

Congressional Medal Presented at Atterbury

The 106th Infantry division and Camp Atterbury played host to the general public Thursday at an "open house" observance of Infantry day, highlighted by presentation of the nation's top military award—the Congressional Medal of Honor—to the father of an Army hero.

A crowd of more than 5,000 civilians, many of them from Bartholomew county, stood that morning in a long row along the edge of the parade ground at the extreme southern edge of the cantonment area of Atterbury's big acres and watched as Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones made a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Lt. Robert Craig of Toledo, Ohio.

Lieutenant Craig was killed in action in Sicily last July and the medal presentation was made, in the name of Congress, to William F. Craig, his father. Mrs. Craig, mother of the hero, and other relatives also were present at the ceremonies.

Other Generals Present

Others present included Maj. Gen. Henry Terrell, Jr., commanding officer of the Twenty-second corps, Second army, and Maj. Gen. James L. Collins, commanding officer of the Fifth Service command, Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio. General Terrell has headquarters at Fort Campbell, Ky.

In making the presentation, General Jones paid tribute to the infantry and the part the men of its units are playing on war fronts around the world. He pointed out that the combat infantry divisions overseas have shown ability, skill and courage and that their willingness to accept the challenge of combat will make victory possible.

General Jones also reviewed the background of Infantry day, which is being observed today throughout the nation for the first time. June 15 was selected because on June 15, 1775, the Second Congressional Congress chose General George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental army, which consisted almost entirely of infantry.

The Combat Infantry badge also was awarded two returned veterans from the North African area for showing exemplary conduct under fire. Those receiving the badge from General Jones were Sgt. Charles W. Brennan and Pvt. Edward J. Bundy, both of 422nd Infantry regiment, 106th Division. To approximately 160 other infantrymen was awarded the Expert

Infantryman badge, based on a series of gruelling training tests and combat knowledge.

Cloudy skies greeted start of the ceremonies at 10:20 a. m. but before the last of the thousands of 106th Division troops had marched by in review the sun was beginning to beat down on the spectators.

Firing of a 13-gun salute to the visiting generals marked opening of the ceremonies. The father of Lieutenant Craig and Generals Terrell, Collins and Jones, riding in jeeps, then inspected the 106th's troops and equipment, lined up across the parade ground in a formation that covered more than a quarter of a mile.

Upon the party's return to the reviewing stand, the colors were brought forward and the presentation of awards was made.

The citation of Lieutenant Craig, "who sacrificed himself so that his platoon might carry on," was read by Lt. Col. Frank Agule, 106th Division adjutant general.

Troops Pass in Review

A review of the full 106th Division followed the presentation ceremonies and completed the morning's open house program. Marching to the strains of the 106th band, the troops of the division walked and rode by the reviewing stand and the big crowd of onlookers in an endless stream. Equipment included jeeps, staff cars, half-tracks, the division's light weapons and artillery, special troops and medical units with their cross-marked ambulances.

That afternoon the guests of the 106th Division witnessed a Ranger training demonstration, display of equipment, a baseball game and a retreat-parade on the post baseball field. The crowd of visitors at the camp had increased to an estimated 10,000 at noon and a total of 15,000 was expected to visit the installation before close of the day.

The 106th Division also was playing host to approximately 60 members of the Indiana and Kentucky Manufacturers associations. The manufacturers arrived at Camp Atterbury Wednesday afternoon and witnessed an impressive combat demonstration with use of live ammunition Wednesday night. They were up with the soldiers at crack of dawn Thursday and made a tour of the Hoosier Army camp before attending the award ceremonies and review.

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