



EASY DOES IT - Spec. 4 Larry Nowell (left) and Eric Basnight load a 95-pound charge into their 155mm howitzer as Spec. 4 Jerry Hatcher gets ready to ram the charge into the gun barrel. The three artillerymen are from B battery, 1st Bn, 73d FA, which is readying for Firex 75, Oct. 16-19 at Ft. Bragg.

Tar Heel Spotlight

Insignia History Traced

"Hey! He's from the old 81st -- I can see his insignia!" -- might be a familiar phrase among soldiers.

American servicemen throughout the world, and throughout the history of the military, have proudly worn identifying insignia -- for purposes of identification and morale as well as building pride and respect for self, for service and for country.

The North Carolina Museum of History collection contains two identifying shoulder patches significant historically for different reasons. One is an example of the first shoulder patch -- that of the 81st Division; the second a very rare example of the patch of the 45th Infantry Division which originally wore an old Indian symbol which was a swastika.

Although insignia for uniforms is as old as the knights of the middle ages who needed to identify friend or foe in the suit of armor facing them, American insignia is constantly changing and evolving. George Washington is said to have quickly adopted varying colored cockades and hat plumes for distinguishing his officers and enlisted men, most of whom were without uniforms.

Throughout the history of the American military, identifying symbols have been based mostly on historic facts or attributes of the organization concerned. Many units adapted designs based on local stories or mythology, and even used early weapons as symbols.

The Army's very first division shoulder patch is credited to a World

War I doughboy from North Carolina, Sgt. Dan Silverman of Asheville, of the 81st Division.

In 1918, a major general toured the front in France and noted that British tommyes in the trenches wore distinctive insignia on their sleeves called "flashes," which permitted quick unit identification and boosted morale and pride in the organization.

After a call went out for designs, Sgt. Silverman, then training with the 81st Division at Camp Jackson, S.C., took out a pencil and drew a circle around a silhouette of a Carolina wildcat, and the 81st had a symbol.

The group did not wait for official approval which could take months, but began to wear the design on their left shoulders immediately, as they sailed for France.

At first, officials ordered removal of the unofficial, unauthorized insignia. But after hearing explanations that the loss of the patch might cause serious loss of morale in the division, officialdom relented.

After that, all other American divisions were ordered to create their own shoulder patches, so that Americans would fight as an American Army, not simply as replacements in British and French lines.

By the end of the war there were many different shoulder patches, designed and manufactured mostly in France, and today the bright, multi-colored patches are the largest single class of emblem in the Army.

According to the history of the

45th Infantry shoulder patch, the division was formed during the 1930s as a National Guard division, with its members coming from Oklahoma and other western states.

An old Indian symbol-a swastika - was chosen as the division patch. During the rise of the Nazis in the late 30s, who took the swastika as they symbol, several people became concerned about its similarity to the 45th patch.

To many it was intolerable that our soldiers would wear anything remotely resembling a Nazi insignia, so the 45th changed their patch to another old Indian symbol -- a thunderbird, which it remains today -- an orange thunderbird on a red background.

As the stories of Nazi atrocities became known the simple changing of the patch wasn't sufficient. So the division general confined his troops to quarters and dramatically removed the patches from all uniforms and had them burned en masse.

None of the patches was supposed to be saved, so the one in the Museum of History is quite rare.

The two patches, along with many others both obsolete and currently in use are on display in the Museum of History from time to time in special exhibits.

The Museum is open from 8:30 - 5:30, Monday through Saturday and from 2-5 on Sunday.

Whole Wide World Is Invited To America's Birthday Party

Nine score and nineteen years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation. Abraham Lincoln might have put it that way, had he been speaking about the American Bicentennial instead of memorializing poignantly the fallen at Gettysburg.

The 200 years of the United States will be recalled and celebrated in many ways, with music and dance and festivals and fireworks. They will be remembered with prayers of thanksgiving that a country so large and so diverse can endure in freedom.

Celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be no mere American or parochial event, the National Geographic Society points out. The whole wide world is invited to participate, and all who can will be urged to visit the United States -- from Alaska to Texas, from Hawaii to Puerto Rico, and everywhere in between.

To emphasize the universal aspects of the Bicentennial, some 40 members of the Society of American Travel Writers, including authors of travel books, travel writers, and travel editors of principal newspapers and magazines, are setting out on a whirlwind, three week world-wide tour. Their mission: Personally to extend the invitation.

With the sponsorship of the United States Travel Service, the support of the United States Information Agency, and the backing of the American Revolution

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AGREEMENT SIGNED -- Officials were smiling after a new cooperation agreement was signed on sediment control. Left to right are shown James E. Harrington, Carl Sloop, Jesse L. Hicks, and Dr. Joseph A. Phillips.

---RECREATION---

Continued from page 1

program.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Postel were asked to talk with Hoke High principal Allen Edwards about a dance for Hoke High students and forming a committee to handle the matter.

Lovett explained \$2,400 in equipment to go to Robbins Heights Park that was bought with revenue

Blood Pressure

Clinic Is Saturday

A blood pressure detection clinic sponsored by the Home Life Department of the Raeford Woman's Club will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. at the Edinborough Shopping Center. Medics from Fort Bragg will conduct the clinic.

The public is invited to take advantage of this service.

sharing money that must be spent within the city. Lovett talked with Charles Hostetler, J.H. Austin, and Palmer Wilcox involving the commission's responsibility of the lights at the tennis courts. It was decided that the parks and recreation commission was not responsible or liable unless the courts are owned by the county.

Lovett said he was told that the Board of Education was not interested in pursuing the issue any further at this time.

A delegation from the Rockfish community was introduced to the commission and said that they wanted the commission to be aware of the growth of the area and the need for facilities there.

Some of the needs listed were land, building, and perhaps basketball courts.

Frank Bundy was appointed to be a representative from the Rockfish area and to work with the commission.