THE NINETY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION PREPARES FOR COMBAT

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The Iron Men of Metz
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The Victory Division in Review

From the plains of the Middle West they came, thousands of pioneering recruits joining the ranks of the Global War’s million. The recruits were new members of the 95th Infantry Division, soldiers whose job was to learn how to kill the enemy, to learn how to keep from being killed.

There was little unusual about the new 95th—it was typical of America’s wartime combat divisions. A few weeks earlier the division’s new soldiers had been farmers, theater managers, clerks, college students, musicians. Their new jobs were just as varied. Now they were riflemen, machine-guns men, mortarmen, artillery connectors, engineers.

Yesterday they worked a four eight hour shift that it was time-after-a-half. Today they are working for a dollar-sixty-seven or a little more. Yesterday they monotonously punched a time clock. Today they are jumping to bugs and witch, slamming they knocked off at any old time for coffee and doughnuts. Today they are grasping for ten-minute breaks.

From Washington, where he had been the War Department’s G-3, came the Commanding General Maj. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle. Newly-built Camp Swift, Texas, was the birthplace of the regrouped division and on July 15, 1942, General Twaddle stepped forward to receive the 95th standard under a scorching Texas sky.

Officers had prepared at the Command and General Staff School and at various service schools, non-coms had been trained by the 7th Infantry Division. Now the 95th was ready to move into basic training. Its enlisted men looked to make full field packs, to pitch shelter tents, took their first hikes, quickly became aware of the horrors of a bugled “Revelt.”

With the end of basic training came the division’s first move. Fort Sam Houston was the destination and the KY shoulder patch soon became a common place in San Antonio.

But Fort Sam Houston became a city, reared from the rocky crags of the Leon Springs Military Reservation, Camp Bowie, Goliad, Panther Springs, South, Seale and Wilder Camps housed 95th units more often than did San Antonio. Training was in high gear and river crossing training, the physical fitness course, the live combat course, the ranges and the “D Section” became household words with the 95th.

Then came Louisiana and the longest trial of simulated combat to date. Ninety-five troops need no history to remember the rainswept Louisiana’s ultramarine dust and rain, the state’s soldier-crowded towns during the breaks, the “Walters” which ranged across a half dozen parishes.

Assignment to Camp Polk followed the maneuver, and the 95th became the first infantry division to be stationed at the command center. Camp Polk meant re-relaxation in training as with pushin’ hard on a new program, softened only by post-maneuver frolics. The troops settled down to their third garrison station.

Division personnel had seriously learned their way around the new post before the 95th was again on the move, this time to the California desert. With the desert came more hard work, more intense training for combat-as-usual.

After the desert, what next? The specific location isn’t important. What’s important is the 95th’s collective attitude. The attitude is a healthy one, an outlook which indicates that the 95th’s personnel will follow the division standard wherever it may go with a will—will to win battle to the enemy, with a will to win with an objective which underlines return to the American way of things the troopers knew when they were farmers, theater managers, clerks, college students, musicians.

Harry L. Twaddle
Major General, U.S.A.
Commanding

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The Special Staff

The General Staff

The General and Special Staff—the Commanding General's administrative and tactical arms. Too many are the tasks of a division commander for the successful accomplishment of these tasks by one individual.

Thus, General Staff responsibility is divided into four sections, headed by the chief of staff. The assistant chief of staff, G-1, is charged with personnel administration; the assistant chief of staff, G-2, handles military intelligence and all matters pertaining thereto; the responsibilities of the assistant chief of staff, G-3, are concerned with the huge task of plans and training; the assistant chief of staff, G-4, is responsible for the division's supply.

The Special Staff is concerned with directing particular portions of the General staff work.

Maj. William H. Stubbs
A. C. of 5, G-1

Lt. Col. John E. Carter
A. C. of 5, G-2

Maj. Dobson E. McStay
A. C. of 5, G-3

Lt. Col. Clarence H. Mackey
A. C. of 5, G-4

The Special Staff

Lt. Col. F. L. Barllette
Chemical Officer

Lt. Col. H. E. Hinesfield
Personnel Officer

Lt. Col. J. O. Pratt
Quartermaster

Lt. Col. G. B. Shuman
Ordinance Officer

Lt. Col. E. L. Clute
Surgent

Lt. Col. W. L. Sleigh
Judge Advocate General

Lt. Col. R. R. Hoover
Assistant Adjutant

Lt. Col. W. C. Snider
Engineer

Maj. H. L. Ramsey
Signal Officer

Maj. J. H. Connors
Finance Officer

Maj. O. P. Miller
Special Service Officer

Maj. J. E. Finney
Federal Marshal

The 94th Division's General Staff section at work in the S. E. Left to right are: Lieutenant Colonel Moore, A. C. of 5, G-2; Major H. G. of 5, G-3; Col. G. R. T. Moore, Chief of Staff; Lieutenant Colonel Moore, A. C. of 5, G-2; and Major H. G. of 5, G-3.
Activation and Camp Swift

The 95th Infantry Division was first set up by a War Department order issued in 1916, was only about half-mobilized with the end of World War I. After that the 95th was a fancy mobilization plan in a filing cabinet in Reserve Headquarters, Oklahoma City. General Twaddle put it well at the division’s activation when he said, “The history of this division is still to be made.”

The 95th moved into Camp Swift before the carpenters and plumbers had completely moved out. Even after the activation necessary troop trains continued to pour in with new troops who quickly got under way with the business which best holds Camp Swift in 95th memories—basic training.

The activation parade of the new 95th soldiers was something to write home about. Brand new to the army, they passed in review before their commanding general with the best military bearing they could master in uniforms that still didn’t fit.

It was at Swift that 95th troops became acquainted with the casul, steccato sound of a hundred and fifty rifles blasting away on the range, and the painful looking puffs of dust the bullets kicked up way out beyond the butts. They learned, too, of the dear, brassy notes of a bugle, the eloquent, casual profanity of a hard-bitten sergeant, a terrible-tempered colonel, the cadenced tramp of marching feet, sleepy men stumbling out to reveille in the gray of dawn.

Camp Swift memories include the division-wide Armistice Day track and field meet, the division’s first C.P.E. and field work, “Miss America’s” appearance and the week-end trips to Austin and other neighboring towns.
Fort Sam Houston

Fort Sam Houston? Well, the A.P.O. was located there, but most of the troops saw
more of the post's distant field camps than they did of the famed old army center.

It's all been told before. A thousand men marching a thousand miles down the
Military Highway that curves away to Bells. A staff sergeant reading "Ulysses" by the
yellow light of a Coleman lantern. Solace, sunburned faces, and a chaplain's organ
whoozing out a hymn high up on the side of Krause Hill. Boredom, loneliness, asking
furt. A million fox holes dug over the whole Leon Springs Reservation, and every diamond
one of them filled in again.

But most 95th troops remember Leon Springs best for its notoriety as a convening
ground of ticks, chiggers and parallel items ofsoldier-torture.
Fort Sam Houston

The Fort Sam Houston intern was all hard work—almost. Every other weekend—sometimes officer—the troops actually garrisoned at Fort Sam. That meant bus trips to downtown San Antonio during off-duty hours, ribbings allow to the city’s Spanish-flavored smen-terias, gondola rides on the meandering San Antonio River, Sunday visits to the vast Breckenridge Park.

Fort Sam Houston mirrors the reviews and parades when the whole division, with all its guns and all its vehicles and all its men, swept down Arthur MacArthur Field while the bands blared and the flags flapped in the soft Texas wind.

Fort Sam was the port at which half of the division’s personnel lived in permanent barracks, in between the unit and combined training at Bulis and camps north. Fort Sam was famed for its smooth moving towns, its elaborate PX, a Hollywood-like swimming pool and theater, a myriad of Texas belles at every hand.

Fort Sam Houston was such a place as the 95th has not seen since.
Maneuvres and Camp Polk

The advance party arrived in the Louisiana maneuver area in mid-June, and their findings were confirmed a hundred-fold as problems unwound over the two-month period.

The dust was so dense that troops became camouflaged by nature. They prayed for rain, and the rains came. Then they prayed for dust. There was nothing stationary about the problems, a twenty-mile foot movement in a single day being the norm. And maneuvers developed into a continuous two-month deal rather than an eight-hour-a-day affair.

Fox holes, long beards, no baths, soldier-jammed restaurants during the breaks, a lonely GI writing to the girl back home as he sits on the trails of a camouflaged howitzer. They were all part of maneuvers.

Camp Polk was next on the 95th itinerary, a month and a half pause between the field work of Louisiana and California for post-maneuver training. Furloughs glimmered, service clubs and theaters became a part of GI life again, inspections, drills, parades and other conventional signs of garrison life came to light again at Polk.

But the stay was a short one. Barracks bags seemed to come off trucks from the maneuver area one day, only to be thrown over soldier backs the next as troops boarded California-bound trains.
The Desert

A big yellow moon swelled up behind a barren California rock-veined mountain. Rows of tents were shadowed against the desert sand. A kid was sleeping "All Or Nothing At All" as he waved corporal stripes on his fatigues. The monotonous grumble of convoy trudge filtered through the new corporal's song. The 95th Division was training in the California desert.

The toughest training task yet, the 95th thought the desert. Twenty-five mile marches through foot-yielding sand, a close kinship with canvas water bags and canned rations, five-mile distant mountains that were actually thirty miles away, Movie stars at the Desert Victory Bowl and dances with Betty Grable and fellow troopers highlighting furloughs to Los Angeles.

The desert's contrasting temperatures, which effected a rear strip-to-the-waist policy in the daytime, a cry for more blankets at night, were a strange enigma of seasons. The Hercules gets of desert wind seemed to be pushing the 95th toward its eventual combat mission. The sand-camouflaged vehicles and the week-end convoys to nearby resort cities were two more reminders of the desert for 95th troops.
Entertainment

"Give me a thousand men who have been entertained rather than ten thousand who have had no entertainment." General John J. Pershing was speaking, and by the measure of his own rule the 93rd should be a pride outfit in the general’s eyes.

Field meet picture shows set up along the winding Mahtakong Trail at Bullis, the chant of a half-dozen Hawaiian soldiers entertaining their huddled buddies on a cool desert night, the croaky, brassy fives of a unit variety show cracking the still of a Louisiana night during a maneuver problem break, the soldier-throngs that swelled the open-air Desert Victory Bowl when Hollywood’s gangsters and vocalists stepped off the screen to entertain the division— they were all a part of what was sandwiched between days and nights of tough training.
The Division's Sports

If the 95th Division is typical of an American wartime combat unit, its personnel must necessarily be typical of the American way of things. And the American way of things calls for plenty of sports. The 95th must be typical, then, because the division is as keen and able in the way of sports—as all sports—as the scrappy American sandalfeet.

Highlight of the division’s sports accomplishments was the co-championship basketball team in the Army Service League at San Antonio. But basketball team was only one of the indications. Inter-unit competitions in baseball, softball, volleyball, swimming, rough football, boxing and basketball were as keenly fought as well by the
377th Infantry Regiment

The story of the 377th Infantry isn’t a difficult one to tell. It’s like all of the army’s regiments of infantry, and the army has lots of them. Today, they all have the same eventual mission, a fire-fight mission. To date, the 377th’s mission, like other of the 95th Division regiments, has been training, but the training has been aimed at the final mission of combat with the intent of keeping pace with the regimental motto, “Onward.”

Beginning at activation with Col. Francis A. Woolley as commander, the 377th passed through the normal training routines for organizations of its size, did not receive its regimental colors until the division moved to Fort Sam Houston.

At Fort Sam Houston, also, Colonel Woolley left the regiment, was soon promoted to brigadier general. Col. Fred E. Gaillard, formerly of the division staff, assumed command of the regiment. Lt. Col. George H. Bishop, formerly the division’s A. C. of S., G-3, became executive officer during the Louisiana maneuvers.

Division baseball champions at Camp Swift, the 377th was further staked as an able athletic aggregate when the unit won the Armistice Day track and field meet at Camp Swift.
378th Infantry Regiment

"Sir, we accept these colors and will be glad to follow them anywhere you wish to send them."

With this terse comment, Col. Samuel L. Williams received the blue and gold colors of the 378th Infantry from the hands of the division commander on the Camp Bueche parade ground.

Since that August afternoon, the regiment's history has not been written in newspaper headlines or war communiques, no battle streamers yet fly from the regimental colors. The regiment's days—and nights—have been filled with the intensive training that has prepared it for combat. Three regimental commanders of the 378th have graduated to general officer rank. The first of these, Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones, was called from Fort Benning, Ga., before the 95th's activation. The second in line was Col. Allmon J. Barnett, now a brigadier general. Col. Samuel T. Williams, the 378th's third commanding officer, left the 95th at Fort Sam Houston and is also now a brigadier general.

Col. Samuel L. Metcalfe is the regiment's current commander, aided by Lt. Col. Harold L. Roys, executive officer.

The Cheyenne Indian motto, "Hilis Kolis," translates to "Stand Firm." Members of the peacetime Reserve regiment were from Southeastern Oklahoma.
379th Infantry Regiment

“A regiment famous for its 95th Division ‘grit,’” a 379th officer once remarked concerning his unit. The officer was speaking of the 379th’s top division percentage in the Eighth Corps physical fitness tests at Fort Sam Houston. He was speaking of the regiment’s top division honors in the War Bond drive at Camp Polk, of the fact that a 379th enlisted man won the division newspaper’s contest to select a division nickname—“Victory Division”—of the fact that a 379th enlisted man’s sweetheart won the Journal’s contest to name a “Miss Victory Division.”

Commanded first by Col. Martin C. Mantle, who left the regiment during the Louisiana maneuvers, the unit is currently led by Col. Clifford P. Chapman. Lt. Col. Aubrey W. Allen is the unit’s executive officer.

Builders of Camp Cibola on the Leon Springs Military Reservation, the unit has pushed hard to uphold its motto, “To the End.”
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Division Artillery Staff

Division Artillery—the big guns of an infantry division. But what job does Division Artillery perform? Any artilleryman can answer that question on one look.

Support the infantry—a three-word definition of the artillery mission that tells the whole story. By use of its enormous fire power the artillery helps the infantry reach its objective, to move forward when such movement might otherwise be prohibited.

The artillery lays no claim to being able to fight alone. Its job is to render the enemy helpless, to pin him down so that he cannot move, cannot bring fire to bear on advancing doughboys. The artillery effects its job through the ability to rapidly shift its vast fire power to a new location as the demand necessitates, the thing which enemy artillery has not yet perfected.

Commanded since activation by Brig. Gen. Ward H. Merri, 95th Division’s Artillery is in the executive officer Col. William R. Philp.

Highlights of Division Artillery’s training include the range firing for the Brooks Field Army Air Force Observers School while at Camp Swift, the trek to Camp Bowie for the second of its series of A.O.F. firing tests, the California desert with its natural range potentials.
920th Field Artillery Battalion

Camp Swift, Texas, September, 1942. Twelve 105 mm. howitzers roared for the first time as the 920th Field Artillery Battalion rolled into training's high gear.

Commanded from activation until early in 1943 by Lt. Col. Lindsay R. Wingfield, the 920th is now commanded by Lt. Col. E. G. Hickman, won top 95th Division Artillery honors in the first of the A.G.P. tests given at the Lese Springs Military Reservation.

The artillery member of the 377th combat team, the 920th is one of the division's three battalions of light howitzers, will front the medium weapons of the 360th Field Artillery Battalion in combat.

358th Field Artillery Battalion

Originally organized in June, 1921, as the 358th Field Artillery Regiment, an organized reserve unit, the 358th Field Artillery Battalion became such at the 95th Division's activation in 1942, with Lt. Col. Edward O. Hopkins in command.

Late in September, 1942, Sgt. Woodrow Spears fired the first round of 105 mm. ammunition. Basic training was completed and the unit was under way with its artillery training which would eventually make of it a combat organization.

During the middle of the Louisiana maneuvers, Lt. Col. Alexander R. Sewall, veteran of Guadalcanal fighting, became commander of the 358th, replacing Colonel Hopkins who had left the division earlier.
360th Field Artillery Battalion

"There go the big guns!" That's the comment from the average 95th trooper when he sees the 155-mm howitzers of the 360th Field Artillery Battalion roll by.

As far as the 95th is concerned, the comment is correct. The 360th's weapons are the biggest guns in the division, weigh four and a half tons, throw a hundred-pound high explosive shell more than 10,000 yards. But the "beavers" of the division are technically known as the "mediums."

Served by a ten-man crew, the 155's are towed by four-ton prime movers, are man-handled by the crew as far as the direction of the piece and minor adjustments are concerned. Normally the mission of the 155's is to provide general support for the Division as a whole and reinforcement of the fire of the light battalions. A favorite mission is counterbattery fire on the hostile artillery.

Originally commanded by Lt. Col. Henry P. Gaue, the 360th is now the command of Lt. Col. Walter F. Ulmer.

359th Field Artillery Battalion

Like all of the divisional units, the 359th Field Artillery Battalion was activated at Camp Swift, Texas, in mid-July of 1943, has seen three permanent changes of station, successfully completed the "Battle of Bullis" and the Louisiana maneuvers, came to the California desert to polish off its combat training.

There is little that concerns one battalion of the 95th's artillery that does not concern them all. They all went through the rigors of the A.G.T. battalion tests at Bullis and Camp Bowie, they all went through the norm of an artillery battalion's pre-combat training.

Mid-way in the division stay at Camp Polk, Lt. Col. Roy A. Carter, 359th commander since activation, left the division, was followed by Maj. Edward W. Watkins as commanding officer.
320th Engineer Battalion

Remember the Camp Swift obstacle course, the assault tactics at Bullis, the field work of the improvised river crossing tactics at Segoue, the mine field school at Camp Polk, the combat villages “Branstown” and “Kuhrieville”?

The 320th Engineer Battalion taught them all, operated most of them.

The prime combat mission of the 320th Engineers is two-fold. The unit is charged with facilitating the advance of division combat troops, and that task applies to the enemy, in reverse, as it is the engineer’s job to impede in every way possible the advance of the opposing forces.

Currently commanded by Lt. Col. James I. Crowther, who has headed the 320th Engineers since late in 1942, the unit was first commanded by Lt. Col. Iain B. Rohrer.

The French “Essayons” is the motto of the battalion, translates to “Let Us Try.”

320th Medical Battalion

The only unit in the 95th Division which is entirely unarméd, by international law, the 320th Medical Battalion is a unit which has been important to division personnel throughout the 95th’s history and will increase in importance a hundred-fold in contact.

Technically known as a second echelon medical service unit, the division’s medical battalion is itself subdivided into three tiers. At the top is the Headquarters Detachment, responsible for medical supply to all units of the division.

Next in line is the Clearing Company whose function is to receive, treat, hospitalize and evacuate where necessary all division casualties. The three collecting companies are attached in a fire-fight to the division’s three combat teams where they collect casualties, treat and evacuate them to the Clearing Company.

Originally commanded by Lt. Col. Nonie W. Goble, the unit is now headed by Lt. Col. Max W. Carver.
Special Troops

Special Troops, as such, is a new thing to the army. To pin one mission on Special Troops is difficult, the components of the unit being both service and combat organizations.

The Special Troops setup is not a large one from a personnel standpoint, but the unit accomplishes a vast task. In a word, it feeds and clothes a small city; it provides that city—a city at war—with the munitions, weapons, vehicles and parallel items and keeps this equipment in repair; it operates a multi-system communications network of radio, telephone and teletype. In addition, it supplies the city with one of its combat units, the unit which is the first to seek out the enemy.

The makeup of 95th Division Special Troops includes Division Headquarters Company, 95th Signal Company, 95th Quartermaster Company, 95th Reconnaissance Troop and 79th Ordnance (L. M.) Company. But Division Special Troops has no training mission, acts purely in an administrative capacity, bringing under one head the personnel work of the division's separate companies.

Commanded by Maj. James L. Newton, Special Troops is also charged with the administration of the Military Police Platoon and the Division Band.

The units themselves vary widely in their training and combat functions. Division Headquarters Company brings under one command all the enlisted personnel which make up Division Headquarters.

The 95th Signal Company is responsible for all of the 95th's communications. The unit which feeds and clothes the division is the 95th Quartermaster Company. The 95th Reconnaissance Troop, the division's combat "eye," is the unit which will ordinarily make first contact with the enemy.

The 79th Ordnance Company is the organization which is responsible for all of the division's vehicles, weapons and their repair and maintenance.

MAJ. JAMES L. NEWTON
Commanding
The soldier-loaded convoys rolled up alongside the endless steel tracks. The men fell out of the trucks and with rifles slung, barracks bags thrown over shoulders, boarded another troop train. The whole business was done quickly and orderly. The 95th was on the move again—and the division had moved enough in the past that the men knew exactly what to do.

Maybe it’ll be the next move, or the move after that, but one day which isn’t too much in the future, the 95th will take its last train ride—to a port of embarkation. That’s the goal; that’s what all the training has been for—a prelude to the battles to come. Yes, a prelude to the return to the American way of things.