

COCKATOO NEWS SUMMARY  
6th Infantry Division---The Philippines

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6TH DIVISION SETS RECORD FOR CONTINUOUS COMBAT AGAINST JAPS ON LUZON

The 6th Infantry division has set a record for continuous combat against the Japanese on Luzon and probably for the entire Southwest Pacific theater of operations, according to a press release passed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters Tuesday.

The 6th, commanded by Brig. Gen. C. E. Hurdis, Tuesday completed its 73th straight day in the line against the enemy and is continuing its relentless assault on the vaunted Shimbu line east of Manila.

The 6th was one of four divisions landing at Lingayen gulf on S-day January 9 and is the only one which at one time or another has not been pulled out of the line for a rest. (Divisions identified at one time or another on Luzon in addition to the 6th include the 1st Cavalry, the 11th Airborne and the 25th, 32d, 33d, 37th, 38th, 40th and 43d Infantry divisions as well as the 158th Regimental Combat team and the 6th Ranger battalion.)

Officers at General MacArthur's headquarters said that smaller elements of combat troops have been in contact with the Japs for more than 73 days in past campaigns, but expressed the belief that the 6th has set a record for a division.

The 6th, called the "Sight-seeing" division because it traveled all over France in the First World War, has killed more than 9,000 Japs on Luzon and destroyed or captured vast quantities of enemy equipment, including: 62 medium and eight light tanks, 19 armored cars, 76 ammunition dumps and 432 caves housing enemy troops and supplies.

In a six-day battle at Munoz, the division destroyed 48 medium and four light Nip tanks, four 105mm howitzers, 16 47mm anti-tank guns and killed 1,247 enemy troops. This decisive victory eliminated the Japs' Second Armored division as an offensive threat on Luzon and won a commendation from Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger who messaged the division commander: "Please convey to the participating units my hearty congratulations on a fine performance at Munoz."

The division has played a prominent role in smashing the southern flank of the heavily-fortified Shimbu line in the Sierra Madre mountains east of Manila. Since beginning its offensive against the line last Feb. 21, the 6th has accounted for more than 4,800 counted Jap dead and left hundreds of others buried in caves in the wake of its advance.

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