

HISTORY

A BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY

ALFA BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY WAS ORGANIZED ON 11 AUGUST 1918 AT CAMP FUNSTON, KANSAS. SIX MONTHS LATER THE BATTERY WAS DEMOBILIZED AND REMAINED IN THAT STATUS UNTIL 1 AUGUST 1940 WHEN, AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, IT WAS ACTIVATED AND ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. ON D-DAY, 6 JUNE 1944, ALFA BATTERY PARTICIPATED IN THE SUCCESSFUL INVASION OF EUROPE. LANDING AT UTAH BEACH IN NORMANDY, IT FURNISHED FIRE SUPPORT TO THE SPEARHEAD ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION IN THE FAMOUS ST. LO BREAKTHROUGH. THROUGH NORMANDY, ACROSS NORTHERN FRANCE, INTO THE RHINELAND AND CENTRAL EUROPE, ALFA BATTERY SUPPORTED THE MANEUVER ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH DIVISION. FOR ITS ACTIONS IN NORMANDY, BELGIUM, AND THE ARDENNES, THE BATTERY, ALONG WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE BATTALION, RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF WORLD WAR II THE UNIT WAS INACTIVATED. TWO YEARS LATER THE BATTERY WAS ONCE AGAIN CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY, AND FROM 1951 TO 1956 IT SERVED WITH THE 4TH DIVISION AS PART OF THE US NATO FORCES IN GERMANY. 1957 AND 1958 WERE YEARS OF INACTIVATION. REACTIVATED IN 1959, THE BATTERY WAS ONCE AGAIN ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AT FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON.

SEVEN YEARS LATER, ON 6 OCTOBER 1966, THE BATTERY DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM AND BEGAN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY.

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS THE BATTERY HAS PROVIDED FIRE SUPPORT TO ^{ELEMENTS OF} ~~THE 3RD OF~~ ^{THE FIRST BRIGADE} ~~THE 12TH~~ IN OPERATIONS ADAM, FRANCIS MARION, MACARTHUR, AND HINES, IN SUCH AREAS AS IA DRANG VALLEY, DAK TO, BEN HET, CAMBODIA, AND THE VIETNAM COASTAL REGION. ALFA BATTERY'S PERFORMANCE IN COMBAT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY DURING THE ACTION AROUND FIRE SUPPORT BASE 29 IN NOVEMBER 1968 AND DURING THE INITIAL

ASSAULT OF THE DIVISION INTO CAMBODIA IN MAY 1970. DURING THE LATTER ACTION TWO MEMBERS OF THE BATTERY WERE AWARDED THE SILVER STAR.

AS IN PAST WARS, THE OFFICERS AND MEN THAT HAVE SERVED IN ALFA BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY DURING ITS STAY IN VIETNAM HAVE WRITTEN ANOTHER BRILLIANT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY ARTILLERY.

THE US ARMY ARTILLERY WAS FOUNDED ON 17 NOV 1775.

REMARKS
A BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 195TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY ARTILLERY. IN THESE NEARLY TWO CENTURIES THE ARTILLERY HAS PROGRESSED FROM HORSE DRAWN CAISSONS TO FADAC COMPUTERS; BUT ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED, AND WILL NEVER CHANGE, I HOPE, IS THE ARTILLERY'S ABILITY TO PUT STEEL ON THE TARGET. AS A COMMANDER OF MANUEVER ELEMENTS FOR A GOOD PORTION OF MY MILITARY CAREER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS NO BETTER FEELING FOR AN INFANTRYMAN THAN HAVING THE ARTILLERY PLACE ITS DEVASTATING FIRE POWER RIGHT WHERE IT'S NEEDED.

FOR OVER FOUR YEARS ALFA BATTERY HAS BEEN THE TYPE OF UNIT TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED. YOU WERE ALWAYS READY, DAY OR NIGHT, AND YOUR SPEED AND ACCURACY OFTEN WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS OR FAILURE, LIFE OR DEATH. YOU HAVE FIRED MANY TYPES OF ROUNDS AND MANY KINDS OF MISSIONS. THE ENEMY HAS LEARNED NOT ONLY TO RESPECT, BUT ALSO TO FEAR THE DESTRUCTION AND HAVOC YOU COMMAND.

SUCCESS SUCH AS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED AGAINST SUCH A DETERMINED FOE DOES NOT COME ABOUT BY ACCIDENT. INSTEAD IT COMES FROM THE UNTIRING EFFORTS OF EACH MEMBER WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM. TEAMWORK IS WHAT WAS NEEDED, AND TEAMWORK IS WHAT YOU PRODUCED. I SAY WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT YOURS IS ONE OF THE FINEST ARTILLERY BATTALIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

AND NOW BECAUSE YOU AND OTHERS LIKE YOU HAVE DONE SUCH A FINE JOB, THE FOURTH IS LEAVING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. MOST OF YOU WILL BE GOING TO OTHER UNITS IN VIETNAM. TO YOU, I SAY WHEREVER YOU GO SERVE AS WELL AS YOU HAVE SERVED HERE; THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE. SOME OF YOU WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. TO YOU I SAY CONGRATULATIONS ON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING YOUR TOURS IN VIETNAM. TO ALL OF YOU, I SAY IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU HERE. ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION, I BID YOU FAREWELL--GOOD LUCK AND GODSPEED.