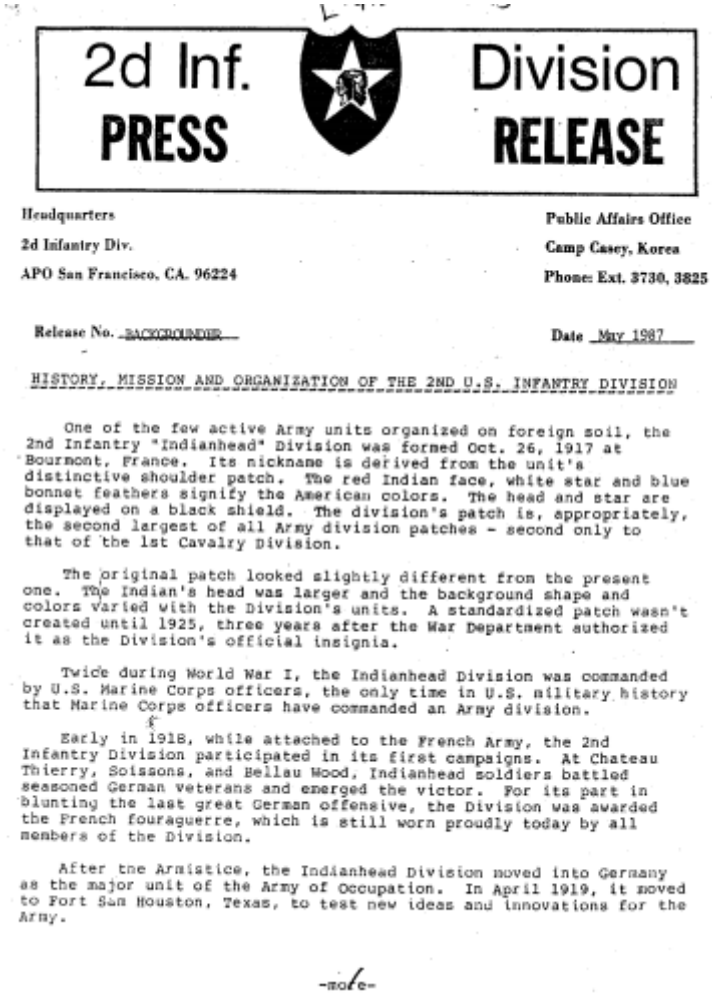
1987 Press Release 2nd Infantry Division



2d Inf. Division
PRESS RELEASE

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HISTORY, MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE 2ND U.S. INFANTRY DIVISION

One of the few active Army units organized on foreign soil, the 2nd Infantry "Indianhead" Division was formed Oct. 26, 1917 at Bourmont, France. Its nickname is derived from the unit's distinctive shoulder patch. The red Indian face, white star and blue bonnet feathers signify the American colors. The head and star are displayed on a black shield. The division's patch is, appropriately, the second largest of all Army division patches - second only to that of the 1st Cavalry Division.

The original patch looked slightly different from the present one. The Indian's head was larger and the background shape and colors varied with the Division's units. A standardized patch wasn't created until 1925, three years after the War Department authorized it as the Division's official insignia.

Twice during World War I, the Indianhead Division was commanded by U.S. Marine Corps officers, the only time in U.S. military history that Marine Corps officers have commanded an Army division.

Early in 1918, while attached to the French Army, the 2nd Infantry Division participated in its first campaigns. At Chateau Thierry, Soissons, and Bellau Wood, Indianhead soldiers battled seasoned German veterans and emerged the victor. For its part in blunting the last great German offensive, the Division was awarded the French fouraguerre, which is still worn proudly today by all members of the Division.

After the Armistice, the Indianhead Division moved into Germany as the major unit of the Army of Occupation. In April 1919, it moved to Fort San Houston, Texas, to test new ideas and innovations for the Army.

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The 1987 press release focuses on the 2nd Infantry Division, nicknamed "Indianhead" for its Native American depiction insignia. The report chronicles its participation in war and peace operations, ranging from WWI times to the Korean War, and in particular its success in combat and in achieving of its goals. With the tensions between North and South Korea, the report advocates and promotes the use of the 2nd Infantry Division for deterrence purposes, citing its reliability, history of service, and readiness as invaluable to defense.

The "Indianheads" is a deactivated division since the Korean War. The report serves as remembrance for their deeds, and possibly appeals for their continued service and reactivation. The increases tensions arising from the North/South division of Korea is used as the reason for their necessity.

'Nowhere else in the world is the threat to freedom so obvious, and nowhere else in the world is an American combat force so well Trained and capable of performing its critical mission. The 2nd Infantry Division remains today, as always, "Second to None."' [p. 4]

This report was released to the Nautilus Institute under the US Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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