

# **The California National Guard and the Korean War: 143<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 1950-1954**

Extracted from, *The Guns of Korea: The US Army Field Artillery Battalions in the Korean War*  
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## 143d FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

(105mm How, TrkDr, 40th Inf Div, CA NG)



Motto: *Facta non verba* (Deeds, not words)

**5 August 1946:** Constituted in the California National Guard as the 143d Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 40th Infantry Division.

**22 May 1947:** Organized and federally recognized with Hqs & Hqs Battery at Santa Monica, California.

**1 September 1950:** Ordered in active federal service at Santa Monica California.

**2 September 1952:** The 143d Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS) organized and Federally recognized with Hqs & Hqs Battery at Culver City, California.

**6 October 1953:** Location of Hqs & Hqs Battery changed to Santa Monica, California.

**30 June 1954:** Released from active federal service, reverting to California state control, concurrently federal recognition withdrawn from the 143d Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS).

**1 July 1954:** Reorganized and redesignated as the 143d Armored Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 40th Armored Division.

**1 July 1959:** Consolidated with the 144th Artillery.



Truck-drawn, 105mm howitzer of Battery B, 143d Field Artillery Battalion firing the battalion's first round in Korea.

## 143d FA Korean War Timeline

**25 June 1950:** Southern California; 143d Field Artillery Battalion (105mm howitzer, truck drawn), 40th Infantry Division, organic light field artillery element, California National Guard. Peace-time weekly drills and summer field training.

**10 August 1950:** All units, 40th Division alerted for induction into federal service. The 143d FA enlisted toward TO&E<sup>1</sup> strength and prepared for overland move to Camp Cooke, California.

**1 September 1950:** Camp Cooke, California; 143d FA ordered into active federal service and assigned to Sixth Army.

**October-November 1950:** Camp Cooke, California; 143d FA receives fillers and begins intensive individual and unit training cycles.

**24 February 1951:** All units, 40th Division alerted for overseas shipment to Japan.

**29-31 March 1951:** San Francisco Port of Embarkation; The 40th Division departs for Japan.

**11 April 1951:** Port of Yokohama, Japan; 40th Division arrives and is assigned to the XVI Corps, to bolster the defense of the Japanese islands and complete unit training cycles. The 143d FA moves to Camp McNair, central Honshu, Japan.

**22 December 1951:** Camp McNair, central Honshu, Japan; 40th Division alerted for movement to Korea to relieve the 24th Division. The 143d FA moves to Korea with all organizational equipment while other elements of the 40th Division move to Korea by an exchange of equipment in place.<sup>2</sup>

*Second Korean winter 1951-1952*

**11 January 1952:** Inchon, South Korea; 143d FA arrives from Japan as the 40th Division relieves the 24th Division which is to return to Japan.

**19 January 1952:** Line Missouri <sup>3</sup>( Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 143d FA fires first 40th Division artillery fire mission in direct support of the 19th Inf, 24th Division. Sfc Gary Duccat pulls lanyard.

**22 January 1952:** Line Missouri ( Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea, 40th Division attached to IX Corps.

**10-15 February 1952:** Operation Clam-up; Eighth Army curtails daylight movement and artillery firing in an attempt to lure enemy troops forward. Forward Observers keep close watch on enemy construction and movement. All suspected targets taken under fire on 16 February with Time-on-Target fires. (Author's Note: From my position on the MLR, all I saw was CCF troops come out in the open and have six days of unhindered new construction and rebuilding of their defensive fortifications.)

**30 March 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by elements of the Capital and 6th ROK divisions. 143d FA remains on-line in direct support of both the Capital and 6th ROK divisions.<sup>4</sup>

**1 April 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 2d ROK Division, 143d FA direct support 160th Inf, 40th Division.

*Korea summer fall 1952*

**May-June 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 143d FA continues direct support 160th Inf, 40th Division.

**28 June 1952:** Line Missouri (Kumwha-Kumsong area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by elements of the 2d and 24th ROK divisions, 143d FA remains on-line direct support 2d ROK Division.

**17 October 1952:** The 40th Division released from attachment to IX Corps and attached to the X Corps the next day.

**22 October 1952:** Line Minnesota<sup>5</sup>, North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 25th Division, 143d FA moves from Kumwha-Kumsong area to the Heartbreak Ridge area. The 143d FA direct support 160th Inf, 40th Division.

<sup>1</sup>Table of Organization and Equipment

<sup>2</sup>The 143d FA was not scheduled to relieve a unit to be returned to Japan.

<sup>3</sup>Line Missouri (central front): IX Corps MLR for the rest of the Korean War.

<sup>4</sup>Divisional artillery battalions were to remain on-line when their parent units were relieved, in accordance with General James A. Van Fleet's desire to always have his "firepower advantage" in action.

<sup>5</sup>Line Minnesota (eastern front): X Corps MLR for the rest of the Korean War.

**November 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 143d FA continues direct support 160th Inf, 40th Division.

*Third Korean winter 1952-1953*

**December 1952:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 143d FA direct support 160th Inf, 40th Division.

**28 January 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by the 45th Division. 40th Division artillery assigned to support 45th Division while 45th Division artillery continues general support 12th ROK Division.

**3 February 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 40th Division artillery relieves the 45th Division artillery in support of 12th ROK Division. The 143d FA direct support 12th ROK Division.

**March 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 143d FA continues direct support 12th ROK Division.

**27 April 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 20th ROK Division, 143d FA continues direct support 12th ROK Division.

*Korea summer 1953*

**May-June 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 143d FA direct support 12th ROK Division.

**10 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Punchbowl area), North Korea; 40th Division relieved by the 20th ROK Division, 143d continues direct support 12th ROK Div.

**11 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 40th Division relieves the 45th Division, 143d FA direct support 51st ROK Inf, 12th ROK Division.

*Cease fire 1953*

**27 July 1953:** Line Minnesota (Heartbreak Ridge area), North Korea; 143d FA stands down and prepares to move to post-armistice defense positions.

**8 May 1954:** The 143d FA returns with the 40th Division to the United States.

**30 June 1954:** The 143d FA released from active federal service, reverting to California state control.

## 143d FA Campaign Participation and Unit Citations

**SECOND KOREAN WINTER 1951-1952**

11 Jan - 30 Apr 52

**KOREA SUMMER-FALL 1952**

1 May - 30 Nov 52

**THIRD KOREAN WINTER 1952-1953**

1 Dec 52 - 30 Apr 53

**KOREA SUMMER 1953**

1 May - 27 Jul 53



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: KOREA

10 Dec 1951-31 July 1953, DA GO 30-54

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: KOREA

22 January 1952-15 January 1954, DA GO 50-54

## For All Gave Some... Some Gave All

**BOST, Charles Porter:** Cpl, Med Det  
DOC,<sup>6</sup> 6/23/1952; Euclid, OH

**COSH, Richard:** Pfc  
KIA, 11/4/1952; Hall County, NE

**DELANY, Lawrence Harold:** Pvt  
KIA, 4/1/1953; Fairfax, SD

**FOUNTAIN, Edward J:** Pfc  
KIA, 5/28/1953; Hartford County, CT

**GORDLEY, James Edward:** Pfc  
KIA, 4/1/1953; Sangamon County, IL

**LYNN, James L:** Pfc  
KIA, 12/11/1952; Mason County, IL

**WOOMER, Clair D:** Pfc  
KIA, 11/3/1952; Wayne County, MI

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<sup>6</sup>Died of other causes.

## 143d FA Bibliography

143d Field Artillery Battalion Korean War Web Site  
<http://143korea.tripod.com>