

OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 115TH QUARTERMASTER REGIMENT

The present units which make up the 115th Quartermaster Regiment have originated from three distinct sources - one unit deriving from the Cavalry, three from the Corps of Engineers, and the remainder being originally constituted as Quartermaster troops. These three groups will be considered in order.

The oldest in point of origin is that unit which descends from the Cavalry - the present Company A, Headquarters, First Squadron of Cavalry, was organized at Sacramento as a unit of the California National Guard on August 15, 1905, which date may accordingly be taken as the birthday of what eventually was to become the 115th Quartermaster Regiment. Of this Squadron, which consisted of three rifle troops, a headquarters troop, a machine-gun troop, and a medical detachment, Company A is derived from the Machine-Gun Troop - one of the earliest machine-gun units in the United States Army. The First Squadron continued its existence through the pre-War years and, upon the entry of the United States into the conflict, was called into active service on August 5, 1917. After a short time it was sent to Camp Kearney, the rendezvous of the 40th Division, and redesignated as the 145th Machine-Gun Battalion. At this time machine-gun units were not organically a part of the Infantry, but were organized as supporting elements - one battalion to an infantry brigade. The 145th was accordingly assigned to the 80th Brigade, then consisting of the 159th and 160th Infantry. The former Machine-Gun troop had now become Co C, 145th Machine-Gun Battalion and as such it served throughout the remainder of the World War. The history of its services is the history of the 80th Brigade to which it was attached, and of the 40th Division of which that brigade was a part. Its movements may be indicated by enumerating the successive locations of the 80th Brigade headquarters: August 1, 1918, Camp Mills, N.Y.; August 7th, S.S. Lapland; August 20th, Liverpool, England; August 24th, Cherbourg, France; August 25th, La Guerche-sur-l'Aubois, Cher; November 4th, Revigny, Meuse; January 8, 1919, Castres, Gironde. After this the 80th Brigade and Co C 145th Machine-Gun Battalion parted their ways, the brigade going home first, the company waiting until April 19, 1919, before embarking for the United States. It reached San Francisco by way of Boston and was demobilized at the Presidio, May 20,

1919.

The 40th Division never reached the fighting line, having been on August 28, 1918, designated the 6th Depot Division, with the duty of training replacements for the troops at the front. The great majority of the replacements were sent to the 28th (Pennsylvania), 32nd (Louisiana), and 77th (National Army) Divisions, and of those replacements the 145th Machine-Gun Battalion furnished nine officers, 382 enlisted men, specialists and machine-gunners.

In the years after the World War Co C continued to exist in an inactive status until April 14, 1936, when Headquarters Company 40th Division was organized in Berkeley, in which it became reconstituted. Exactly three years later, April 14, 1939, Hq Co 40th Division became the present Company A, 115th Quartermaster Regiment, which latter unit is thus, by reason of its antecedents, the senior company in the regiment.

The second group of units - descended from the Corps of Engineers - dates from the days just prior to the World War. Circular No. 2, War Department, dated June 26, 1916, authorized the organization in the California National Guard of a battalion of engineers, to be designated as the First Separate Battalion of Engineers. Company A (present Co E, 115 QM Regt) at Sacramento was the first unit formed, the date being July 21, 1916. Six days later, July 27, it was called into Federal Service - this being the period of strained relations along the Mexican border - and went into camp at the Sacramento Fair Grounds. Following a period of training, it left for Nogales, Arizona, on October 1st, arriving October 3rd. Here it remained on active duty until its return and muster out at Sacramento, March 6, 1917.

In the meantime, Company B of the First Separate Battalion of Engineers (present Co C 115th QM Regt), had been mustered into State service at Los Angeles on October 12, 1916. The third unit of the Battalion, Company C (present Co D 115 QM Regt), followed on May 28, 1917.

The United States was now engaged in the World War and on June 20, 1917, Company A was again called into Federal Service; Company B was called on July 10th, and Company C on August 5th. The First Separate Battalion was now redesignated as 2nd Battalion, 117th Engineers, the companies being renamed, respectively, D, E, and F. Until October the battalion was employed in engineer construction work at Camp Fremont and at Camp Kearney. The 1st Battalion, 117th Engineers, was formed in South

Carolina, and the Regiment, when finally united at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, was a unit whose personnel spanned the breadth of the United States. Here, as was appropriate, the 117th Engineers became a unit of the 42nd Division - the renowned "Rainbow" Division, whose personnel was assembled from all the states of the Union.

The regiment remained with the 42nd Division throughout the War, arriving in France November 1, 1917, and fighting in the front line from February 22, 1918, until the Armistice, November 11th. During this period of almost nine months - the period which provides the 115th Quartermaster Regiment with its tradition of dependability and efficiency under actual battle conditions - the 117th Engineers participated in eight separate actions:

Luneville Sector	Feb 22 - Mar 21, 1918
Baccarat Sector	Mar 30 - June 19, 1918
Esperance and Souain Sect.	July 5 - July 14, 1918
Champagne - Marne	July 15 - July 18, 1918
Aisne - Marne	July 25 - Aug 6, 1918
St. Mihiel	Sept 12 - Sept 16, 1918
Essey and Pannes Sector	Sept 17 - Sept 30, 1918
Meuse - Argonne	Oct 5 - Nov 10, 1918

From this it will be seen that, from the date of first entry into the line, the regiment was in action for 193 days, with only 69 days of rest. As a result of its battle service it was awarded the six rainbow-colored streamers which are now attached to the regimental standard of the 115th Quartermaster Regiment:

LORRAINE
CHAMPAGNE
CHAMPAGNE-MARNE
AISNE-MARNE
ST. MIHIEL
MEUSE-ARGONNE

A detailed and interesting account of this part of the regiment's history has been written by Major Wallace A. Mason, then commanding the 2nd Battalion 117th Engineers, later Brigadier General, 79th Brigade. His narrative is added at the end as Appendix "B".

After the battalion had returned to the United States and had been mustered out at the Presidio of San Francisco on the 14th of May, 1919, it continued its existence on an inactive status. Still inactive, it was consolidated in August, 1935, with the 40th Division Quartermaster Train - such being, at that time, the designation of the quartermaster service of an Infantry Division. Active status returned again the following year with the organization of Company A 115th Quartermaster Regiment (now Company E) at Sacramento on May 12, 1936. This unit,

which is the lineal descendent of Company D 117th Engineers, was redesignated as the present Company E 115th Quartermaster Regiment April 15, 1939, and is the senior unit of the regiment in time spent in active Federal Service. The remaining two units of the 2nd Battalion 117th Engineers - Company E and Company F - were reconstituted in the present Company C and Company D, 115th Quartermaster Regiment, respectively, on April 1, 1937 at Los Angeles.

The third group of units, mentioned at the beginning of this history, are those originally constituted as Quartermaster troops. None of them has a record of service prior to the date of its organization. First in point of time is the present Regimental Headquarters; originally organized as Quartermaster Section, Headquarters 40th Division, on June 18, 1926, at Berkeley, it was redesignated on April 1, 1936. Similarly, the present Headquarters Company grew out of the original QM Section, Hq Det, 40th Division, organized on June 15, 1927, at Berkeley; redesignated Division QM Platoon (Hq Co), 115th Quartermaster Regiment, on April 1, 1936; and changed to its present title effective June 1, 1937. The remaining seven units have not changed their designations since the dates of their original organization: April 1, 1937 - Headquarters 2nd Battalion at Los Angeles; April 6, 1937 - Headquarters 1st Battalion, and Company B, at Sacramento and Martinez, respectively; June 28, 1937 - Medical Department Detachment, at Los Angeles; April 18, 1939 - Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 3rd Battalion, and Company F, at Sacramento and Los Angeles, respectively; September 10, 1940 - Service Company, at Los Angeles - the youngest of the units composing the 115th Quartermaster Regiment. These events, and the changes previously related are shown in graphical form on the chart in Appendix "A". For the personnel to form these new units, the regiment drafted a portion from the 159th Infantry in Berkeley, from the 184th Infantry and 143rd Field Artillery in Sacramento, and from the 160th Infantry in Los Angeles.

The history of the regiment is brought up to date by recording the fact of induction into Federal Service - the third in its career - on the 3rd of March, 1941, along with the other components of the 40th Division. On March 7th the units left their several stations by motor transport and assembled the same day at the divisional training center, Camp San Luis Obispo, for a period of intensive training.

With a varied record of faithful service in its past years, and with six battle streamers - more than any other organization of the 40th Division - flying from its standard, the 115th Quartermaster Regiment looks forward confidently to its future in the Army of the United States.

* * * * *

Prepared by:
Captain Albert L. Hilliard
Asst. Adjutant General, 40th Div.
June 6, 1941.

DIAGRAM HISTORY - 115TH QUARTERMASTER REGIMENT

1905 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

