

52d FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

(105mm How, TrkDr, 24th Inf Div. RA)



Motto: Habile et pret (Able and ready)

1 October 1933: Constituted in the Regular Army as the 52d Field Artillery.

26 August 1941: Redesignated as the 52d Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 24th Infantry Division.

1 October 1941: Activated at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii.

28 June 1950: The 288th Coast Artillery Battalion consolidated with the 52d Field Artillery Battalion.

5 June 1958: Relieved from the 24th Infantry Division and inactivated in Germany.

30 June 1971: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 52d Artillery Group, and the 538th, 539th, and 52d Field Artillery Battalions consolidated, reorganized, and redesignated as the 52d Artillery Regiment

1 September 1971: Redesignated as the 52d Air Defense Artillery Regiment.



Truck-drawn, 105mm howitzer of the type used by the 52d FA Field Artillery Battalion in Korea.

52d FA Korean War Timeline

25 June 1950

25 June 1950: Camp Hakata, Fukuoka, Japan; 52th Field Artillery Battalion¹ (105mm howitzer, truck drawn), 24th Infantry Division, organic light field artillery element. Army of Occupation duties and peace-time training activities.

30 June 1950: All units, 24th Division alerted for movement to Korea.

Delaying invasion of South Korea

2 July 1950: Pusan, South Korea; 52d FA(-) arrives overnight from Japan via LSTs, unloads and moves north by train toward Pyongtaek. 52d FA(-) consists of Battery A with six 105mm howitzers, half of Hqs Battery and half of Svc Battery.

4 July 1950: Pyongtaek, South Korea; Battery A, 52d FA attached to Task Force Smith (B and C companies, 1/21st Inf, 24th Division).

5 July 1950: Osan, South Korea; A little after eight in the morning, Battery A, 52d FA fires the first American artillery round of the Korean War. Battery A has only 6 HEAT² rounds. The five 105mm howitzers account for five North Korean tanks before the battery is overrun and the guns lost. The sixth 105mm howitzer had been left behind at Pyongtaek because of trouble with its prime mover.

7 July 1950: Chonan area, South Korea; Reequipped with ROK Army equipment, A/52d FA returns to the line. Battery B and the rest of Hqs Battery and Svc Battery, 52d FA arrive from Japan and move north to Taejon.

13-15 July 1950: Taepyong (Kum River line), South Korea; 52d FA, 13th FA (105mm howitzer) and 11th FA (155mm howitzer), 24th Division, provide direct support to the 19th Inf, 24th Division. The 52d FA is located at Tuman-ni, three miles south of the Kum River, the 11th FA and 13th FA are two miles further south. The 24th Division is assigned to Eighth Army on 13 July 1950.

16 July 1950: Taejon, South Korea; 24th Division artillery combines the reduced 105mm howitzer battalions (13th FA, 52d FA and 63d FA³) into a composite battalion for the defense of Taejon with reinforcing fires of the 11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division.

17 July 1950: Tuman-ni, South Korea; 52d FA overrun, loses eight of its nine 105mm howitzers and all but three vehicles.

21 July 1950: Okchon, South Korea; 52d direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

Defense of the Pusan Perimeter

5 August 1950: Naktong Bulge, South Korea; The 24th Division's four artillery battalions (11th FA, 13th FA, 52d FA and 63d FA) have only seventeen 105mm howitzers and twelve 155mm howitzers to cover a thirty-two mile front.⁴

7-9 August 1950: Obong-ni Ridge (Naktong Bulge), South Korea; 24th Division artillery reinforcing fires of Batteries A and B, 15th FA, 2d Division, in direct support of the 9th Inf, 2d Division, attack on Cloverleaf Hill and Obong-ni Ridge.

17-19 August 1950: Naktong Bulge, South Korea; 52d FA, 63d FA (105mm how), 13th FA (105mm how) and 11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division, direct support for the 9th Inf, 19th Inf, and 34th Inf, 24th Division, and 5th Mar, 1st Mar Division, reduction of the enemy bridgehead.

¹U. S. Army occupation forces were under reduced Tables of Organization and Equipment (TO&E); field artillery units had two under strength firing batteries instead of the allotted three firing batteries per battalion.

²HEAT (High Explosive Anti-Tank) rounds were designed to be used against armored vehicles, as the normal HE (High Explosive) rounds rarely damaged or destroyed armored vehicles except for a lucky hit. The six rounds fired by the 52d FA was the entire stock of HEAT rounds in the Far East Command.

³The 63d FA had lost all ten of its 105mm howitzers at Kongju on the 14th of July.

⁴A U. S. Army divisional TO&E called for seventy-two 105mm howitzers and eighteen 155mm howitzers per division.

24 August 1950: Naktong River Line, South Korea; 24th Division relieved by the 2d Division and becomes Eighth Army reserve.

26 August-2 September 1950: Battery C, 52d FA activated with men and equipment from the 63d FA (105mm how).⁵

Breakout of Pusan perimeter and pursuit north

16 September 1950: The 52d FA prepares to move north as the 24th Division is attached to I Corps.⁶
CCF intervention and counteroffensive in North Korea

3 November 1950: Chonju, North Korea; 52d FA moves back to Anju area in direct support of the 21st Inf, 24th Division.

9 November 1950: Ch'ongch'on river area, North Korea; 52d FA reinforcing fires of the 13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division, in direct support of the 19th Inf, 24th Division.

11 November 1950: Sosong-dong, North Korea; 52d FA direct support the British 27th Brigade with reinforcing fires of the B/11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division.

24 November 1950: Chonju, North Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

CCF counteroffensive in North Korea

27-28 November 1950: Chonju, North Korea; 52d FA displaces south to Pakchon.

29 November-1 December 1950: Pakchon, North Korea; 52d FA withdraws through Pyongyang to Sŭiwon-ni.

Withdrawal from central North Korea

2 December 1950: Sŭiwon-ni, North Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division, against guerilla attacks on Pyongyang-Seoul Main Supply Route.

3 December 1950: Yul-li, North Korea; 52d FA withdraws southward with 21st Inf on Route 3, as the 24th Division is released from attachment to I Corps and attached to IX Corps.

11 December 1950: Singi, South Korea; 11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division, is assigned to the 52d FA.

2 January 1951: Uijongbu, South Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

3 January 1951: Uijonbu, South Korea; 52d FA fires over three thousand rounds in twelve hours.

6 January 1951: Changwon-ni, South Korea; 52d FA reinforcing fires of the 13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division, direct support of the 19th Inf, 24th Division.

21 January 1951: Ich'on, South Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

24 January 1951: Yogu, South Korea; 52d FA continues direct support 5th Inf, 24th Division.

First UN counteroffensive 1951

26 January 1951: Yogu, South Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

4 February 1951: Ichon, South Korea; 52d FA fires more than thirty-three hundred rounds in direct support 3/21st Inf, 24th Division.

20 February-7 March 1951: Operation Killer; advance toward Phase Line Arizona, 52d direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division. On 7 March, 52d fires forty-three hundred rounds in twenty-four hours of direct support for the 21st Inf, 24th Division.

8 March-22 March 1951: Operation Ripper; advance toward Phase Line Idaho, 52d FA reinforcing fires 13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division, direct support of the 19th Inf, 24th Division.

2 April 1951: The 24th Division released from attachment to IX Corps and attached to I Corps.

7 April-20 April 1951: Operation Rugged/Dauntless; I Corps completion of advance to Phase Line Kansas, 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

CCF spring offensive 1951

27 April 1951: The 24th Division released from attachment to I Corps and attached to IX Corps.

20 May-4 June 1951: Line Golden, South Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division, during

⁵The 63d FA was reduced to paper status and returned to Japan.

⁶I Corps activated 11 August 1950, assigned to Eighth Army 12 September 1950.

IX Corps drive north to retake positions on line Kansas, above the 38th Parallel. On 27 May, direct fire from 52d FA at ranges under two thousand yards on CCF forces that were illuminated by flares from the 11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division, halts CCF counterattack.

5 June 1951: Hwachon, North Korea; 6th ROK Division relieves 24th Division, 52d FA remains on-line reinforcing fires of the 27th ROK FA, 6th ROK Division.

21 June 1951: Hahoengchon, North Korea; 52d FA relieves 49th FA (105mm how), 7th Division, as 24th Division relieves 7th Division.

1 July 1951: Hawachon, North Korea; 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

UN summer fall offensive 1951

July 1951: With the defeat of the CCF Spring Offensive and the beginning of truce talks, the final two years of the Korean War became a period when portions of the front lines were relatively quiet while a mile or two away furious battles for a ridge line or outpost were under way. *Truce Tent and Fighting Front*, the title of Walter G. Hermes book on this period of the Korean War seems to sum up the conduct of the war very well. Others called the last two years, the "battle for the outposts". General James A. Van Fleet wanted to keep an "active defense posture" and "firepower advantage" as the truce talks dragged on. An active defensive posture required aggressive patrols, outposts and patrol bases ahead of the MLR;⁷ a firepower advantage required overwhelming artillery fire power to counter the North Korean and CCF manpower advantage. Divisional artillery units were to remain at the front whenever their parent division was placed in reserve. The artillery battalions were reassigned to support the relieving unit or adjacent ROK forces which had fewer artillery units. More and heavier caliber Corps artillery battalions were requested to counter the increased sophistication of enemy defenses and the growing CCF artillery threat.

31 July 1951: Hawachon, North Korea; The Columbian Battalion attached to 21st Inf, 24th Division, as a fourth battalion. The 52d FA authorized an additional Liaison Officer and three more Forward Observer teams to support the additional battalion.

6-7 August 1951: Line Kansas, North Korea; 24th Division relieved by the 7th Division, 52d FA remains on-line reinforcing fires of the 27th ROK FA, 6th ROK Division.

5-6 October 1951: Line Kansas, North Korea; 24th Division relieves the 7th Division, 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

13-22 October 1951: Line Missouri⁸ (Kumwha area), North Korea; Operation Nomad-Polar, 24th Division advance from line Kansas to secure Phase Line Missouri. The 52d FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division.

Second Korean winter 1951-1952

22 January 1952: Line Missouri (Kumwha area), North Korea; 52d FA relieved by the 980th FA (105mm how), 40th Division, upon its arrival from Japan by an exchange of equipment in place.⁹ The 52d FA ordered to Tent City (24th Division Rear) in preparation for shipment to Camp McNair, Japan. Those 52d FA redlegs with not enough points to leave Korea are transferred to 40th Division artillery units.

23 January 1952: The 24th Division released from attachment to IX Corps, relieved from the Eighth Army and assigned to XVI Corps in Japan.

⁷Main Line of Resistance

⁸Line Missouri (central front): IX Corps MLR for the rest of the Korean War.

⁹The units involved took only individual weapons and equipment, leaving organizational equipment in place. The 52d FA returned to Japan to acquire relatively new howitzers, well-maintained vehicles and organizational equipment generally at TO&E levels while the 980th FA was left with war-weary howitzers, worn-out vehicles and missing organizational equipment.

Korean summer 1953

16 July 1953: The 52d FA deploys to Korea with the 24d Division.

Cease fire 1953

27 July 1953: The 52d FA stands down and prepares to move to post-armistice positions.

November 1954: The 52d FA returns to Japan with the 24th Division.

52d FA Campaign Participation and Unit Citations

UN DEFENSIVE 1950

2 Jul - 15 Sep 50

UN OFFENSIVE 1950

16 Sep - 2 Nov 50

CCF INTERNENTION 1950-1951

3 Nov 50 - 24 Jan 51

FIRST UN COUNTEROFFENSIVE 1951

25 Jan - 21 Apr 51

CCF SPRING OFFENSIVE 1951

22 Apr - 8 Jul 51

UN SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE 1951

9 Jul - 27 Nov 51

SECOND KOREAN WINTER 1951-1952

28 Nov 51 - 4 Feb 52

KOREA SUMMER 1953

16 - 27 Jul 53



Army Presidential Unit Citation: *DEFENSE OF KOREA*
2 July-15 September 1950, DA GO 45-50



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: *PYONGTAEK*
2-22 July 1950, DA GO 35-51
Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: *KOREA*
11 July 1952-10 October 1953, DA GO 24-54

For All Gave Some.... Some Gave All

ARAWAKAN, Knuth O: Cpl
KIA, 7/16/1950; Hennepin County, MN

BENGRSON, Claude F: Pfc
KIA, 7/5/1950; Blue Earth County, MN

BOOKS, Arthur Howard: 1st Lt, A Btry
POW (Died While Captured), 7/10/1950; Norwood, OH

BOYD, William Q: Capt
KIA, 7/16/1950; Mississippi County, AR

CALAHAN, Robert R: Pfc
DOW, 7/14/1950; Anderson County, AR

CARDINAL, Edward A: Pfc
KIA, 7/5/1950; Freeport, IL

CUNNINGHAM, Ernest J: Cpl
KIA, 7/16/1950; Polk County, FL

DIEKMANN, Lester Henry: Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/5/1950; Readlyn, IA

DOWLING, Robert V: MSgt
KIA, 4/8/1951; Jefferson County, AL

DYE, Karl Lee: Pfc, B Btry
MIA (Died while missing), 7/16/1950; Marion County, OH

FLOOK, Grady Harold: Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/5/1950; Alhambra, CA

GILLILAND, Edward E: Pvt, Hqs Btry
KIA, 7/16/1950; Smith County, TX

HAMAGUCHI, Rodney N: Pfc
KIA, 7/5/1950; Oahu, HI

HARTMAN, Roger Wilbert: 1st Lt, A Btry
POW (Died while captured); Comanche County, OK

HILL, Melvin Jalmer: Pfc, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/5/1950; Negaunee, MI

HOVE, Alfred O: Sfc, C Btry
KIA, 9/1/1950; Worth County, IA

HUDDLESTON, James L: Pvt
KIA, 7/10/1950; Los Angeles County, CA

JENSEN, Keith A: 2d Lt
KIA, 10/16/1951; Anoka County, MN

JONES, Thomas Dale: Cpl, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/10/1950; Hancock County, WV

KANE, Burford E: Cpl
KIA, 9/19/1950; Harford County, MD

KLEIN, George R: Pfc
KIA, 7/16/1950; Los Angeles County, CA

KUNTZ, Aden H: Pvt
KIA, 7/16/1950; Clearfield County, PA

LAKE, Jesse F: Pvt
KIA, 7/16/1950; Washington County, MD

- MANN, William Cornett:** Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/5/1950; Indian Mound, TN
- MIDDLETON, Ralph:** Pfc
KIA, 7/5/1950; Harlan County, KY
- MISCAVAGE, Edward Joseph:** Cpl, A Btry
DOC,¹⁰ 11/18/1951; Shamokin, PA
- MOSS, Lawrence Dale:** 1st Lt, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 2/9/1951; Carthage, MO
- NIXON, Calvin K:** Pvt
KIA, 7/6/1950; Jefferson County, KY
- OWENS, Vola J:** Pfc
KIA, 7/5/1950; Hamilton County, OH
- PERKINS, Otto T:** Cpl
KIA, 4/25/1951; Oneida, NY
- PETERSON, Arnold E:** 2d Lt
DOW, 10/15/1951; Cache County, UT
- RUTHERFORD, Hillard V:** Pvt
KIA, 4/10/1951; Hamilton County, TN
- SEDILLOS, Reynaldo:** Pvt
DOW, 7/30/1950; Grant County, NM
- SIBLEY, Willard J:** Pvt
KIA, 7/5/1950; Bradford County, PA
- SINOR, Brumitt G:** Pvt
KIA, 7/16/1950; Ottawa County, OK
- SOSA, Cayetano:** Pfc
KIA, 7/16/1950; Webb County, TX
- SPARKS, Donald David Jr:** Sgt, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/10/1950; Summit County, OH
- STEPHENS, Robert Dewayne:** Pfc, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/5/1950; Clayton, KS
- SWEIGART, Carl Lewis:** Pfc
KIA, 7/16/1950; Mohnton, PA
- THOMPSON, James L Jr:** 2d Lt
KIA, 7/5/1950; Heflin, AL
- WESSEL, Donald F:** Pfc
KIA, 11/8/1951; Alameda, CA
- WHITE, John G Jr:** 1st Lt
KIA, 7/5/19050; Cook County, IL
- WISNESKI, Albin J:** MSgt
KIA, 7/16/1950; Northumberland County, PA

¹⁰Died of other causes.

52d FA Bibliography

- Barnett, Donald L. "Breech Blocks Painted Bright Red, Task Force Smith in Korea", *Field Artillery*, July-August 1999
- Hallahan, Robert F. *All Good Men: A Lieutenant's Memories of the Korean War*, Inverse Inc. 2003
- Robertson, William Glenn. "Counterattacks on the Naktong, 1950." *Combat Studies Institute*, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, December 1985
- "The Battle of Osan, Case Study #13", *United States Army Combat Developments Command: Dynamics of Fire and Maneuver (FIRMA III), Final Report*, ACN 13986, 15 August 1969.

Beyond the Call of Duty



PERRY, MILLER O.

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Miller O. Perry (O-0018427), Lieutenant Colonel (Field Artillery), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with the 52d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. Lieutenant Colonel Perry distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Osan, Korea, on 5 July 1950. On this date Lieutenant Colonel Perry voluntarily accompanied one of his batteries, part of a task force numbering less than four hundred men, deep into enemy territory. The task force organized a defensive position in the path of the advancing enemy and Colonel Perry remained to assist the infantry battalion commander and direct the artillery battery. The enemy attacked in overwhelming numbers, supported by heavy tanks and, without regard for his own personal safety, Colonel Perry manned a rocket launcher from an exposed position firing at tanks from distances of ten to fifteen yards. The rockets were ineffective against the heavy armor, so Colonel Perry ordered his 105-mm. howitzers to place direct fire on the tanks, destroying six. During a lull in the firing the enemy displayed a flag of truce and Colonel Perry, in advancing to recognize the flag, was fired on and wounded. He refused to be evacuated and later on directed the fire

that enabled his battery to break out of encirclement, then personally led them twenty miles through enemy held territory to safety.

Hqs. 8th United States Army, Korea: GO No. 76 (September 20, 1950)