



**COLONEL
LOUIS A. CECCHINI**

CLASS 1-41

Colonel Cecchini's first duty assignment was with the Field Artillery Replacement Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While serving as a basic training platoon leader he was able to devise a technique to disassemble the breech block of a new experimental howitzer, something no one else in the command had been able to do. This led to an assignment as the Commanding Officer Battery K, 18th Field Artillery, the test firing battery of the Field Artillery Board. His performance in that capacity made such an impression on MG Snow, the Chief of the Field Artillery, that an immediate promotion to First Lieutenant was ordered.

Colonel Cecchini then volunteered for assignment with the 89th Division at Camp Carson, Colorado. During World War II he served as S-2 and Reconnaissance Officer of the 914th Field Artillery Battalion. While in France he personally captured a German Major General and later his Combat Team liberated Ohrdruf Concentration Camp, the first Nazi concentration camp liberated by Western Allies in the War.

Colonel Cecchini was transferred to the Finance Corps in 1950. He served with the National Security Agency and later as Director of Comptroller Training, U.S. Army and as Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Finance School. He retired in 1967 and went to work at NSA. There he eventually became the Associate Comptroller with the grade of GS-17. After 17 years with NSA he retired from Civil Service in 1983. After retirement, Colonel Cecchini served as an officer of the Society of the 89th Division WW II and founded the Society of Retired U.S. Army Finance Officers in 1986.