Wikipedia article on 175th

World War II[edit]

In 1939, the winds of war were once again blowing in Europe. The Fifth Regiment, in anticipation of its induction into the active Army, began to prepare, using its annual training to hone the skills that would prepare them for the rigors of combat. On 31 December 1940, the Army re-designated the Fifth Regiment as the 175th Infantry Regiment to avoid confusion with the Regular Army's 5th Infantry Regiment and designated as one of three infantry regiments of the 29th Infantry Division. Then in January, 1941, the order to federalize the regiment was given. The 175th moved to Ft. Meade, Maryland, where it was reinforced by an influx of draftees in April and participated in 29th Division maneuvers in North Carolina that fall. The Regiment remained in training in the United States until 5 October 1942 when it sailed to England on the HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The 175th was quartered at the Tidworth Barracks where it underwent intense training until its move to Cornwall. The regiment trained on the cold and dreary moors during the late summer of 1943 and then transitioned to invasion training. It performed amphibious assault training at Slapton Sands. It was then moved to the invasion assembly area in Devon. On 4 June 1944, the regiment boarded the LSTs which would carry them to the beaches of Normandy. Following a 24 hour delay, the attack was launched

and the 115th and 116th Infantry assaulted the beaches on 6 June. The 175th, the 29th Division's reserve, landed on the still unsecured Omaha Beach on the morning of 7 June, and proceeded to its objective to seize the village of Isigny. It pushed through Isigny and crossed the Vire River and on to St Lo. The 175th fought stiff German resistance hedge row by hedge row. The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry pushed the American lines to within three miles of St Lo, creating a salient into the German lines. The unit stubbornly defended the high ground, known as Hill 108 but nicknamed “Purple Heart Hill” as they were surrounded on three sides. The Regiment was rotated into the Division Reserve for the final thrust into St Lo. The 175th fought honorably in Normandy until the end of August when the Division was moved to Brittany to participate in the capture of Brest and the German submarine pens located there. Following the Battle of Brest, the Division was moved to Holland to participate in the 9th Army’s drive to the Rhine River. The Regiment played a significant role in capturing Julich followed by the occupation of the industrial center of Munchen-Gladbach. The Regiment was moved to occupy the lines along the Elbe River near Felberg. On 2 May 1945, a patrol from 3-175 Infantry made contact with elements of the 28th Company, 6th Guards Cavalry of the Russian Army. Following the surrender of the German Army, the regiment remained in Europe until 1 January 1946.

The 175th demobilized between 11-17 Jan. 1946, this

time keeping the federal numerical designation for good. It reorganized as an infantry regiment and regained Federal recognition on 12 Nov. 1946.