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**Report date:** 1953

**Title:** Story of The Wolfhounds

**Author:** 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

**Abstract:** This document contains the Coat-of-Arms, regimental history, list of famous leaders to include General Omar Bradley, General Simon B. Buckner, General John J. Pershing, LTG Hugh Drum, MG Frank Baldwin, one of the few men to receive two Congressional Medals of Honor, MG Leland S. Hobbs and BG John H. Michaelis, The Wolfhound Crest, Story of the Nickname, Battle Honors, and the Story of the Wolfhounds to include narrative of operations, discussions, Citations in the Korean War, and comments by the American press.

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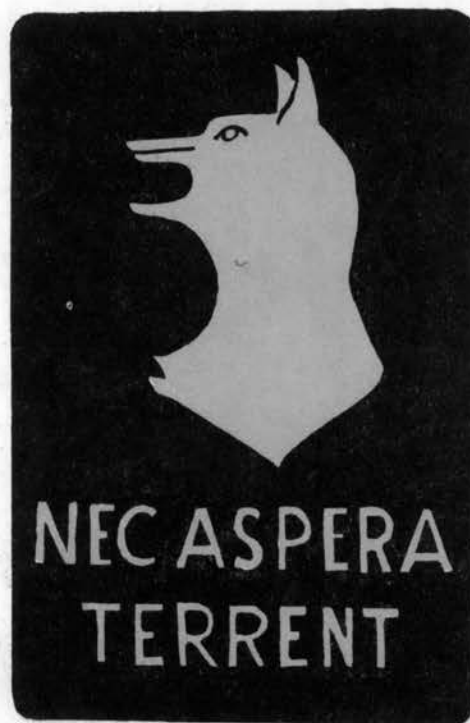
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Story of the Wolfhounds

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# Wolfhounds

**27<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**OLDEST** REGIMENT IN KOREA  
**NEVER** LOST A POSITION  
**FIRST** TO FIRE IN WORLD WAR II  
**NEVER** FAILED A MISSION

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## THE WOLFHOUND COAT-OF-ARMS

The 27th was organized in 1901 and saw its first hard fighting in the Philippines, especially in the Lake Lanao expedition. This service is indicated by the crest in which a silver crescent rests on crossed Malay daggers, representative of the weapons used by island fighters during that period. The daggers appear over a wreath of the regimental colors, blue and silver.

"Nec Aspera Terrent," the regiment's motto, which means literally, "Obstacles Do Not Frighten," had been used for many years before the coat-of-arms was adopted.

15

Famous Leaders Who Have Served Under the Colors of  
THE 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (The Wolfhounds)

Gen. Omar Bradley

Gen. Simon B. Buckner

Gen. John J. Pershing

Lt. Gen. Hugh Drum

Maj. Gen. Frank Baldwin (one of the  
few men to receive two Congressional Medals  
of Honor)

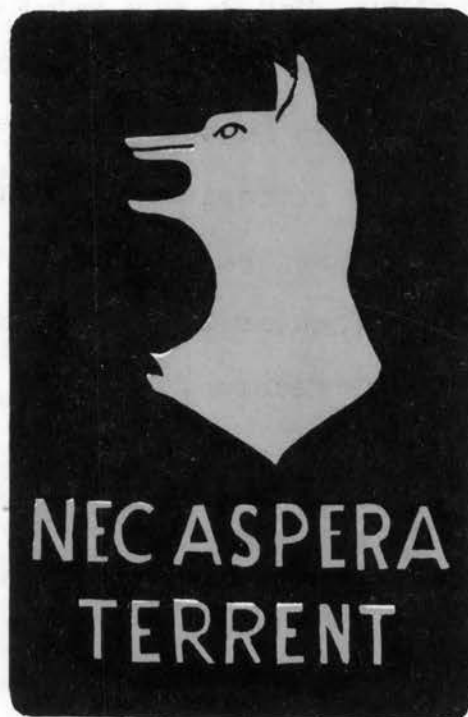
Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs

Brig. Gen. John H. Michaelis

## THE WOLFHOUND CREST

The Wolfhound crest, which is the distinctive insignia of the 27th Infantry Regiment, is a wolf's head erased on a rectangular sable field bordered in gold. The wolf's head, signifying ferocity, comes from the nickname of the regiment, "The Wolfhounds."

Motto on the crest is the Latin, "Nec Aspera Terrent." A literal translation is, "Obstacles Do Not Frighten." Many figurative translations have been given, among them, "Undeterred by Difficulties," "Unfrightened by Dangers," "Unafraid," "Fearless," and "Undaunted."



## The Story of the Nickname

### "THE WOLFHOUSES"

The 27th Infantry Regiment first became known as "The Wolfhounds" shortly after World War I when the unit was part of the American Expeditionary Forces to Siberia. Origin of the nickname is credited to Bolshevik forces who likened the regiment's advances to the fleet, vicious attacks of the Wolfhound, which in Siberia is known as a fearless dog, tenacious and ferocious in fighting wolves. The name stuck and during the years between World Wars I and II, use of "The Wolfhounds" to designate the regiment continued, especially in sports.

In World War II, and again in Korea from the Pusan Perimeter to the Yalu River, men of the regiment have used the nickname as their battle cry, "Yea, Wolfhounds!"

In October 1952, the Department of the Army officially recognized the nickname and authorized its use as a parenthetical designation to follow the numerical designation. The 27th Infantry Regiment (The Wolfhounds), is now used to designate the regiment on all orders, records, letters and other official papers.



## WOLFHOUND BATTLE HONORS

### PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

Mindanao

### WORLD WAR I

Siberia

### WORLD WAR II

Central Pacific

Guadalcanal

Northern Solomons (with arrowhead)

Luzon

### KOREAN WAR

United Nations Defensive

United Nations Offensive

Chinese Communist Forces Intervention

First United Nations Counteroffensive

Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive

United Nations Summer-Fall Offensive

Second Korean Winter

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952

# THE STORY OF THE WOLFHOOUNDS

## 27th Infantry Regiment

### The Original 27th Infantry Regiment

Although the 27th Infantry Regiment (The Wolfhounds) observes May 2, 1901, as its official Organization Day, the history of the regiment dates back to January 1813, when it was originally constituted. Two years later, the regiment became a part of the 6th Infantry Regiment, then stationed at Governor's Island, N.Y.

In May 1861, the President directed the organization of the Second Battalion of the 18th Infantry Regiment and in 1866 this unit was designated as the 27th Infantry Regiment. Once again, the 27th was consolidated with another unit and on June 14, 1869, became a part of the 9th Infantry Regiment.

### The Present Organization

The 27th Infantry Regiment of today extends its colorful history back to February 2, 1901, when its organization was directed by the Secretary of War. Ten days later, regimental headquarters was established at Plattsburg Barracks, N.Y. and Col. Richard I. Eskridge became the first commanding officer of the 27th Infantry Regiment.

Organization of a First Battalion began immediately and within a week it was moved aboard a transport, on its way for the Philippine Islands. The battalion engaged in various scouting expeditions until May when it became the Third Battalion of the 26th Infantry by the exchange of one of its units to the 27th.

The complete organization of the 27th Infantry Regiment was carried out by July 5, 1901, and after several months of training at Plattsburg and Fort McPherson, Ga., the unit was ordered to move to the Philippine Islands. Col. Frank D. Baldwin took command of the regiment when it arrived in San Francisco and was with the regimental headquarters and First Battalion when they arrived in Manila Bay on January 26, 1902, as the first elements of the regiment. Before the end of March, the entire regiment had arrived in the Philippines.

\* \* \* \*

## THE WOLFHOOUNDS IN

## THE PHILIPPINES - -

Assigned to operations in the southern islands of the Philippines with the Seventh Separate Brigade, the mission of the 27th was to assist in quelling a disturbance caused by the uprising of the Moros, a Philippine tribe. March 30, 1902, was a memorable date in the early history of what was to become known through the years as one of the most colorful components of the United States Army. On that day, at Malabang, Mindanao, the units of the regiment were brought under one command for the first time.

The regiment's answer to the resistance of the Moros was to blaze the "Ganassi Trail" which would lead to the vital Lake Lanao region. Little resistance was met until the 27th reached Fort Gadungan where a stiff defensive engagement took place. But within a week's time all enemy strength was scattered and Fort Ganassi surrendered to the 27th.

On May 2, the regiment began a three-day encounter against the Moros which proved to be the deciding campaign in the Philippine Insurrection. Known as the Battle of Bayan, it was the most severe clash of the island war and brought the 27th its first casualties. The fight ended with the surrender of all Moro troops in that sector of Mindanao. It was this decisive victory which prompted the regiment to choose May 2 as the official Organization Day. The exceptional fighting of the 27th Regiment in the Battle of Bayan was brought to the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt who immediately telegraphed his congratulations.

Through the summer and fall of 1902, the 27th engaged in numerous exploring expeditions and skirmishes against the Moros. An expedition organized in the middle of September brought the destruction of Forts Butig, Cavan, Bayabao and Maciu. The last expedition for the regiment in the Philippine campaign opened on May 2, 1903, and resulted in the capture of Fort Pitacus after the Battle of Taraca River and the successful skirmishes near Calauli. Units of the 27th were sent to posts near Manila until the regiment sailed for the United States in January 1904.

\* \* \* \*

## FORT SHERIDAN AND CUBA--

After short stays at Honolulu and Nagasaki, the regiment returned to the United States and moved to Fort Sheridan near Chicago, Ill. Fort Sheridan remained the home station of the 27th Infantry until February 26, 1913. However, in October 1906, the regiment, less the Third Battalion, embarked from Newport News, Va., for Cuba where it was called upon to act in a very delicate mission.

The Cuban government was beset with an insurrection of such alarming proportions that it requested assistance from the United States. The President dispatched five regiments of infantry, two of cavalry and several batteries of artillery. For more than two years, the 27th joined this substantial force in maintaining order in Cuba without resorting to the use of arms. In the spring of 1909, the regiment returned to Fort Sheridan to remain for the next four years.

## ON THE TEXAS BORDER--

During the latter part of 1912 there was constant strife in Mexico between the Federal Government and the Insurrectionist Forces. The trouble became so acute that the 2nd Division was formed with the 27th Infantry as an integral part. The regiment arrived in Texas City, Tex., on February 28, 1913, and established its home station in that city. There it remained until September 1915 when the regiment sailed for its second tour of the Philippines. The 27th trained, maneuvered and guarded vital installations until August 1918.

## THE WOLFHOUNDS IN

### S I B E R I A . - -

On August 3, 1918, the 27th Infantry Regiment received orders to prepare for immediate service in Siberia. Four days later, the 27th pulled out of Manila Bay, off for what was to be one of the strangest and most unusual episodes in American military history.

And it was this two-year expedition in the cold wastelands of Siberia which won for the 27th Infantry its famous nickname, "The Wolfhounds," a name tagged to the regiment by Bolshevik forces who found the attacks of the 27th as vicious as those of the Siberian wolfhound.

By the middle of August, all elements of the 27th had arrived in Vladivostok and they paraded before citizens of the city and high ranking officers of American, Japanese and Czech armies. The regiment experienced its initial fire fight on August 19 when a patrol of 40 men encountered a party of Chinese bandits near Razdolnoe.

For one of its proudest actions during the early fighting of the Siberian expedition, the Wolfhounds received a citation from Japanese Generals Otani and Nehara. Preceded by Japanese troops on a 25-mile march to Burea from Khabarovsk, the 27th continued along the cold, difficult route and eventually passed the tiring Japanese soldiers. The Wolfhounds arrived at the Bolshevik stronghold more than an hour ahead of the Jap soldiers. The march in pursuit of the retreating Bolshevik troops continued as far as Ushuman where the Wolfhounds arrived on September 20.

Two skirmishes on one day in the Kraeffski sector were characteristic of the irregular fighting in which the Wolfhounds were always outnumbered by large forces of Bolsheviks. In each of these decisive skirmishes the 27th inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy while its own losses were negligible. Before the Siberian campaign ended on January 17, 1920, the Wolfhounds had participated in five battles and several minor skirmishes and expeditions.

\* \* \* \*

#### THE LONG STAY IN HAWAII

As the Siberian expedition came to a close, the Wolfhounds returned to their stations in the Philippines. The stay was short-lived, however, and by January 1921, the regiment had landed at Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands. In February, the regiment became a part of the newly-organized Hawaiian Division.

Through the long years in Hawaii the Wolfhounds maintained a splendid record and won many honors. The 27th participated in the Joint Army and Navy Exercises on Oahu in 1925 and was commended by the Inspector General in his official report in these words: "The 27th Infantry sets the standard for the Hawaiian Division." Sports and athletic contests played an important part in the regiment's activities during these years and the Wolfhounds copped championships and high honors in practically every event.

Until 1941 the regiment was one of four infantry regiments which comprised the Hawaiian Division. On October 1 the Hawaiian Division was inactivated at Schofield Barracks and two new divisions, the 24th and 25th were organized. The Wolfhounds were assigned to the 25th Division and have remained a part of it ever since.



## THE WOLFHOUNDS IN

## WORLD WAR II - -

December 7, 1941, the day of the infamous attack at Pearl Harbor, found the First Battalion of the 27th Infantry guarding vital defense installations in Honolulu. The remainder of the regiment was training at Schofield Barracks. Ever ready, the Wolfhounds reacted with characteristic speed and by so doing had the distinction of being the first ground force unit to fire a shot at the enemy in World War II.

Before the day was over, the entire regiment had moved to defense sectors on Oahu beaches and was prepared to repel a possible Japanese invasion. The Wolfhounds were engaged for the next few months in constructing pillboxes and erecting barbed wire barriers for the defense of the island.

Early in the fall of 1942, the regiment with the rest of the 25th Division, was withdrawn from the beaches and underwent a period of intensive training. In November, the Wolfhounds received orders to prepare to move into combat and on November 15, the 27th embarked for a destination unknown at the time. Once the transport was at sea everyone was informed that they were going to Guadalcanal to relieve the Marines.

A bitter battle was in progress on land, on sea and in the air. The regiment disembarked on December 29 and entered combat January 5, 1943. Guadalcanal was the first major land engagement in the Pacific and was hotly contested. It is estimated the Japanese lost more than 100,000 men. The Wolfhounds participated in three major battles in this campaign and emerged with honors in all of them.

One victory in particular by the Wolfhounds, the capture of a hill mass known as "Galloping Horse," made possible the second January attack which was to end with the enemy being driven from Guadalcanal. Early on the morning of January 10, the First and Second Battalions advanced slowly up the successive ridges of "Galloping Horse." Despite strong enemy resistance, on the first day of battle, the First Battalion seized the division objective in its zone and the Third Battalion pushed forward 1600 yards toward its objective.

The Second Battalion took over the assault on the following day, but was halted by vigorous Japanese defenses. An attack by the Wolfhounds on January 13 was turned back by machine guns hidden in well-protected nests. In a special plan of the Second Battalion, Capt. Charles W. Davis, the battalion executive officer, and four volunteers, crept up on the enemy machine gun position. When they had approached within ten yards of the position, the enemy threw grenades which failed to explode. Capt. Davis answered with eight grenades which did go off and then led an attack into the midst of the Japanese. When his rifle failed, Capt. Davis threw it down and finished off the enemy with his pistol.

Inspired by this bold action for which Capt. Davis later was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Company E surged up the hill and drove the last Japanese from Hill 53. By February 9, 1943, the destruction of all Japanese forces on Guadalcanal was realized. The regiment left Guadalcanal on July 31 and participated in the North Solomons campaign from August 1 to October 22. This campaign actually involved several major battles on the islands of

New Georgia, Arundel and Kolombangara.

As on Guadalcanal, the Wolfhounds played an important part in bringing the Northern Solomons campaign to a decisive close. On September 11, 1943, the 27th launched a move which after nine days of bitter fighting, had driven the Japanese from northern Arundel and Sagekarasa. The 27th's successful attacks also provided artillery positions from which enemy strongholds on Kolombangara could be shelled. They had frustrated any Japanese attempt to retake the vital Munda airfield on New Georgia, and in the final analysis, they were to help force the enemy evacuation of Kolombangara and bring to an end the bloody New Georgia campaign.

The regiment returned to Guadalcanal for a short stay after the North Solomons campaign and on November 15 left for an assignment of training in New Zealand. By the middle of February, the Wolfhounds were on the move again. This time the 27th went to New Caledonia where it received replacements and trained until December.

For the third time in the history of the Wolfhounds, the troops embarked for the Philippine Islands on December 17, 1944, and debarked in Lingayen Gulf on January 10, 1945. In the Philippines engagement, the regiment participated in nine battles. The first involved a campaign through the central plains, where a quarter of the Japanese armor on Luzon was destroyed. The second phase was the operation in the Caraballo Mountains. In driving across Luzon and dividing it in two the Wolfhounds separated the Japanese forces and materially reduced their resistance.

Upon the completion of the Philippine liberation campaign the familiar pattern of reorganization and reception and training of replacements was invoked. Everyone knew the next operation would be the toughest, and accordingly, preparations hit a new high. The invasion of Japan was believed to be in the not too distant future.

The capitulation of Japan brought the Wolfhounds to Japan to perform occupational missions. Arriving in the Land of the Rising Sun in October 1945, the regiment established headquarters at Kagamigahara Airfield near Gifu, remaining there until January 1947, when it moved to Camp Sakai on the outskirts of Osaka to occupy the former Japanese Naval College there. The Wolfhounds remained in southwestern Japan until the Communists swept south across the 38th parallel in Korea in June 1950.

\* \* \* \*

WOLFHOUND BATTLE CITATIONS IN THE KOREAN WAR

Distinguished Unit Citation

SANGNYONG-NI

27th Infantry Regiment (less Heavy Tank Company and Third Battalion).

TAEJU

27th Infantry Regiment (less Heavy Tank Company).

HAN RIVER

All companies of Third Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment.

IPSOK

Company E and 81 mm. mortar section of Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

MASAN-CHINJU

All companies, 27th Infantry Regiment.

COMMANDERS OF THE 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

SINCE THE START OF THE KOREAN WAR

AND THE DECORATIONS THEY HOLD

COL. JOHN H. MICHAELIS

7 JULY 1950 - 13 FEBRUARY 1951

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Netherlands Bronze Lion, French Croix de Guerre, Belgian Croix de Guerre.

COL. GILBERT J. CHECK

13 FEBRUARY 1951 - 10 JULY 1951

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal.

COL. GEORGE B. SLOAN

10 JULY 1951 - 22 DECEMBER 1951

Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Commendation Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster.

COL. NORMAN B. EDWARDS

22 DECEMBER 1951 - 16 JUNE 1952

Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Commendation Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster.

LT. COL. LELAND G. CAGWIN

16 JUNE 1952 - 14 SEPTEMBER 1952

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

COL. ALBERT O. CONNOR

14 SEPTEMBER 1952 - To Date

Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Gold Star.

## THE WOLFHOUNDS IN

### K O R E A - -

Sunday, June 25, 1950, was just another day of training for the Wolfhounds. The 27th had just returned from a three-day field problem in the foothills of Mount Fuji and was in the process of cleaning up for the short rest before embarking on the next phase of maneuvers.

Then the radio blasted out the breath-taking news: "North Korean Communist forces attacked south across the 38th parallel at 0400 hours this morning." There was a grim, more purposeful meaning to the training now. Four days later, a battalion of the 24th Division was airlifted to the fighting front in Korea and on July 5 the Wolfhounds, at two battalion strength, were alerted.

Just before dawn on July 10, 1950, the Wolfhounds started to disembark at Pusan, the first regiment of the 25th Division to land in Korea. The first battle casualties suffered by the regiment occurred nine days later at Yechon.

The mountainous terrain north of Hwanggan, Korea, provided the first major test of the 27th against the Communists, and the Wolfhounds were not found wanting. For the first time the Communists were stopped dead in their tracks and the 27th established its still-true boast that as a unit it has never withdrawn without orders. It was there, too, that the regiment became the late Gen. Walker's "Fire Brigade"--and Col. Michaelis became the "Fire Chief."

At Sangyoni, just two weeks after landing in Pusan, the First and Second Battalions sustained numerous banzai charges by Communist forces attempting to penetrate defense positions along UN main supply routes. In four days of frantic defense battles the 27th inflicted more than 3,000 casualties, destroyed large quantities of equipment and captured valuable enemy supplies. This dynamic performance dealt the enemy his first serious blow and earned for the Wolfhounds the first Distinguished Unit Citation to be awarded in the Korean War.

For more than a month the 27th, as Eighth Army Reserve, shuttled back and forth around the Pusan Perimeter, "putting out the fires." Wherever the fighting was thickest and the pressure was greatest, the Wolfhounds were there, battling superior enemy forces to a standstill.

Late in July, after the battle of Hwanggan, the 27th moved clear over to Chindong-ni on the Masan front. There on August 2, the First Battalion, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Gilbert J. Check who later became regimental commander, drove 22 miles through the Red lines reaching the heights overlooking Chinju before being recalled. For this tremendous drive the regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation of the Republic of Korea.

Reaching the regimental CP at 11 p.m., the weary Wolfhounds of the First Battalion crawled under their shelter halves for some much-deserved sleep. Before dawn could break the exhausted troops were roused from their shelters to face a fanatical attack on the CP by 600 to 700 Reds. Cooks and bakers, mechanics and drivers,



clerks and radiomen--all the specialists of a regimental headquarters--joined in repulsing the charging Communists. Four hours later, when the smoke and dust had cleared, the bodies of close to 500 Reds littered the hillsides--some within 100 yards of the CP.

Next came the battles of Yonchon, where the 27th inflicted tremendous losses on the seemingly endless hordes of Communists. In the middle of August the Wolfhounds made another quick shift--this time to the long, straight stretch of road north of Taegu which was to become famous as the "Bowling Alley."

Taegu, road and railroad junction of South Korea, was the key to the Pusan Perimeter. Should it fall, the entire UN front might well go with it. So it was there that the Reds launched their fiercest attacks and it was there that the Wolfhounds were sent to stop them. Every night the Red tanks would come roaring down that stretch of road set between towering peaks, their fiery shells often striking the flat roadway and bouncing along like bowling balls. The Wolfhounds collected so many knocked-out tanks that one company was known to have answered the telephone this way--"Fox Company motor pool--you shoot 'em, we loot 'em!'"

The Second Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Gordon E. Murch, bore the brunt of these attacks although the First Battalion also performed heroically. The regiment was joined by a Third Battalion on this front and the new unit wasted no time proving it was worthy of the name, "Wolfhounds." While the other two battalions pounded the main enemy force in the "Bowling Alley," the Third Battalion distinguished itself at Taegu by knocking out strong infiltrating elements which attempted to set up road blocks behind the regiment.

In the most significant phase of the "Bowling Alley," the Wolfhounds met a heavy drive by one North Korean division plus two regiments supported by armor and artillery. The regiment beat back screaming banzai attacks for 74 hours. The men not only held against heavy odds, but actually improved their positions, denying the enemy the important terrain corridor leading to Taegu.

For these almost miraculous successes the Wolfhounds received their second Distinguished Unit Citation, the nation's highest unit award.

Commanded by Lt. Col. DeChow, the Third Battalion remained with the Wolfhounds when they made another lightning switch at the end of August. Once again the regiment found itself on the Masan front where it fought until the UN forces broke out of the perimeter.

Chongju was the next major scene of activity for the Wolfhounds. Engaged in anti-guerilla operations, they captured hundreds of Communists whose mission was to disrupt UN supply lines. In the drive to the north, the 27th reached its farthest point at the town of Ipsok. Here, operations of Company E and the 81-mm. mortar section of Company H were so outstanding that each was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation.

Then began the long withdrawal forced by the intervention of the Chinese Communists. In a brilliant series of maneuvers, the Wolfhounds time and again halted the onward rush of the almost overwhelming numbers of Reds. The Third Battalion was the last unit out of Seoul.

In the middle of January, the 27th, in "Operation Wolfhound," completed an attack which was described by the commanding general of I Corps as "an outstanding limited objective attack." Driving

north of Osan to the outskirts of Suwon, the Wolfhounds inflicted an estimated 1,150 enemy casualties. This operation effectively eliminated enemy opposition in the area.

The 27th then continued to participate in the drive north to the Han. On February 16, Lt. Col. Check, commander of the First Battalion, succeeded Col. J. H. Michaelis as regimental commander. Col. "Mike," nominated to become a brigadier general, was named assistant division commander of the 25th Division.

On the morning of March 7, the Wolfhounds, spearheaded by the Third Battalion, crossed the Han River under the greatest artillery barrage of the Korean campaign. Under the thundering fire of massed tanks and guns and a sky streaked by tracers streaming from .50 caliber machine guns, the 27th stormed across the wide river and deep into enemy lines. In the words of one Wolfhound, "it looked like a shooting gallery with the lights out."

Members of the Third Battalion paved the way for the offensive by crossing the Han in assault boats against heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire. To gain its objective, the Third Battalion was forced to cross 700 yards of beachhead, completely exposed. The drive was of such unrelenting fury that the enemy regiment fled in panic after suffering heavy casualties. The spearhead was so effective that the Third Battalion won the Distinguished Unit Citation for its bravery.

The offensive rolled on with a minimum of effort as Seoul fell with comparative ease. It was not until March 23 that the advancing Second and Third Battalions met heavy Red resistance. But by April 1, the Wolfhounds were advancing at a slow pace toward

Yongpyong and the Chorwon Valley. Soon the 27th was sending probing attacks to the base of the Red "Iron Triangle," the strategic enemy supply strongpoint.

Early on April 23, the Communists retorted with three hammer-like blows at the 27th's line. As the enemy drive increased, the Wolfhounds withdrew with adjacent units to a line north of Seoul, strong positions that were destined to take the starch out of the Red drive. And with the end of April came the virtual end of the Chinese and North Korean push.

Despite the bitter Red resistance and numerous attempts to thwart the 27th's creeping advances, the base of the "Iron Triangle" once again fell into UN hands. It was June 12 when the regiment consolidated a static front to bring the swing north to an abrupt halt.

On the anniversary of the 27th's landing in Korea, the Wolfhounds lost their commander. July 10 the Wolfhounds said goodbye to Col. Check who was returning to the States for reassignment. Lt. Col. George B. Sloan became his successor. Following a three-week breather in reserve, the regiment moved back on line. Strong patrols probed behind enemy lines, but unlike recent months little contact could be made with Red forces.

August found the Wolfhounds back in familiar territory--Kumhwa, at the base of the "Iron Triangle." Days were spent strengthening the vital positions and at night vigorous patrols pressed a quiet enemy. On August 8, a fierce enemy attempt to break the Wolfhound roadblock in Kumhwa failed and the Reds were sent stumbling back into the protective darkness.

During the first part of September, the Wolfhounds began to make preparations for an offensive that was scheduled to come off in the middle of the month. The newly-formed 14th Regiment was attached to the 27th and went into position near Nungkogae. This was to be the first action of the sister regiment, comprised almost wholly of new men.

At daylight on September 12, the Second Battalion of the 27th crossed the line of departure and made contact with the enemy a half hour later. Simultaneously the First Battalion attacked and three hours later the Third Battalion joined the assault. The Chinese clung tenaciously from their almost impregnable positions, pouring down an intense hail of fire on the attacking Wolfhounds.

By late afternoon, the objective had been taken by the 27th and when darkness enveloped the battered rubble of Kumhwa that night, the Wolfhounds lay quietly on their newly-won positions northeast of Kumhwa on Hill 538 and expectantly waited for a possible counterattack. The Reds failed to contest the sudden attack and patrols had difficulty drawing the enemy from his positions.

With the beginning of November there was still no progress in the Kaeson armistice negotiations and the frontlines were quiet, save for the light probing patrols which continued to go into enemy territory. The second Korean winter was quite different from the first in another respect. There was enough warm clothing to keep every man in the regiment protected from the cold which had taken its toll in the winter months of 1950.

As the Christmas season approached, the 27th moved with the 25th Division into Corps reserve. In their area near Hwachon

the Wolfhounds quickly made their preparations for the holiday. It was here a few days before Christmas that Col. Sloan left the regiment to join the Eighth Army staff. Lt. Col. Norman B. Edwards assumed command. With the arrival of the new commanding officer came a new assignment for the Wolfhounds.

On December 26, the regiment left for the port of Inchon to board transport ships headed for the island of Koje, five miles off the southern tip of Korea. Aboard the transports the troops learned their job would be to provide security on the small island where thousands of prisoners of war and civilian internees were confined.

At Koje the Wolfhounds maintained their sharpness and combat efficiency through an extensive training program which meant field problems, firing ranges and marches. All units took part in guarding the internees on a 24-hour basis. Busy days of training made time pass quickly and there were no incidents in the prison camp until the middle of February.

The trouble began at dawn February 18, 1952, when 750 of the Third Battalion's battle-hardened troops went through the twin barbed-wire fences into the notorious Compound 62. Their job was to line up the 5,000 civilian internees inside for "rescreening" in a final check to ascertain if any non-Communists were held in the camp. Suddenly a fanatic Red mob poured three abreast, with arms linked, out of their tents and huts shouting: "Kill the Americans! They are enemies!"

Commanded by Maj. John J. Klein, men of the battalion tried to halt the internees with bayonets and then with concussion grenades. This failed for the Reds brandished steel pickets, blackjacks, pipes, clubs, rocks and knives. The Wolfhounds were forced to fire before they could quell the riot. When the uprising had ended, 75 Reds lay dead and 139 injured. One American soldier died in the riot and 79 others were injured.

As the month ended, the Wolfhounds were on their way back to Korea and in March arrived in Tokkol-li, just ten miles behind Heartbreak Ridge which four months earlier had been the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

By April 1 the entire regiment had assumed positions on Heartbreak Ridge. During the next ten months the training experience they gained on Koje-do and at Tokkol-li paid off for the Wolfhounds. Patrols were sent into enemy territory nightly to search out the Reds, gain information or to check on Communist activity. Although this war was different from the one the 27th knew in 1950, countless stories of valor were told in small patrol clashes on the hill slopes in front of Heartbreak Ridge. The Wolfhounds knew this was still war, and before leaving the line for a breather in the middle of June, they had accounted for hundreds of enemy dead and wounded from the nightly ventures into no-man's land.

While in reserve, Col. Edwards, who received his full colonelcy as commander of the regiment, left the Wolfhounds to become tactical aide to Gen. James A. Van Fleet, commanding general of the Eighth Army. Lt. Col. Leland G. Cagwin, regimental executive officer, was named to succeed Col. Edwards and assumed command on

June 16.

In the heat of July, the 27th went back to the static bunker war, this time to defend positions near Satae-ri on the flank of Heartbreak Ridge. Once again the main activity was centered around patrols which left the Wolfhound lines each night to challenge the enemy on his own ground. Despite the consistent beatings they suffered at the hands of Wolfhound patrols, the Reds put forth no concerted effort to soften the blows which had cost them so many men, until September 6.

Shortly after midnight, furious enemy mortar fire poured around Sandbag Castle, a strong forward outpost 35 yards from the Red lines which guarded one of the most vital sectors of the corps front. Some 15 minutes later a reinforced platoon of Chinese stormed at the huge structure of sandbags and trenches. Initially, it appeared that the surprise attack would succeed in cutting off the strategic outpost, but the gallant stand of the defenders broke the back of the enemy attack.

As dawn broke on the ridgeline, the Americans were still trading fire and enemy dead were piled up in front of the Castle. The position was almost completely destroyed by the intense enemy mortar fire which rained throughout the night, but not one inch of ground was lost. As Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Williams, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division, said, "Everyone who came stayed, because they were dead."

Subsequently, Maj. Gen. I. D. White, X Corps commander, in commending the 25th Division for its eight months defense of the



Heartbreak Ridge-Punchbowl sector, said, "During this period the division repelled many limited objective attacks without yielding a single position or locality. The action at Sandbag Castle is probably the best remembered of these and exemplified the prompt, hard hitting effectiveness of the 25th Division counter-attacks."

Under the leadership of Col. Albert O. Connor, who became commander on September 14, the Wolfhounds continued to display the same pride and defiance which was so characteristic of the "Fire Brigade" regiment during the first summer of the war. This was particularly evidenced in October when the First Battalion planned an unusual raid to destroy a large underground CP which had been constructed on the enemy's front. As in the past, a remarkable success resulted from the combination of skillful leadership, careful planning and an invincible fighting spirit.

The raiders, armed with weapons, grenades and high explosives, moved quietly toward the enemy positions in front of Sandbag Castle an hour before dawn. Disregarding thick enemy fire, the raiders rushed up to the tunnels and set off the charges in air vents only a few feet from the entrance to the CP. The terrific explosion that followed left more than 20 enemy dead littering the ground and many more were believed to have been killed inside the CP. In recognition of this outstanding raid, Maj. Gen. I. D. White, X Corps commander, visited the regiment to present personally a letter of commendation to the members of the raiding party.

Before the month closed, the Wolfhounds were in Army reserve starting on a training program. But before the schedule

was in full swing the 27th returned to a sector of the front it had defended on two previous occasions--the Chorwon-Kumhwa area at the base of the Iron Triangle. Patrols pressed deep into no-man's land, but seldom encountered the enemy in strength. A month later, the 27th pulled off and spent the Christmas holidays in reserve.

As 1953 dawned there were many new faces in the regiment; many new men who had not yet tasted the fighting in Korea. As did their more experienced comrades, these men knew that they had become part of a famous fighting unit, members of a regiment which had won honors and recognition from the Philippines to Korea--and owned an impressive record to prove it. And as these men charged over wooded hills and snow-covered fields in practice for the 27th's next assignment at the front, they were confident that they would carry on what is not easy to explain in any words other than the "Wolfhound tradition."

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## THE STORY OF THE "WOLFHOUND ORPHANAGE"

On Christmas Day, 1949, hardly more than four years after the forces of Japan and the United States fired their last shots in the bitter World War, the Wolfhounds opened one of the most unusual and heartwarming stories in the history of the American army.

For it was on that day the men of the 27th Infantry Regiment made their first contribution to the Holy Family Home, a Japanese orphanage on the outskirts of Osaka. What the Wolfhounds saw on their first visit to the orphanage, they could not easily forget. They remembered the unheated rooms, and the unpainted walls, the rags and the tiny bowls of rice. The voluntary donations continued the next month and the month after that.

Before long, the regimental surgeon and the dentist were making frequent visits to the nearby orphanage to check on the health of the children. Soon, all the orphans were eating better food and wearing new clothes. As the donations grew, plans were drawn for a new building to replace the rickety former Japanese Army barracks which the children were calling home.

Then the thunder of war raged in Korea and the Wolfhounds were sent across the Sea of Japan to become the Eighth Army's "Fire Brigade." The regiment was rushed from one weak spot to another to plug breaks in the sagging United Nations line. But even in this desperate situation, the 27th didn't forget its little children in Osaka. On the first payday in Korea, the men passed helmets from foxhole to foxhole and collected the largest donation up to that time.

The Wolfhounds never failed in their monthly collections and on Christmas Day, 1952, the third anniversary of that first visit, the total donations passed the amazing figure of \$125,000 with no end in sight. No unit has ever matched this generosity which is as characteristic of the 27th Regiment as its unusual esprit de corps.

Japanese children for years to come will remember the kind soldiers of the 27th---and the daily prayers of the orphans may account in no small part for the spectacular success of their "foster fathers" who went to Korea to fight for the freedom and happiness which they hoped the little children already were enjoying.

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## WHAT THEY SAY

### Comments on the 27th Infantry Regiment by the American press

Wolfhounds! The name to most Americans is synonymous with the famed fighting regiment that came like a scourge of tropic lightning into the war. Back in Japan the Wolfhounds have another significance---the hands of the American soldier stretched out to weakness and pain. The hands they extend are human. We knew the hands and the men who were fitted to them...reckless spenders of affection...gentlemen...scrappers...warriors abroad.

—Timothy J. Mulvey in his book,  
"These Are Your Sons"

To fill the crucial gap, Gen. Walton Walker called on an infantry regiment which had won a reputation as the finest fighting machine in Korea.

—Life Magazine

Outfits like the 27th (Wolfhound) Infantry Regiment wanted to justify the publicity about them. They knew they were supposed to be good. And each individual was damned if he was going to do anything to disprove the theory. They were prodded on by their own collective good opinion of themselves. Sometimes this is called esprit de corps.

-- Marguerite Higgins in her book,  
"War in Korea"

The talented 27th Infantry Regiment is an outfit of superb combat soldiers who have already built up an almost legendary reputation in the Korean fighting.

—Frank Conniff, International News Service