

T. Colonel Paul J. Bidle,

Commanding Officer of the 593rd Field Artillery Battalion, is a native of Danville, Illinois.

He attended the University of Illinois from 1932 thru 1936. While at college, he participated in ROTC and received his commission in the Artillery in June 1936.

Lt. Colonel Bidle's first Army assignment, as a second lieutenant, was battery officer with the First Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1936 and 1937.

His next duty took him to Fort Brady CCC District, at Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. This was followed by a transfer to the 349th Field Artillery Regiment in 1940-41.

Next major assignment was with the 77th Field Artillery Regiment, an outfit he remained with throughout the war years of 1941 through 1944. He saw active duty in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, as a battery commander, with the 77th before returning Stateside.

His first duties in the States were as a battery commander with the 484th Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Hood, Texas. A change in the type of duty assignment occurred next for Lt. Colonel Bidle when he transferred to the Army Ground Forces as a liaison officer at the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

Second European tour of duty occurred in 1946 for Lt. Colonel Bidle. He was sent to Fulda, Germany, where he worked with the DP problem. He returned from Fulda to Fort Hood, Texas, and joined the 2nd Armored Division. Here he was on hand to assist with the reactivation of the 597th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and later returned to Germany, for his third overseas tour, with that battalion in 1952. Until assignment to the 593rd Field Artillery Battalion on 15 May 1954, Lt. Col. Bidle remained with the 597th as Battalion Executive officer.

Lt. Colonel Bidle wears the campaign ribbons of Sicily, Anzio, and Rome-Arno in addition to the usual service ribbons. His wife and two children are living presently in Temple, Texas.