

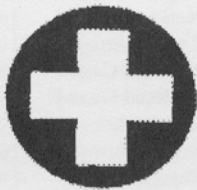


# Fact Sheet The National Guard in World War II

## 1940-41 MOBILIZATION

Beginning in September 1940, the first of 300,034 National Guard troops reported for active duty "for one year of training." This doubled the size of the U.S. Army, adding 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Army Air Forces flying squadrons to the nation's active-duty forces. Along with the Guard's mobilization came the nation's first peacetime conscription, which put another million men in Army uniform.

In August 1941, Congress extended by one additional year the term of service for draftees and mobilized Guardsmen. Thus the entire National Guard was already on active duty when the United States entered World War II.



### GUARD ALREADY OVERSEAS AS WAR BEGINS

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, California's 251st Coast Artillery had already been stationed in Hawaii for a year. Like the Guardsmen of Hawaii's 298th Infantry Regiment, they took part in the defense of Oahu.

When Japanese troops invaded the Philippine Islands three days later, U.S. troops there included the New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery, and two tank battalions made up of National Guard units from various states. Half of these men died as prisoners of the Japanese.

Three other Guard field artillery units were in mid-ocean as the war broke out. The 147th (South Dakota), 148th (Idaho), and 2nd Battalion, 131st (Texas) were diverted from the Philippines to Australia, the first of thousands of U.S. troops to arrive "Down Under." The 131st was sent to Java, where it surrendered with the Dutch garrison to the Japanese.

### FIRST TO SHIP OUT; FIRST TO FIGHT

North Dakota's 164th Infantry, sent to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal in October 1942, was the first U.S. Army regiment to fight offensively in World War II. They were soon joined by their sister infantry regiments in the newly-formed Americal Division, the 132nd (Illinois) and 182nd (Massachusetts).

On New Guinea, the 32nd and 41st Infantry Divisions became the first Army divisions to engage and defeat the Japanese, in late 1942 and early 1943.

The 34th Infantry Division was the first U.S. Army division to sail overseas. In North Africa, it became one of the first two U.S. infantry divisions to fight in the European theatre, and by the end of the war had spent more actual days in combat than any other U.S. Army division.

National Guard flying squadrons were also among the first to reach the combat zone. Three Observation Squadrons, the 111th (Texas), 122nd (La.), and 154th (Ark.), arrived in North Africa in the fall of 1942. In July 1944, Michigan's 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, which had flown pre-invasion missions over the Normandy beaches, became the first Army Air Forces unit to operate from the continent of Europe.



## WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS NATIONAL GUARD INFANTRY DIVISIONS

### European Theater

**26th Infantry Division** (Mass.)  
N. France, Rhineland,  
Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

**28th Infantry Division** (Pa.)  
Normandy, N. France, Rhineland,  
Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

**29th Infantry Division**  
(Va., Md., D.C.)  
Normandy\*, N. France, Rhineland,  
Central Europe

**30th Infantry Division**  
(N.C., S.C., Tenn.)  
Normandy, N. France, Rhineland,  
Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace

**34th Infantry Division**  
(N.D., S.D., Minn., Iowa)  
Tunisia\*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio,  
Rome-Arno, N. Apennines,  
Po Valley

**35th Infantry Division**  
(Kansas, Mo., Neb.)  
Normandy, N. France, Rhineland,  
Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace

**36th Infantry Division**  
(Texas)  
Naples-Foggia\*, Anzio Rome-Arno,  
S. France\*, Rhineland, Central Europe,  
Ardennes-Alsace

**44th Infantry Division**  
(N.J., N.Y.)  
N. France, Rhineland, Central Europe,  
Ardennes-Alsace

**45th Infantry Division**  
(Ariz., Colo., N.M., Okla.)  
Sicily\*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio,  
Rome-Arno, S. France\*, Rhineland,  
Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

\* assault landing

### Pacific Theater

**27th Infantry Division**  
(N.Y.)  
Central Pacific, Western Pacific  
Ryukyus

**31st Infantry Division**  
(Fla., Ala., La., Miss.)  
New Guinea\*, S. Philippines,  
Western Pacific

**32nd Infantry Division**  
(Mich., Wisc.)  
New Guinea, S. Philippines, Luzon

**33rd Infantry Division**  
(Ill.)  
New Guinea, Luzon

**37th Infantry Division**  
(Ohio)  
Northern Solomons, Luzon\*

**38th Infantry Division**  
(Ind., Kentucky, W.Va.)  
New Guinea, S. Philippines, Luzon

**40th Infantry Division**  
(Calif., Utah, Nev.)  
Bismarck Archipelago,  
S. Philippines, Luzon\*

**41st Infantry Division**  
(Wash., Ore., Idaho, Mont., Wyo.)  
New Guinea, Luzon, S. Philippines

**43d Infantry Division**  
(Conn., Maine, Vermont, R.I.)  
Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons,  
New Guinea, Luzon

**Americal Division**  
(org. May 1942, primarily from  
Ill., Mass., N.D. Guard units)  
Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons,  
Leyte, S. Philippines\*



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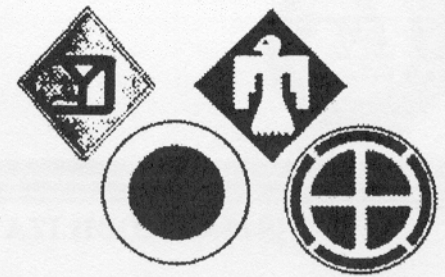
## First U.S. Army Divisions to enter combat

<u>Division</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area</u>
32nd Infantry Division	National Guard	September 1942	New Guinea
Americal	National Guard	October 1942	Guadalcanal
34th Infantry Division	National Guard	November 1942	North Africa
1st Armored Division	Regular Army	November 1942	North Africa
2nd Armored Division	Regular Army	November 1942	North Africa
1st Infantry Division	Regular Army	November 1942	North Africa
3rd Infantry Division	Regular Army	November 1942	North Africa
9th Infantry Division	Regular Army	November 1942	North Africa
25th Infantry Division	Regular Army*	January 1943	Guadalcanal
41st Infantry Division	National Guard	January 1943	New Guinea
43rd Infantry Division	National Guard	February 1943	Guadalcanal
7th Infantry Division	Regular Army*	May 1943	Alaska
37th Infantry Division	National Guard	June 1943	N. Solomons
45th Infantry Division	National Guard	July 1943	Italy
82nd Airborne Division	Reserve	July 1943	Italy
3rd Infantry Division	Regular Army	July 1943	Italy
36th Infantry Division	National Guard	September 1943	Italy
27th Infantry Division	National Guard	November 1943	Central Pacific
40th Infantry Division	National Guard	December 1943	Guadalcanal

\* Contained one National Guard regiment

## National Guard Observation Squadrons, World War II

<u>Current Designation</u>	<u>1945 Designation</u>	<u>Theater</u>
101st Observation Squadron (Mass.)	39th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron	European Theater
102nd Observation Squadron (N.Y.)	102nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron	Zone of Interior
103rd Observation Squadron (Pa.)	103rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron	China/Burma/India
104th Observation Squadron (Md.)	12th Antisub Squadron (disbanded September 1943)	Zone of Interior
105th Observation Squadron (Tenn.)	105th Reconnaissance Squadron (Bomb) (disbanded August 1943)	Zone of Interior
106th Observation Squadron (Ala.)	100th Bomb Squadron (Med)	Pacific Theater
107th Observation Squadron (Mich.)	107th Tactical Reconnaissance Group	European Theater
108th Observation Squadron (Ill.)	108th Observation Squadron (disbanded November 1943)	Canal Zone
109th Observation Squadron (Minn.)	109th Reconnaissance Squadron	European Theater
110th Observation Squadron (Mo.)	110th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron	Pacific Theater
111th Observation Squadron (Texas)	111th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron	Mediterranean Theater
112th Observation Squadron (Ohio)	112th Liaison Squadron	European Theater
113th Observation Squadron (Ind.)	113th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron	Zone of Interior
115th Observation Squadron (Calif.)	115th Liaison Squadron	China/Burma/India
116th Observation Squadron (Wash.)	116th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (disbanded December 1943)	Zone of Interior
118th Observation Squadron (Conn.)	118th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter)	China/Burma/India
119th Observation Squadron (N.J.)	490th Fighter Squadron (disbanded May 1944)	Zone of Interior
120th Observation Squadron (Colo.)	120th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (disbanded November 1943)	Zone of Interior
121st Observation Squadron (D.C.)	121st Liaison Squadron	Mediterranean and European Theaters
122 Observation Squadron (La.)	885 Bomb Squadron (Heavy)	Mediterranean Theater
123 Observation Squadron (Ore.)	35th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron	China/Burma/India
124 Observation Squadron (Iowa)	124 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (disbanded May 1944)	Zone of Interior
125 Observation Squadron (Okla.)	125 Liaison Squadron	European Theater
126 Observation Squadron (Wisc.)	34 Photo Reconnaissance Squadron	European Theater
127 Observation Squadron (Kansas)	127 Liaison Squadron	China/Burma/India
128 Observation Squadron (Ga.)	840 Bomb Squadron	Mediterranean Theater
152 Observation Squadron (R.I.)	37 Photo Reconnaissance Squadron	Mediterranean Theater
153 Observation Squadron (Miss.)	153 Liaison Squadron	European Theater
154 Observation Squadron (Ark.)	154 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron	Mediterranean Theater



## First Divisions to deploy overseas

<u>Division</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Date</u>
34th Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
Americal Division	National Guard	1942
27th Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
41st Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
32nd Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
5th Infantry Division	Regular Army	1942
1st Armored Division	Regular Army	1942
40th Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
1st Infantry Division	Regular Army	1942
43rd Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
29th Infantry Division	National Guard	1942
3rd Infantry Division	Regular Army	1942
9th Infantry Division	Regular Army	1942
25th Infantry Division	Regular Army	1942



## Highest battle casualties, U.S. Army Divisions

<u>Division</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
3rd Infantry Division	Regular Army	24,324
4th Infantry Division	Regular Army	22,225
9th Infantry Division	Regular Army	21,920
29th Infantry Division	National Guard	20,327
1st Infantry Division	Regular Army	19,488
45th Infantry Division	National Guard	18,521
90th Infantry Division	Reserve	18,316
30th Infantry Division	National Guard	16,892
36th Infantry Division	National Guard	16,828
2nd Infantry Division	Regular Army	16,273
80th Infantry Division	Reserve	15,484
83rd Infantry Division	Reserve	15,427
34th Infantry Division	National Guard	14,895
35th Infantry Division	National Guard	14,473
8th Infantry Division	Regular Army	12,877
28th Infantry Division	National Guard	12,292
5th Infantry Division	Regular Army	12,205
88th Infantry Division	Reserve	11,781
26th Infantry Division	National Guard	9,998
7th Infantry Division	Regular Army	9,592

