

63d FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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



Motto: Hanau ia no ke kua (Born to battle)

26 August 1941: Constituted in the Regular Army as the 63d Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 24th Infantry Division.

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

28 June 1950: The 3d Battalion, 42d Coast Artillery reconstituted and consolidated with 63d Field Artillery Battalion.

5 June 1958: Inactivated in Korea.



Truck-drawn, 105mm howitzer of the type used by the 63d Field Artillery Battalion in Korea.

63d FA Korean War Timeline

25 June 1950

25 June 1950: Camp Hakata, Fukuoka, Japan; 63d 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: Camp Hakata, Fukuoka, Japan; All units, 24th Division alerted for movement to Korea. *Delaying invasion of South Korea*

6 July 1950: Pusan, South Korea; 34th RCT (34th Inf and 63d FA), 24th Division, arrives overnight from Japan via LSTs, unloads and moves north by train.

7 July 1950: Chonan, South Korea; Battery A, 63d FA direct support for both the 1/34th Inf and 3/34th Inf, 24th Division. About 2000 hours, the battalion fired its first fire mission in Korea against a North Korean column of infantry and tanks.

9 July 1950: Kongju (Kum River line), South Korea; 63d FA direct support 34th Inf, 24th Division, with reinforcing fires of A/11th FA (two 155mm howitzers), 24th Division.

13 July 1950: The 24th Division assigned to the Eighth United States Army, Korea on 13 July 1950.

14 July 1950: Kongju (Kum River line), South Korea; 63d FA attacked by 16th Inf, 4th NK Division and overrun with the loss of all ten 105mm howitzers and 60-80 vehicles.²

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

17 July 1950: Wondong, South Korea; 63d FA receives four 105mm howitzers and forms a single firing battery.

20 July 1950: Taejon, South Korea;. Only B/63d FA and B/13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division, were able to get their equipment substantially intact through the roadblock at Taejon. Battery A, 11th FA (155mm how), 24th Division, loses all five of its 155mm howitzers and thirty-one of its one hundred and twenty-three men during this withdrawal from Taejon.

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.³

7-9 August 1950: Obong-ni Ridge (Naktong Bulge), South Korea; 24th Division artillery (mixture of 105mm and 155mm howitzers) reinforcing fires of Batteries A and B of the 15th FA (105mm how), 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;. 63d FA, 52d FA (105mm how), 13th FA (105mm How) and 11th FA (155mm how) direct support 9th Inf, 19th Inf, and 34th Inf, 24th Division, and 5th Mar, 1st Mar Division, in reduction of the enemy bridgehead.

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: The 63d FA reduced to paper status and returned to Japan. Men and equipment of the 63d FA⁴ were transferred to the 13th FA, and 52d FA, 24th Division.

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.

²Forty-six men of the under strength 63d FA were either KIA, died while POW or while MIA

³A U. S. Army divisional TO&E called for seventy-two 105mm howitzers and eighteen 155mm howitzers per division.

⁴Battery A, 63d FA reconstituted as Battery C, 13thFA and Battery B, 63d FA reconstituted as Battery C, 52d FA.

UN summer fall offensive 1951

16 August-5 September 1951: The 63d FA arrives from Japan, men and equipment are used to form 69th FA, 25th Division, on 27 August 1951. The 63d FA again reduced to zero strength and returned to Japan.

Korea summer 1953

16 July 1953: Line Missouri (Chorwon), North Korea; The 63d FA arrives from Japan along with the 34th Inf and is assigned to the 2d Division.

Cease Fires

27 July 1953: Line Missouri (Chorwon), North Korea; 63d FA stands down and prepares to move to post-armistice defense positions.

5 June 1958: The 63d FA inactivated in Korea.

63d FA Campaign Participation and Unit Citations



UN DEFENSIVE 1950

5 Jul - 2 Sep 50




UN SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE 1951

16 Aug - 5 Sep 51




KOREA SUMMER 1953

16 - 27 Jul 53



Army Presidential Unit Citation: *DEFENSE OF KOREA*
2 Jul-15 Sep 1950, DA GO 72-51



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: *PYONGTAEK*
2-22 Jul 50, DA GO 35-51

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation: *KOREA*
19 Sep 50-31 Jul 52, DA GO 41-55

For All Gave Some... Some Gave All

- BACON, Kenneth R;** Pfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Genesee County, MI
- BARTER, Charles Tracey;** Maj, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Posey County, IN
- BERTRANG, Fredrick Walter;** Cpl, Hqs Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/20/1950; Fairchild, WI
- BOONE, James Louis;** Pfc, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Fort Smith, AR
- BOUCHARD, Rolland;** Sfc, Hqs Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/20/1950; St Lawrence County, NY
- BRINGE, Donald Phillip;** Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Milwaukee County, WI
- BURKE, Lawrence V;** 1st Lt
KIA, 7/20/1950; Snohomish County, WA
- CARNES, Harry Zane;** Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Detroit, MI
- CHIEPPO, Gerald;** Cpl, A Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Suffolk, MA
- CLEVELAND, Ned J;** Sfc
KIA, 7/7/1950; Jefferson County, AL
- COUNCIL, William Edward;** Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Pittsboro, NC
- DAGGETT, Calvin Arthur;** Pvt, B Btry
KIA, 7/20/1950; St Lawrence County, NY
- DARCY, James P;** Cpl
KIA, 7/8/1950; San Diego County, CA
- DITMER, Elwood Lewis;** Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Chagrin Falls, OH
- DRESSLER, William Edwin;** Lt. Col, Hqs Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Alleghany County, VA
- DUTRA, John Louis;** Cpl
KIA, 7/14/1950; Dighton, MA
- EATON, Edward Drew;** Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Crittenden County, AR
- EMMOTT, Robert P;** Cpl
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Chautauqua County, NY
- FAWCETT, Harold M;** MSgt
DOW (Died while missing in action), 7/21/1950; Maricopa County, AZ
- FENWICK, William D;** Cpl
KIA, 7/20/1950; Bannock County, ID
- FLEMING, John;** Pfc, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Philadelphia County, PA
- GAILEY, Robert George;** Sgt, B Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Smiths Ferry, PA
- HENNESSY, Jimmy Edwin;** Pfc, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Wichita, KS
- HICKS, Chester Sims;** Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Madisonville, TN

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HODGE, Elmer; Sgt
KIA, 7/14/1950; Edmonson County, KY

HOSCH, Clarence G; Pvt, B Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Orleans Parish, LA

HOWARD, Ralph Avery; Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Lacona, NY

HUTTON, Donald John; Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; St Louis, MO

KENDIG, John Phillip; Col, B Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; York County, PA

KESSICK, Lawrence H; Pvt
KIA, 7/14/1950; Ensign, MI

KNUDSON, Jack L; Pfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Mobile County, AL

KOSTOFF, Melford L; 2d Lt, B Btry
KIA, 8/9/1950; Seattle, WA

KRIWCHUK, Joseph; Pfc
KIA, 7/20/1950; Cuyahoga County, OH

LAKE, Harold J; 2d Lt
KIA, 7/7/1950; Longview, WA

LEARY, Edwin J; Pvt
KIA, 7/14/1950; St Louis County, MO

LEMATY, Donald Gene; Cpl, A Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Keokuk, IA

LEVINE, Rubin; Pfc, Svc Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/20/1950; Passaic County, NJ

LINDSAY, Max Allen; Pfc, Svc Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/20/1950; Vernon Parish, LA

LINGLE, Keith Levelle; Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Coalwood, WV

LORENZ, Robert Edward; Pfc, Svc Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Chicago, IL

LOW, Charles R; Pfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Decatur County, IN

MAYNARD, Edward Wiley; Capt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Baltimore, MD

McCALL, Edward Leonard; Cpl, Hqs Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Santa Cruz County, CA

McGRATH, Ross Robert; Pfc, Svc Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/20/1950; Suffolk County, MA

McQUEEN, Norman; MSgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; McIntosh County, OK

MERTH, Phillip F; Cpl
KIA, 7/14/1950; Laporte County, IN

MILLER, Chester; Cpl
KIA, 7/14/1950; Perry County, KY

NAUGLE, Walter E; Sfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Franklin County, PA

OAKES, Ronald E; 1st Lt
KIA, 7/14/1950; Kanawha County, WV

OLTMAN, Charles R Lee; Pfc, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Springfield, MO

PEARSON, Raymond Edward; 1st Lt, Svc Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Crawfordsville, IN

PICKENS, Russell Blair; Cpl, A Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/20/1950; Allen County, IN

RAILLING, Thomas Earl; Sgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Lake County, OH

RIGNEY, Keith B; Sgt
KIA, 7/14/1950; Tulsa County, OK

ROBERTS, Randall C; Sgt
KIA, 7/14/1950; Irwin County, GA

ROBINSON, George; Pfc, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Pittsburgh, PA

RUSSELL, Gordon Charles; Sfc, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Saline County, IL

SCHMITZ, Joseph F; Cpl
KIA, 7/14/1950; Allegheny County, PA

SHACKELFORD, Howard John; Cpl, B Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Pontotoc County, OK

SHARP, Raleigh Thomas; Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Oklahoma, OK

SHEENHAN, Erwin W; Pfc
KIA, 7/20/1950; Ramsey County, MN

SHORTER, James William; Cpl, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Davis Station, SC

SLUDER, David Paul; MSgt, B Btry
MIA (Died while missing in action), 7/14/1950; Avery County, NC

SMALL, Richard E; Cpl
KIA, 7/14/1950; Baltimore, MD

SOUTHERLAND, Lyndei M; Capt, A Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Gregg County, TX

STOKES, Kenneth H; MSgt, A Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Monterey Country, CA

STUFFELBEAM, Willard; Pfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Stark County, OH

SULLIVAN, Clinton V; Pvt
POW (Died while captured), 7/20/1950; Kay County, OK

TEIXEIRA, James Cunha; MSgt, Hqs Btry
POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Los Angeles County, CA

TERRY, Paul E; Pfc,
KIA, 7/14/1950; Marion County, OH

THOMAS, James H; Pvt, B Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Fayetteville, WV

TROGDON, Vance E; Pfc
KIA, 7/20/1950; Randolph County, NC

TROW, Billy R; Pfc
KIA, 7/14/1950; Tulare County, CA

TUCKER, Boyd Edward; Cpl, B Btry
KIA, 7/14/1950; Hot Springs, AR

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TUGMAN, Richard John; Pfc. Hqs Btry

POW (Died while captured), 7/14/1950; Chicago, IL

WERKHEISER, Donald; Pvt

KIA, 7/14/1950; Lehigh County, PA

WILLETTE, Eddie M; Pvt

KIA, 7/8/1950; Los Angeles County, CA

63d FA Bibliography

Bolt, James William. "Memoirs: 63d FAB, "B" Battery, Korea 6 July 1950-20 August 1951.
http://koreanwar-educator.org/memoirs/bolt_james

Robertson, William Glenn. "Counterattacks on the Naktong, 1950," *Combat Studies Institute*. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, December 1985

Beyond the Call of Duty



RAY, Lawrence A

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to Corporal Lawrence A. Ray, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Battery A, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, at Kongju, Korea, on July 14, 1950. On that date Battery A was attacked from the flank by numerically superior enemy forces. Corporal Ray's gun position was directly in the path of the assault, and when he could no longer fire his gun, he obtained a Browning Automatic Rifle, ammunition, and grenades. He, without regard for his own personal safety, advanced alone on the enemy, finally taking a position in a foxhole. The enemy charged his position and Corporal Ray stopped the attack by his accurate fire. During this second action he was wounded twice and driven from his position by mortar fire. As soon as the mortar fire slackened, Corporal Ray, despite his wounds, charged back to his former position and continued to hold off the enemy until all equipment could be destroyed and personnel withdrawn from the position.

HQ. 8th US Army Korea; GO No. 55 (September 7, 1950)

WILKES, Herbert

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Herbert Wilkes (RA34517144), Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Battery B, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant First Class Wilkes distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Chonan, Korea, on 8 July 1950. On that date, the battery position of Battery B received extremely heavy fire from enemy tanks and artillery. The rate of fire was so intense that personnel of the battery became disorganized. Seeing this, Sergeant First Class Wilkes, without regard for his personal safety, exposed himself to the intense fire and personally organized each howitzer section so that counter battery fire could be delivered. Due to his heroic action and aggressive leadership, the battery was able to return the enemy fire and in addition deliver concentrated fire on the town of Chonan to protect the withdrawal of an American infantry battalion.

HQ, 8th U.S. Army, Korea; GO No. 50 (September 3, 1950)