

William F. Dean was born in Carlyle, Clinton County, Illinois, August 1, 1899. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve May 11, 1921. He was graduated from the University of California in May, 1922, and on July 3, 1923 was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in the Regular Army.

From October to December, 1918, he served with the Student Army Training Corps. He was with the 38th Infantry at Fort Douglas, Utah, from November, 1923, until September, 1926, when he was transferred to the 42nd Infantry and sent to Camp Gaillard, Canal Zone. In May, 1927, he was assigned to the 33rd Infantry and ordered to Fort Clayton, Canal Zone.

In September, 1929, he returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Douglas, Utah, for duty with the 38th Infantry. In June, 1933, he was assigned to Civilian Conservation Corps duty at Redding, California, where he served until he was transferred to the 30th Infantry and assigned to the Presidio of San Francisco, California, in January, 1934. In August, 1935, he enrolled in the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was graduated in June, 1936. He was assigned to the 19th Infantry at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in September, 1936.

He returned to the United States in September, 1938, to enter the Army Industrial College at Washington, D. C. He completed the course there in June, 1939, and was assigned to the Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. Following graduation in September, 1939, he entered the Army War College at Washington, D. C. Upon graduation in June, 1940, he was detailed to the Operations and Training Division, War Department General Staff, Washington, D. C. He was appointed assistant to the secretary of the General Staff in January, 1941.

In March, 1942, he was transferred to the Army Ground Forces, Army War College, Washington, D. C. and assigned to Headquarters, Special Troops, for duty as assistant chief of the Requirements Section. He became chief of the Requirements Section in October 1943. The following February he was named assistant commander of the 44th Infantry Division, then on maneuvers in Louisiana. He later moved with that Division to Camp Phillips, Kansas, and from there to France in August, 1944.

The 44th Infantry Division was assigned to the XV Corps and was committed to action on October 21, 1944, east of Lunneville, France. As part of the XV Corps, the 44th Infantry Division participated in the action which culminated in the capture of Strasbourg. On November 25, 1944, the 44th Infantry Division

withstood and beat off an attack of the 130th German Panzer Division which was attempting to cut the XV Corps lines of communication by an attack from the north. As a Division of the XV Corps, the 44th Infantry Division then drove north and on December 19, 1944, captured Fort Simserhof on the Maginot Line.

Then it was directed to side-slip to the left and to relieve the 35th and 87th Infantry Divisions of the Third Army in order that they might be withdrawn to counter-attack in the Ardennes. The 44th Infantry Division remained on the defensive between Sargumines and Rohrbach until March 15, when the Seventh Army renewed the offensive. On that date, the 3rd, 45th and portions of the 63rd and 100th Divisions passed through the front held by the 44th Infantry Division. After a week in Army reserve the 44th Infantry Division reverted to the XV Corps and captured the German cities of Mannheim and Weinheim. On April 17, the division passed to the VI Corps and, teamed with the 10th Armored Division, drove rapidly south into Austria capturing the cities of Schwabish-Gmund, Lorch, Ulm, Memmington and Kempton enroute. In Austria the Division cleared the Fern pass and reached the Inn River Valley on May 3, capturing the village of Imst on May 4. The Nineteenth German Army surrendered to the VI Corps at 6 p.m. on May 5. On May 6, the 44th Division met the 10th Mountain Division of the American Fifth Army on the Italian Border at the Resia Pass.

General Dean assumed command of the Division on December 29, 1944, and brought the Division back to the United States in July, 1945, preparatory to taking it to the Pacific. V-J Day changed these plans and the Division was scheduled for inactivation. In September, 1945, he became Class Director of the Command Class, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. On June 21, 1946, he was made assistant commandant of the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

On October 31, 1947, he was assigned as deputy for Military Government and as the Military Governor in Korea south of 38 degrees North Latitude. He assumed command of the Seventh Infantry Division in Japan in January, 1949, and the following June became chief of staff of the Eighth Army in Japan. In October, 1949, he was appointed commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division, also in Japan.

When North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel in Korea on June 25, 1950, the 24th Division was ordered to Korea to stem the invaders.