



Kuila-I Ka-Nuu

"All pre-fire checks are complete and the ball-lock pins have been removed."

by Second Lieutenant Richard W. Wilde

The last 2 Pershing II crewmen leave the erector launcher (EL) and head for protective cover. Soon the silence is replaced by a deafening roar as the Army's only intermediate range missile launches skyward to its intended target.

Members of the 9th Field Artillery Regiment are the only soldiers in the US Army privileged to fire these missiles. Under the new regimental system, the

9th Field Artillery Regiment consists of 5 battalions:

- The 1st Battalion (Pershing), formerly 1st Battalion, 81st Field Artillery of Neu Ulm, Germany.
- The 2d Battalion (Pershing), previously the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery at Schwaebisch Gmuend, Germany.
- The 3d Battalion (Pershing), located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



A Pershing I a missile fired in 1971.

- The 4th Battalion (Pershing), formerly 3d Battalion, 84th Field Artillery at Heilbronn, Germany.

- The 7th Battalion of Pamona Beach, Florida.

Prior to its reorganization in January 1986, the 9th Field Artillery Regiment had only 2 active battalions—the 3d and the 7th. The 3d Battalion, the only continental US (CONUS)-based Pershing unit, served as a training and sustaining base for the 56th Field Artillery Command in the US Army Europe (USAREUR). The 7th Battalion, the only non-Pershing unit in the regiment, is a US Army Reserve (USAR) 8-inch howitzer unit. Although the 3 new battalions in the 9th Field Artillery did not join the regiment until 1986, their long standing close relationship grew out of their mutual fielding of the Pershing Ia system in 1971. The 9th Field Artillery proudly served the nation in 3 wars.

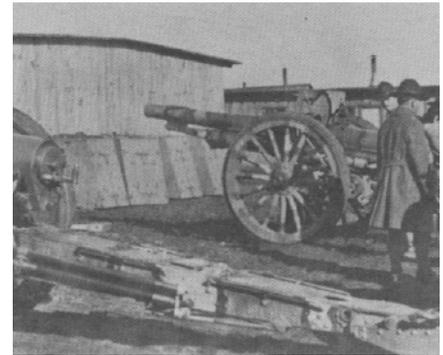
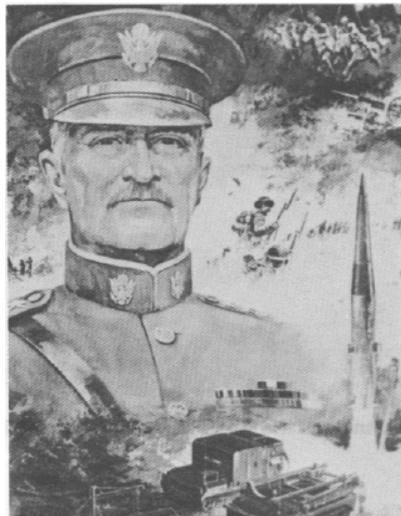
History of the 9th Field Artillery

Cadre from the 1st Field Artillery formed the 9th Field Artillery Regiment in August 1916 at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii. The new regiment immediately garnered 2 distinctions: it was the only Field Artillery regiment ever formed overseas, and it was the first regiment of artillery to mechanize its forces. General Order #22 of the National Defense Act of 1916 authorized 4 batteries of 4.7 inch cannons and 2 batteries of 6 inch cannons for the regiment. After its organization, the 9th Field Artillery left Hawaii and moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Although the unit trained extensively for combat, it saw no action in World War I and Army leaders deactivated it in September 1921.

But just a year later, the 9th Field

Artillery returned to active duty when members of the 3d Field Artillery Regiment activated the 1st Battalion at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and members of existing units activated the 2d Battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. When leaders deactivated 2d Battalion 3 months later, it began an 11-year period of activations, deactivations, assignments and reassignments for the 9th Regiment.

In March 1923, the 9th Field Artillery went to the 7th Division and then to the 9th Division in August 1927. One month later, the 1st Battalion merged with the 2d Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, and the new unit kept the latter designation. A new 1st Battalion occupied inactive status. Once again, the "Mighty Ninth" went into hibernation which was to have lasted until April 1930. While on inactive status the Regiment went to the 4th Division, and divisional leaders



Battery C, 9th Field Artillery at Fort Sill about 1918.

activated the 3d Battalion in January 1930 and the 1st Battalion in April at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After 3 years of service with the 4th Division, the 9th Field Artillery moved on to the 3d Division in October 1933. This assignment lasted 44 years, and it was a period of dedicated and mutually enhancing service. The 2d Battalion rejoined the regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington and less than a year later the regiment became the 9th Field Artillery Battalion under a new organization.

World War II

A month prior to Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, the 9th Field Artillery Battalion, the 3d Division's only medium artillery, started to train on landing operations against a theoretical enemy. With the outbreak of war, the battalion geared up its training, and in 1942 moved to Camp Pickett, Virginia—the 3d Division staging area for movement overseas. On 24 October 1942 the division left Camp Pickett enroute to French Morocco.



Howitzers of the 9th Field Artillery Regiment at France's Vosges Mountains near Les Rouges Eaux.



This 9th FA Regiment piece is well camouflaged near Bourgonne in the Vosges Mountains.

Two weeks later, the Mighty Ninth landed on foreign soil for the first time. At 0700, November 10, 1942, Battery A, 9th Field Artillery Battalion landed near the city of Casablanca and began firing at designated targets. The battery immediately came under counterbattery fire. This was the first taste of combat for the Mighty Ninth.

On July 10, 1943, the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry, landed on Red Beach near the city of Licata. The 10th Field Artillery and Battery A, 9th Field Artillery Battalion, gave fire support. The artillery was extremely effective, hitting enemy mortars, infantry, an enemy gun battery, several machinegun nests, and an observation post.

Although this was the Mighty Ninth's first taste of combat, it certainly wasn't its last. The 9th Field Artillery participated in 10 campaigns during World War II: Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alase, and Central Europe. The Battalion received a French Croix de Guerre for its outstanding service during World War II, and they earned a Presidential Unit

Citation (PUC) and a French Croix de Guerre with Palm for its valor in the Colmar Pocket.

The Korean War

After World War II, the 9th Field Artillery Battalion returned to Fort Lewis, Washington, to go to the 3d Infantry Division. When the 3d Infantry division reported to Korea in September 1951, they left the division briefly. But the Mighty Ninth was destined to fight in Korea. Upon its arrival in Korea, the Battalion again went to the 3d Infantry Division. While in Korea, the 9th fought bravely in every major campaign, twice earning the Republic of Korea PUC for the valor and service of its fighting men. The first PUC came in 1953 for its participation in the Uijonbu Corridor; the second PUC for its participation in the Iron Triangle. The battalion also received the Chryssoun Aristion Andrias—Bravery Gold Medal of Greece—in recognition of the close ties it maintained with its Greek allies.

Following the war, the 9th Field Artillery Battalion left the 3d Division and became the 9th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combined Arms Regimental System (CARS). As part of the reorganization, the 9th Artillery had 3 battalions. The 9th assigned the 1st Battalion to the 3d

Infantry Division; the 2d Battalion to the 10th Division; and constituted the 3d Battalion on inactive status at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 1959, the 9th Artillery received 4 more battalions. Army leaders activated the 3d Battalion and allotted it to the Army Reserve at Lima, Ohio. They also allotted the 4th and 5th Battalions to the Army Reserve at Washington, Pennsylvania and Phoenix, Arizona. They constituted the 6th Battalion and the 7th Battalion, but did not activate them. The Army activated the 6th Battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1963, and then activated the 3d and the 4th Battalions; in 1966 they activated the 7th Battalion at Fort Irwin, California.

The Vietnam War

The 9th Artillery sent 2 battalions to Vietnam: the 2d and the 7th Battalions. The 2d Battalion served as a towed 105-mm howitzer battalion operating near Pleiku throughout its tour in Vietnam. Upon its arrival in Vietnam it served as the direct support (DS) artillery for the 25th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade. In 1967, it became the DS battalion for the 4th Division's 3d Brigade. While in Vietnam, the Battalion received 3 awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for outstanding service. The battalion also



Gunners of the 9th Artillery on duty with 105-mm howitzers in Vietnam.



The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery areas of operations in Vietnam, 1966-1969.

received the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal First Class for its public service to the Vietnamese people. In addition to these honors, C Battery, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery received the PUC for its outstanding performance at Dong Ap Bia Mountain.

The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, a towed 105-mm howitzer battalion, arrived at Phu Loi, Vietnam, in November 1966. It moved to Bear Cat under the control of the 54th Artillery Group of the II Field Force. In August 1969, the battalion moved to Tay Ninh and came under the control of the 54th Artillery Group of the II Field Force. In August 1969, the battalion moved to Tay Ninh and came under the control of the 23d Artillery Group. While in Vietnam, the Battalion received the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal First Class. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery also earned a PUC for its valor at Ap Bau Bang.

After the US withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, the Army inactivated the 2d and 7th Battalions. Eight months later, leaders reactivated the 2d Battalion and assigned it to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. In 1971, the 9th Artillery became the 9th Field Artillery and went through several changes. The 3d Battalion went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and became the first Pershing Battalion of the regiment. The 7th Battalion went to the Army Reserve at Fort Tilden, New York. In 1972, leaders inactivated the 1st and 2d Battalions, leaving only the 3d, 6th, and 7th Battalions on active



Crew members from the 9th Field Artillery Regiment work in the platoon control center of the Pershing II system.

status. The Army inactivated the 6th Battalion in 1983, and in 1986 they reactivated the 1st, 2d, and 4th Battalions.

The 9th Field Artillery Today

The 9th Field Artillery Regiment, as custodian of the Army's most devastating weapon system, assumes an international peacekeeping role. The Pershing II missile system is a great deterrent to the Warsaw Pact nations. Since the initial fielding of Pershing, the troops of the Mighty Ninth have devoted themselves to the preservation

of peace. Using the combat alert sites located throughout the Federal Republic of Germany, the 1st, 2d, and 4th Battalions maintain continual target coverage with Pershing II.

Meanwhile, back in the States, the 3d Battalion conducts tactical training with the Pershing system, developing new doctrines and deployment procedures. Every year, Pershing battalions in Germany come back to the United States to conduct live firings of the Pershing II missile at Cape Canaveral, Florida, or White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. These Redlegs continue the spirit of Kuila-I-Ka-Nuu—strive to reach the summit!



Second Lieutenant Richard W. Wilde, FA, received his commission through the ROTC program at Norwich University, Vermont. He was a fire control officer, Pershing platoon leader, a battery operations officer, and the assistant adjutant in the 3d Battalion, 9th Field Artillery.