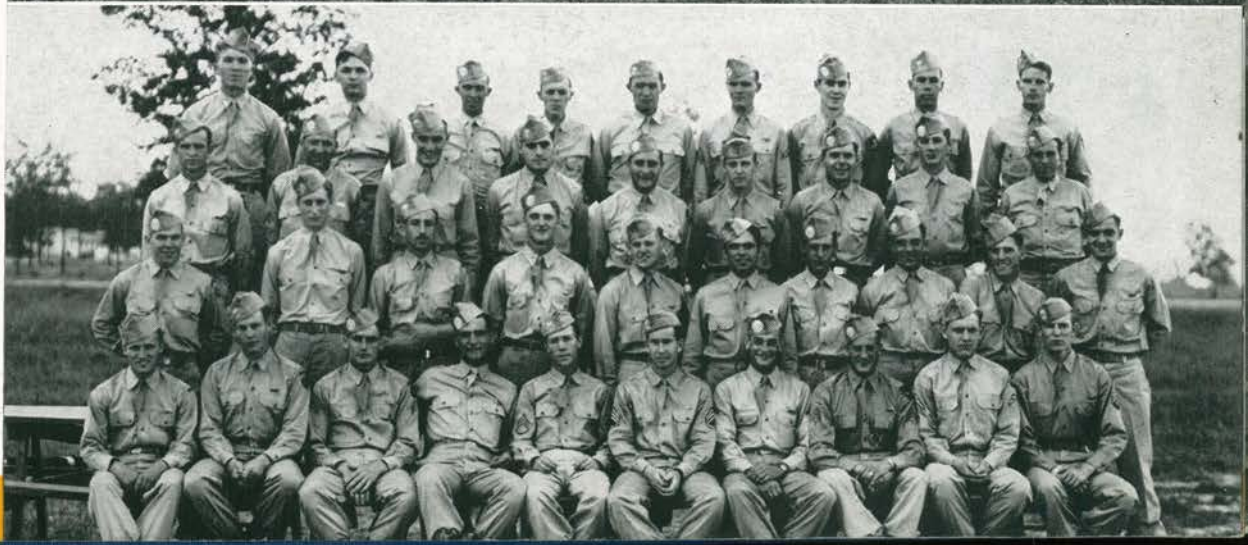
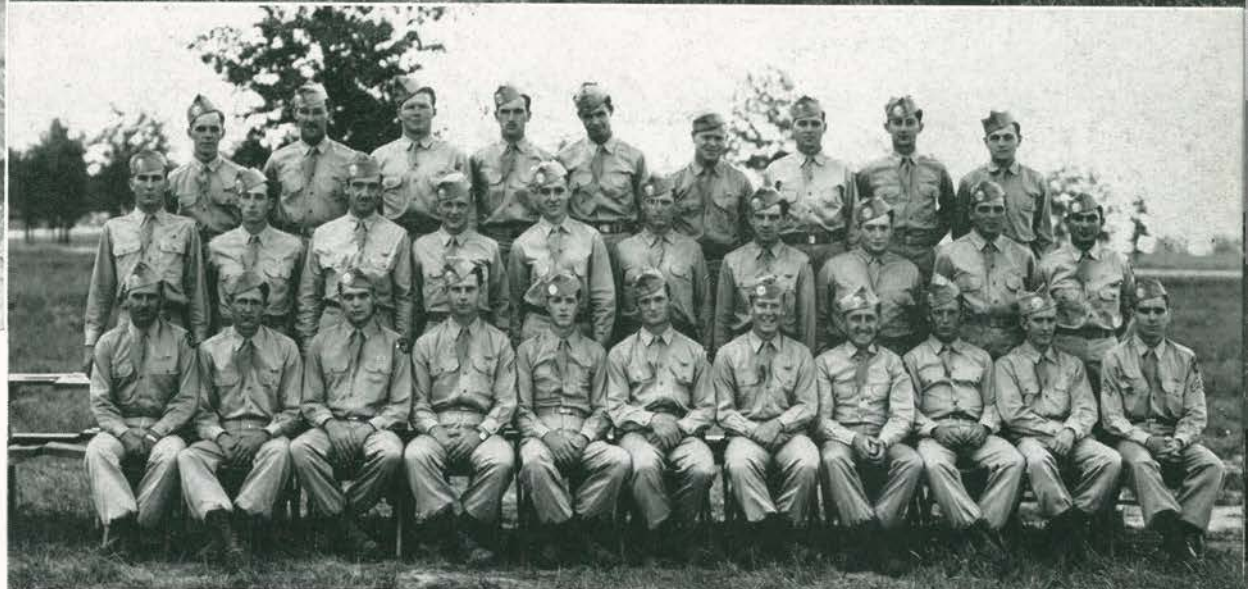
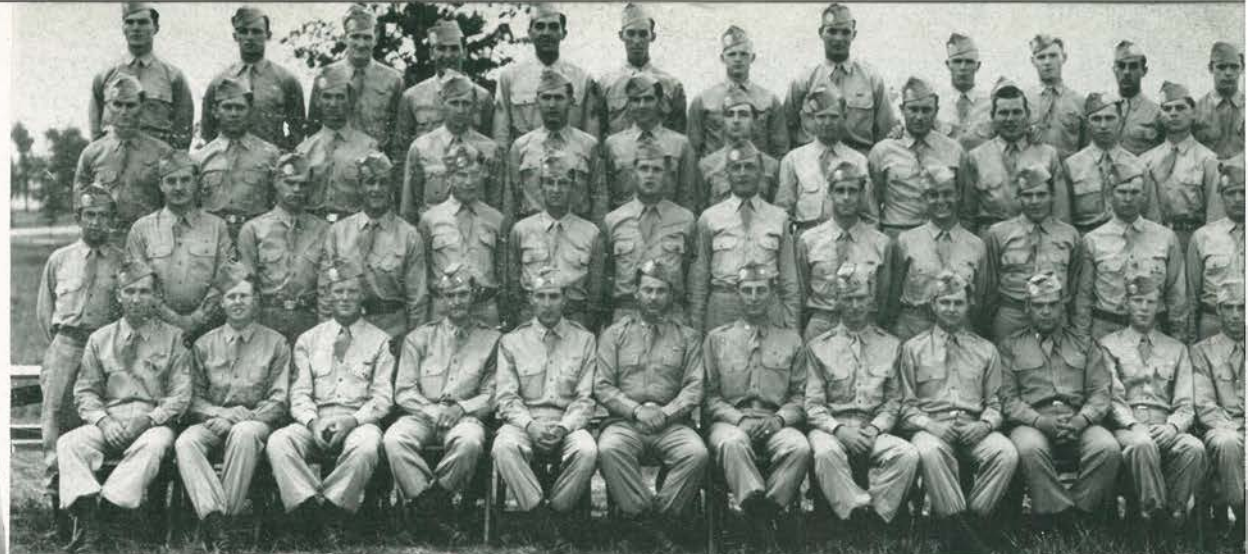
MEDICAL DETACHMENT

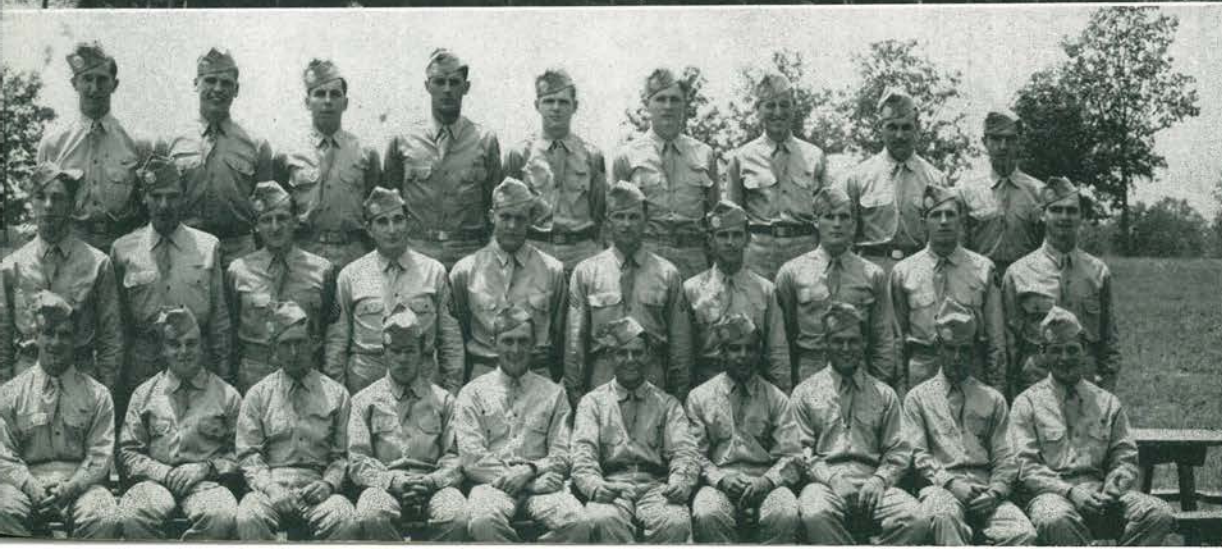




HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Battalion



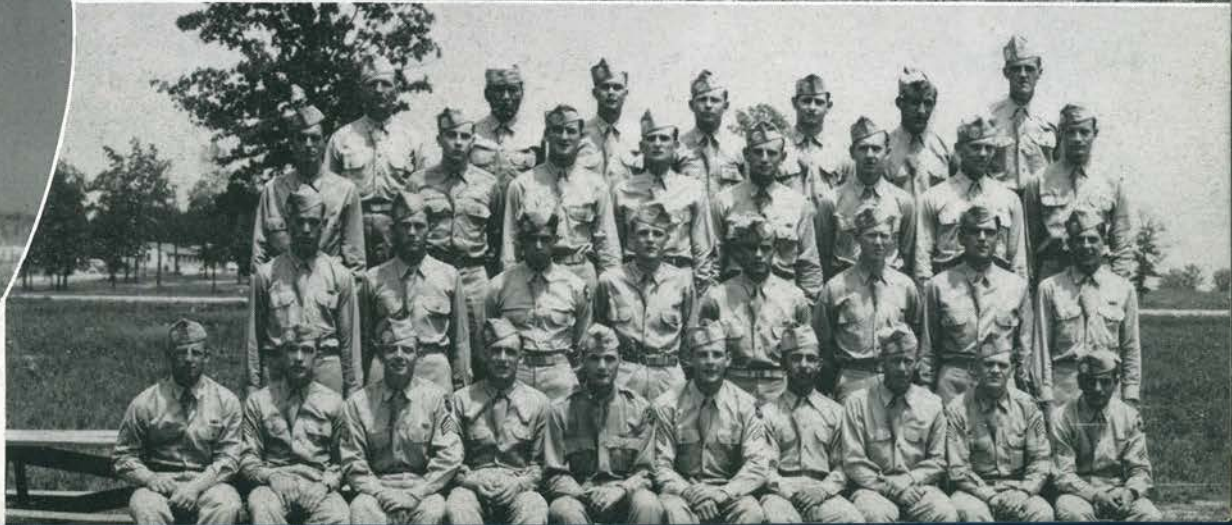


COMPANY "A"

1st Battalion

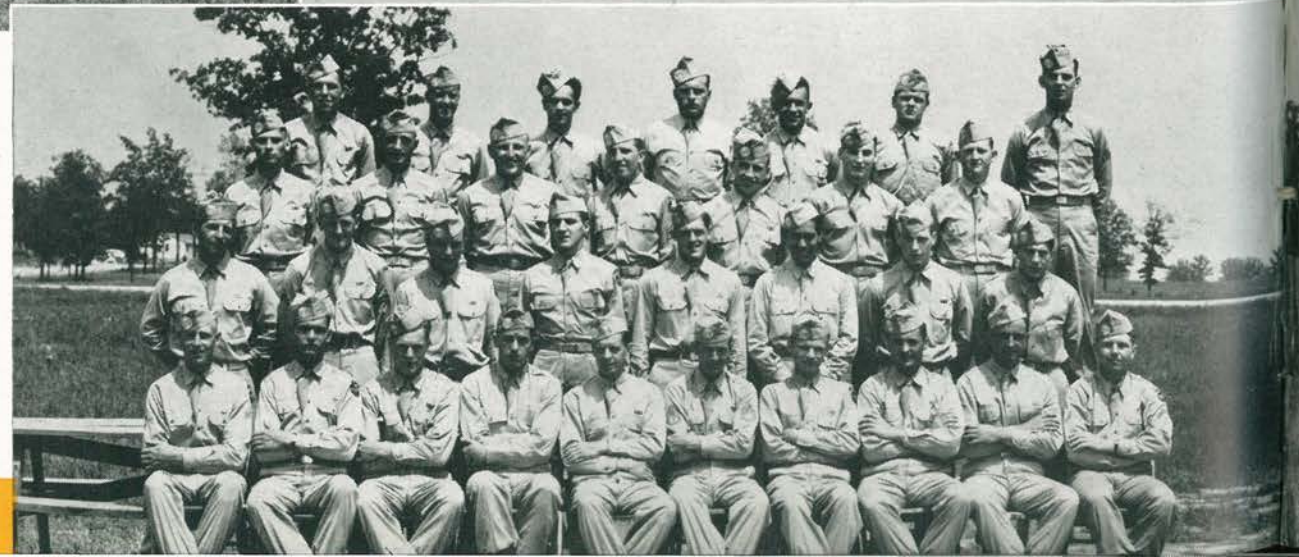
COMPANY "B"

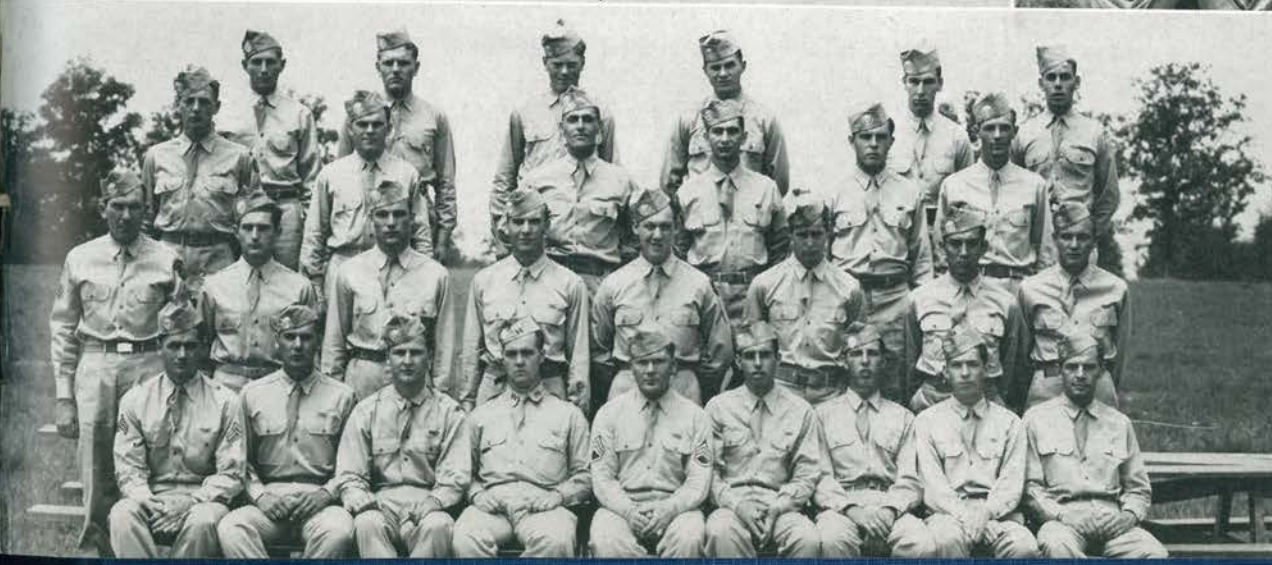
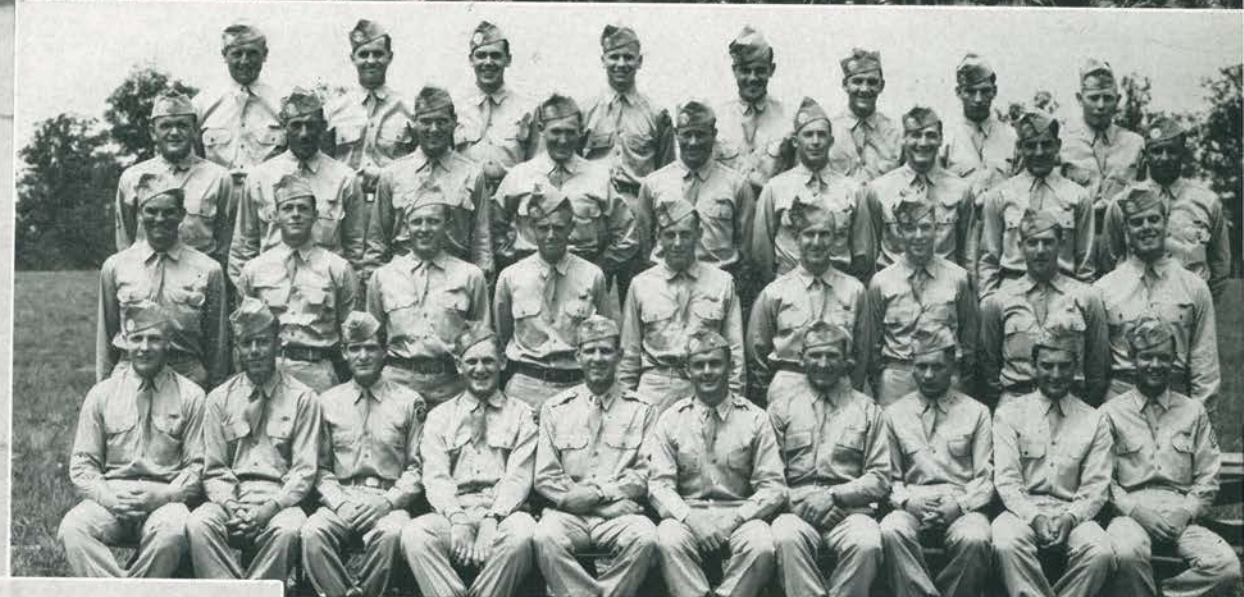
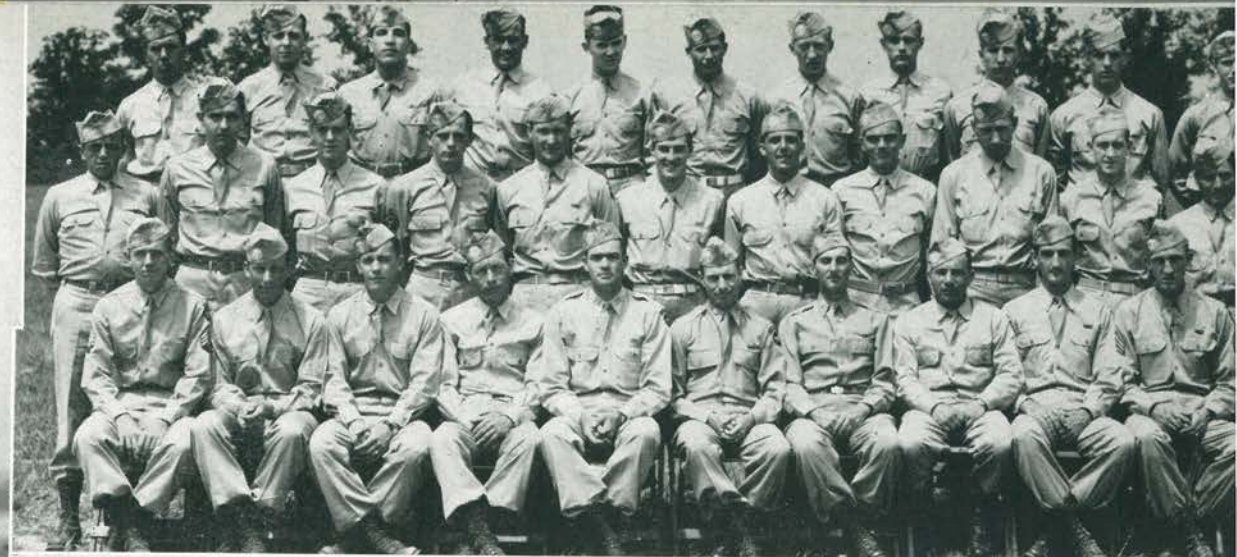
1st Battalion





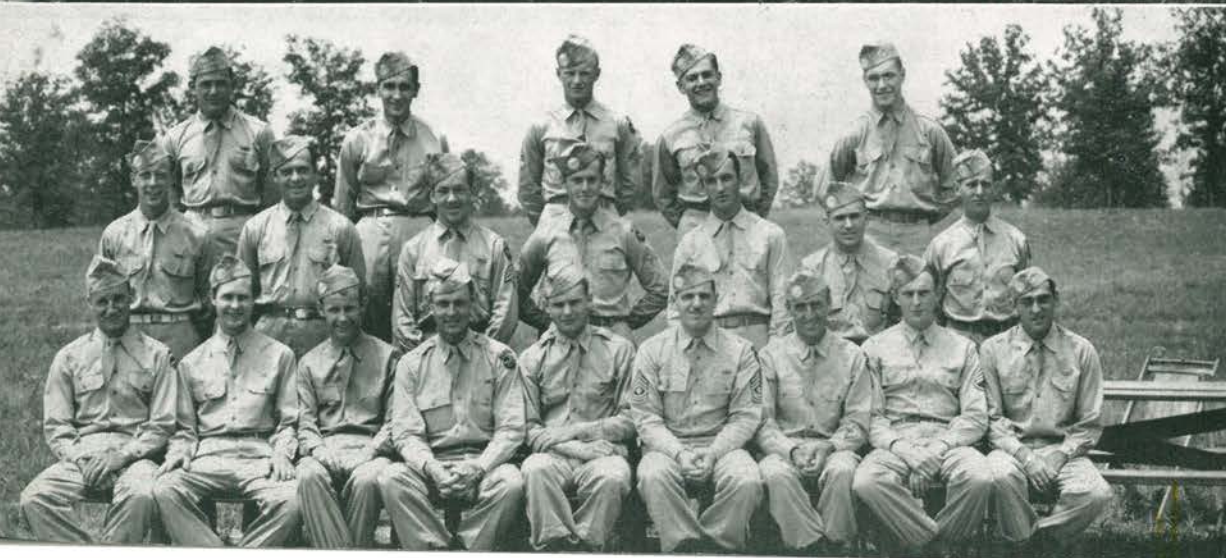
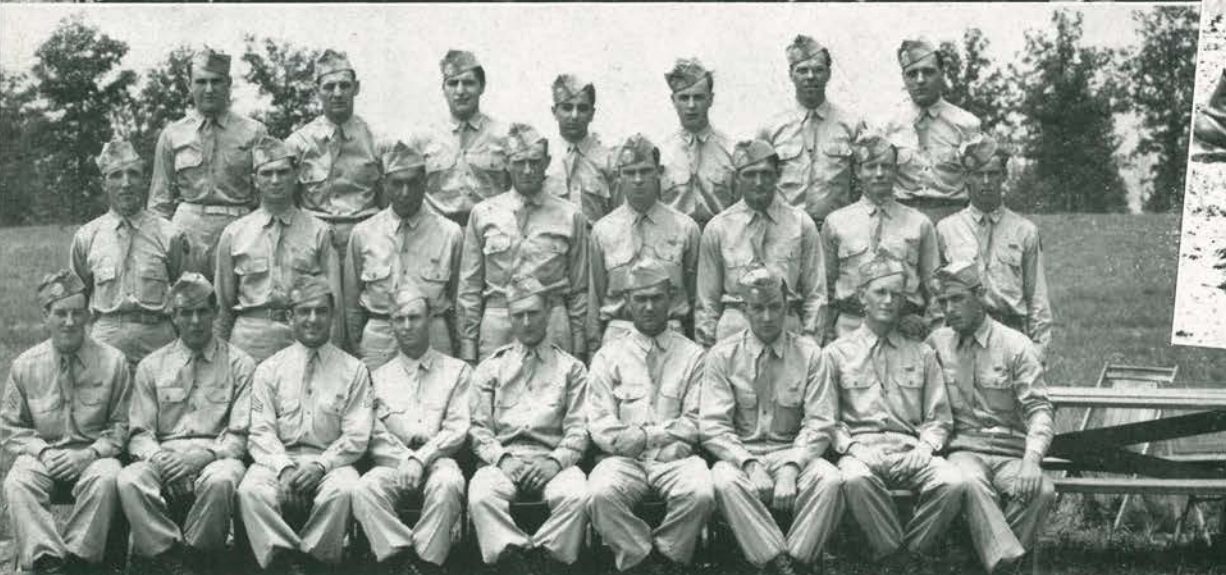
COMPANY "C"
1st Battalion





HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

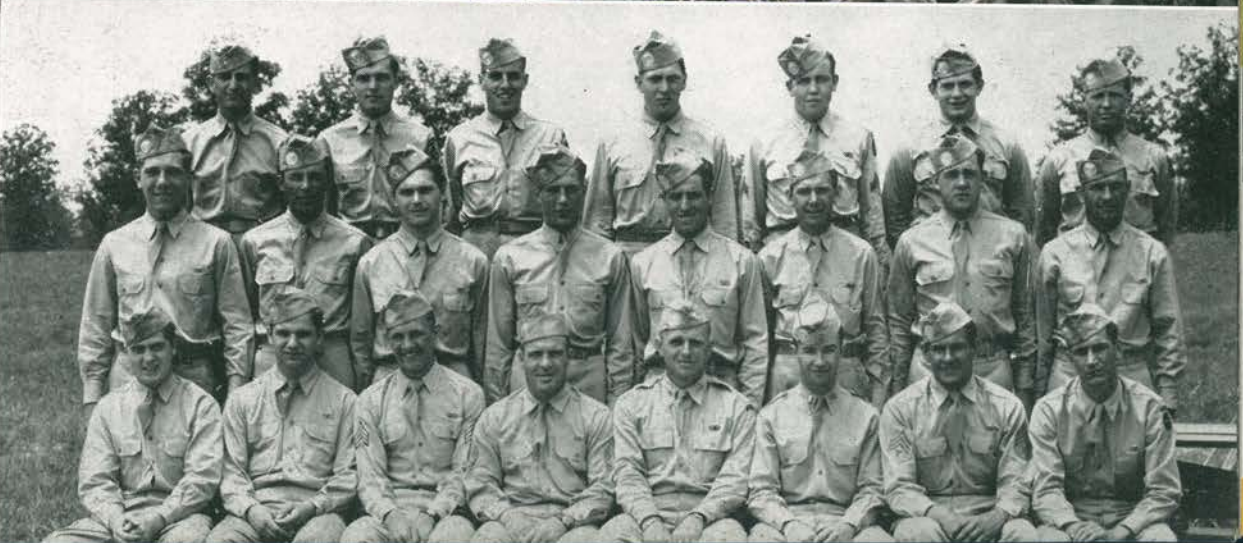
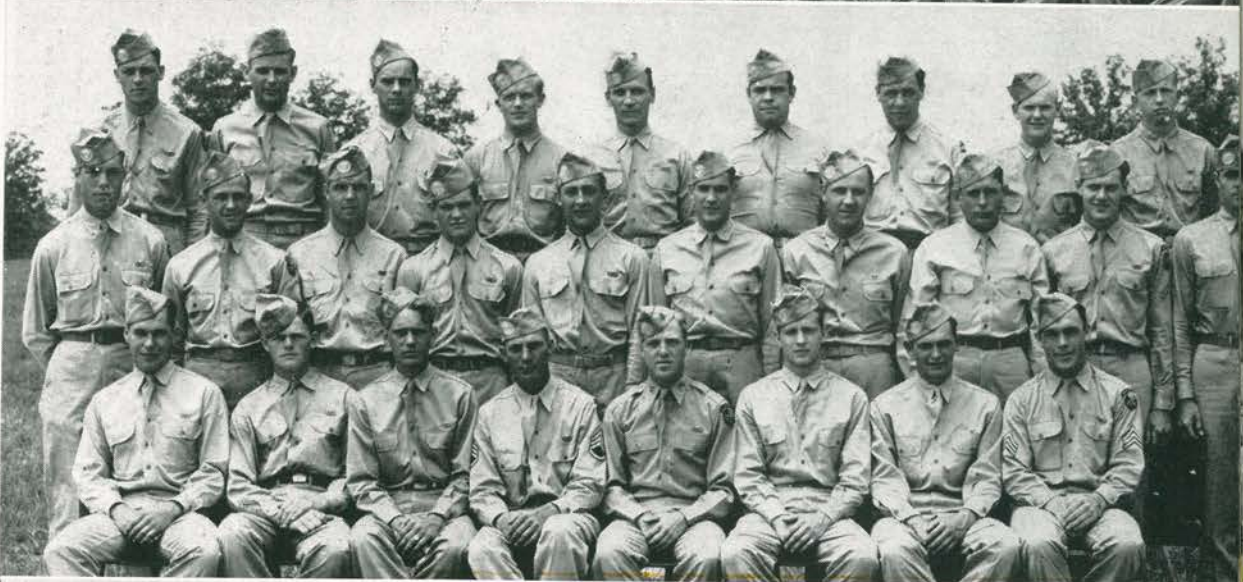
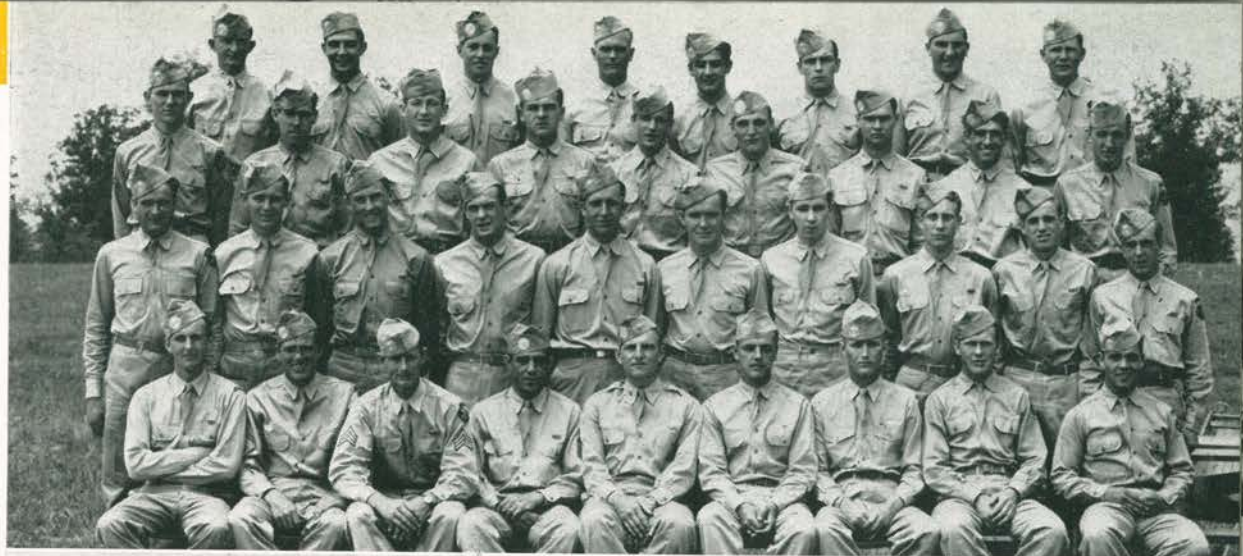
2nd Battalion

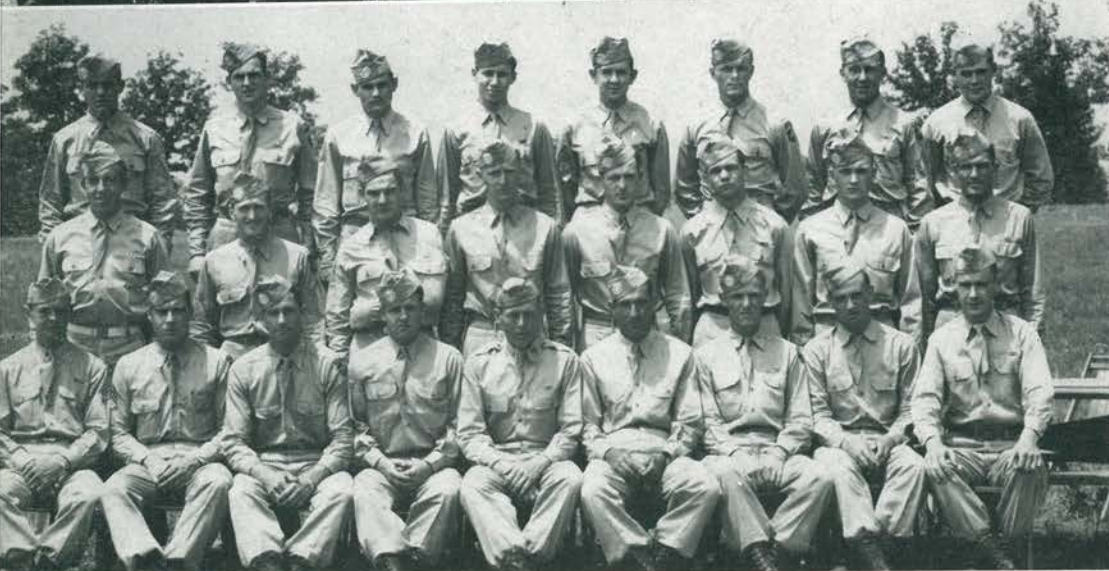


COMPANY "D"
2nd Battalion

COMPANY "E"

2nd Battalion

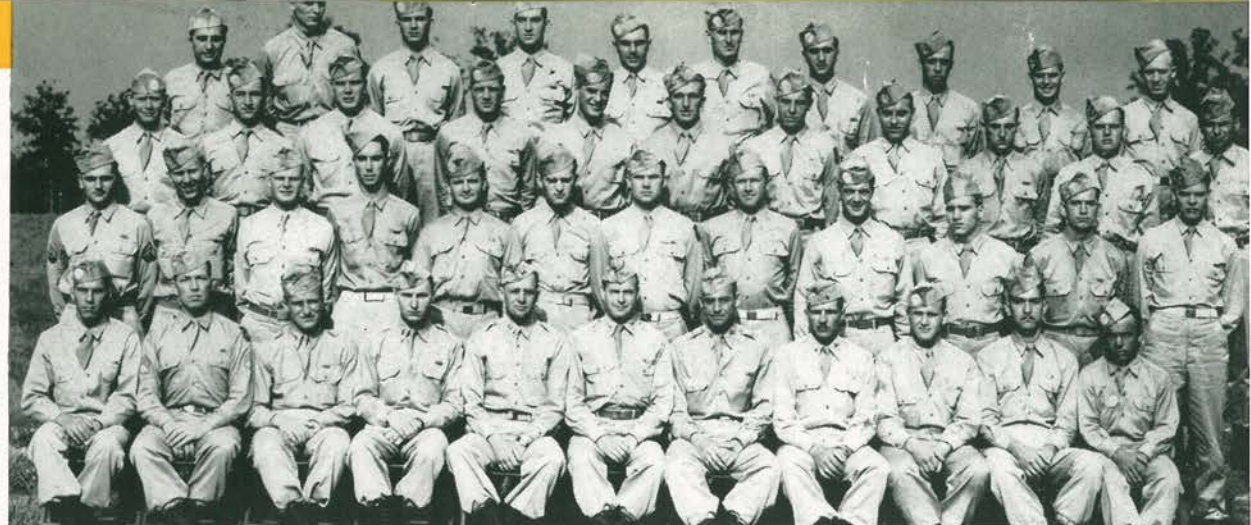




COMPANY "F"
2nd Battalion

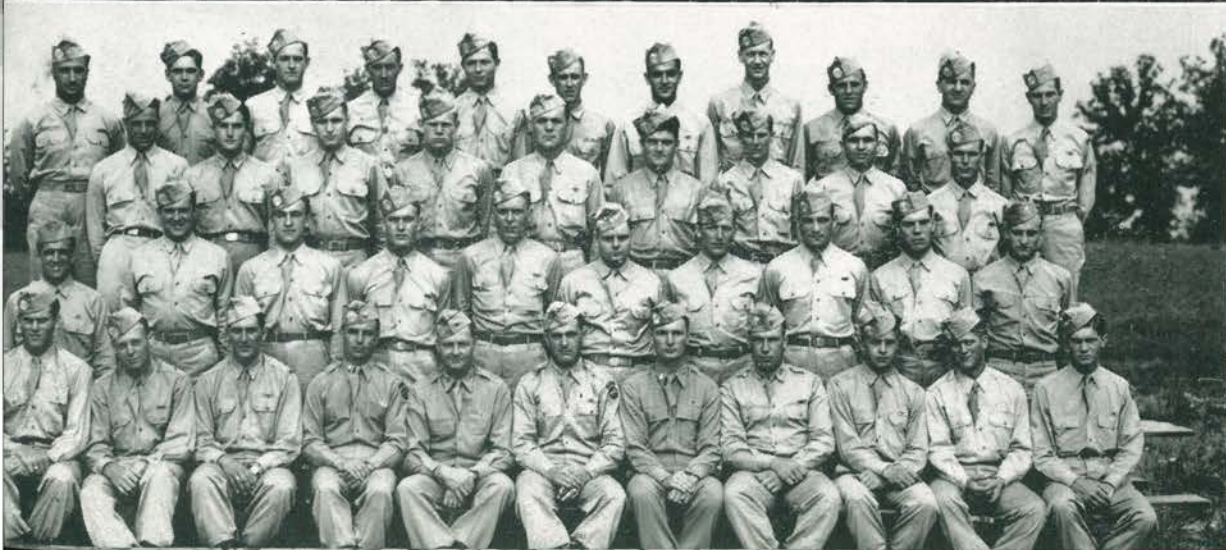
HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

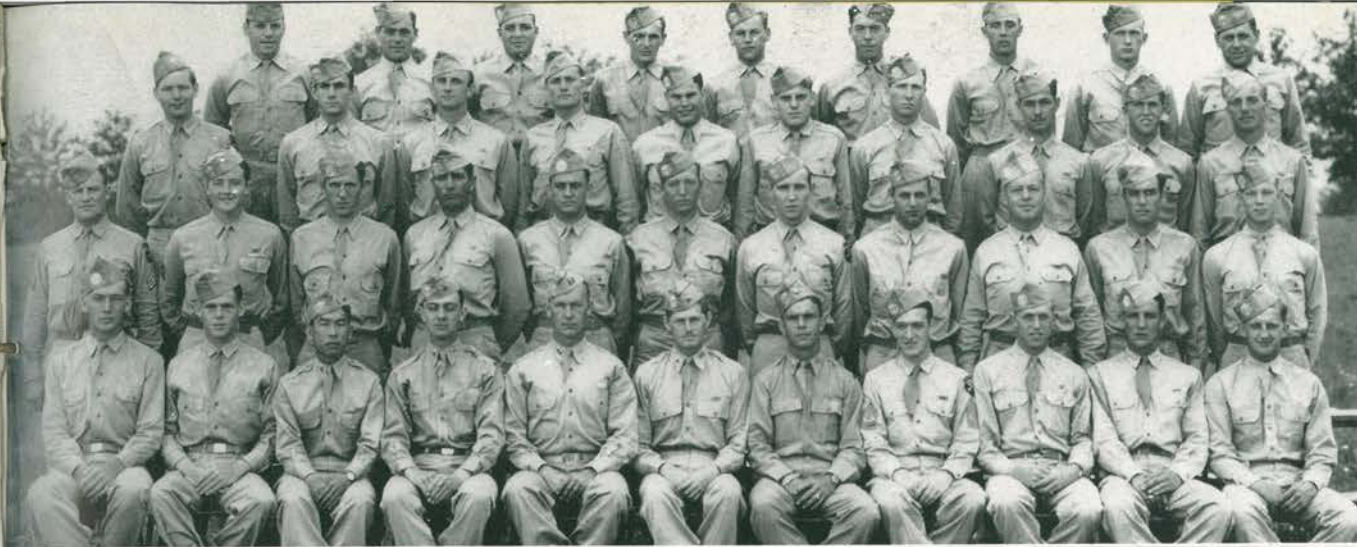
3rd Battalion



COMPANY "G"

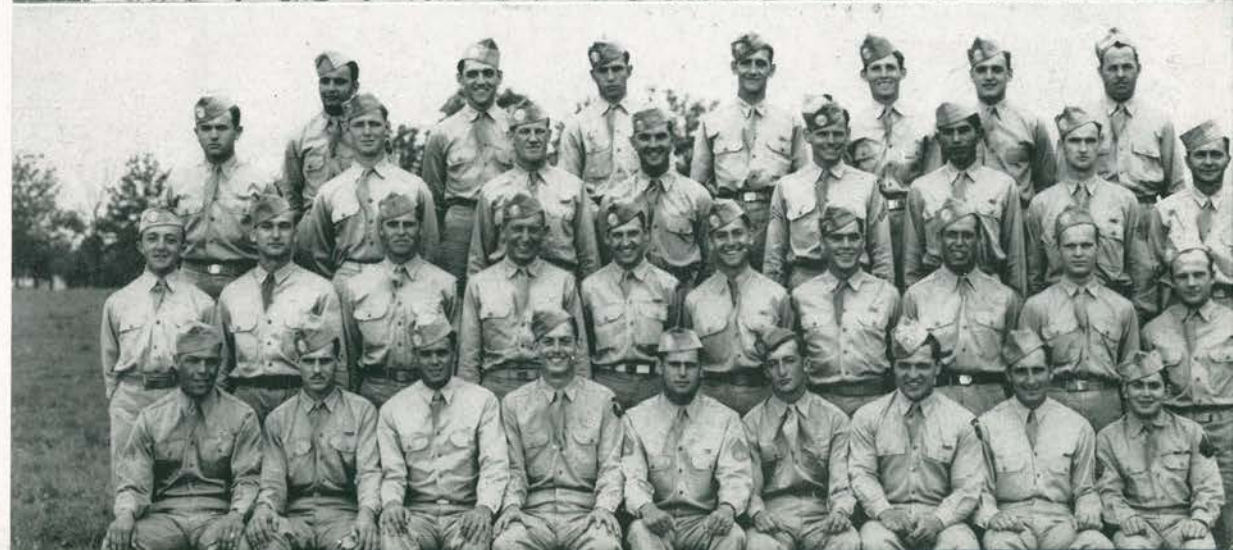
3rd Battalion





COMPANY "H"

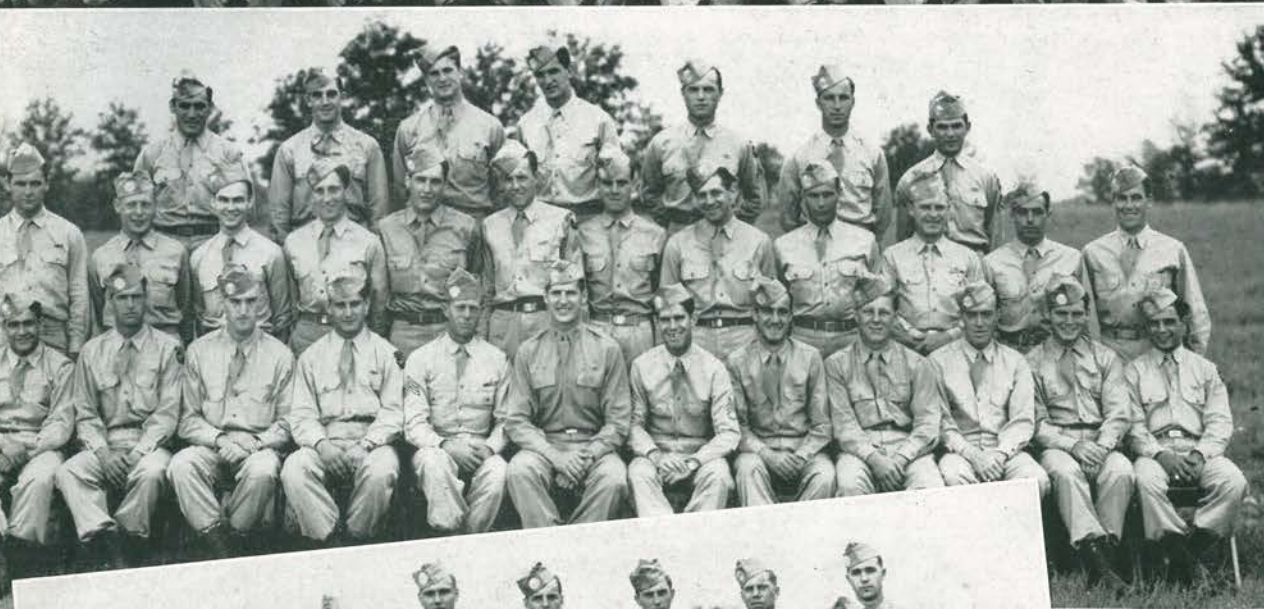
3rd Battalion



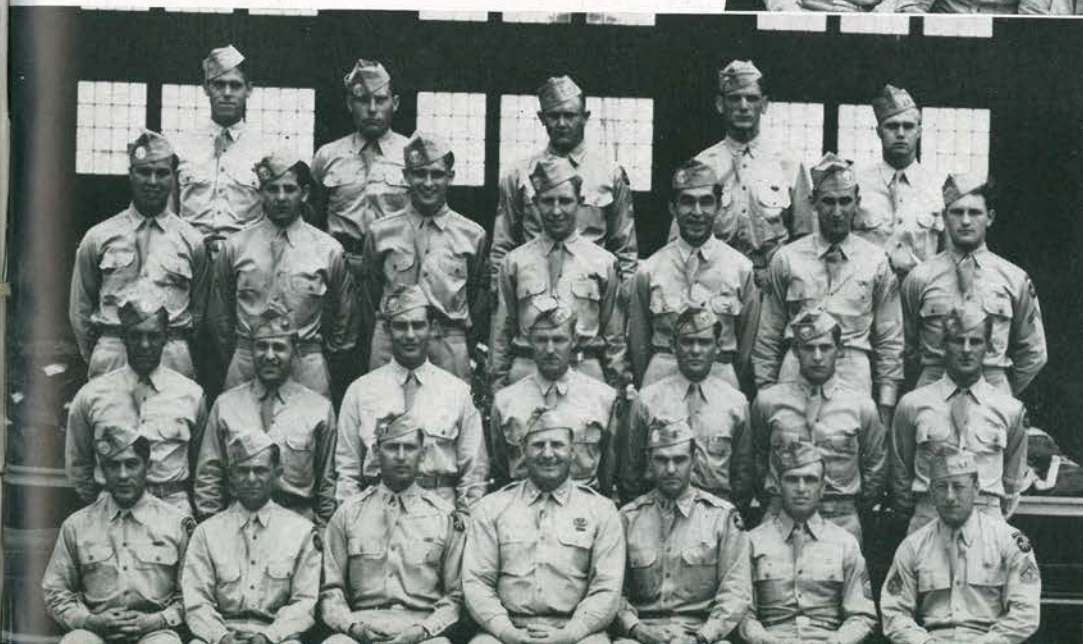


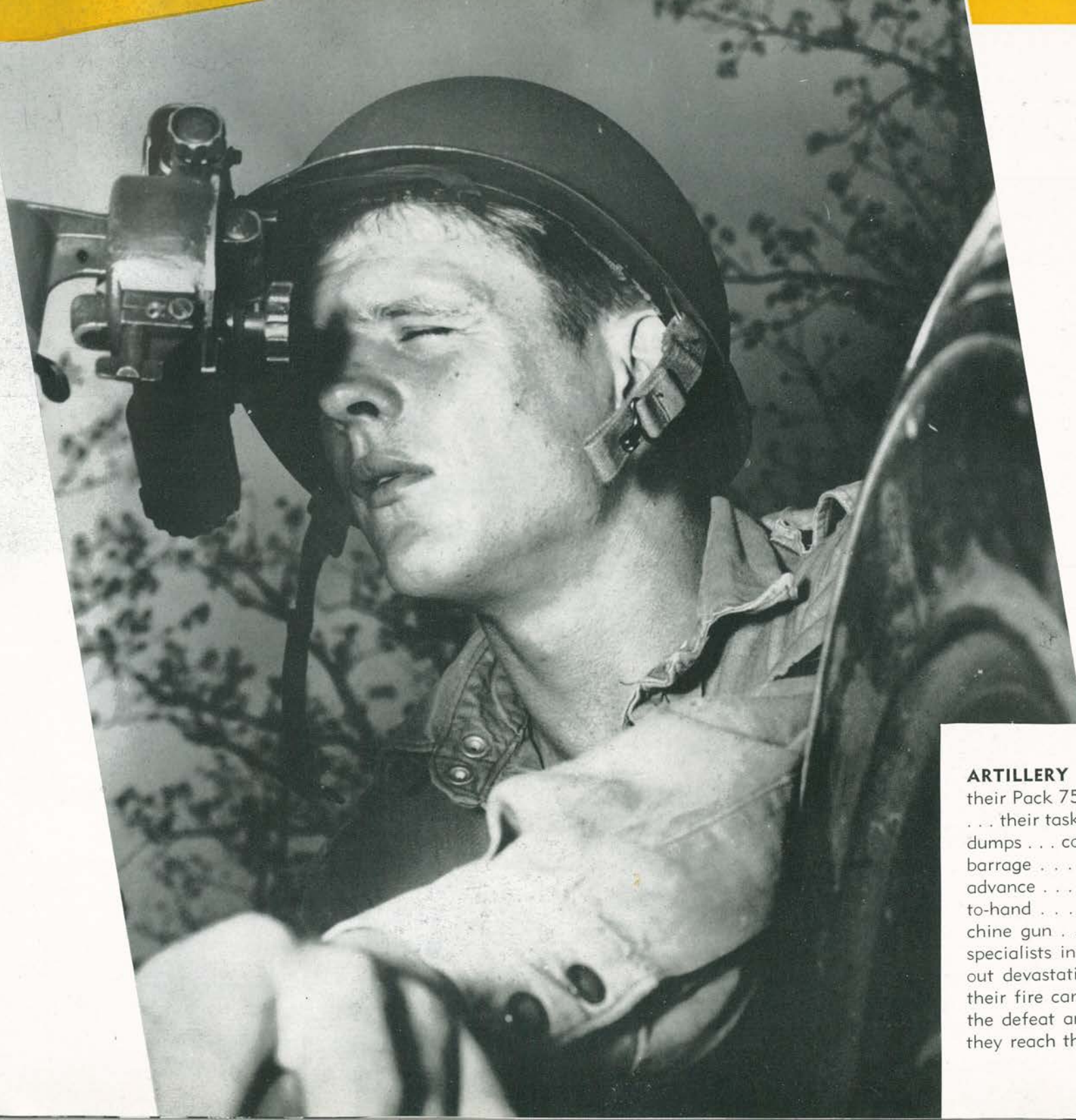
COMPANY "I"

3rd Battalion



PARACHUTE MAINTENANCE COMPANY





ARTILLERY . . . Backbone of the combat team . . . with their Pack 75s, going to battle in Parachutes and Gliders . . . their task is gargantuan . . . destroying enemy supply dumps . . . communications . . . laying down a protecting barrage . . . blasting the enemy in preparation for the advance . . . striking vital objectives . . . fighting hand-to-hand . . . meeting the enemy with carbine and machine gun . . . the men of artillery are specialists . . . specialists in observing, firing, camouflage . . . dealing out devastation in large measures . . . the sureness of their fire can well determine that fine balance between the defeat and victory . . . they're firing almost before they reach the ground.

DIVISION ARTILLERY



Lt. Col. Paul F. Oswald
Commanding,
680th Glider Field Artillery Battalion



Lt. Col. Joseph W. Keating
Commanding,
681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion



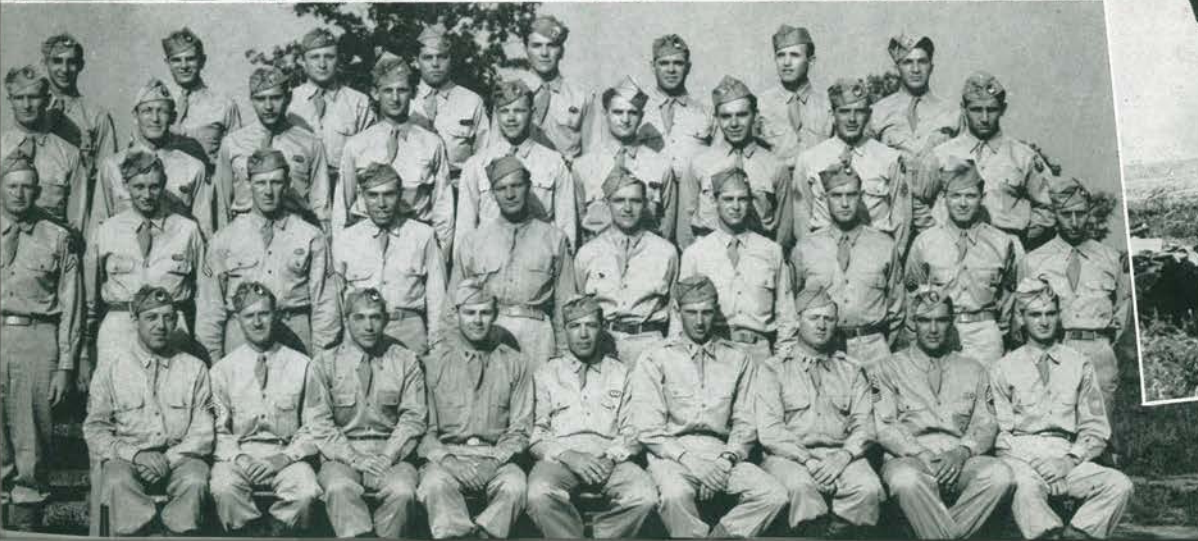
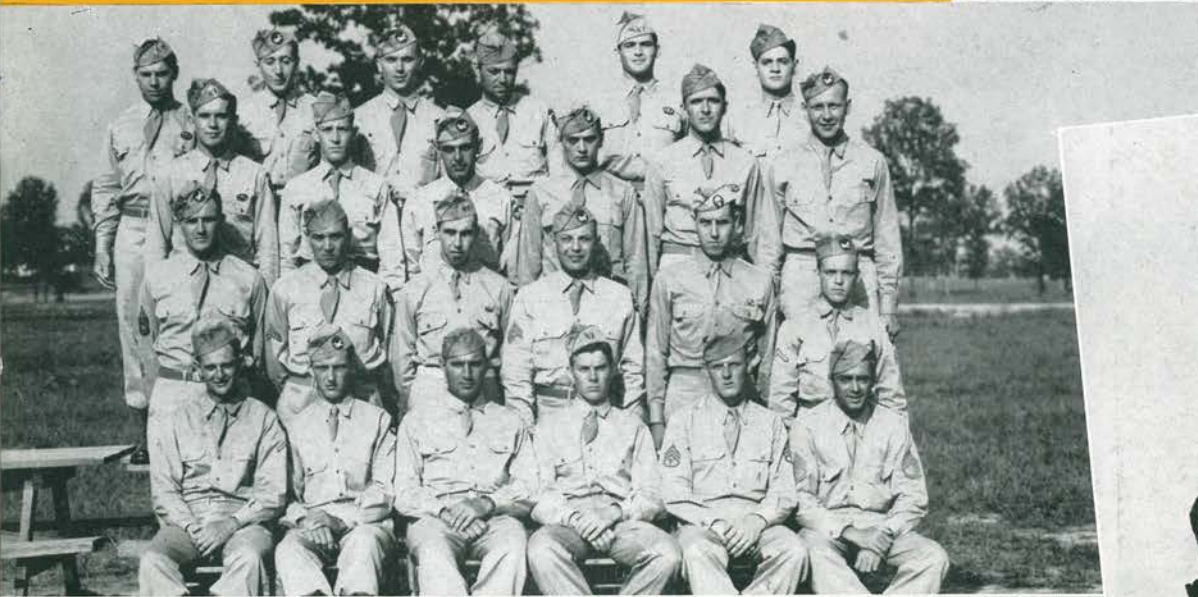
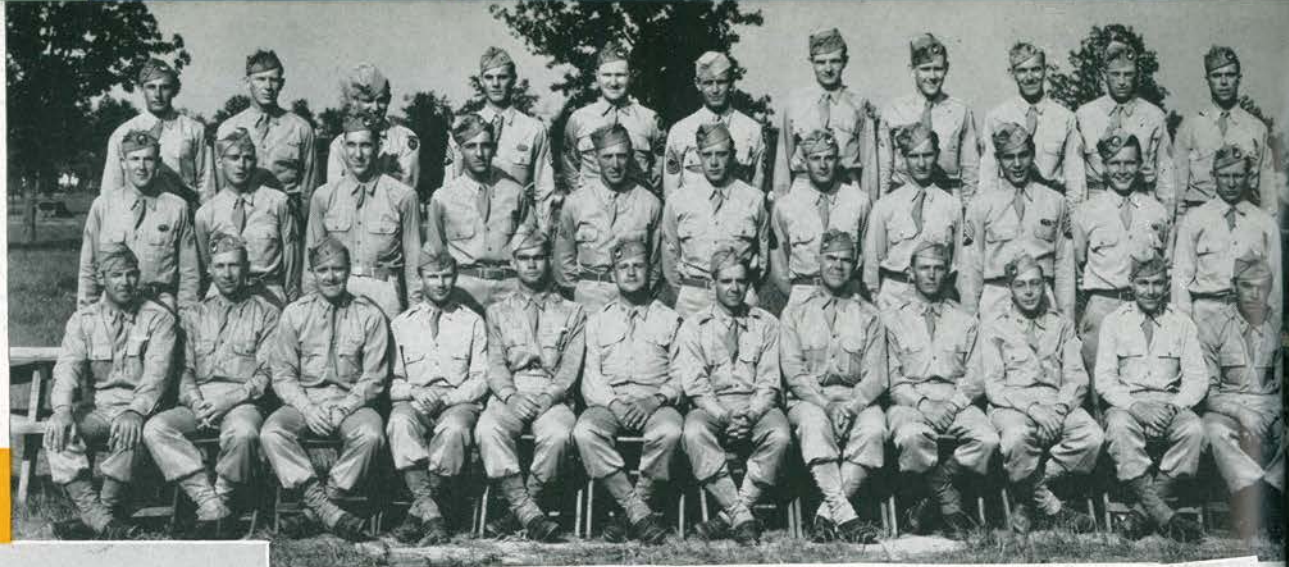
Major Kenneth L. Booth
Commanding,
466th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion

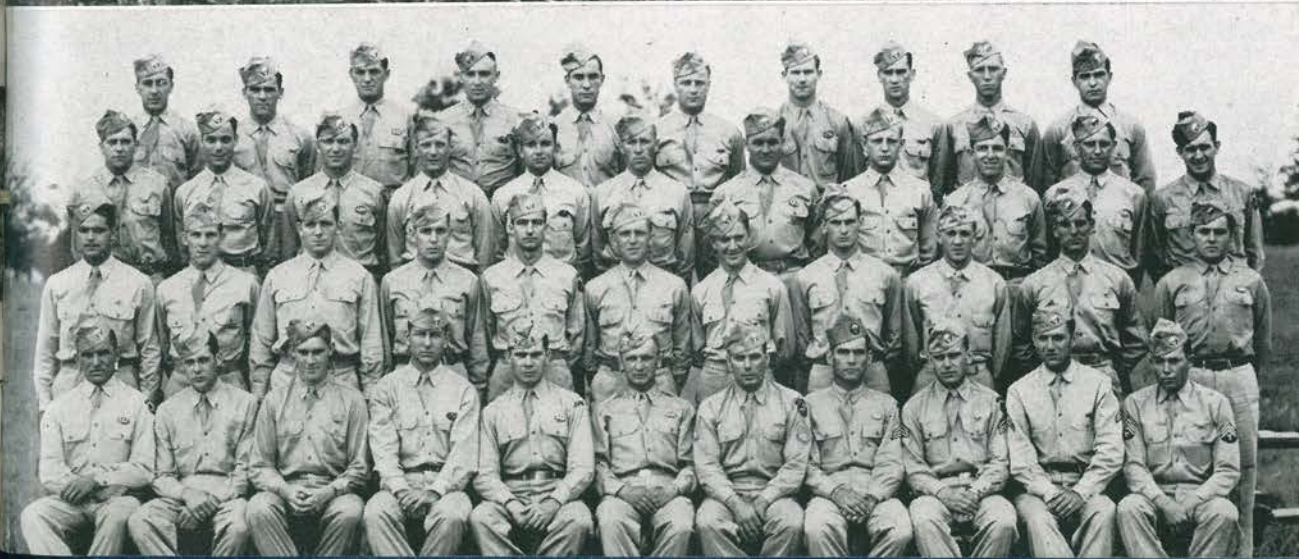
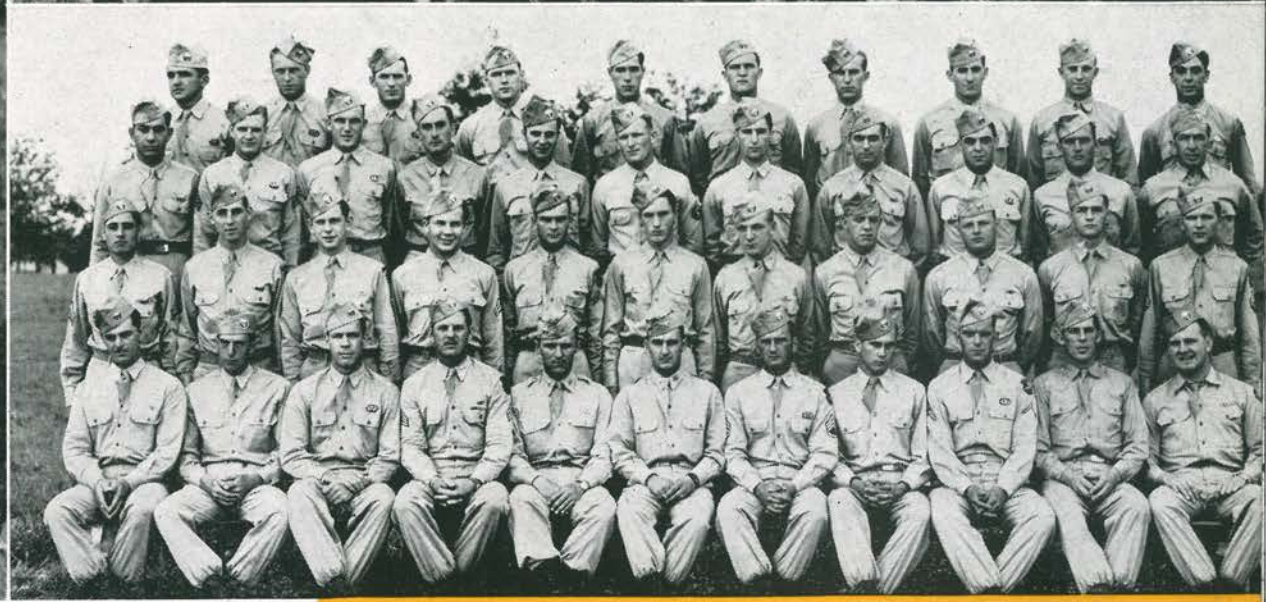
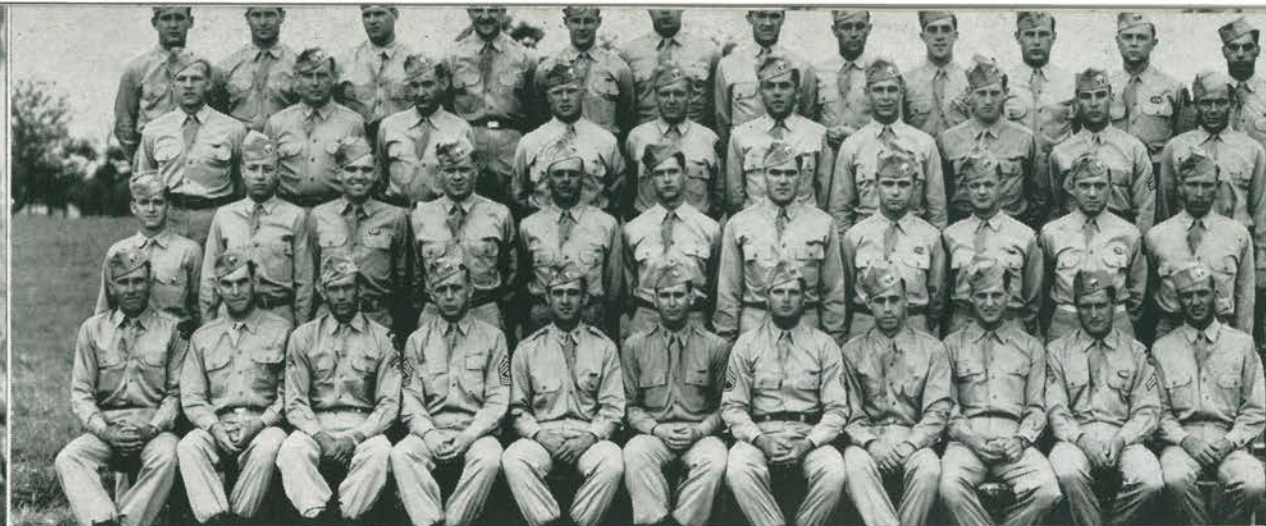


Colonel Thomas S. Gunby
Executive Officer

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Division Artillery





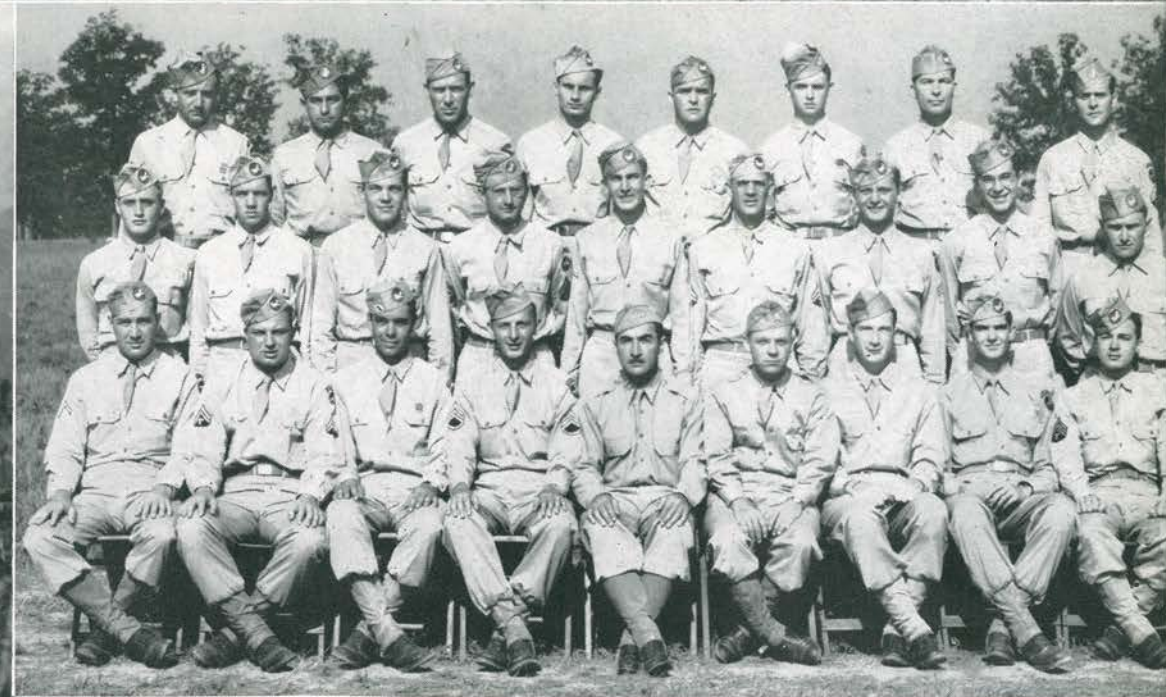
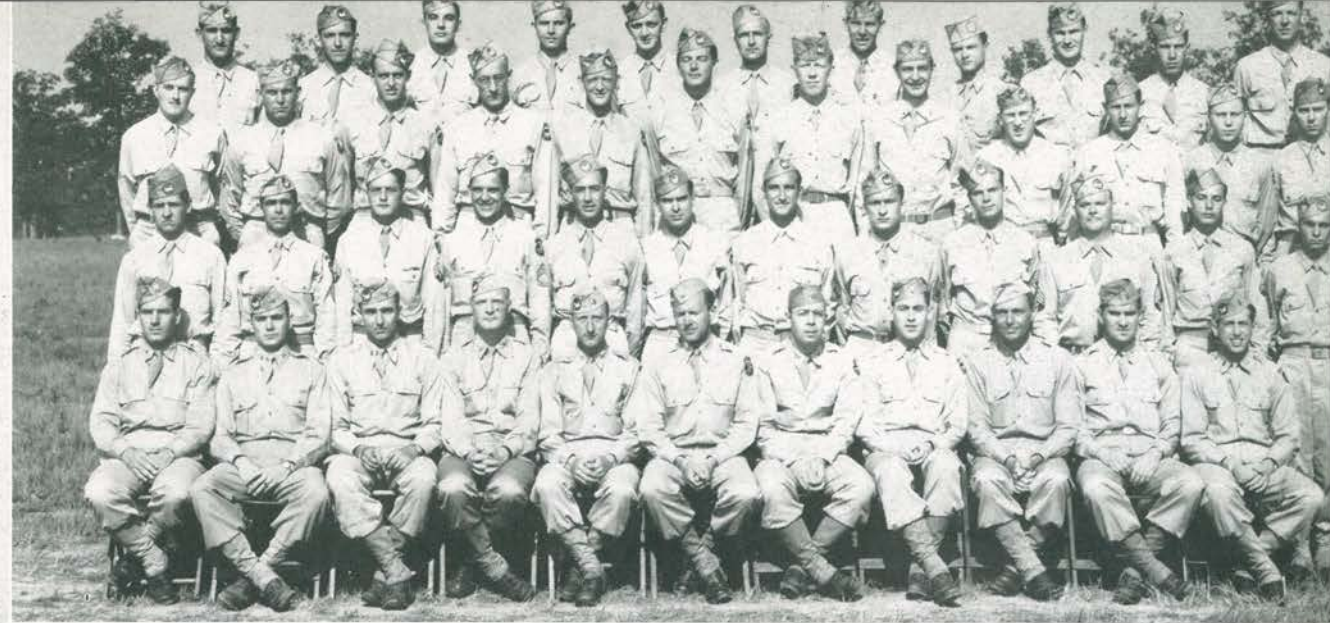
COMPANY "C"



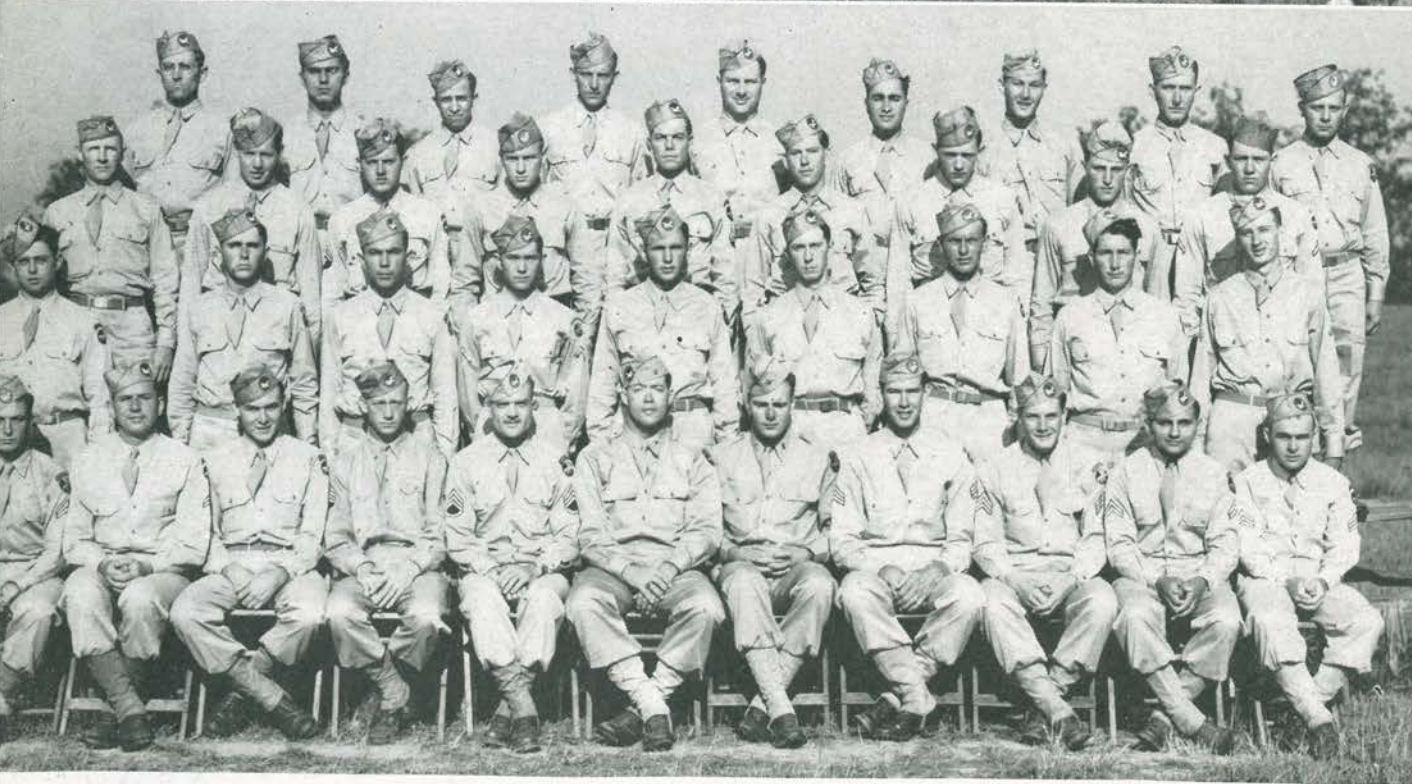
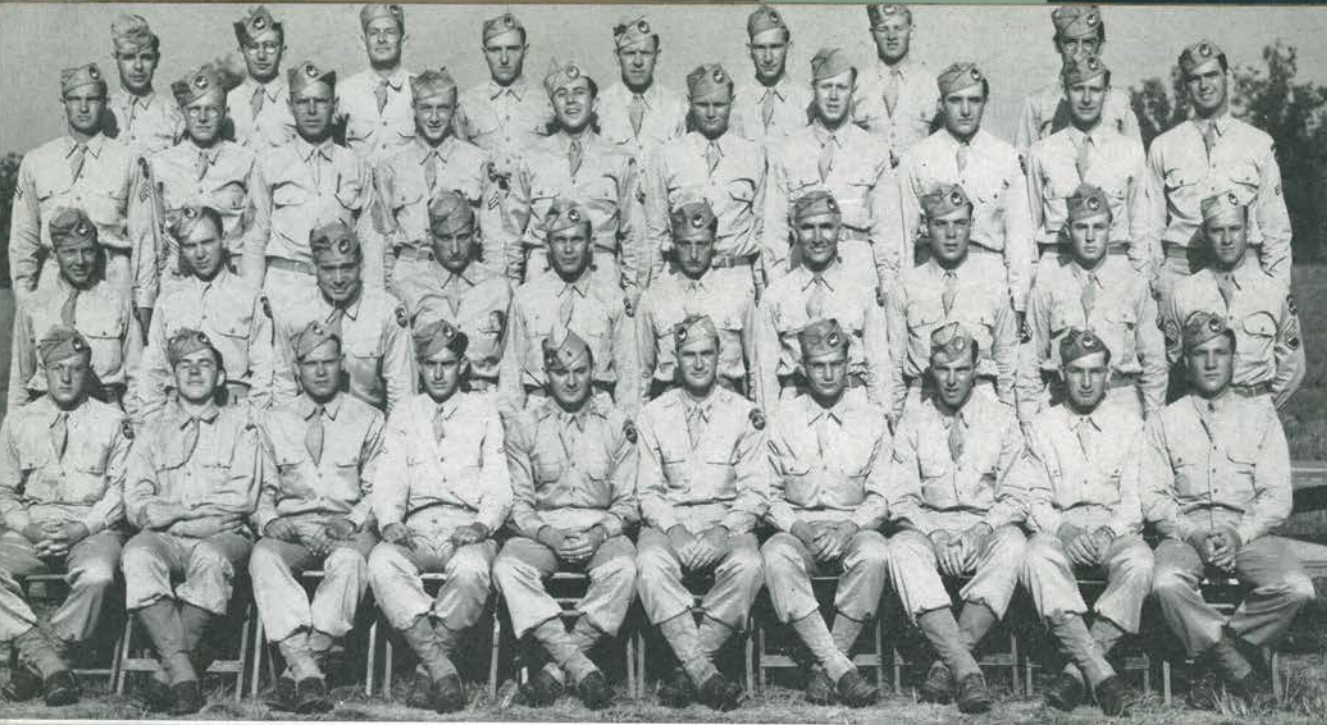
Lt. Col. John W. Paddock
Commanding,
155th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion

ANTI-AIRCRAFT . . . Ack-Ack men . . . kings of the .50 calibre . . . and the .37 mm. anti-tank gun . . . searching the skies with trained eyes . . . and alert minds . . . theirs is the job of obtaining aircraft protection for the Division. Versed not only in the swing of the tripod mount and the recognition of enemy aircraft . . . they set an example of the finest type of fighting soldier. . . . As Airborne troops they reason that they will meet the enemy wherever he arises . . . in the air . . . or on the ground. . . . For this reason they also receive training in anti-tank tactics. . . .





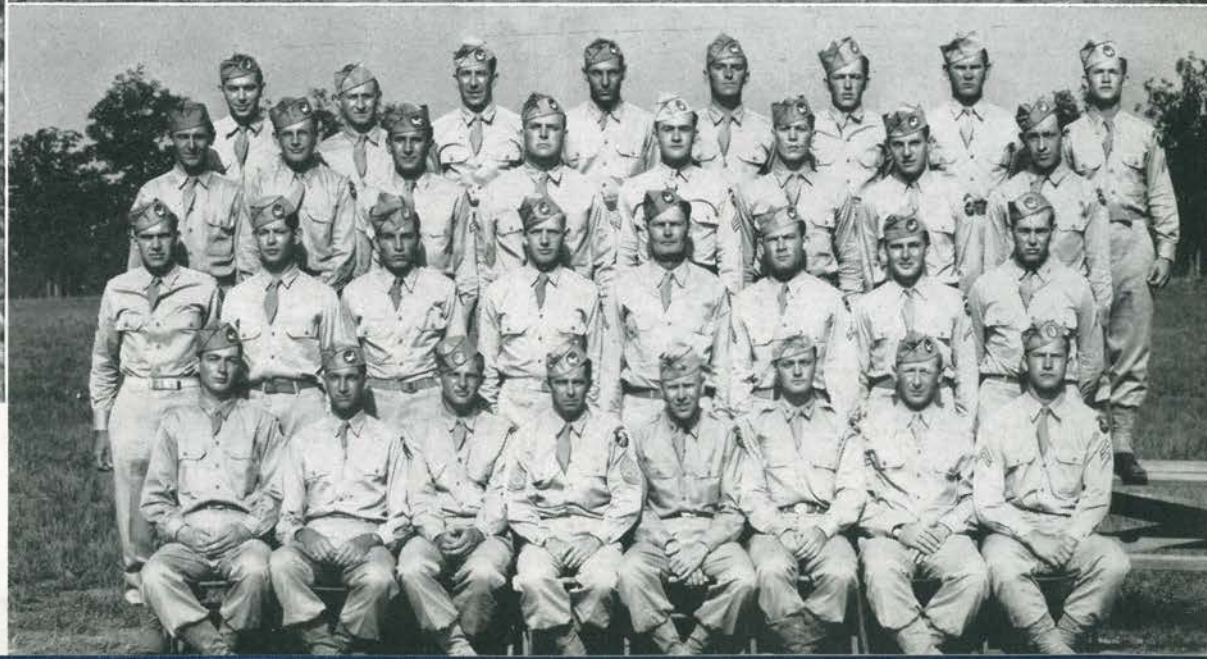
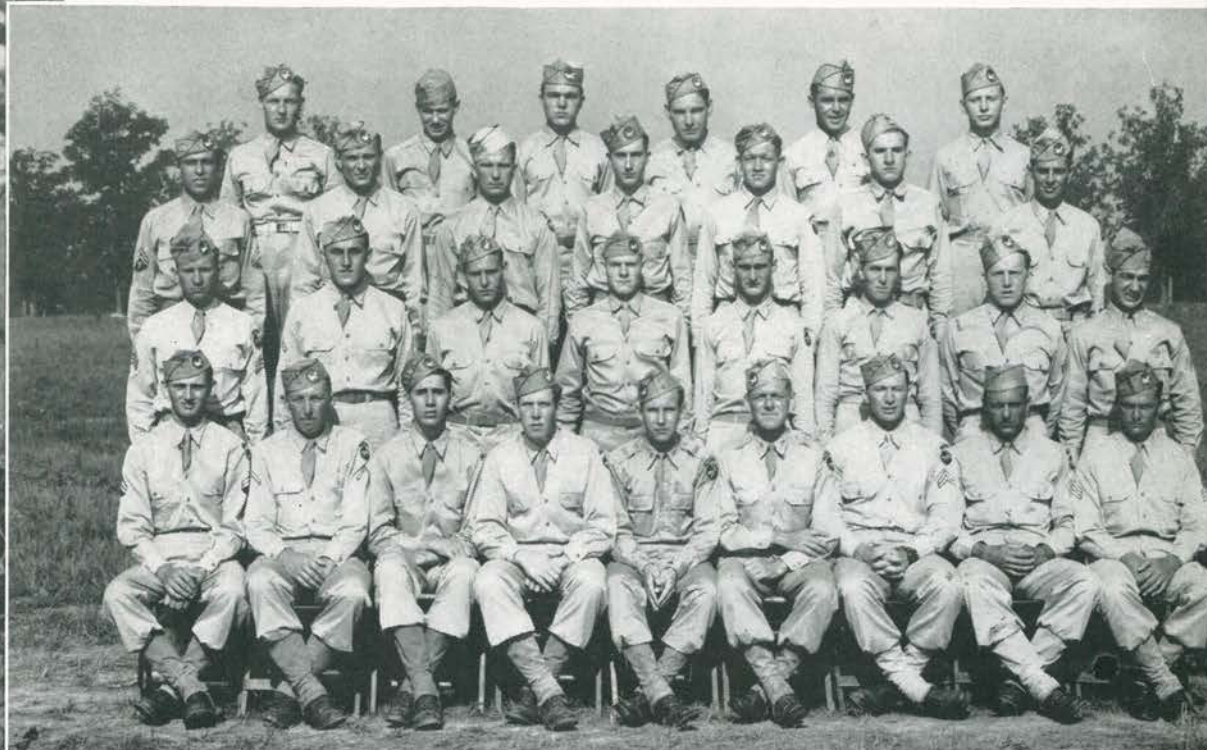
HEADQUARTERS &
MEDICAL DETACHMENT

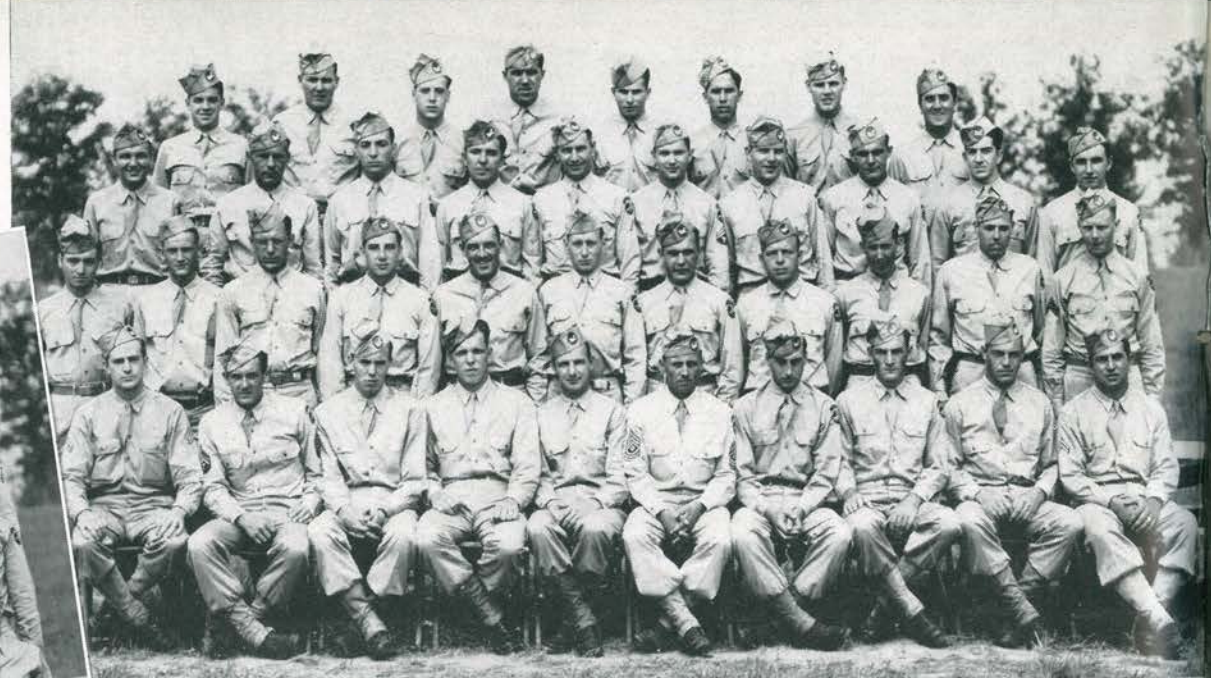


BATTERY "A"



BATTERY "B"



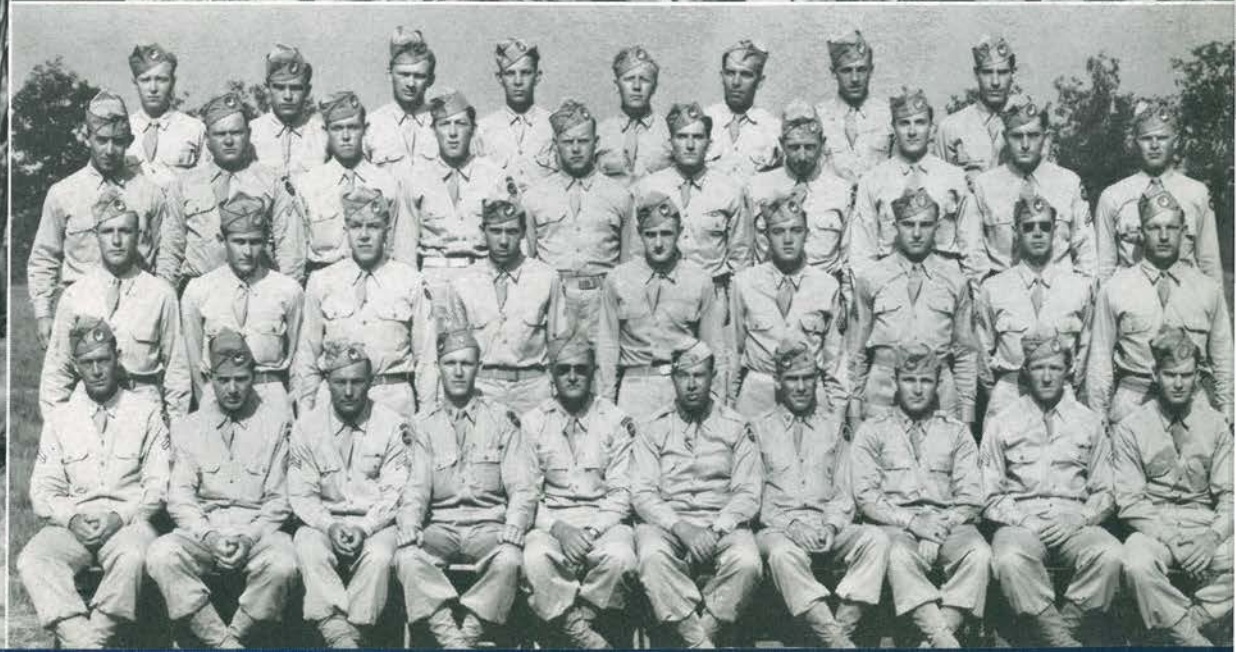
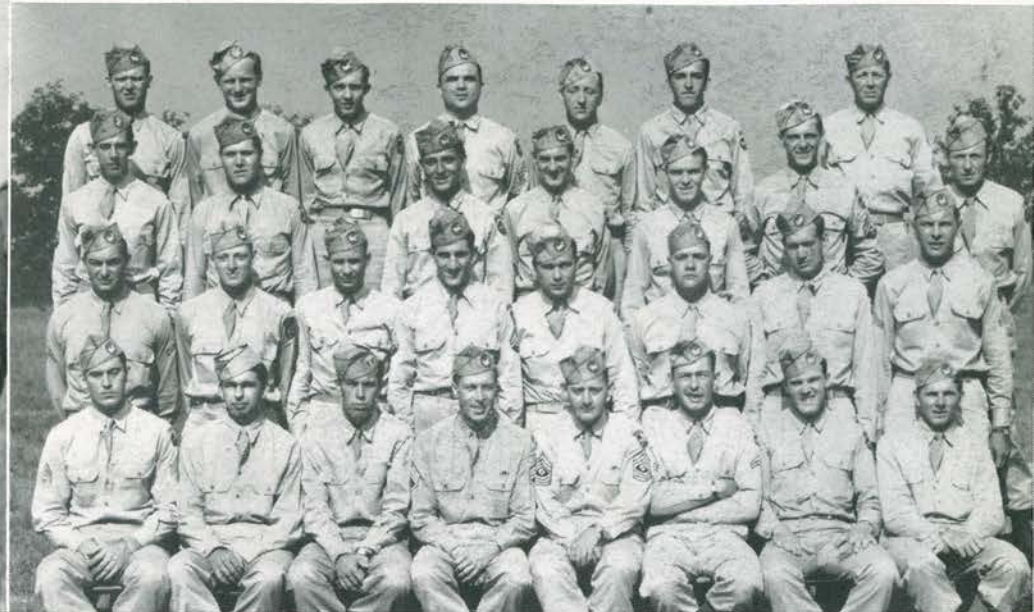


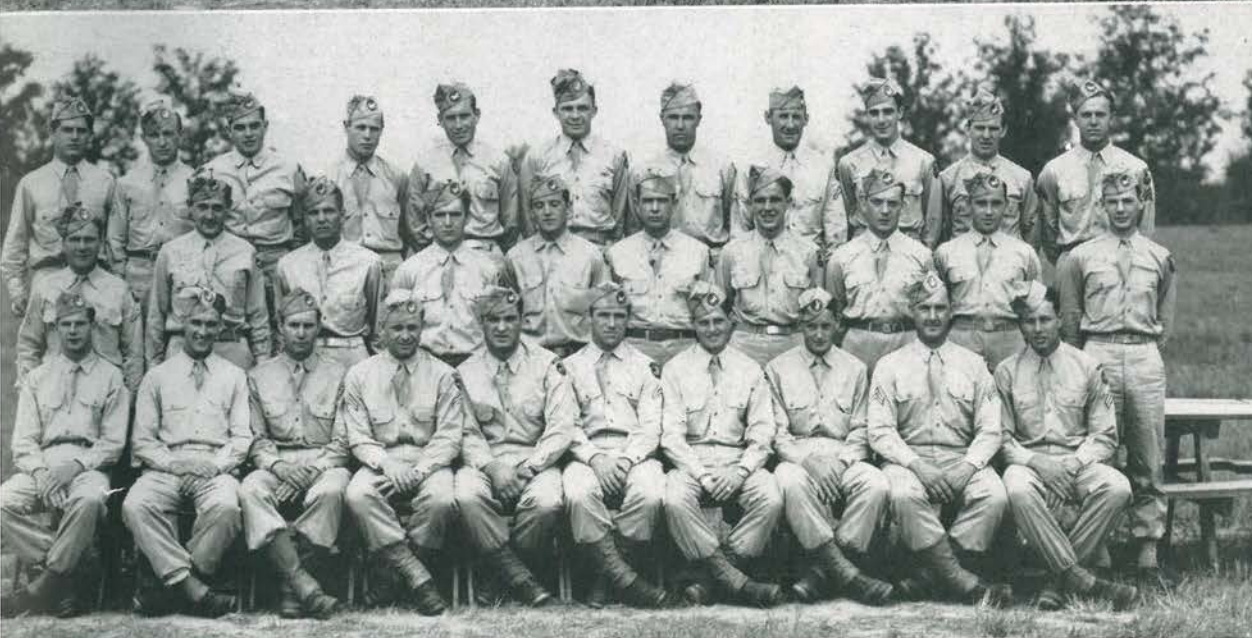
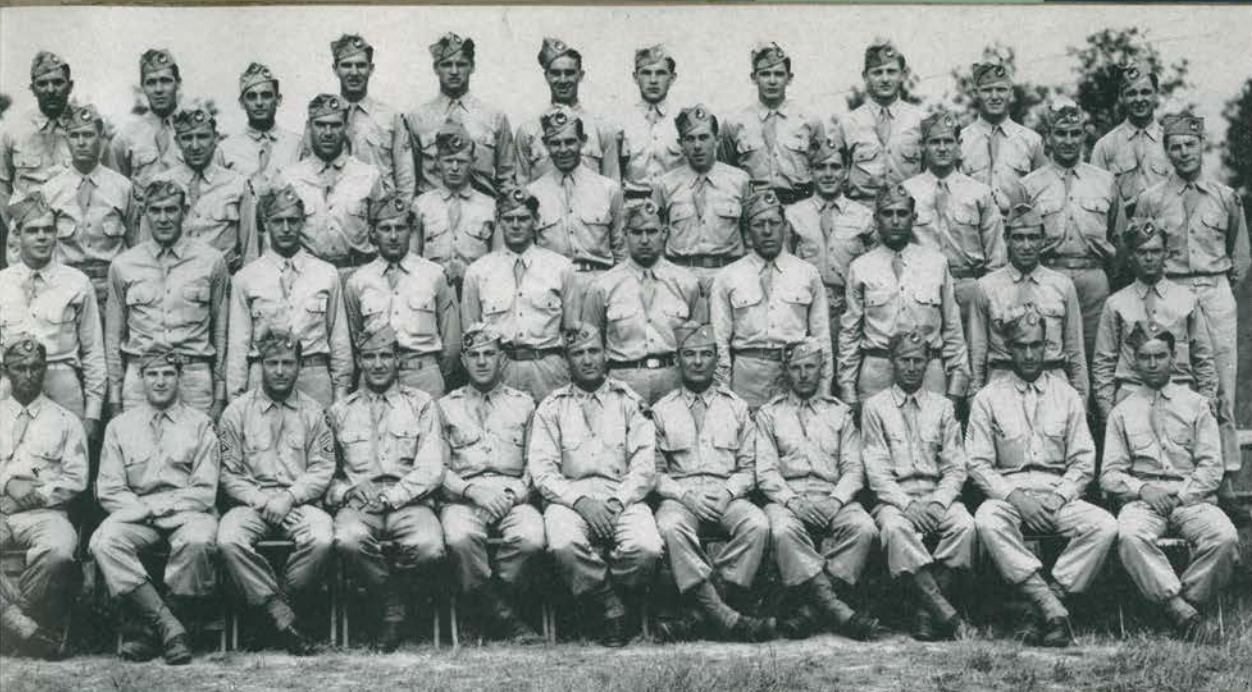
BATTERY "C"





BATTERY "D"

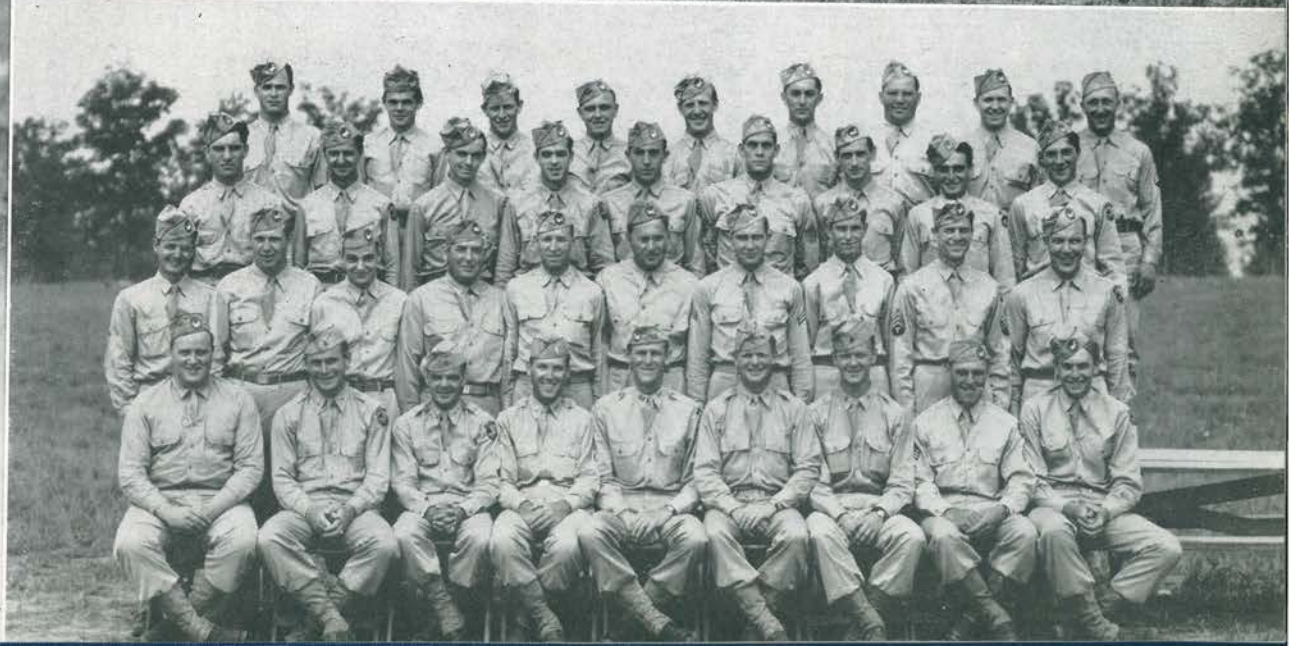
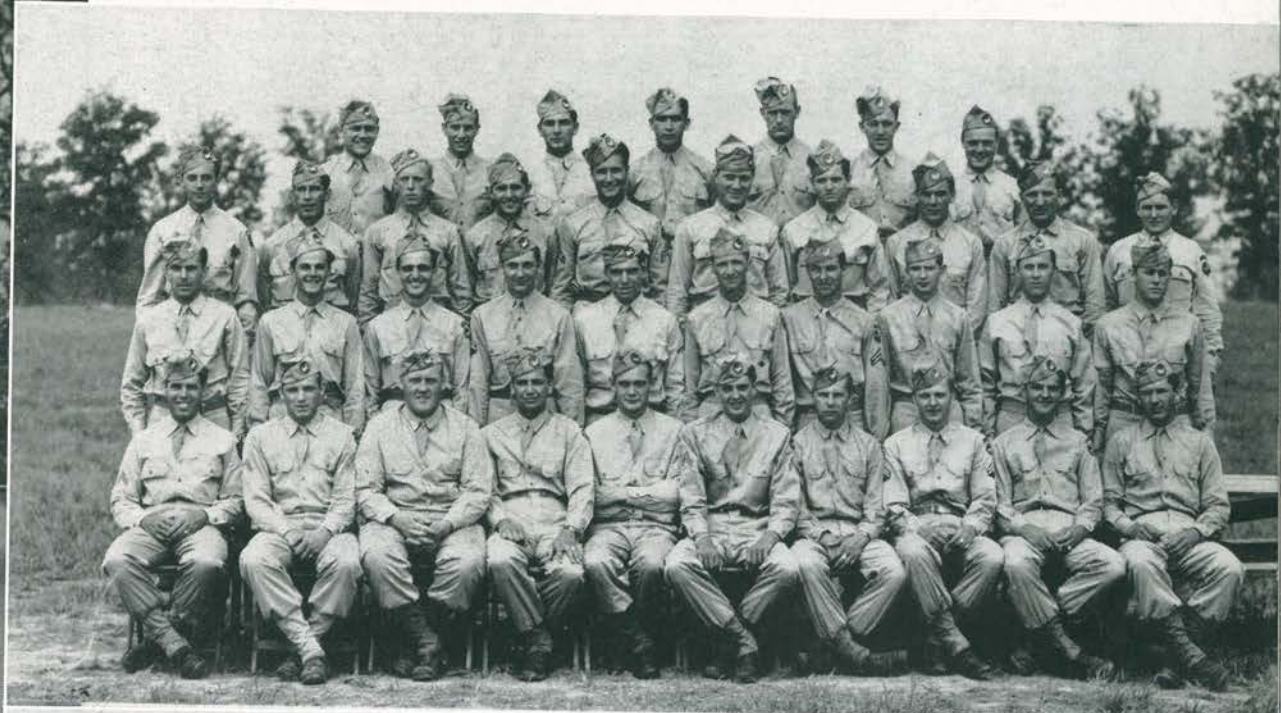




BATTERY "E"



BATTERY "F"



AIR-BORNE AT LAST!!!



Division Parachute School—One Thousand, Two Thousand, Three Thousand!

SPECIAL TROOPS

SPECIAL TROOPS . . . The Jacks of All Trades . . . are found in Division Special Troops . . . to make the blind to see . . . to keep the engines roaring . . . to keep commanders informed of the fluctuating tides of battle . . . to ease the demand for food, clothing, and supplies . . . to organize and simplify the problems of administration . . . these phrases barely begin to explain the multiple tasks of the units of Special Troops. Medics . . . Headquarters . . . Signal . . . Quartermaster . . . Ordnance. . . . As companies they operate individually . . . but in effect they are molded together to provide the necessary functions to keep the Division a smooth-running organization.



Captain Kenneth E. Hathaway
Division Headquarters Company Commander



MAJOR LEONARD P. ROBERTS III
Division Provost Marshal



CAPTAIN NICHOLAS L. CIACCIA
Commander,
224th Medical Company



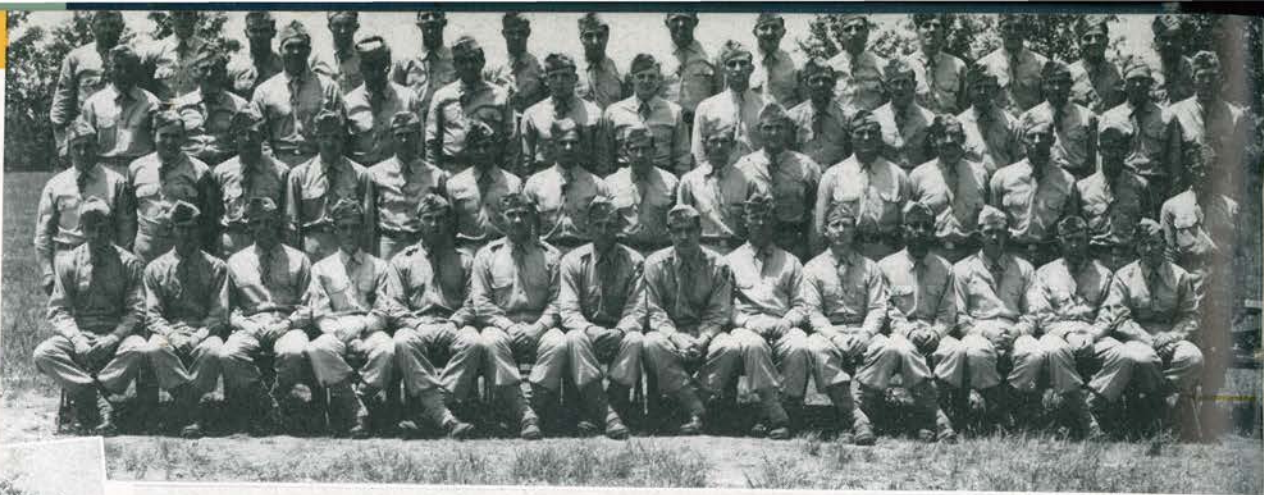
1st LIEUT. DAVID O. JESBERG
Commander,
517th Signal Company



CAPTAIN LOUIS E. HOLDER, JR.
Commander,
717th Ordnance Maintenance Company

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

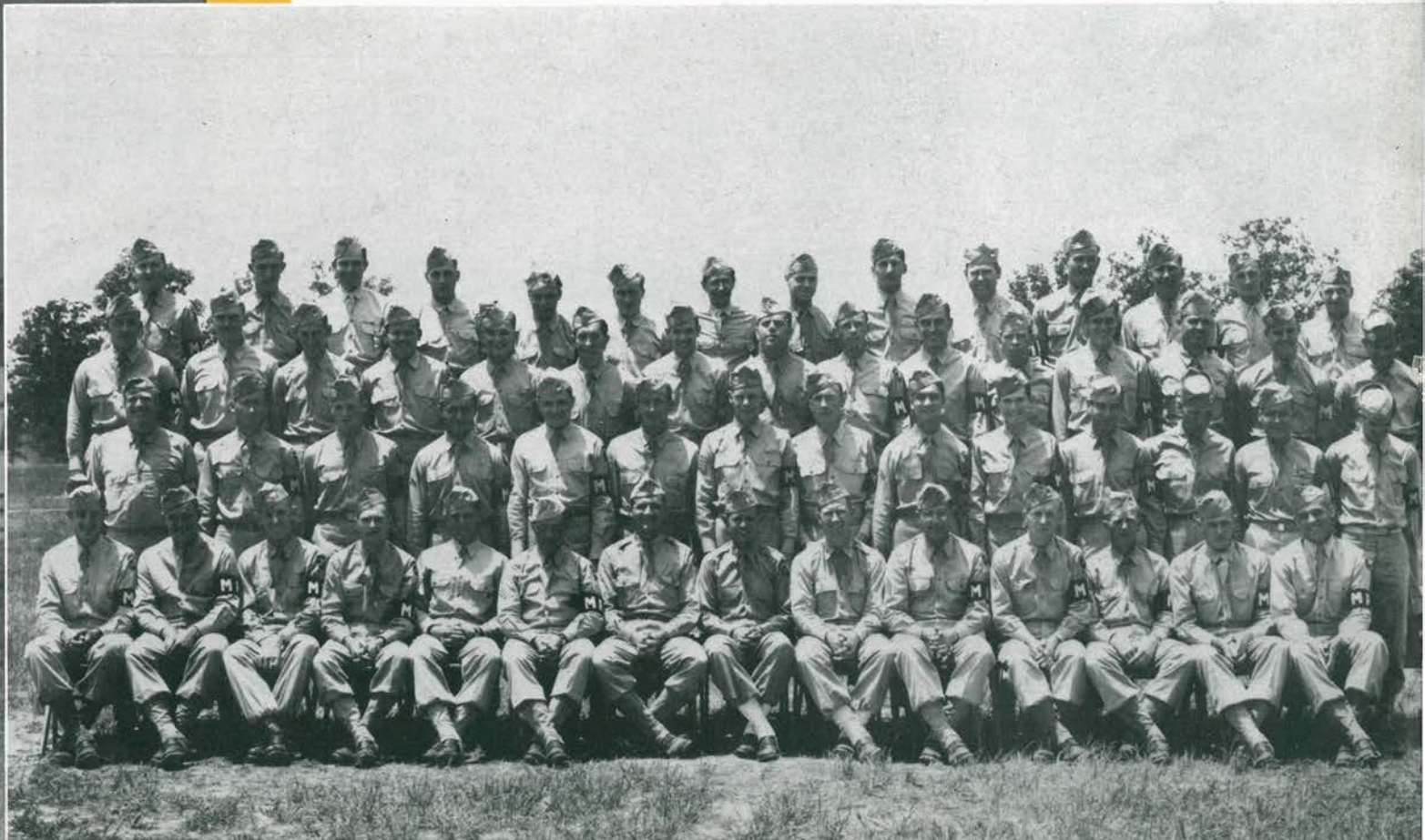
Division Headquarters Officers

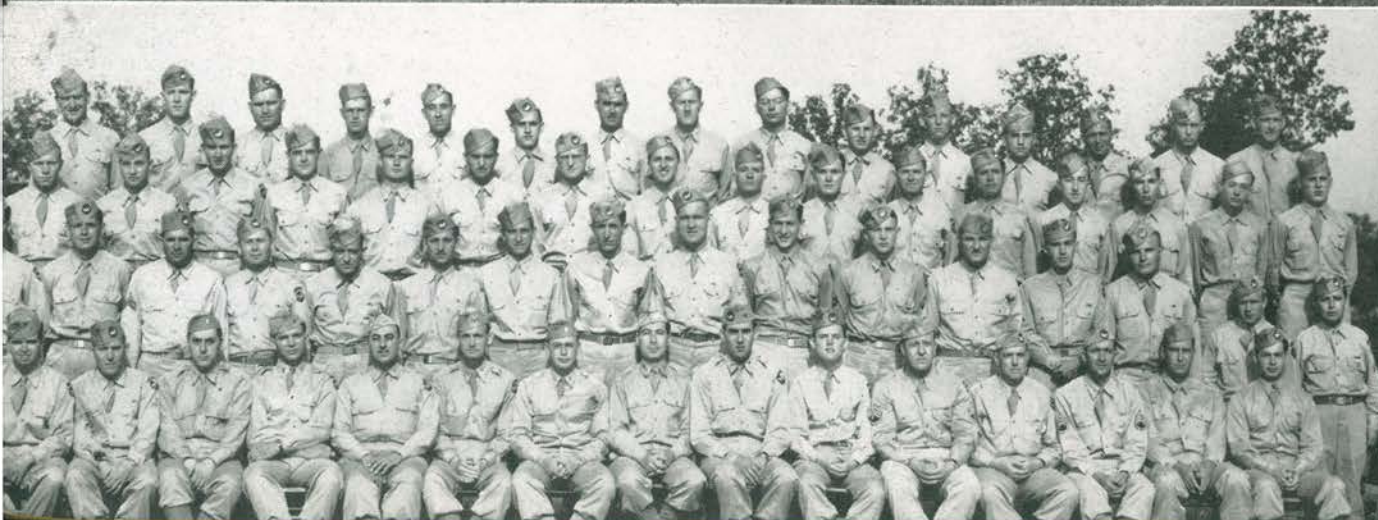
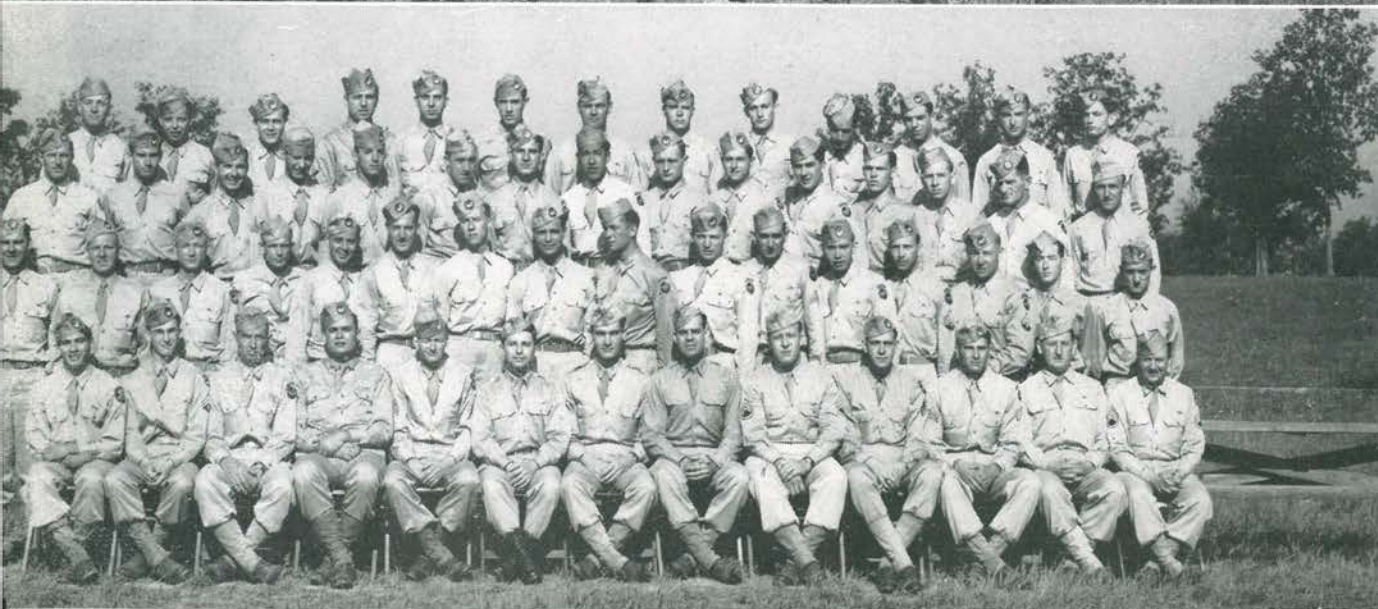


Division Parachute School Staff



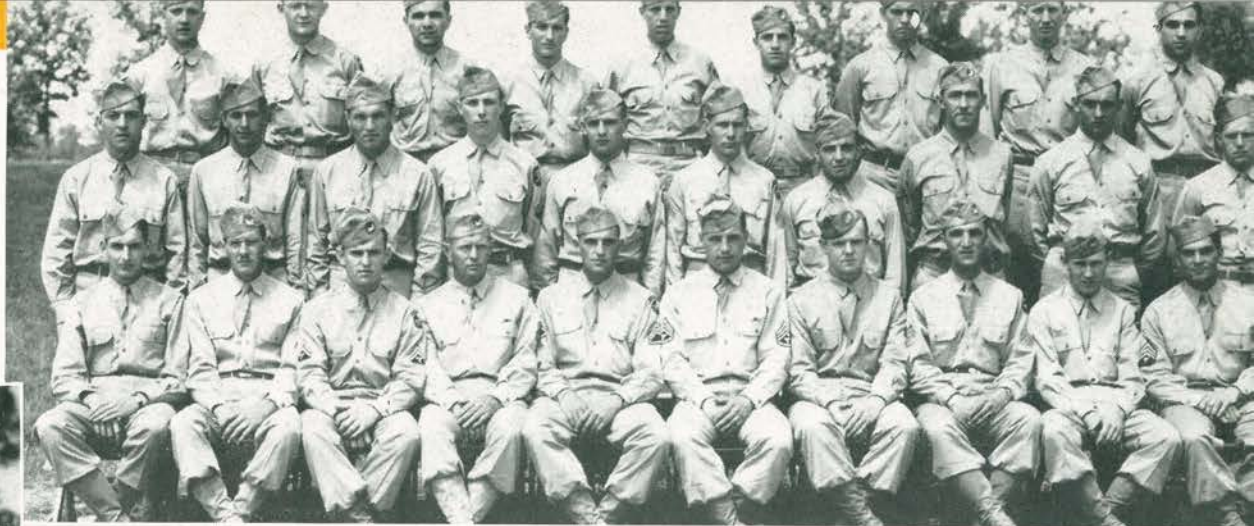
MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

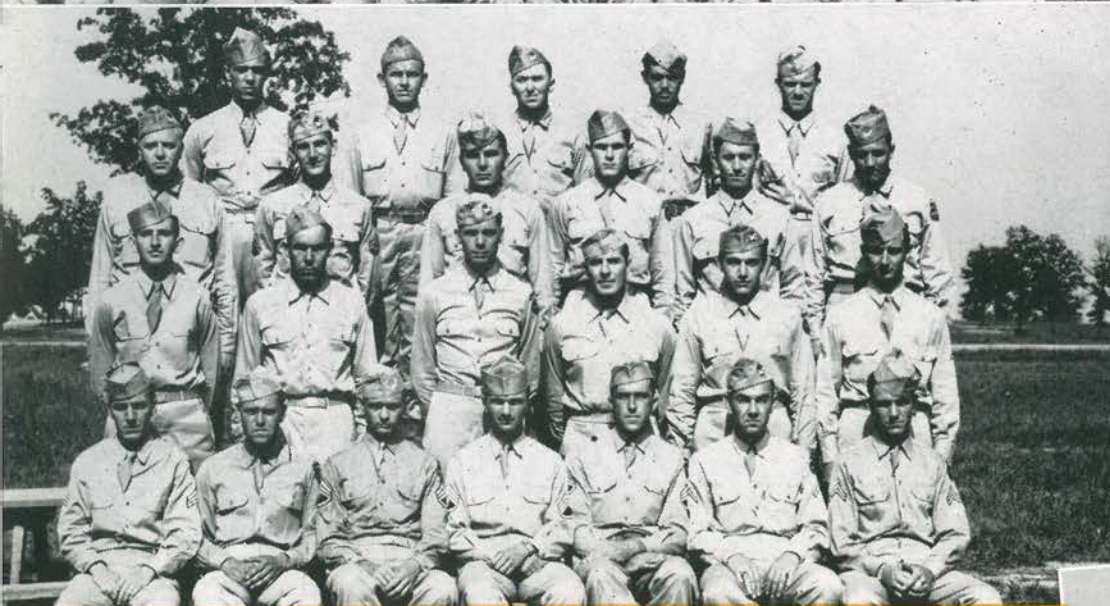
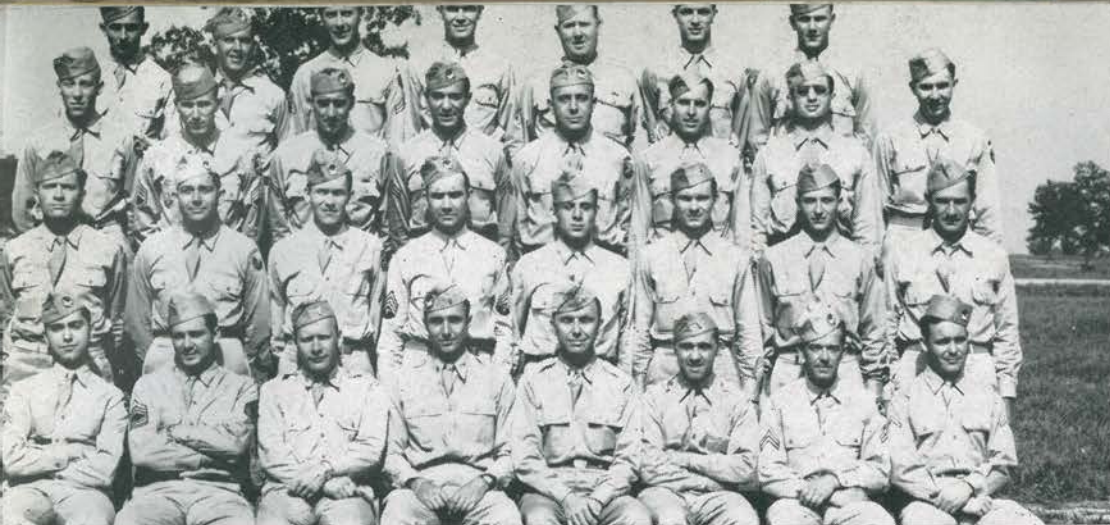




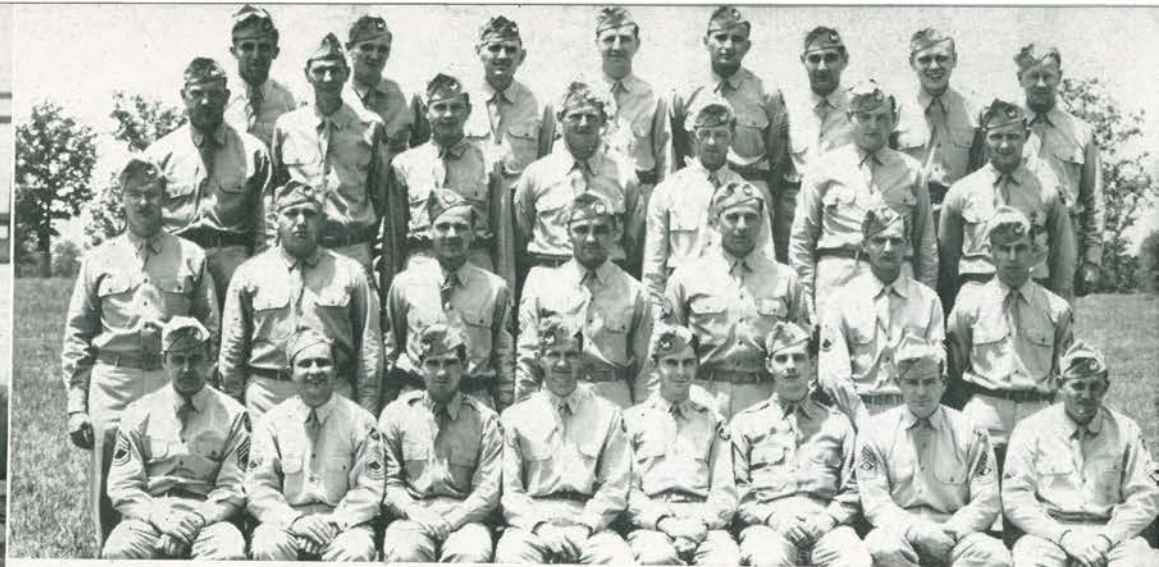
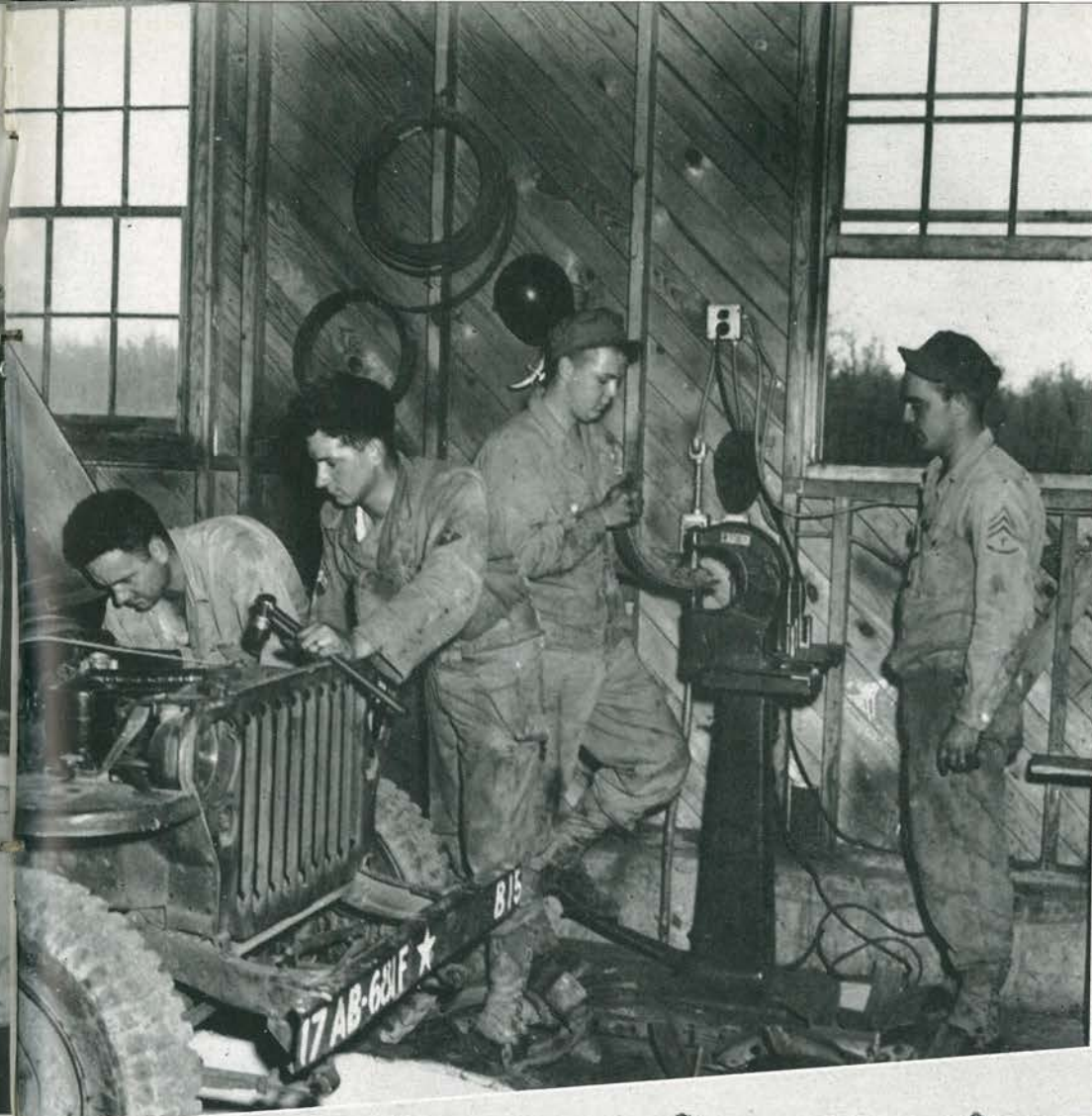
224th AIRBORNE
MEDICAL COMPANY

517th AIRBORNE SIGNAL COMPANY





411th AIRBORNE
QUARtermaster
COMPANY



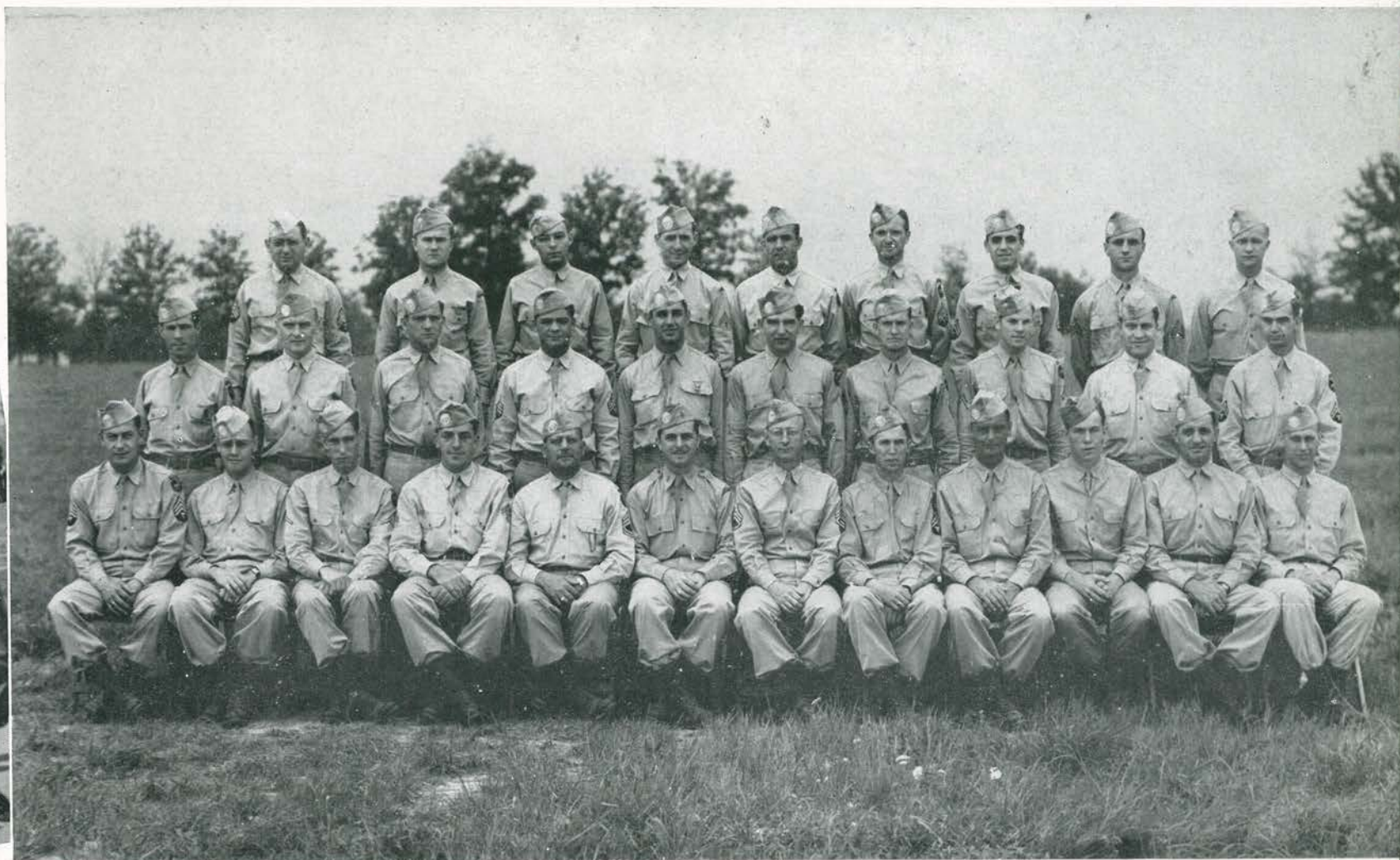
717th AIRBORNE
ORDNANCE COMPANY



DIVISION BANDS . . . "They shall have music wherever they go" . . . music hath charm. . . so they say . . . and in the case of our Division bands that is no exception. . . Equally adaptable on the parade field or in the dance hall . . . these bands provide a constant outlet for musical relaxation in the mind of the soldier.



DIVISION BANDS

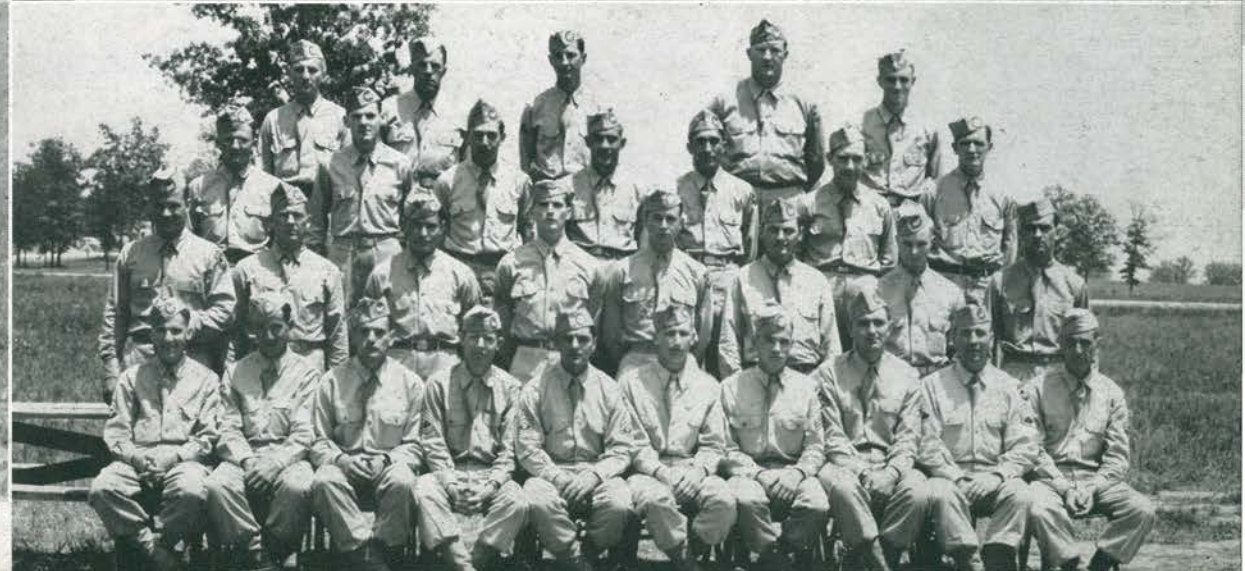
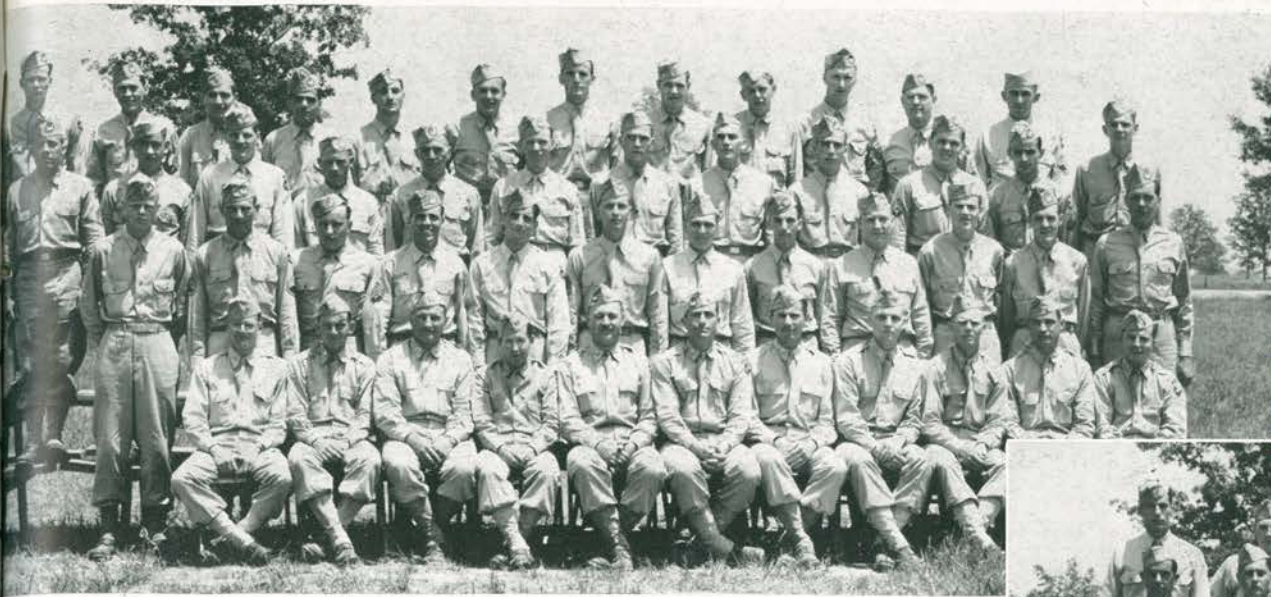


MANEUVERS

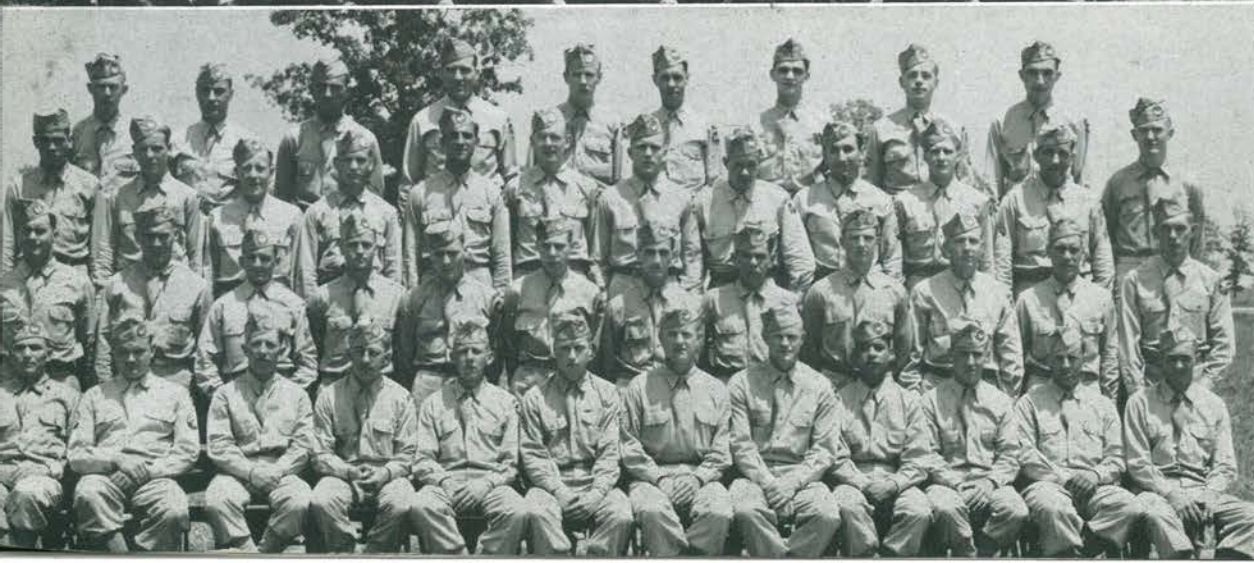
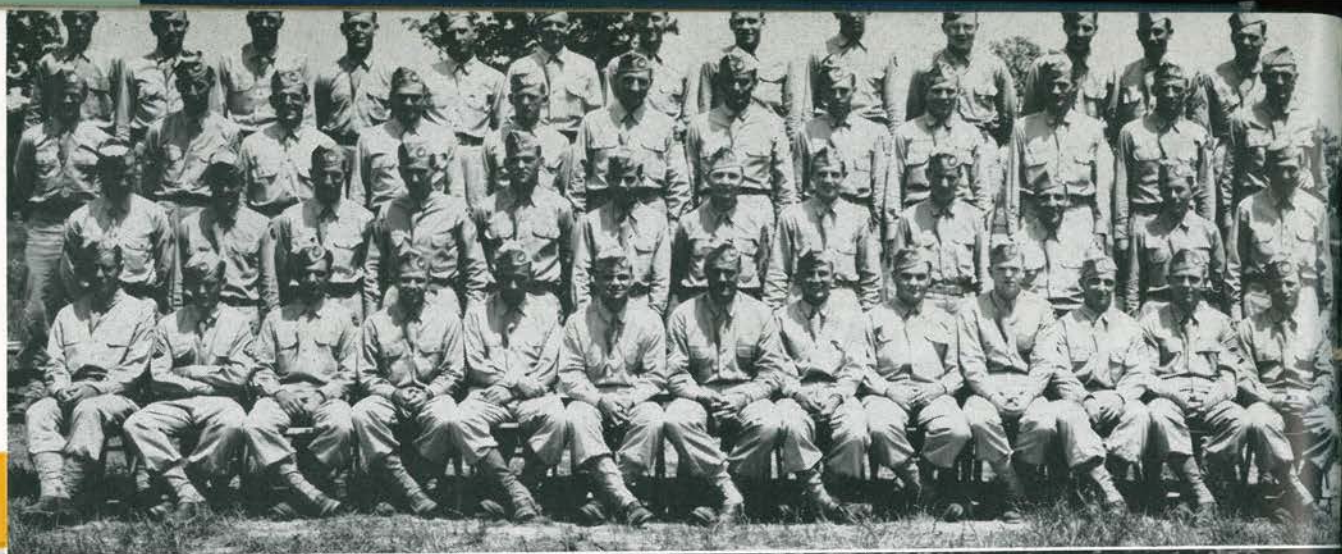


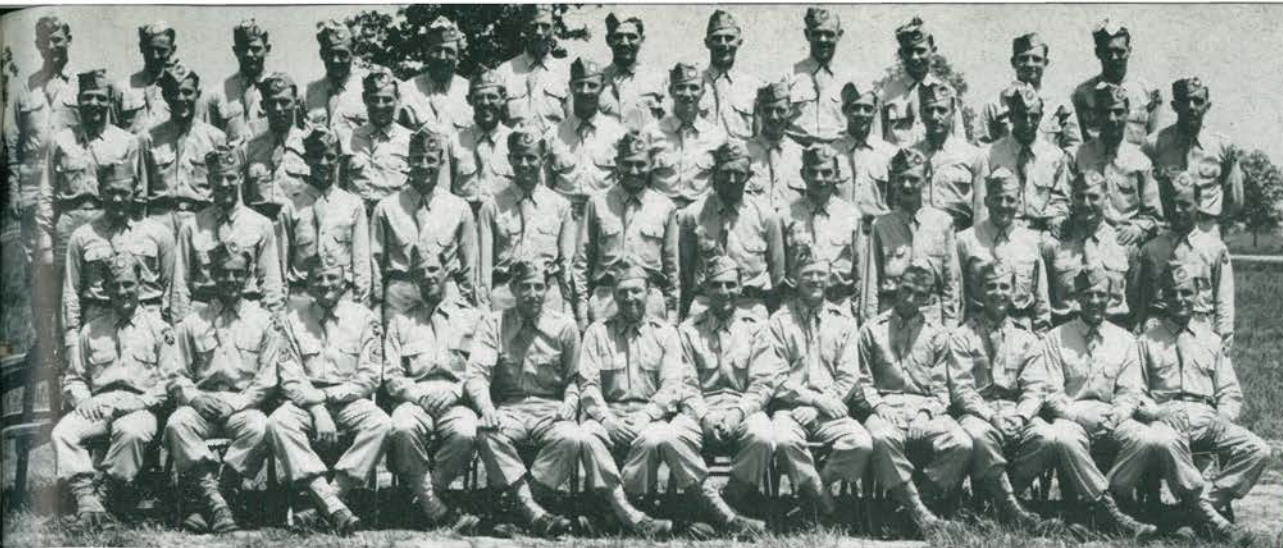
HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE BATTERY

680th Glider Field Artillery

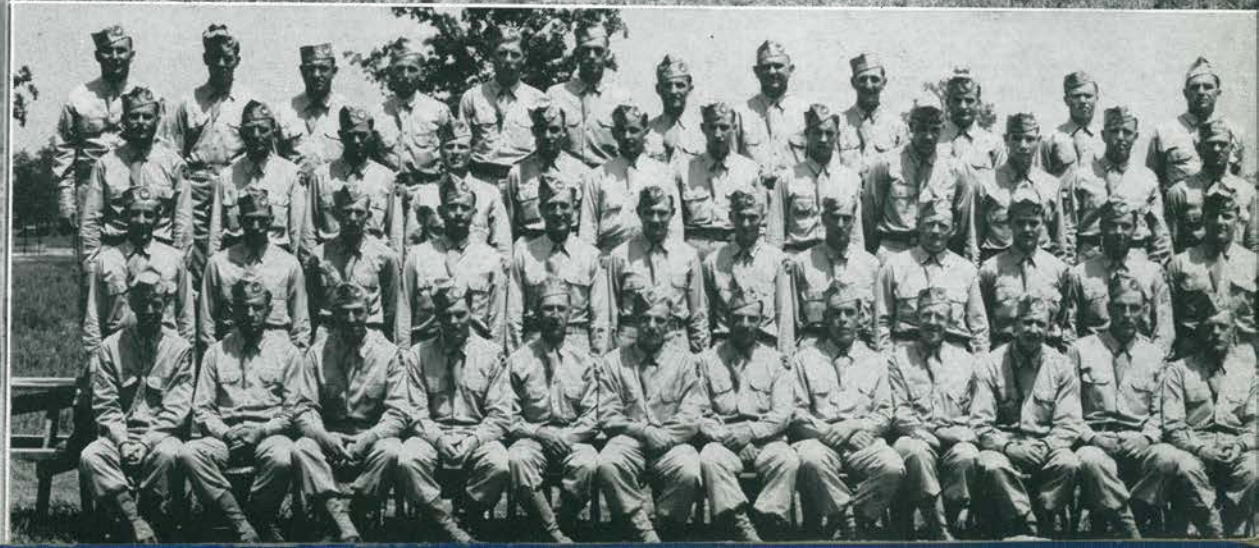


BATTERY "A"



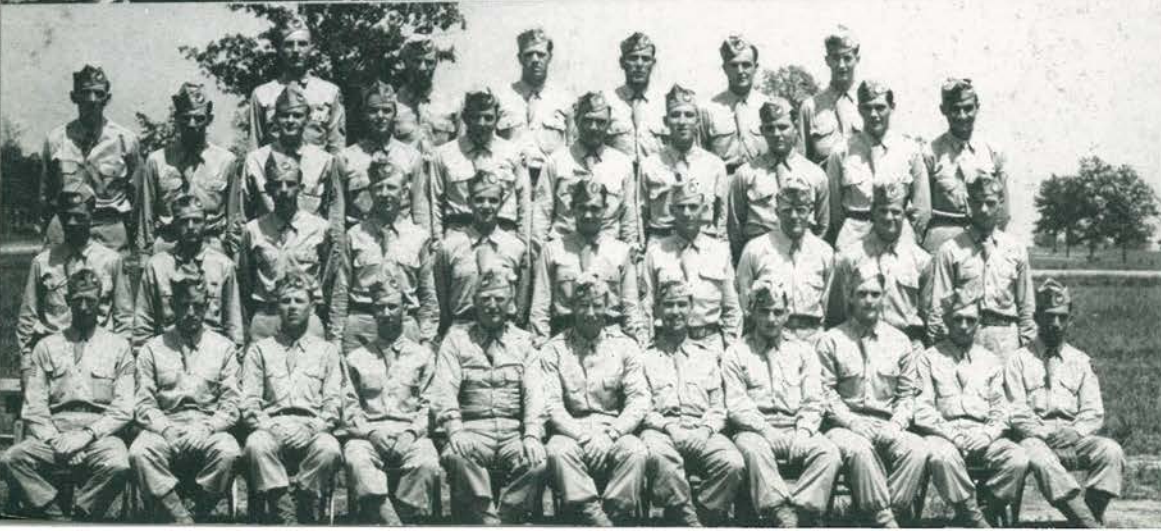
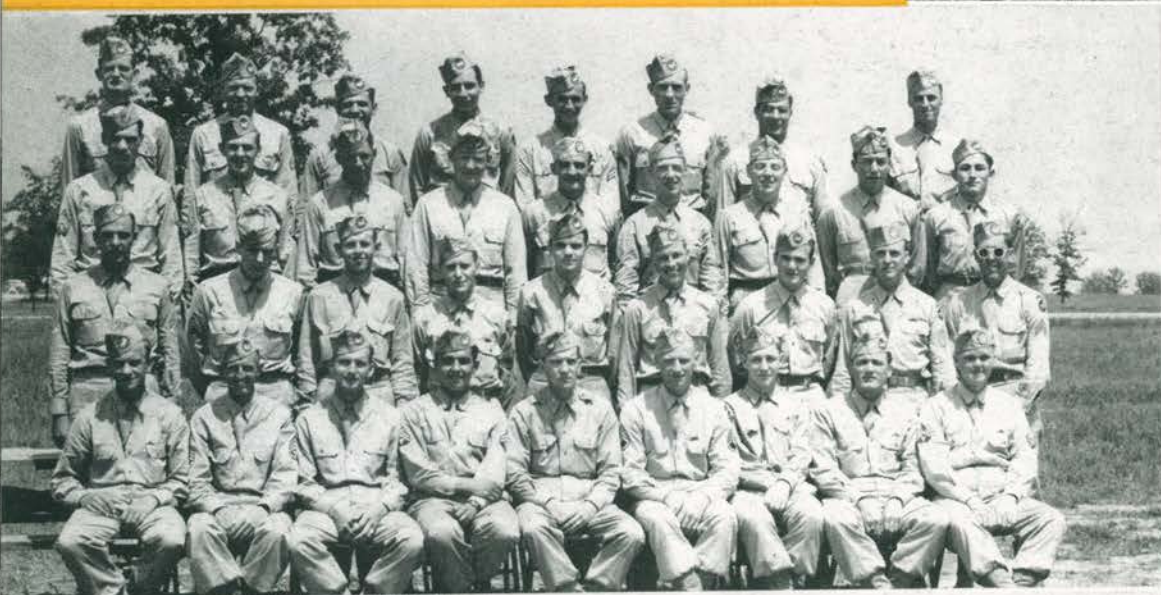
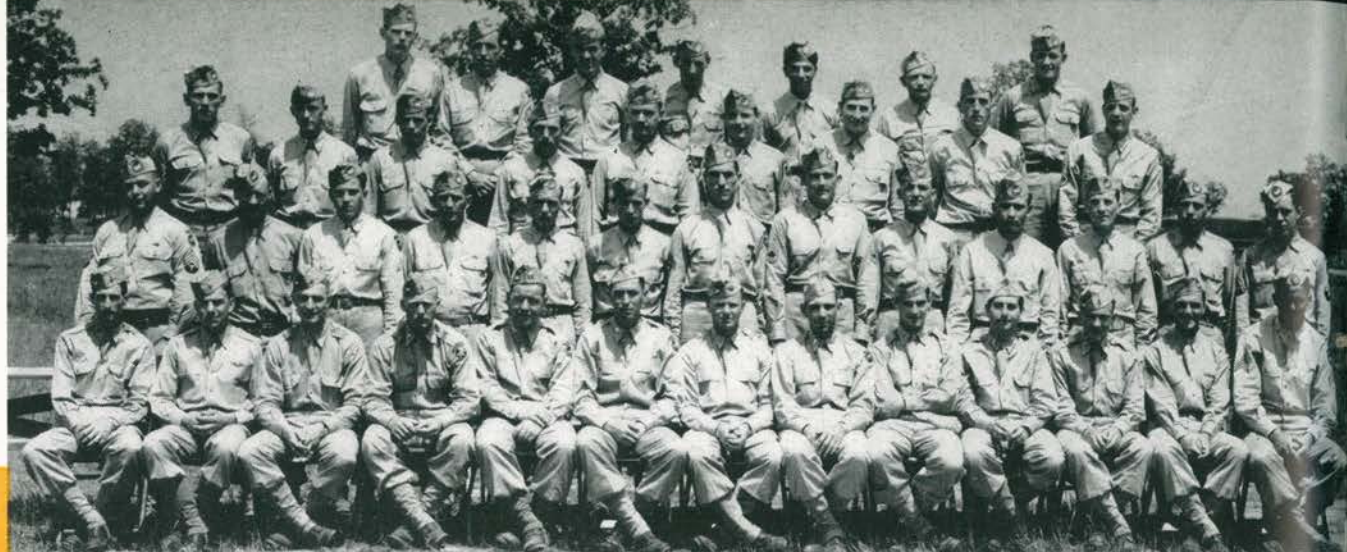


BATTERY "B"



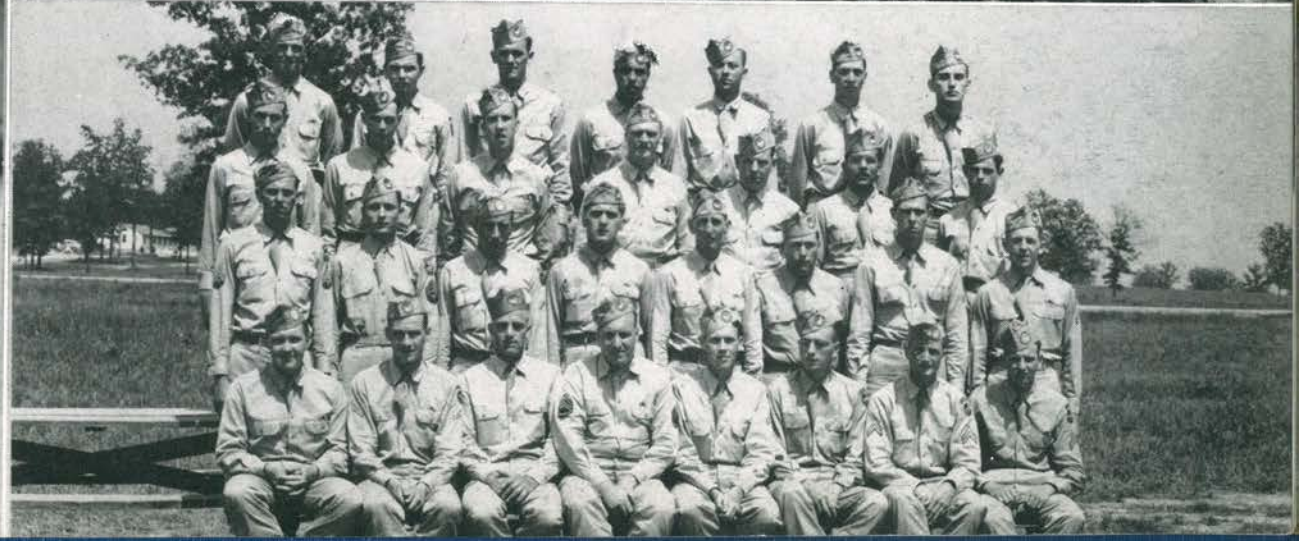
681st GLIDER FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

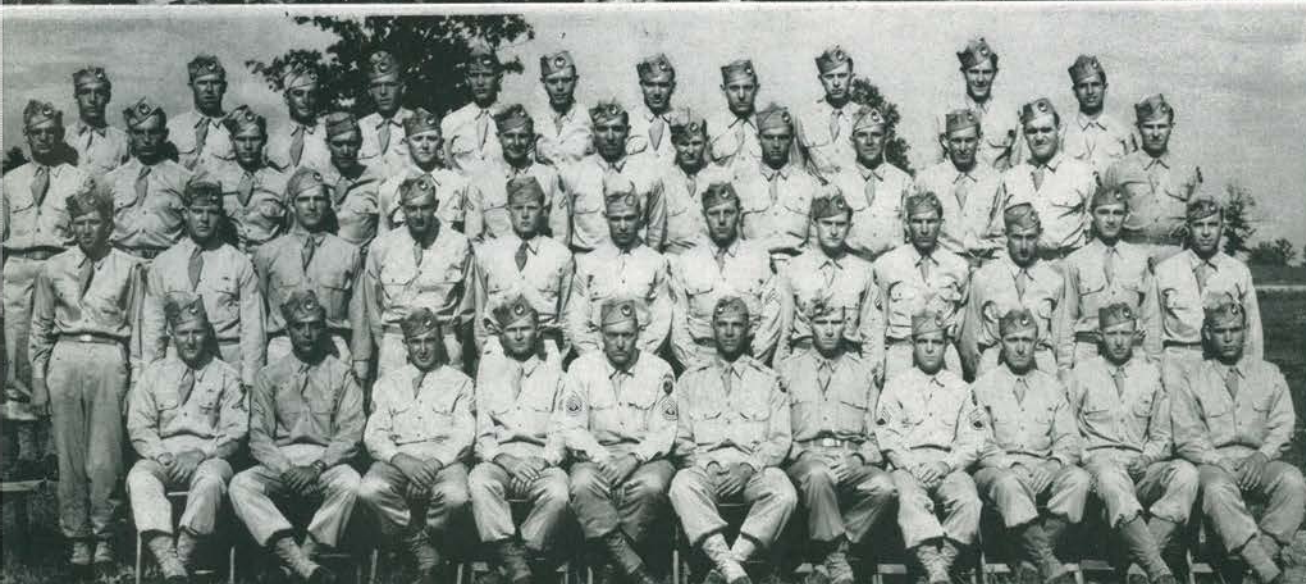
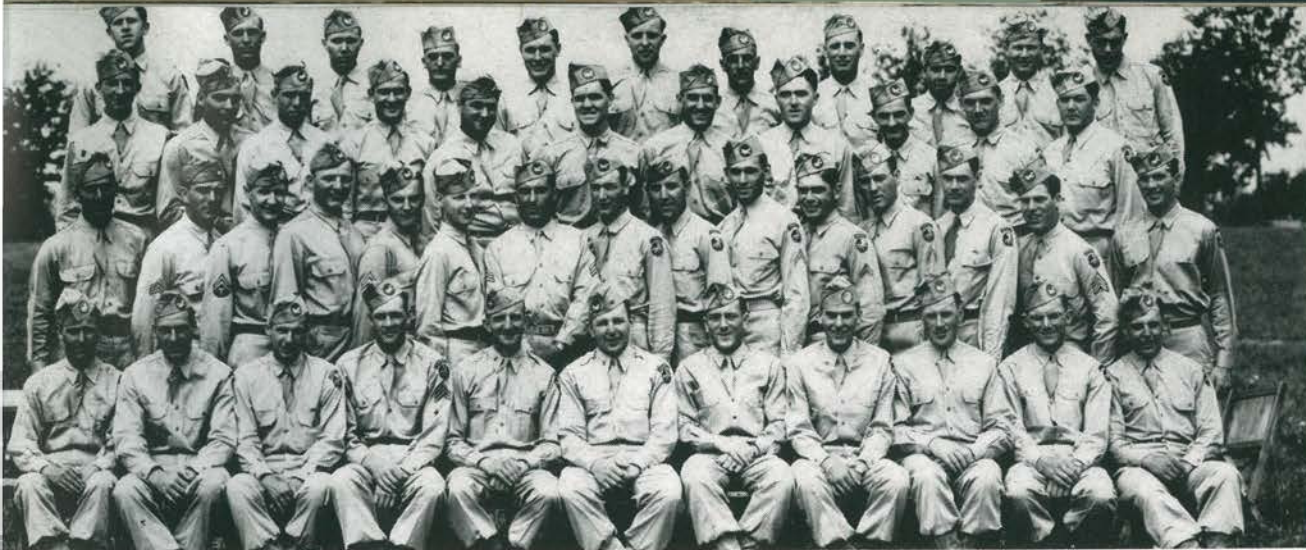
*Headquarters & Service
Battery*





BATTERY "A"



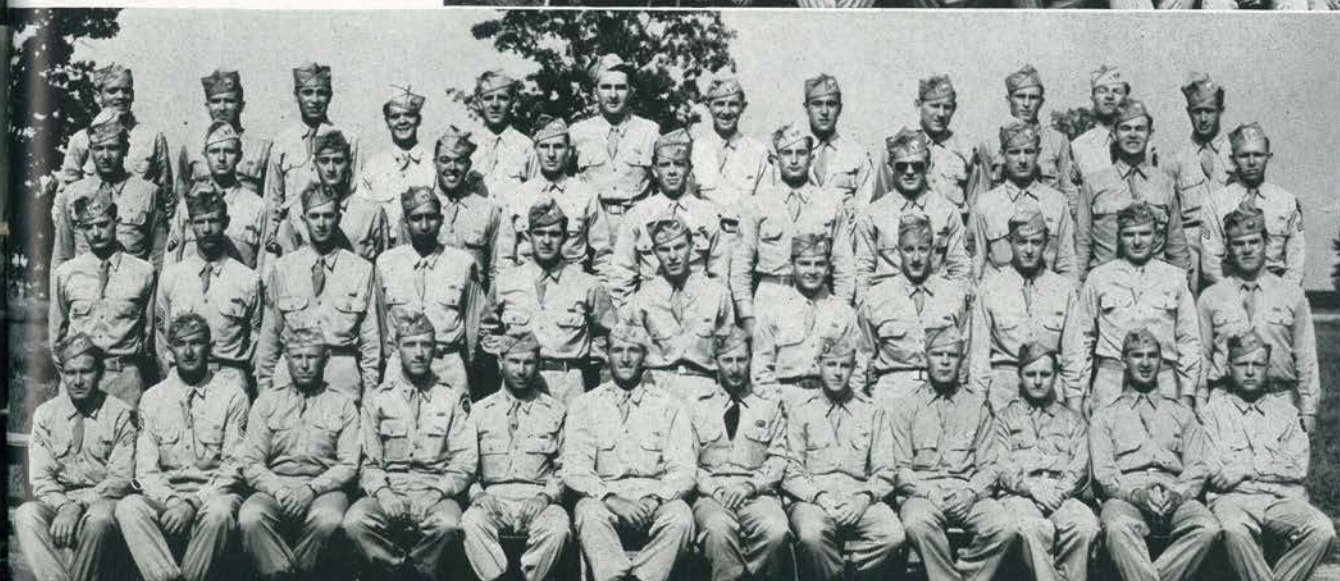


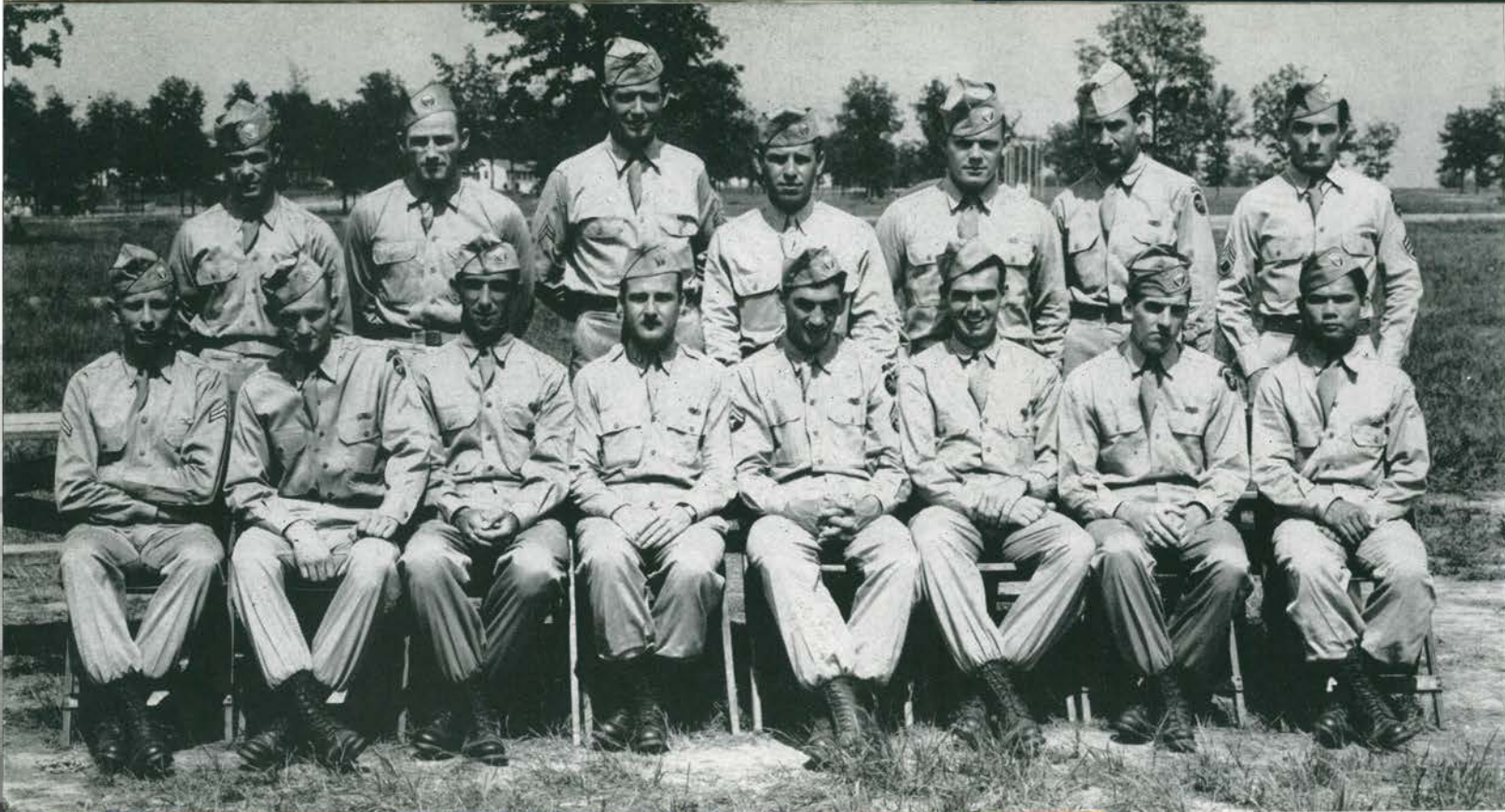
BATTERY "B"



466th PARACHUTE FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

*Headquarters
and
Service
Battery*

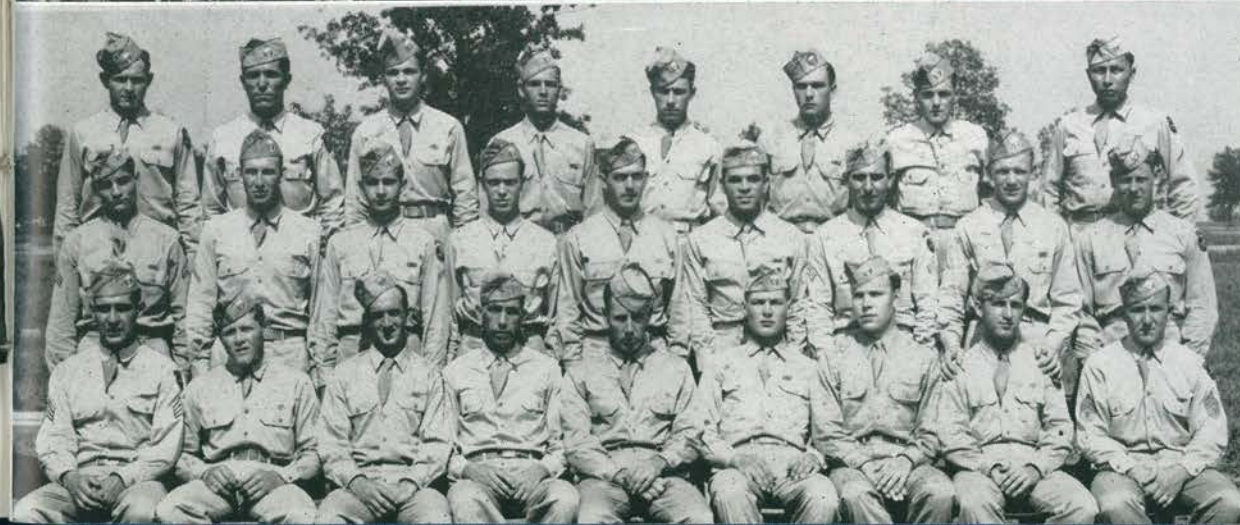
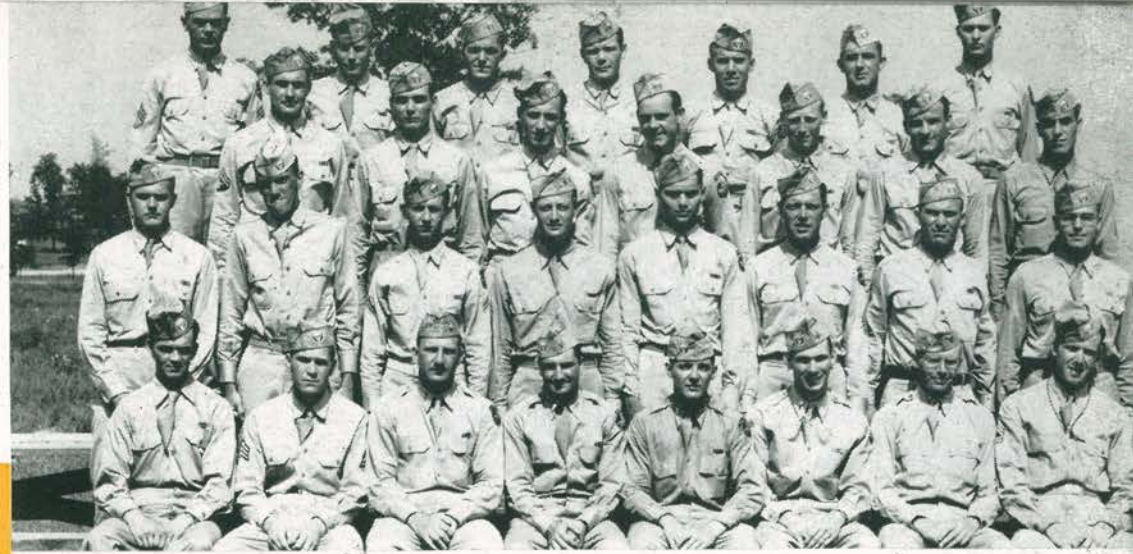




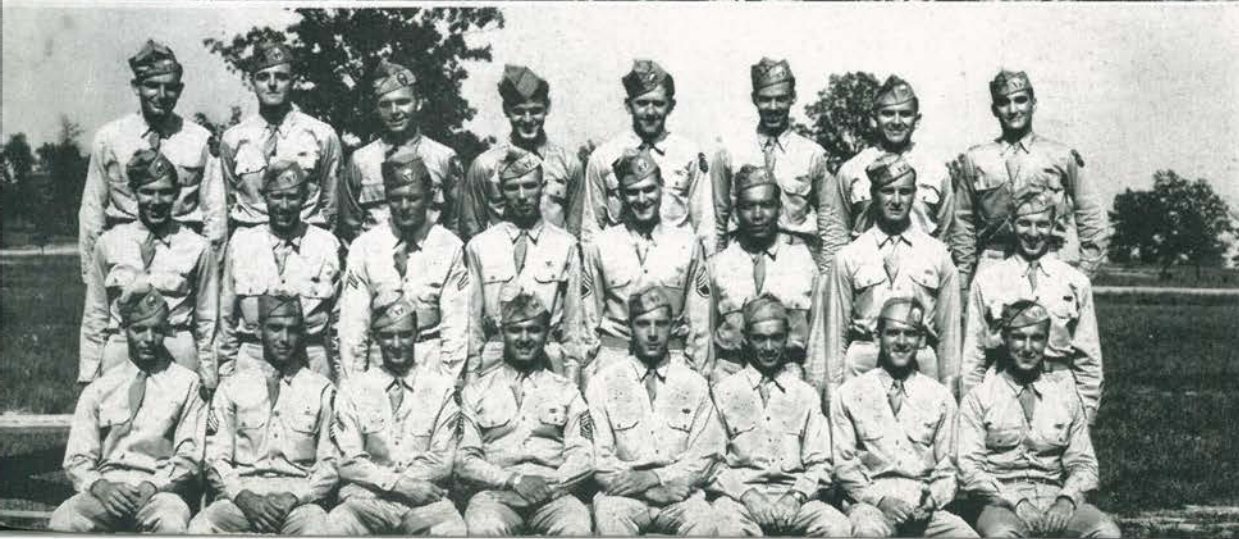
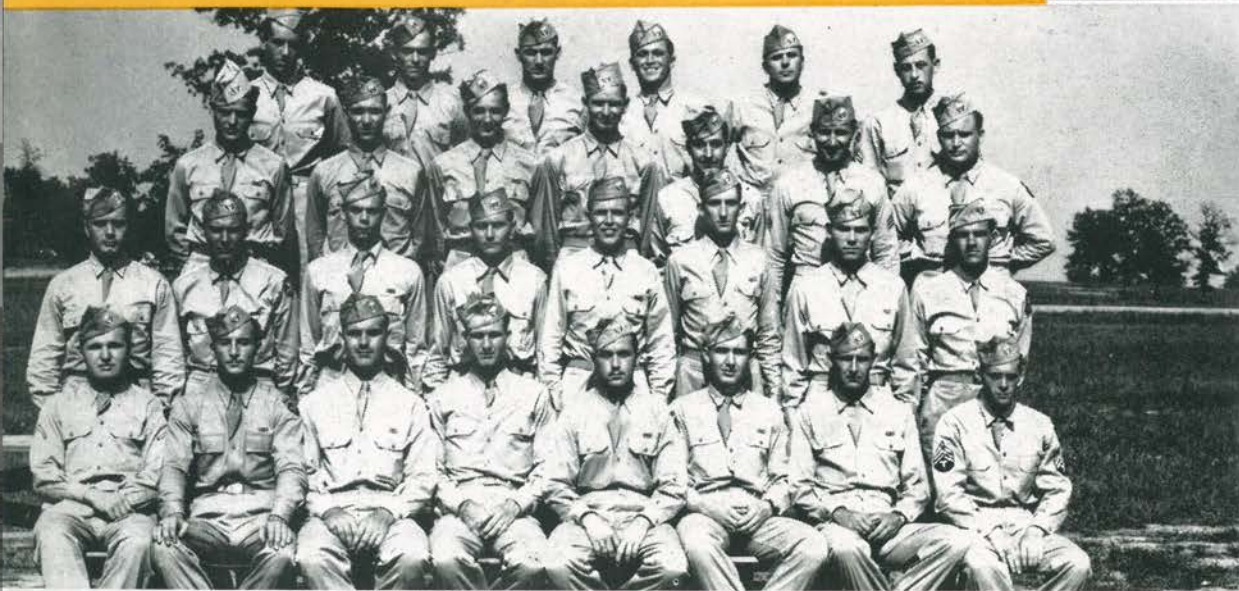
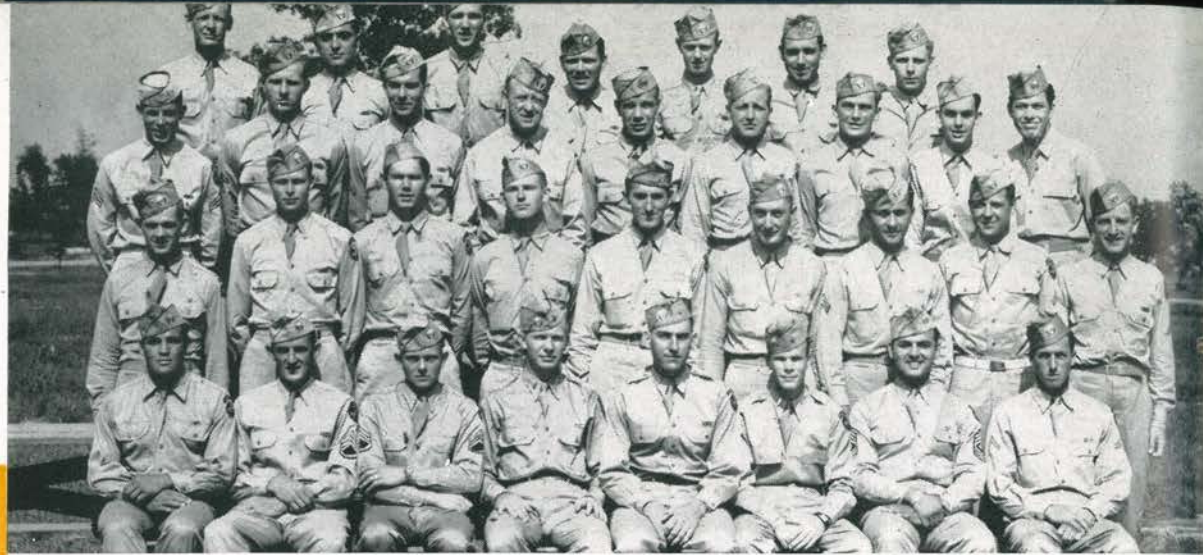
MEDICAL DETACHMENT

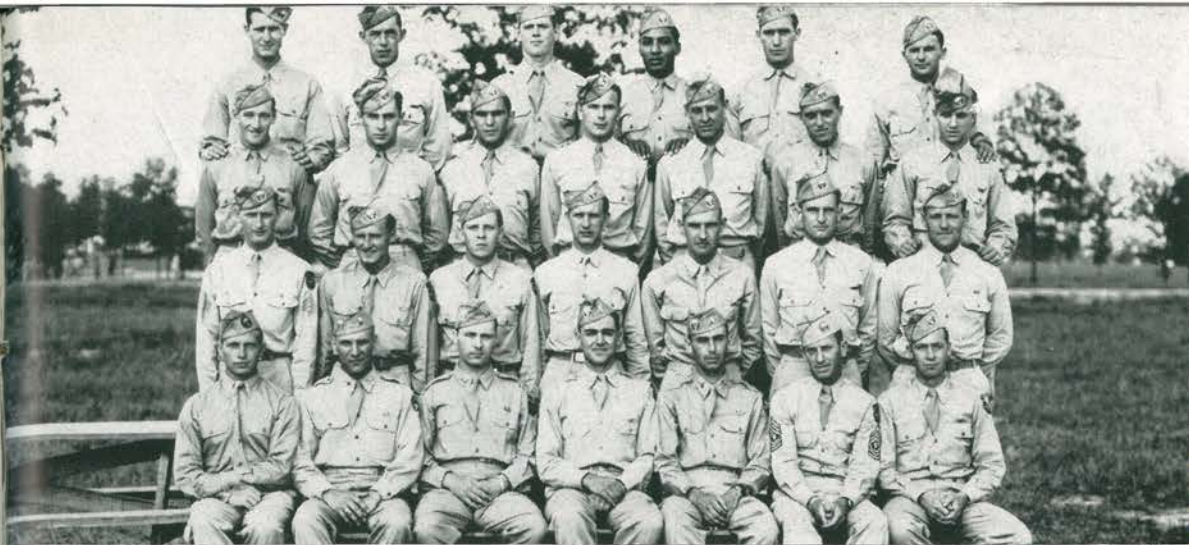


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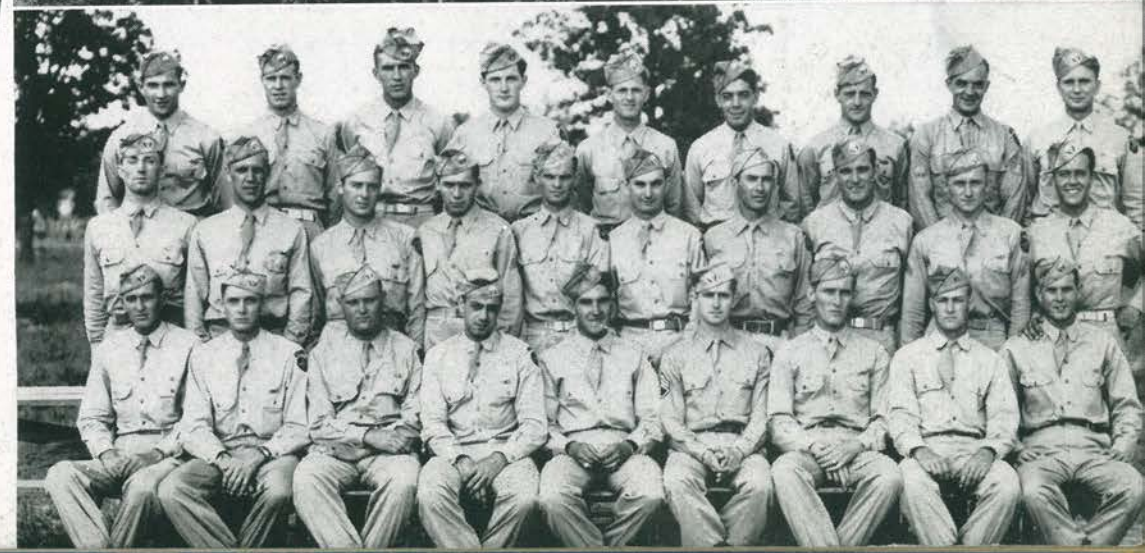
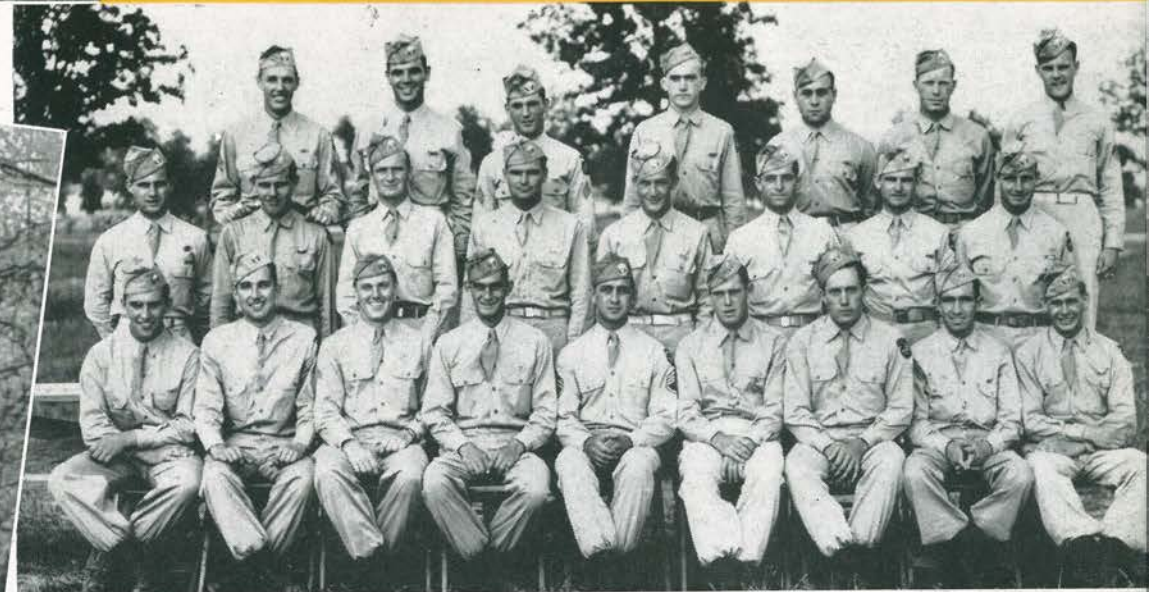


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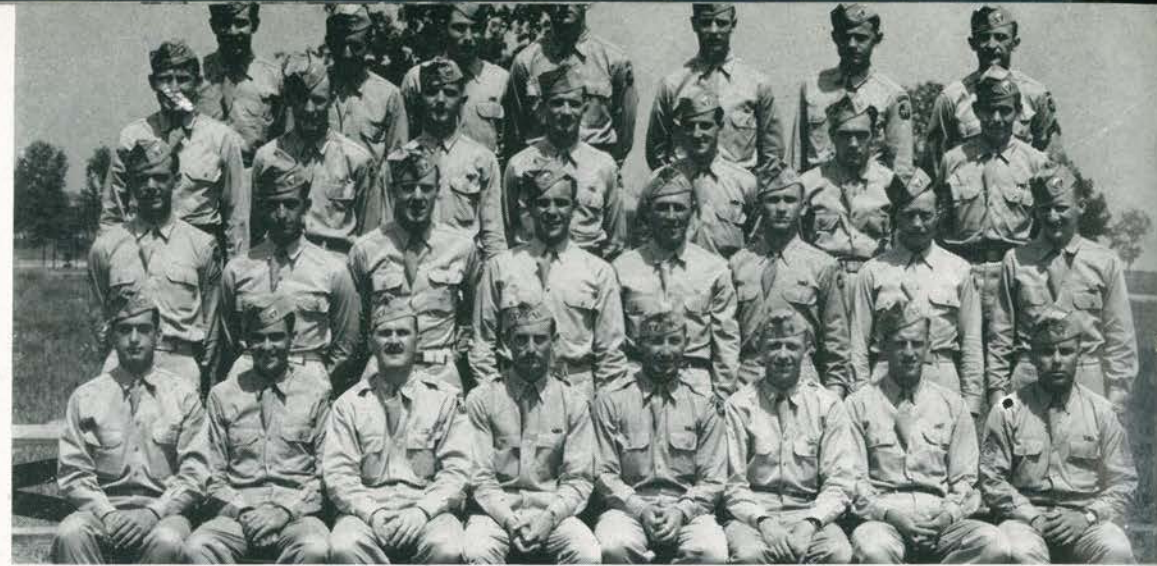


BATTERY "C"





Division Parachute School—Parachute Fall



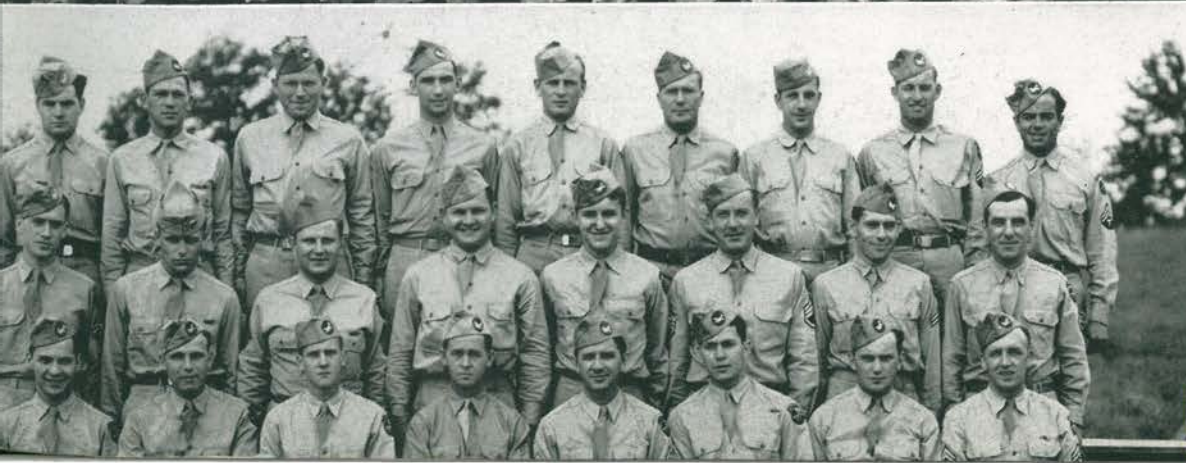
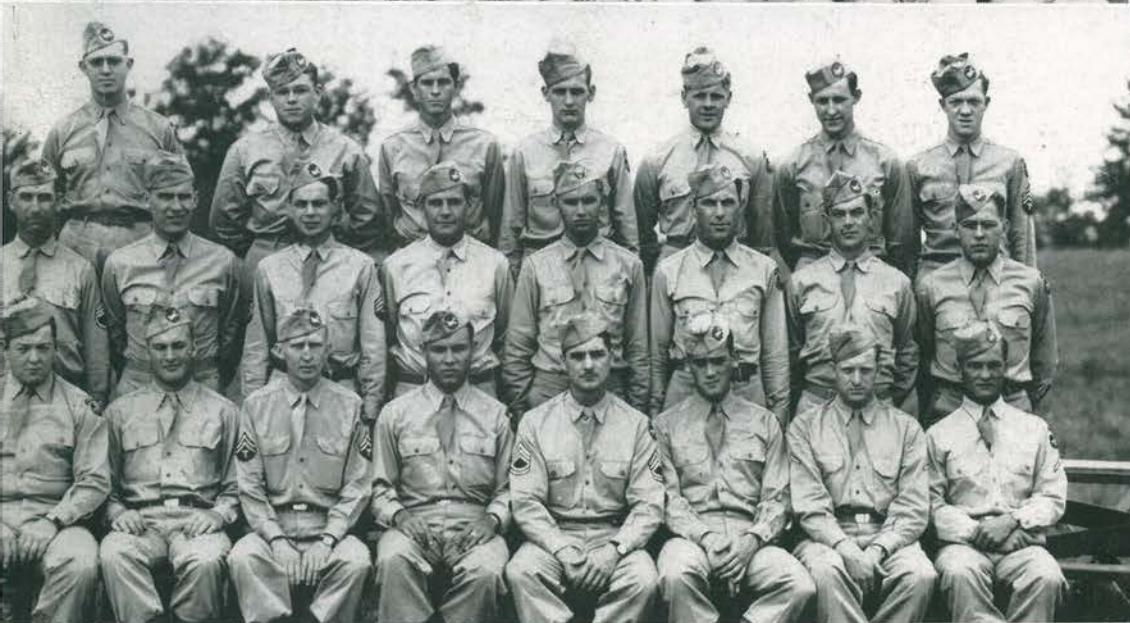
BATTERY "D"

139th AIRBORNE ENGINEER BATTALION



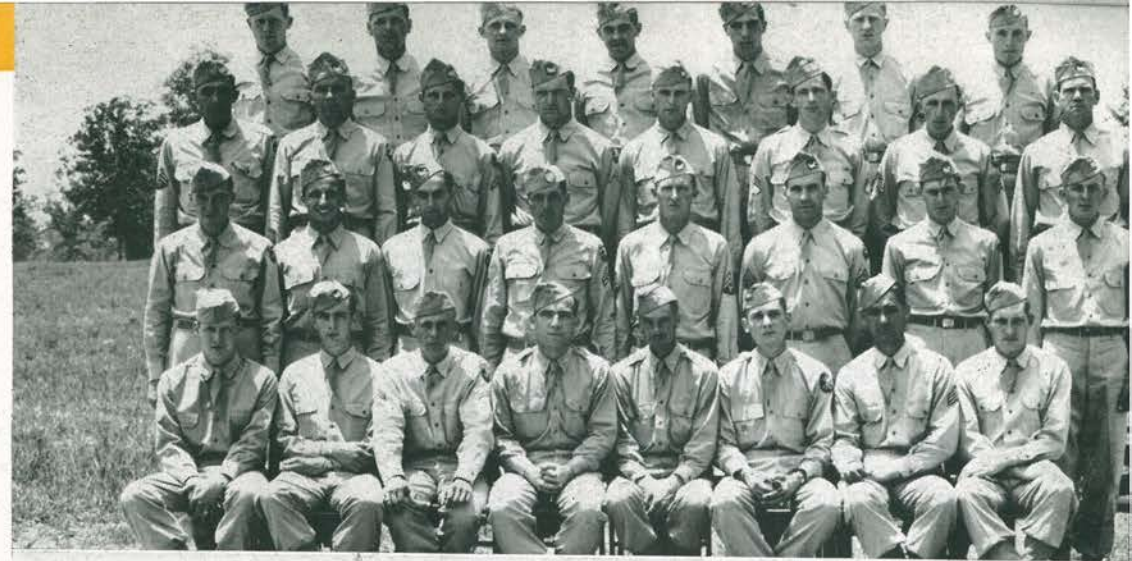
Lt. Col. Stanley T. B. Johnson
Commanding,
139th Airborne Engineer Battalion

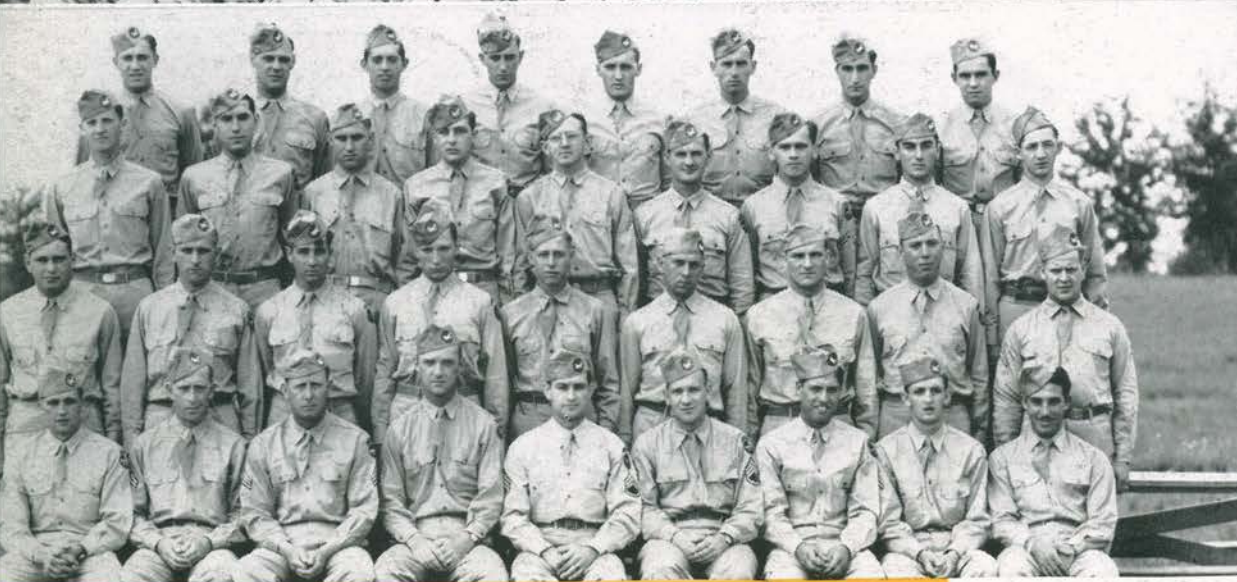
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS . . . Experts in their craft . . . dropping out of the skies to wreak destruction on supply dumps . . . bridges . . . rail lines. . . Explosives are playthings with them . . . TNT, dynamite . . . masters of them all. . . Builders, too. . . Need to ford that river?—build a bridge . . . no road?—build one . . . never say no . . . move in first. . . They don't guarantee a highway to advance on, but they'll make things a darn sight easier for you and tough for the enemy. . . Glidertroopers and Parachutists, but they're still engineers, and can prove it.



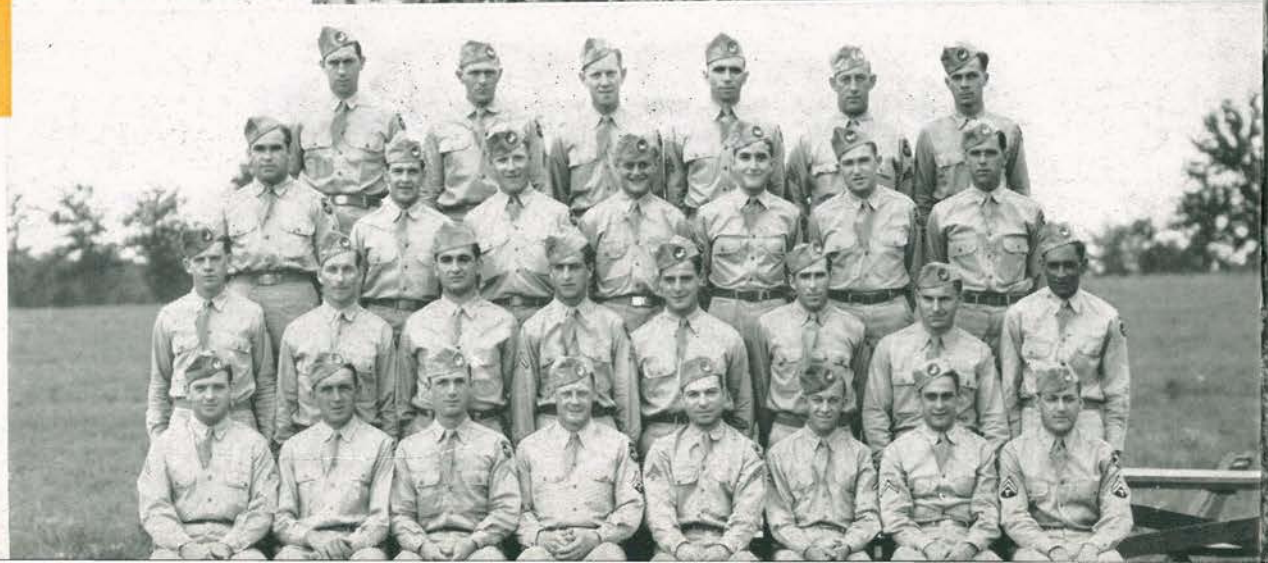
HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY

COMPANY "A"





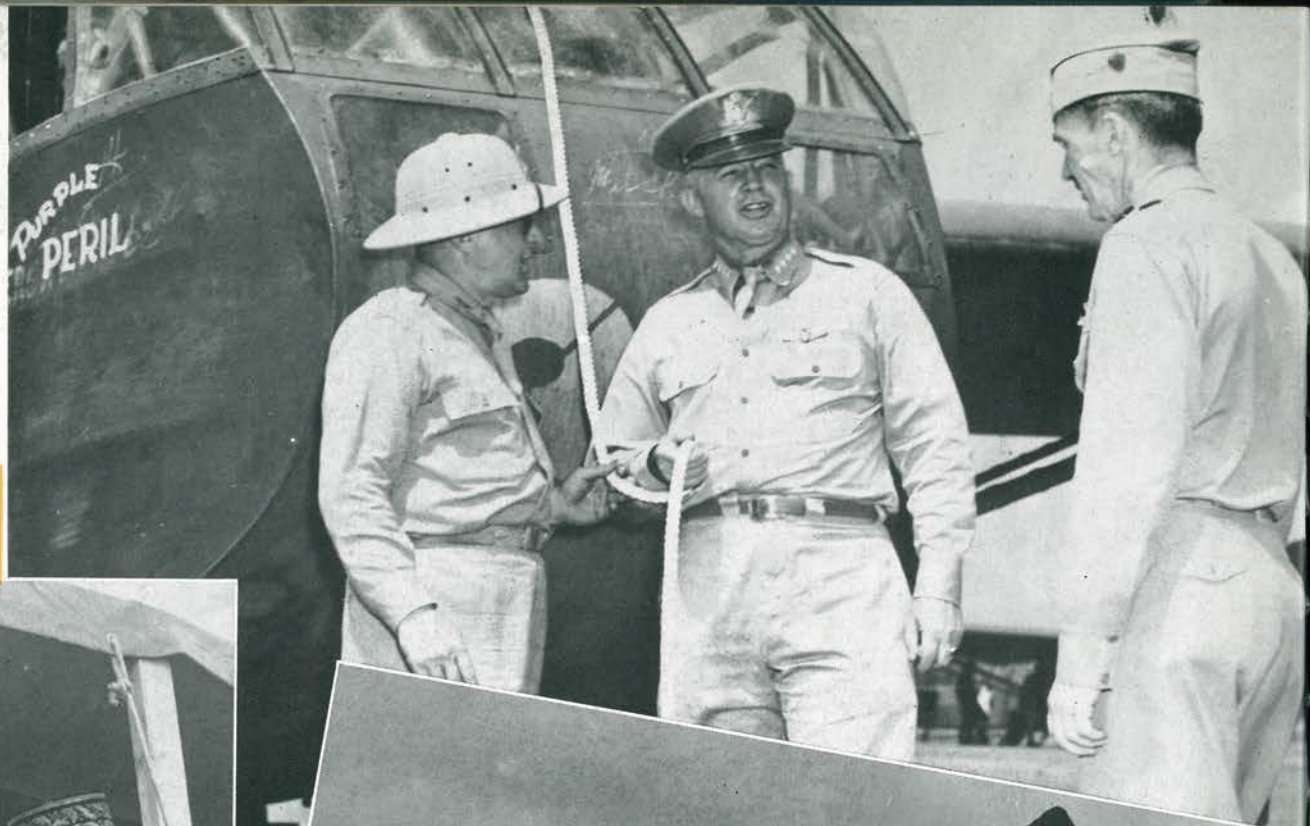
COMPANY "B"



MANEUVERS . . . we say that word almost with reverence
. . . memories of our first protracted stay in the field . . .
. . . living with cold water . . . sleeping in wet blankets . . .
. . . infiltrating to the chow lines . . . getting thoroughly ac-
quainted with the mud . . . the barracks bag press our
shoulders had . . . they're in the background now . . . but
they paved the way for the real thing to come.



17th DIVISION ON REVIEW



ANY MAIL TODAY?



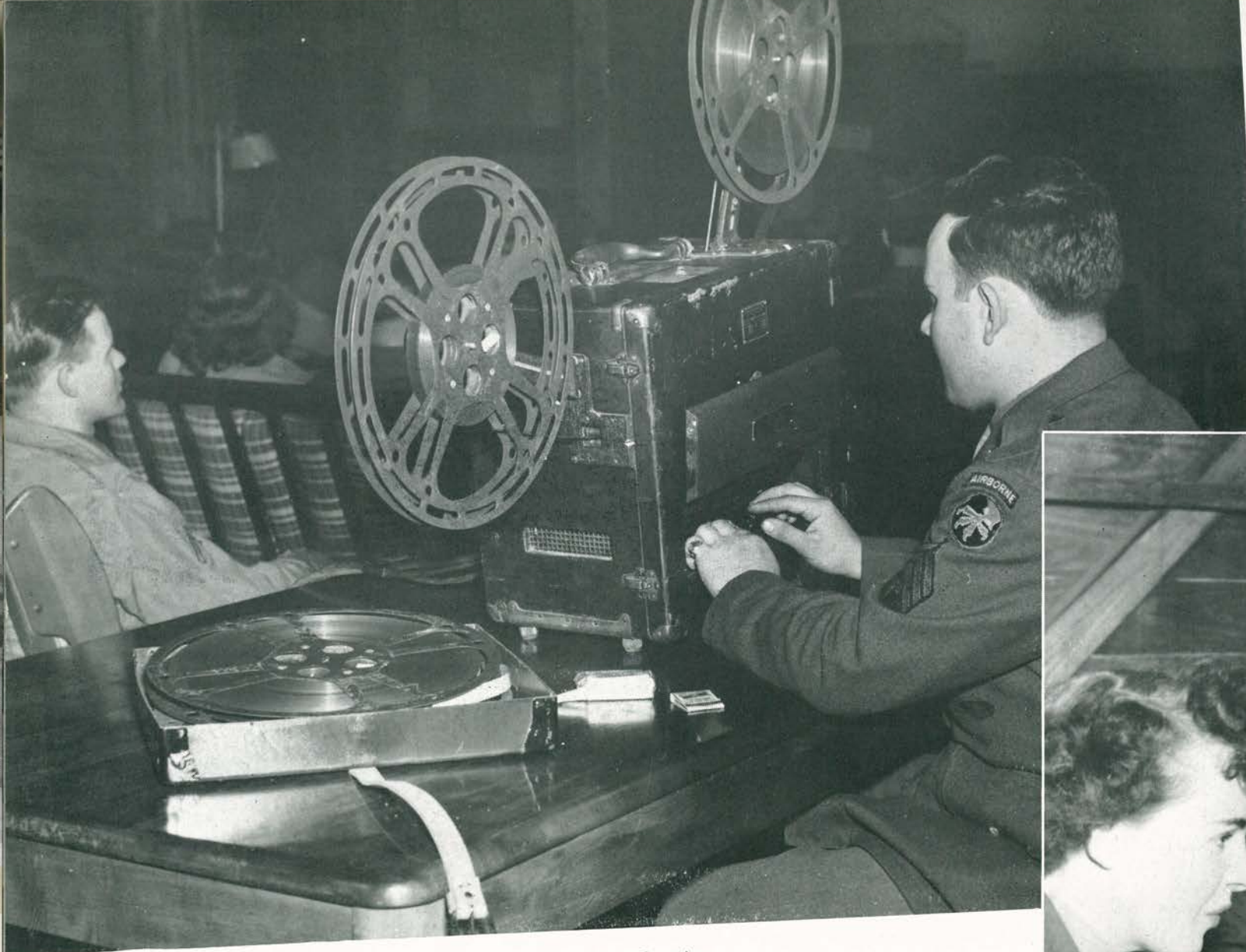
Uncle Sam's mailman . . . the most important single morale item ever . . . you see it every day. . . "No mail for me today? Yipes!" Working twenty-four hours a day, these men followed the time-honored motto: "The mail must go through!" Home . . . Nebraska, Pennsylvania . . . Louisiana . . . Iowa . . . these names roll off their tongues . . . and send the mail rolling down to you.



WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED MORALE? . . . That nebulous thing which has the marvelous ability to transform a man from an unhappy soldier to a man with a heart of steel . . . but still containing the desire to laugh. . . . It's intangible. You can't put your finger on it in so many words . . . but it's there, and good morale must be there. . . . The duties of the Special Service Officer run the gamut from A to Z . . . radio shows . . . planning dances . . . arranging transportation to football games . . . organizing and supplying sports . . . stage reviews . . . visitors . . . girls, girls, girls, and more girls for dances . . . parties . . . information bulletins . . . USO shows . . . in short, attempting the mountainous job of keeping the men happy . . . trying to bridge the gap between home and being inculcated in a new and strange environment. . . .



CAFETERIA



There will be a short pause for reel identification



SOCIETY



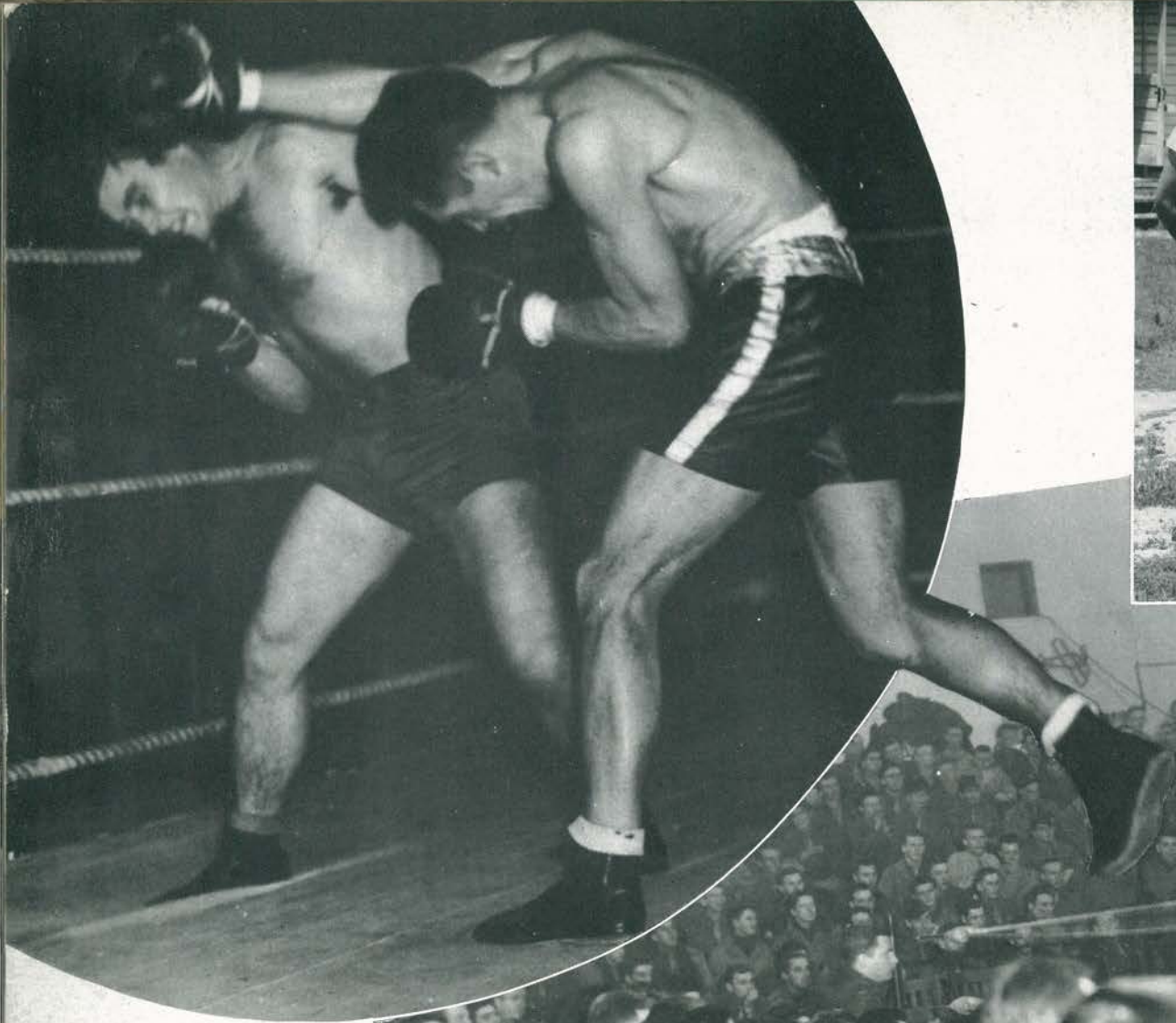
'Round and 'round she goes

THE CONSTANT



ATTRACTION





SPORTS

... Still another part of Special Service activities ... the crisp "whack" of a cleanly hit ball ... the heavy breathing and bright lights of a boxing match ... the thud of a toe against a football ... a bellowed "yer out!" ... and mingling shouts of applause and dissatisfaction. ... Sports don't have a determined place on the table of Organization of war ... but bodies and minds trained on the ball field to win are determined minds in combat ... eyes that spot a hit ball spot the enemy ... and bodies that survive a bruising tackle survive long marches and discomforts. ... Sports mean alertness ... and alertness means Airborne!

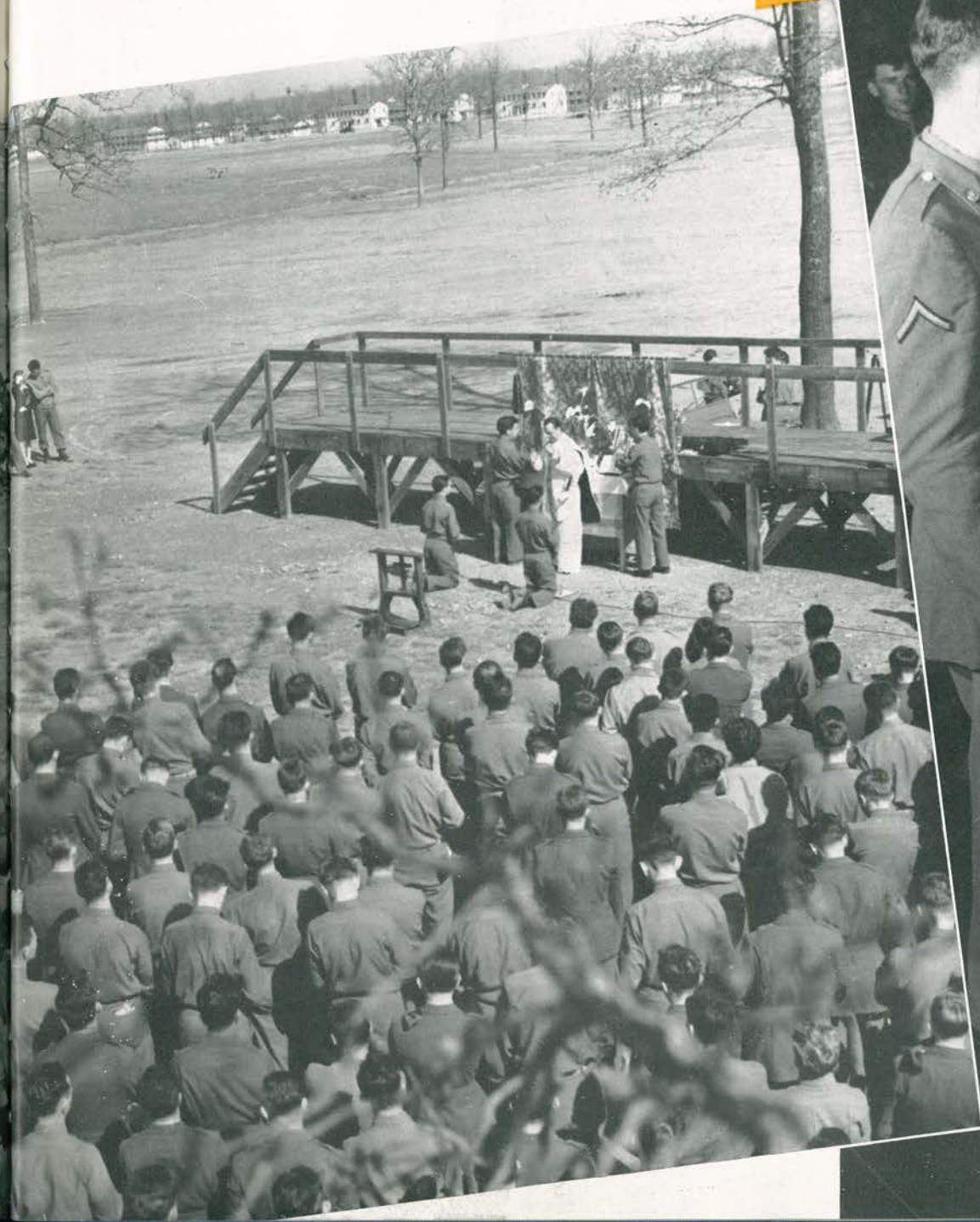


CHA



CHAPLAIN . . . a two-syllable word that introduces those men who offer us spiritual as well as material aid and guidance. . . . Religion is a non-military instinct, but revered by all army men . . . action on fields of battle long ago proved the solace offered by the Chaplain . . . and the reverence for God is in turn reflected in love for country.

AINS



RED CROSS

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Autographs



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CONTINUITY
Sgt. Vince Joyce

FRONTISPIECE AND ILLUSTRATIONS
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