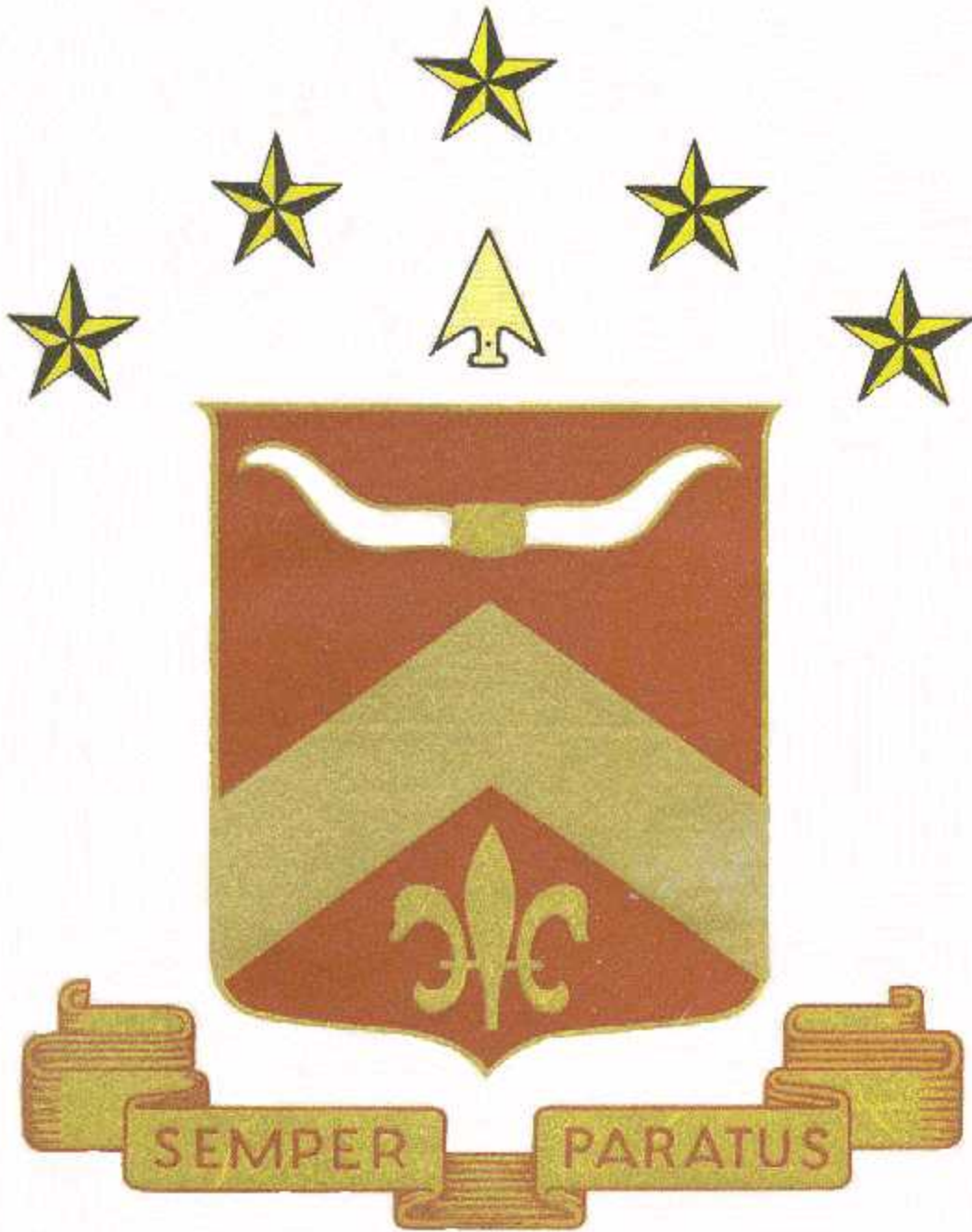


*M*ISSION
*A*CCOMPLISHED

343RD F.A. BN





SHEAF



12TH ARMY GROUP



1ST ARMY



3RD ARMY



3RD CORPS



5TH CORPS



7TH CORPS



8TH CORPS



12TH CORPS



15TH CORPS



20TH CORPS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOOK 1

Message from the Battalion Commander

Dedication by the Battalion Executive Officer

In Memoriam

Background for Invasion

Invasion, The Battle of Normandy

The Run to Le Mans, Chambois Shambles

Across France to Fortress Metz

BOOK 2

Across the Moselle to the Saar

Double-Crossing the Saar

The Bulge

Through the Siegfried to the Rhine

One More River to Cross, VE

BOOK 3

Some Facts and Figures

Roster and Acknowledgment



**TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
343RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

You are the ones who made the history of the 343rd Field Artillery the magnificent account of a truly wonderful organization. You are the ones who studied and worked in Camp Barkeley, the Louisiana Maneuvers, on the Desert, and at Fort Dix to make this battalion a team that accomplished its mission in every encounter against the enemy.

I am indeed proud to have been the Commanding Officer of such a loyal, courageous and devoted group of Officers and Men. I shall never forget the superior manner in which you performed your duties, regardless of the hardships you had to undergo, the sacrifices you made, and the dangers you faced with courage and determination.

I regret that I am unable to take each and every one of you by the hand and thank you for your wonderful cooperation and attention to duty. I hope the hardships and sacrifices you have made have not been made in vain and that your future life will be filled with peace and happiness.

D. KENNETH REIMERS, Lt. Col. F.A.



DEDICATION

This history is dedicated to you, the men and officers of the 343rd Field Artillery Battalion. Through your heroic deeds, your devotion to duty, and your cooperation, this battalion was enabled to achieve its enviable record in defeating the enemy. Throughout combat you encountered many hardships and trying situations which you surmounted with the usual good humor and American ingenuity that characterizes a superior outfit.

To the officers and men of this battalion who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, we offer this history as a simple but heartfelt memorial to their services.

The events recorded here in a permanent form represent only a fraction of the highlights of your brilliant combat experiences. It would be impossible to recount the outstanding achievements of each individual which taken as a whole go to make the record of your battalion one envied by all. It is hoped that the few incidents recorded here will serve as stimulants for recalling other experiences of heroism and humor for the inevitable bull sessions of future years.

HOLLOWAY W. PERKINS MAJ. F.A.



IN MEMORIAM!

A final taps has blown for our friends listed below. They are gone now to a place where reveille never blows. Their names are shown below in the order in which they answered the last roll call.

To these men go our proudest salutes. May your supreme sacrifice not have been in vain. May we carry on and be worthy of the ideal for which you fought and died, and in your memory find the inspiration to build for all people a world of enduring democratic peace.

Millard F. Aufrance	Technician Fifth Grade
George J. Mayer Jr.	Technician Fifth Grade
Frank H. Kocubinski	Private
Gilbert A. Helland	Private First Class
Hall G. Varner	Private
Charlie A. Preslar	Corporal
Ray W. Whidden	Sergeant
Jeremiah A. Sheehan	Captain
John Burkhart	Technician Fourth Grade
Henry Maul	Private First Class
Fred D. Weyl, Jr.	Private First Class
Tony A. Vigil	Private
Joseph R. McDonald	First Lieutenant
Henry R. Dutkiewicz	Second Lieutenant
Charlie V. Ard	Private First Class
Aram Zazian	First Lieutenant
Walter S. Vrooman	Private First Class
Lillard E. Pratt	Captain
Henry F. Deer	Technician Fourth Grade
Stuart R. Spear	Technician Fifth Grade