

## COLONEL WILLIAM ROBERTS CALHOUN

COLONEL WILLIAM ROBERTS CALHOUN, Commanding Officer of the 36th Field Artillery Group, was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on 10 September 1910. He attended Robertson Academy outside of Nashville, and at the age of 12 moved to Florence, Alabama. After graduation from Coffee High School in Florence, he was appointed to the Military Academy from Alabama. Graduation in 1933 brought him his commission and assignment to the 11th Infantry at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. Two years later he was transferred to Field Artillery, stationed at Fort Knox with the first battalion of armored artillery.

In 1938, Colonel Calhoun went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to the Battery Officers Course, and stayed on for the Advanced Motors Course. He left Fort Sill 1 February 1940 and was assigned to the Fifth Infantry Division being formed at Fort Knox. The division was sent to Fort McClellan, Alabama, where it was completely assembled and fitted out with modern equipment. Southern maneuvers took the Colonel to Louisiana in 1940, and then his division moved to Fort Custer, Michigan, for permanent station in September 1940.

Colonel Calhoun was promoted to major and command of the 21st Field Artillery Battalion and took the Battalion to Iceland in April 1942. In August of that year, he was assigned as Division Artillery S-3, and in November 1942, still in Iceland, promoted to lieutenant colonel, taking command of the 19th Field Artillery Battalion.

In August 1943, his division moved to Tidworth Barracks, England, stayed three months and then moved north to Kilkeel, Ireland. At that time, Colonel Calhoun was again assigned as Division Artillery S-3 and served in that capacity in Northern Ireland until April, 1944, when he took command of the 50th Field Artillery Battalion, and after a short period of training with that unit, sailed from Belfast and landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, D-Day plus 30. The Division assembled ashore and went into the line at Caumont and readied itself for the break-through.

The Colonel served with the Division all through France, Luxembourg, Germany and was in Czechoslovakia when the War ended. After one month of occupation at Passau, Germany, the Division was sent home for re-training and redeployment, but the end of the Japanese War found them at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After six and one-half years with the Fifth Division, Colonel Calhoun was transferred to the United States Military Academy in command of the artillery detachment in June 1946. Two years at the Academy and then he was sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for the Command and General Staff School. Upon graduation in 1949, he remained at Leavenworth on the faculty.

In 1951, Colonel Calhoun was sent to Carlisle Barracks to attend the Army War College, having been promoted to Colonel in 1950. He came over-seas in 1952, assigned as Chief of Military Personnel Branch in G-1 Division, USAREUR, in Heidelberg.

20 August 1953, Colonel Calhoun took command of the 36th Field Artillery Group. The Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, French Croix de Guerre, and Russian Medal of Merit are among the ribbons he is privileged to wear.

Mrs. Calhoun is the former Anne Harlan of Florence, Alabama, whom Colonel Calhoun married in June 1938. They have three sons, ages 14, 13 and four. his family is with him in Germany.