

Photo of the Month

936th Field Artillery Battalion in the Korean War



3rd Section, Battery C, 936th Field Artillery Battalion
Photo Taken Early 1950s
Neg. # N014803

In less than five years following the Second World War, America found itself engaged in a difficult and costly conflict on the Korean peninsula between 1950 and 1953. The Korean War emerged from the growing tensions between Democratic and Communist nations and reminded us of the dangers facing the post-world war nuclear world. Soviet-supported North Korean forces poured over the 38th Parallel, which divided the peninsula into two ideologies, in an attempt to reunify their country.

American forces, however, came to the aid of South Korea. In response, China, also with Soviet support, then entered the war as a measure of “self-defense” against the United States retaliation. Atomic weapons were considered early by President Truman and General MacArthur as a means to end the conflict during the desperate hours of defeat and retreat suffered by American forces. Fortunately this option never came to fruition, but the conventional aspect of the “Police Action” raged on for several years, testing the resolve between East and West and ended in stalemate. Korea remains divided today.

The people of Rogers and Benton County were not spared from this conflict. The image at right illustrates only a small portion of the local individuals sent to serve in the “Forgotten War,” which became part of the larger Cold War struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union in the mid- to late-twentieth

century. Pictured here during the early 1950s are members of the Rogers National Guard unit mobilized as 3rd section, Battery C, 936th Field Artillery Battalion. Battery C, which deployed 155mm Howitzers, was made up of 75 enlisted men and 4 commissioned officers.

Landing first at Pusan, South Korea, on February 10, 1951, the battalion was moved to the front north of Seoul and greatly contributed to halting a "Red" attack at a place called Chorwon. Captain Douglas E. Morrow, of Battery C and Rogers, was one of two casualties suffered by the battalion while on service in Korea. The battalion returned to the United States on January 11, 1952.

Arkansans accounted for 40,300 of the 6.8 million American military personnel who saw service in Korea. There were 54,200 American deaths in Korea, of which 461 were from Arkansas and, of these, 14 were from Benton County. Of the 8,100 members of the armed forces listed as missing in action in Korea, 108 were from Arkansas – eight of these men were from Northwest Arkansas.