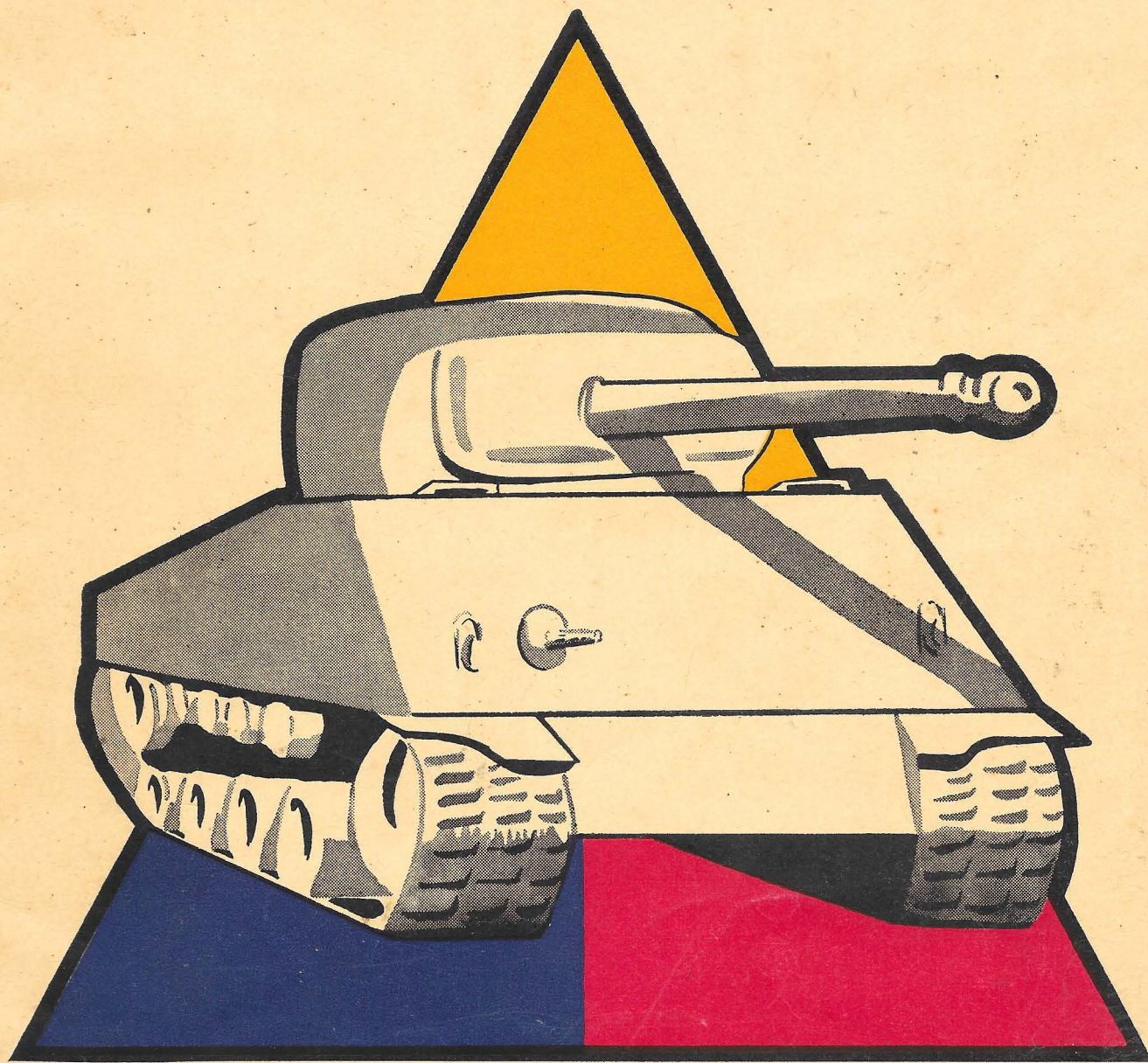


STEADY-ON!



THE COMBAT HISTORY OF Co C 25th TANK BN.

By Sgt. Edward F. Kelly

Company History

COMPANY "C" --- 25th TANK BATTALION
14th ARMORED DIVISION
U.S. ARMY

FOREWORD

The following is not one individual's conception of past events, but rather the combined remarks of a group of men who worked together, on possibly the hardest job they have or will ever have to do, in this life.

It is the story of one tank Company — — — "Charlie" — — — of the 25th Tank Battalion, part of the 14th Armored Division, and what they took part in during their stay in France and Germany up to and including "V-E Day".

We hereby dedicate it those members of us who have fallen while doing the aforesaid "job". May they have the blessings of God wherever they may be.

THE AUTHOR

Cover design by:

Pfc ROBERT L. TAYLOR
Company "D", 25th Tank Bn.



Scale 1:2,000,000

THE ROCKY ROAD

Combat route of Company C 25th Tank Battalion. From 7 November 44 to 2 May 45.

"OVER THERE"

It was the first trip abroad for most of us and the Port of Marseilles looked most welcome after a rather rough trip. We left the ship October 29 1944, with sea legs, but needless to say, after a 16 kilometer walk to the Delte Base Station, we were once more "ground troops". Our Battalion S-4, Capt Morris Wax, Salt Lake City, Utah, and his advance party had, in some way, managed to get hold of a pyramidal tent area for us, and housekeeping was immediately set up while awaiting the unloading of our vehicles.

Within the next four days we had received all of our "panzers", etc., and were awaiting the order to move up. Left Marseilles the night of 8 th of November with tanks on flat-cars and us in boxcars. Can't truthfully say who was more comfortable for the next few days, General Sherman(s) or us. Passed through many towns and villages, in the wake of the Seventh Army and previous heavy bombing by our planes. The town of Dijon was particularly pretty well "beat up".

Arrived at our destination — — Charmes — and bivouaced, after unloading quickly, in the Foret de Charmes. 'Twas here that we heard our first enemy artillery fire, plus the engine noise of a Jerry plane at night. Our exact position for the next week, or so, was one and one-half miles north of Portieux de Verriexe, (the glass making town.) Had a chance to take a shower and everyone was for it — — the glass factory, no windows, weather cold and blustery, and a minimum of warm water.

Finally received word that we were a part of General Patch's Seventh Army and had some work ahead — — 'twasn't much, just something that had never been accomplished before in history. Everyone at the time was as ready as they'd ever be — — so, off we went.

VOSGES MOUNTAINS

We jumped off on Monday, November 20, as part of CCA with the 48th Tank Battalion pointing the column. Our first platoon, with Sgt Leonard Rossa, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the lead tank, headed the 25th. Were ready for anything — — "it wasn't possible for armor to cross these mountains". Passed through La Salle, Saucery and then Cirey, and by that time, we were well upstairs. The head of the column was halted, temporarily, outside of Cirey, by a complicated roadblock covered with enemy mortar and small arms fire. After a short delay we moved on to Cirey-Sur-Veezouse, Schirmeck, and Grendelbruch, among other places, with the battalion taking an occasional prisoner, usually Polish.

Realized then, that the "Heinie" had pulled out of the mountains, giving up all its defenses, both natural and man-made. Hadn't seen any action, as yet, but did learn that one could really "sweat", even though the weather was bitter cold. The nights, and they were black, ran from 1630 to 0800, and the guard was continuous. Did our sleeping in the tanks — — 'twas safer, but just as cold.

Finally on the morning of the 28th we passed through the last of the heavily wooded Vosges and entered onto the plains of Alsace. We had completed our first operation without a casualty and it was good to know that we no longer had the threat of tree snipers etc., on either side and above us. We could see rolling fields, distant towns and villages, and occasionally, even the sun. The tension was lifted, for the present at least. This sector, which turned out to be our home for a long while, was therefore a most welcome sight.

ALSACE.

Here the 25th fanned out from the original column and we entered Obernai. Our "A" Co moved on through Gertwiller and there engaged the enemy. We received light artillery fire, both in Obernai and on the road outside, (our first). Towards evening our company pulled back to the northern outskirts of the town, and the civilians immediately, pulled in their French flags. It was our opinion that they always held two in readiness, French and one German.

To continue, after refueling and eating a belated turkey sandwich each, our Thanksgiving dinner, we took off on a special mission. No lights were used, for ours was a secret move.



Blackout

The plan was to overtake "C" Co, 62nd AIB and "C" Co, 48th Tank Battalion, and support them in quick thrust to the Rhine. We tacked on to the tail end of their column, in the vicinity of Erstein — — but didn't roll another inch. The infantry was pinned down by enemy small arms cross fire, up to and including 20 mm flak guns, while the leading tanks had their hands full with a terrific 88 cross-fire. The order came down to the company by radio. "No firing or we'll give away our position". The voice was that of Lt. Hilliard F. Kirby, St. George, S.C., our first platoon leader, and we waited — — and watched — — through our periscopes. It was rough, when artillery set a barn afire and silhouetted a C-48 tank in the glare. Almost immediately, a green-tracer 88 projectile pierced its hull and — — we waited — — and watched. After hours, it seemed like days, the order came to turn around and move back on the same road. There was some confusion, to be expected, and excellent driving. The "Kraut" had somehow, outflanked the road to our rear and there was a gauntlet of fire to run. Run it we did, in 5th gear, with 88, bazooka, and panzerfaust fire everywhere. Strangely enough, everyone made it. Perhaps if "Jerry" had aimed in between the vehicles, instead of at them, this story may have been different. Our 3rd Platoon, Lt Donald Corlett, Seattle, Washington, platoon leader, covered the withdrawal of all three companies with 30 cal. machine gun fire, and then, they too made the run successfully.

Set up at Hindesheim for the night, there still being another hour before daylight. The 2nd Platoon, thanks to some excellent firing by Cpl Clarence R. Rowden, Rochester, New York, took our first prisoners here, on the last day of November. Everyone was very thankful that they were still around, to see the prisoners, after the preceding night. It was a hard way to get our first taste of actual combat, but if nothing else, we found out that our drivers were of the best.

On the 1st of December we were heading south with the 48th Tank Battalion, and once again, Sgt Rossa's tank led. Along the road we joined the 410th Infantry Regiment of the 103rd Division, and took quite a few small towns including Barr and Dambach, where resistance was met. Our recovery vehicle, last in the company column, received direct fire from an 88 outside of Scherwiller. No casualties resulted, as he was a poor shot in the fog, hanging low this particular day. Took Scherwiller before dark this day and prepared to assist the 410th in taking the larger town of Selestat in the morning.

At 0400, December 2, our 2nd Platoon was sent on a mission with one infantry company of the 410th Infantry Regt. During the night an infantry company had crossed the Giesen River, outside of the objective, and had been pinned down to the extent that two aid men plus a few wounded, were all that remained. As our tanks approached this position, the bridge was blown. Changing plans, our vehicles took up positions near here and began firing on enemy emplacements pointed out by our supporting infantry.

During the ensuing action, a machine gun nest was wiped out by infantry mortar fire, with Lt Fred H. Gisse, Salem, Oregon, our 2nd Platoon Leader, acting as Forward Observer. Our terrific 75 mm fire drove numerous enemy out of the houses on the city's outskirts, and they proved easy targets for our 30 cal. fire as they attempted to run for shelter into a nearby woods. In the afternoon our 1st and 3rd Platoons, together with Capt. Andrew W. Winiarczyk, Nanticoke, Pa., our CO, in his tank, lined along a road outside of Selestat, paralleling a woods, and proceeded to expend ammunition of all kinds on the enemy, who, at the time, was holding up the advance of the infantry. Once again the tanks pulled back, but this time the feeling was different. We had done the damage. Uncanny judgment or luck, call it what you will — — but no sooner did we clear the road when — — 88 cross-fire began to fall directly on it. The 103rd Division took Selestat the next day.



88 mm

Moved north again, on December 3rd, and rejoined our battalion at St. Pierre. The entire battalion then moved some 60 miles farther north where we set up bivouac at Reidheim. Some much needed maintenance was done during the next week with sand bags being added to each tank. Moved to Imbsheim, and it was most welcome after living in the rain and mud for seven days. Didn't have a chance to enjoy it though, for the next day we "jumped off" again — — this time to crack the Maginot Line and with luck, perhaps the Siegfried.



Life Insurance

THE ROAD TO GERMANY.

The 25th Tank Battalion column moved east on the morning of December 12, in the direction of the German border, with Wissembourg, a large town on said border, as the objective. Our company led the way with Sgt Norman E. Hargraves, Allenton, R.I., in the point tank at the head of the 2nd platoon. The going was comparatively easy through the Haguenau Forest, Haguenau itself, on to Surbourg, and then after taking Oberseebach and Geitershof, resistance was met on the road outside of Altenstatt on the morning of the 14th. Two light tanks of the 25th's "D" Company, on reconnaissance, were destroyed by AT fire and the column was held up.

It was here that Lt Gisse and three others of the 2nd Platoon distinguished themselves. Lt Gisse left his tank to drive a medical jeep up to the burning tanks and assist S/Sgt Preston Rensch, Chillicothe, Missouri, of the Medical Detachment, in evacuating the casualties. Later in the day, Sgt Hargraves, Cpl Stuart Bogue, Port Huron, Michigan and Tec 4 Ralph Nowak, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, upon receiving orders from our CO, made a check of one of the knocked-out tanks to ascertain that all of the crew members had been cared for. On finding one still inside, they removed the seriously injured tankerman. After administering first aid, the Medics were called and he was evacuated. During both of these acts of bravery, enemy fire was intense.

Enemy artillery and mortar fire, plus the common "burp" gun and other small arms fire, added stress to this "Jerry" attempt to delay us throughout the day. The tanks of "Charlie" Company fanned; taking up position on three sides of Geitershof, for it was apparent that there wasn't much we could do with early darkness setting in. We held for the night, and in the morning moved on up the road towards Altenstatt. The news reached us, while on the way, that Wissembourg had fallen to the 62nd AIB column, led by the 25th's "B" Company. This group had moved parallel to us, on our left flank, and had entered the objective by another road.

Jerry had pulled out, possibly back to his Siegfried defenses. He had blown a bridge across the Lauter River behind him, plus a railroad trestle outside of the town. The road block created by the blown trestle was cleared and our recovery vehicle, working with the Engineers, used the large "I" beams to throw a bridge across the Lauter. Before completion of the job we received orders to go through Wissembourg using a by-pass. Our Command Post was in Germany that night, 16th, with light enemy artillery falling in Wissembourg and alongside the road that our tanks were lined on.

In the morning we moved out and entered Schweighofen, Germany, to be greeted by its, then population of one civilian. It was now apparent that the "Kraut" had definitely withdrawn to his Siegfried defenses. "Charlie" Company plus one platoon of "A" Company, 62nd AIB, continued through this town and on up the road to Kapsweyer, Germany. Almost immediately artillery and mortar fire began falling. The lead tanks had sighted the "Dragons' Teeth" and were drawing fire from the many pillboxes within range.



Trouble Ahead

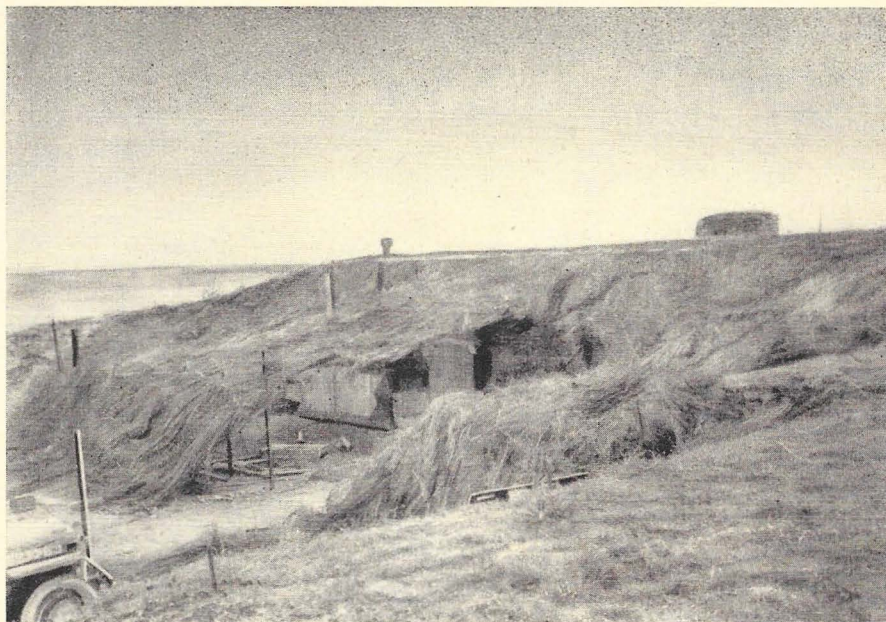
Some of the tanks veered left, on a road paralleling the "Teeth" while others went straight, bypassing Kapsweyer on the main road. Firing was done at "targets of opportunity", and then came word from higher headquarters that we were to withdraw to Schweighofen and wait for air support. The withdrawal was made with light casualties, but the air-attack didn't materialize, although a Corps mission of some ninety medium bombers did pass over for some work in the vicinity.

We spoke of light casualties — they were our first. Pfc Neil Benedict, Evanston, Illinois, received shell fragments, and Lt Corlett, a bullet wound in the foot. Lt Corlett had earlier attempted to fire the 50 cal. from the back deck of his tank but proved an easy target for a hidden sniper.

Towards evening we moved back up, with our CP in Kapsweyer that night and the tanks on the outskirts, facing the "Line". In the morning, firing positions were again taken up, somewhat the same as the previous day. With our 3rd Platoon on the road paralleling the "Teeth", Sgt Philip R. Ternan, Lagrande, Washington, was given the mission of advancing to a position on the ridgeline facing the enemy. After making a hasty foot reconnaissance he moved his tank into position and fired continuously until the remainder of the platoon was moved up. At the same time he radioed information on the enemy defenses, to our CO, who in turn, relayed the information to our supporting artillery, from the 501st AFA. Later, in an attempt to slow the heavy enemy artillery fire falling continuously, Sgt Ternan, with Cpl Clifford Ritchie, Callao, Missouri, in the gunner's seat, demolished the church steeple in the Siegfried town of Steinfeld.

In the meantime we had lost Pfc Elio Nila, Los Angeles, California, of our 2nd platoon. He was mortally wounded while assisting in loading ammunition into his tank. Fine first aid work by S/Sgt James E. Knight, Jena, Louisiana, and Sgt Hargraves went for naught in this case.

Meanwhile our 1st platoon leader, Lt Kirby had been wounded while on a foot reconnaissance with our Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Ernest C. Watson, Charleston, S.C. Firing continued throughout the day and nightfall found our tanks, once again, outposting Kapsweyer.



Pillboxes of the
Siegfried Line

On the third morning, with now usual firing prevailing, another heroic act took place. An enemy artillery shell burst about twenty feet from the tank of Sgt Hargraves while he and Tec 5 Ferdinand Lucke, Rugby, North Dakota, were outside. Cpl Clarence Rowden unhesitatingly dismounted from the vehicle (in which he was gunner), and together with S/Sgt Knight, amidst heavy fire, dragged the casualties to the comparative safety of the ground beneath the rear deck of the tank and administered first aid. They then assisted in the litter evacuation of these men.

Finally, on the afternoon of the 19th, we were relieved, tank for tank, by the 48th Tank Battalion. The tension was lifted, for the present, and we moved to Schleithal, some two miles from the "Line".



Dragons' Teeth of
the Siegfried Line

We had attempted to crack the vaunted West Wall of the enemy but succeeded only in feeling it out. We left, knowing that someday we'd be back, the next time bringing the support we needed to go "all the way".

Our Maintenance, Communications, and Arms Sections were not inactive during these three days. Although remaining at Schweighofen, their necessary work was done at night. The second night in particular, proved their mettle. The tank of Lt. Gisse' needed a replacement battery, and Tec 4 Cle-tus Bealer, Williamsville N.Y., Tec 4 Wendel C. Nielsen, Salt Lake City, Utah, T/Sgt Wendel Hull, Kempton, Illinois, and Tec 4 Henry Polkoski, Iron River, Wisconsin, and the vehicle driver Tec 4 Richard Barina, Broome, N.Y. made the change while enemy artillery and "burp" gun fire tried in vain to discourage their attempts.

ALSACE.

We stayed at Schleithal for five days, less our 3rd platoon with S/Sgt Felix J. Neff, Kansas, City, Kansas, that had joined CCB Headquarters as guard. Our 1st and 2nd platoons fired intermittent indirect fire missions into Steinfeld and it was here that we fired 30 and 50 cal. machine guns, nightly, in the direction of the enemy outposts, successfully giving the "Jerries" the idea that we were strong in number.

Moved to Rittershoffen on Christmas Eve and outposted the town. Had what was called a "break" for the next six days although there was a heavy guard on the alert for enemy paratroopers reported landing in the vicinity, nightly.



Christmas at Rittershoffen

Observed enemy captured P-47's (Thunderbolts) bombing Soultz, a nearby town, on the 30th of the month and then moved to Griesbach where the New Year of 1945 was ushered in very quietly. We received orders on the 1st of January to move to the vicinity of Rothbach and Bischoltz and arrived there late in the afternoon. The company CP was set up at Bischoltz while our 1st and 2nd platoons took up outpost positions. The 2nd was on the northern edge of Rothbach with its sections covering separate passes in the Hardt Mountains. Meanwhile the 1st platoon took up a position on a ridgeline facing northeast. An attempted breakthrough by the enemy was expected and our 3rd platoon rejoined us shortly and took over a ridgeline overlooking our 2nd platoon position.

An extensive telephone network was laid from our CP to all platoons, plus two AT gun sections from the 62nd AIB. We remained in these positions 'til January 11th, with the only action being that of our outgoing artillery, ranging from 105 mm to 8". Word reached us that our Main Line of Resistance had been cracked by enemy armor in the vicinity of Rittershoffen and Hatten, and we left for that area immediately. Reached Morsbronn-les-Bains on the 11th and set to, preparatory to attacking the following morning.

RITTERSHOFFEN

Rittershoffen — — the mere mention of the name brings to the minds of the men in this company the memory of their most heart-rending experience of the war. This is the peaceful little village where those of us who were left, spent a quiet Christmas Eve, little knowing that fate would call us back to stop the violent struggles of a nearly defeated German Army; this was the place where von Rundstedt attempted to break through to the Alsatian Plains, the achievement of which would have meant an indefinite prolongation of the war; this was the place where we were to lose many of our friends.

It was Christmas Eve, and we were sitting in the homes of our newly acquired friends jointly praying for peace on earth and good will toward men. Their prayers were fervent and sincere because they had been freed from the Nazi oppressors whose substitute for religion was war and hate. These people were genial and friendly trying to make us forget our longing for our loved ones and our homes, especially in this season. They feared the return of the Germans and therefore appreciated our presence even more. Yes, these were the people whose homes were to be turned into literal hell in a few short weeks.

Military necessity called us elsewhere, and we left these people with their best wishes for a speedy victory ringing in our ears. After completing our mission, we received news of a breakthrough and were ordered to halt the enemy at all cost. Two gigantic forces met and engaged in one of the most destructive and bloody battles of the war which centered, — — yes, around Rittershoffen.

The German was there, and we were forced to fire into the town whose people had offered us such generous hospitality. Our plan of defense was to attack, and we succeeded in getting into a portion of the town. The tempo of the battle increased to such an extent that both sides were forced to fire at anything that moved. Men, women, and children were machine-gunned to death as they attempted to escape the burning infernos of their homes; others who stayed were roasted alive.

Hardly a stone lay untouched as we moved back to more defensible positions leaving behind us our comrades, with whom we had shared the horrors of battle, and our civilian friends to whom we had been so grateful for their attempts to cheer us during a wartime Christmas.

S/Sgt Fred S. Hirsekorn
Pfc James M. Melton.

THE RUBBLE THAT WAS ONCE — — RITTERSHOFFEN



RITTERSHOFFEN

The peaceful little town of Rittershoffen, France, will go down in history as far as the men of "C" Company are concerned. To some, there was one German counter-offensive, and that was in the Ardennes, but the 14th Armored Division knows better. No one knows better than they do that German thrusts at Rittershoffen and Hatten constituted a real counter-offensive, which, had it not been halted by the Tankers in the nick of time, would have resulted in a disastrous set back for the Allies and a consequent prolonging of the war.

At Camp Chaffee, Arkansas the men of "C" Company had learned that a tank is one of the hottest things imaginable in the summer time. At Rittershoffen they learned that in the winter it can be one of the coldest. Few of us will ever forget those long cold nights when we thought our toes would freeze and drop off. In fact the only thing that made us forget how uncomfortable we really were was the realization that the enemy was near and ever present. One of the heaviest artillery displays of the war was reminder enough of this. At one time, the concentrations of 39 enemy artillery battalions had fallen in a tremendous barrage.

Our company had moved into this onetime peaceful little community in time to spend a quiet but enjoyable Christmas considering the fact that at the time we had been given a brief respite from front line combat. Little did we think that this site would later become the location of one of the greatest tank and defensive battles of the entire war. Little did we know that in a short time we would be returning here to wage the costliest battle our unit was to participate in. Nor did we know that military circumstances would demand a strategic withdrawal of all our troops in this area. The seriousness and magnitude of all these things was forcibly brought to our mind when, about two months later, we passed through this area on our victorious march which was to carry us into the heart of Germany; a march which was never halted until our enemy had been disastrously defeated. In passing through this area, the wreckage of military equipment and vehicles, both ours and the enemies', the mass of rubble that was once the peaceful little town of Rittershoffen attested to the size of the battle that might be termed the 14th Armored Division's contribution to the utter defeat and surrender of the Nazi army.

Sgt Douglas K. Hamilton.



Church-Rittershoffen



Our Christmas Lodging

RITTERSHOFFEN

The cold, dismal morning of January 12th found our column on the ice covered road leading to Rittershoffen. The tanks regrouped in an orchard on the far side of Hohwiller where our Battalion and Company CPs were set up. Shortly after 1130 in direct support of the 62nd AIB we moved to the attack. Moving cross-country unopposed, it was apparent that our olive drab vehicles did not blend in the least, with the snow covered terrain.



A "Sherman" at Rittershoffen

At 1215 heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire began to fall. By this time our tanks were on the reverse slope of a ridge north of Rittershoffen and were receiving direct fire, presumably from the right. Lt Gisse, 2nd Platoon Leader, acting on orders, moved his tank over the ridge and had started down the front slope before direct fire had set his vehicle on fire. This action resulted in his loss, together with Pvt Elmer Rush, Elbowoods, North Dakota, through injuries. Shortly afterwards, the tank of S/Sgt Knight, platoon sergeant 2nd platoon, moved over the ridge and received the same fire. Sgt Knight was instantly killed by the first round, and the following rounds set his vehicle afire also. During the afternoon that this took place, the heroic actions of other members of this platoon, in the evacuation of the wounded, resulted, later, in commendations for them. The attack ceased for the night and our tanks lay back of the ridge until morning, meanwhile receiving the continuous heavy artillery fire.

On the second morning, our guns laid a heavy concentration of indirect fire into neighboring enemy-held villages. On completion of this our 3rd platoon moved east at maximum speed in an attempt to cut two roads leading to the village of Hatten. Sgt Ternan, leading, had gone some 1500 yards when he spied two silhouettes to his right front. Before he could fire a round his tank was

Cincy



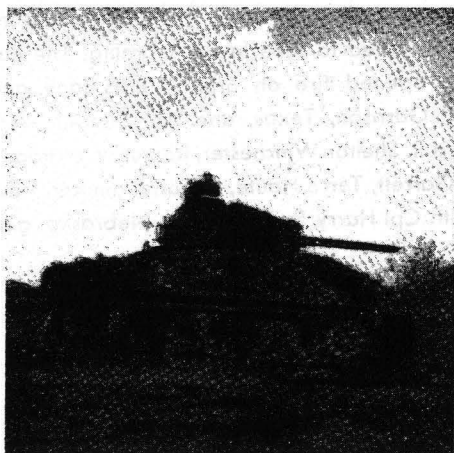
Caroline

hit, resulting in the death of Lt William Derr, Norristown, Pa., replacement platoon leader, serious injury to himself, Cpl Ritchie and Pfc Louis Fink, Hudson, N.J. The tank of S/Sgt Neff took up position and with excellent shooting by Cpl Marvin Wellman, Hoopeston, Illinois, knocked out the "silhouettes" which proved to be a Mark V tank and an SP (Self-propelled gun), plus innumerable enemy infantry attempting to run from this terrific fire. With the tank of Cpl Fred S. Hirsekorn, Kansas City, Missouri, setting up adequate fire cover, the wounded men from the knocked out tank were loaded on Sgt Neff's tank and taken to the rear. Here also, heroic action by members of this platoon, in the evacuation of their wounded, resulted in commendations. Foremost among these was the deed of Sgt William J. O'Brien, Chicago, Illinois. Sgt O'Brien, under heavy small arms fire and in full view of the enemy, dismounted from his vehicle to go to the aid of the injured, Sgt Ternan. Skillfully working his way across the open terrain to his stricken comrade, he administered emergency medical treatment and while attempting to evacuate the casualty to the safety of his tank he was mortally wounded by an enemy sniper.

In the meantime, our 1st platoon had attempted to move down the main road into Rittershoffen. Sgt Rossa's tank in the lead, received direct hits from a hidden AT gun and both he and Pfc Seymour Hayden, Brooklyn, N.Y., proved casualties. Here again courageous acts by members of this platoon made their evacuation a success. The company returned to their former positions back of the ridge, meanwhile receiving the now continuous artillery and mortar fire.

Crumby Five

"Dead" Armor



Cincy



Caroline

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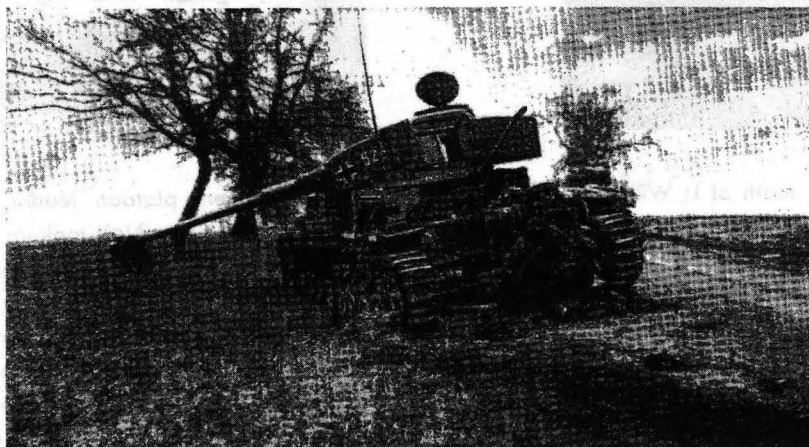


Crumby Five



"Dead" Armor

During the afternoon of this day, with the 1st platoon leading the way, the entire company moved to the left on the route that our 3rd platoon had attempted to take in the morning. The enemy was clever, for, after letting the lead tanks through, he opened fire on S/Sgt Neff's tank and scored direct hits on it and set it afire. Tec 4 Jess J. Dent, Garrison, Texas, and Pvt Charles Kierski, Pittsburgh, Pa., were casualties. Meanwhile, S/Sgt Leonard R. Shelton Winchester, Kentucky, platoon sergeant of the 1st platoon, in his tank, with Cpl Arthur P. Garrett, Terre Haute, Indiana, gunner, had accounted for two Mark IV tanks and Sgt Parrish's tank, with Cpl Harry Smith, Ansley, Nebraska, gunner, had added still another.



Mark IV Tank

The night of the 13th was spent in defensive positions and after two more days of mostly indirect fire the company was relieved by "A" Company, 25th Tank Battalion, and we moved back to Hohwiller.



First Echelon
of Maintenance-Hohwiller

On January 16th and 17th, we fired indirect, intermittently, into enemy held positions, meanwhile white washing all vehicles for there was still plenty of snow on the ground. On the 18th orders were received to relieve "A" Company on the ridge line. As the tanks pulled out it was raining, the snow had disappeared and we now had "white vehicles" when we needed "olive drab".

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"white vehicles"

After taking up our positions, amidst a severe shelling, the first enemy "Jet-Propelled" plane appeared on the scene and his 500 pound bombs, falling close, made things even more uncomfortable. The following day Cpl Hirsekorn pulled his tank up on the ridge to fire on observed targets, and when they returned "Jerry" lacked one AT gun and on SP due to the accurate gunnery of Pvt George E. Molnar, Barnesboro, Pa.

That day and night and the next day dragged on, and then the evening of the 20th brought the surprising news that we were to withdraw past Haguenau to an area near Hochfelden. Our 1st platoon with Lt Robert R. Chrisman, Williamsport, Pa., with seventeen infantrymen of the 62nd AIB, and our recovery vehicle, remained behind until 0500 the morning of the 21st as the rear guard, and then speedily pulled out before the enemy could notice the change during darkness.

The withdrawal went off "without a hitch" and the entire company regrouped at Littenheim on the evening of the 21st.

THE MODER RIVER DEFENSE LINE

On the night of the 22nd "Charlie" Company moved to the village of Weitbruch. We were to be attached to the 79th Infantry Division to support them in holding the new MLR at the Moder River. The 1st and 3rd platoons joined elements of the 314th Infantry Regiment at Marienthal and Bischwiller, respectively, while our 2nd platoon supported the 242nd Infantry of the 42nd (Rainbow) Division at Kaltenhouse. The company CP was at Weitbruch and radio contact was established for the ensuing period.



The Village Church At Marienthal

The morning of the 23rd brought action at Kaltenhouse in the form of enemy mortar fire. Lt William H. Kekar, Jr., Topeka, Kansas, platoon leader of the 2nd platoon spotted a lone Mark IV tank on the enemy held side of the river and his gunner, Cpl Albert Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio, speedily knocked it out. The now daily visits of the ME 262 (Jet-propelled) added to the battle when he bombed Weitbruch and Bischwiller. We had good air support in the form of P-47's that kept bombing and strafing the enemy at Oberhofen (his stronghold). The remainder of the day plus the next was comparatively quiet. Then before daybreak on the morning of the 25th, the enemy threw a foot bridge, across the Moder, between Kaltenhouse and Haguenau and broke through the lines held by our infantry. Our 2nd platoon moved to the attack and was instrumental in the capture of 130 "Krauts" and inflicting casualties numbering over 100 with accurate tank and machine gun fire. The MLR was once again restored, and two days later we were relieved by "A" Company, 47th Tank

Battalion. We moved to Minversheim and reverted to battalion control. We remained here for six days, being on a thirty minute alert at all times.

It was now apparent that the company was fairly well-seasoned and the men took on the aspect of veterans. The going had been hard all the way, during the coldest part of a cold winter, and any rest would be well received by all. But this was not to be, for awhile yet.

We moved back to Bischwiller, the whole Battalion this time, on February 1st and were attached to the 36th Infantry Division. The mission was to drive the enemy back across the Rhine in this area, and thus eliminate a troublesome pocket of resistance. The next three days brought little action for the company. Our tank platoons were on the line supporting the infantry but most of the country was inundated and there wasn't much we could do in the way of moving around. Enemy artillery and mortar fire fell continuously in Bischwiller, while our Thunderbolts put on their daily show over Oberhofen and Camp-de-Oberhofen. Then on the 5th we moved to Gries in 36th Division reserve. Our 2nd and 3rd platoons left almost immediately to support elements of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, that had gone almost to the Rhine, unopposed. The 3rd platoon remained at Gamsheim with troops of the Free French Army who had worked north from the Colmar sector. The 2nd platoon moved on into Offendorf, one mile from the River and held 'til relieved, on the 6th, by infantry from the 36th Division. The mission of pushing the "Heinie" back across the Rhine was a success and we moved back to Weitbruch for a day and thence to Morschwiller, about a mile from the banks of the Moder River northwest of the city of Haguenau, on February 8th.

Road blocks were established and the much needed rest we had been looking forward to, was here at last. The enemy, on the Moder, was quiet except for throwing occasional mortar fire our way. Each night brought patrol clashes with the enemy infantry, in the Mertzwiller Woods, while our nearby artillery pounded his positions incessantly. Maintenance work, including the camouflage painting of all the vehicles, plus guard, were the main duties in our company.



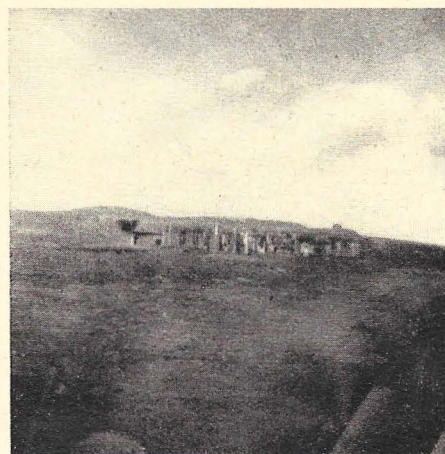
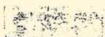
The Symbol of Hate

On February 20th, our 2nd platoon moved to the village of Ettendorf in support of the 19th AIB, while the remainder of the company was attached to the 68th AIB, remaining at Morschwiller. Pfc Ben H. Hanson, Charleston, West Virginia, was a casualty from mortar fragments, on the 21st. On two occasions Lt Kekar's platoon fired missions into enemy-held Kindwiller, and the edge of the Haguenau Forest. The days passed quickly and then on March 11th our 2nd platoon moved to Pfaffenhoffen, on the Moder, while the remainder of the company set up in Ringeldorf, where on the 12th we received unexpected heavy artillery fire. Pvt Eugene Simmons, Drakesboro, Kentucky, and Cpl Thomas H. Limberg, Dayton, Ohio, were casualties; Pvt Simmons later dying from his wounds. The accurate fire was attributed to a civilian, acting as an observer, with a radio transmitter in the basement of his home.

The evening of March 16th brought one regiment of the 36th Division passing through on their way to Pfaffenhoffen. This was to be the last big "push" — — "no stopping until the war is over", our CO informed us. Following a tremendous two hour barrage, the doughs crossed the Moder River and made rapid headway. We expected to move immediately, but it was the following day that we "moved out". The "break" was over for us.

THE ROAD BACK.

At 0430, the morning of March 18th, the CCA column, with Sgt Douglas K. Hamilton, Albany, N.Y. leading our 2nd platoon, moved on through Pfaffenhoffen. We passed through the now clear Haguenau Forest (thanks to the 36th Div.), devastated Mertzwiller, Morsbronn-les-Bains, Surbourg, Soultz, Hohwiller and then veered north (Rittershoffen had already been taken) through Oberseebach and a good part of the Maginot Line.



Pillbox of the Maginot Line

Thirty miles was the actual advance when we halted at Geitershof; although our odometers read "56". Once again, as had previously happened in December, the column had stopped for the night. This time a complete ring of armor encircled the village for we were "stuck out on a limb". The "Heinie" appeared to be pulling a repeat performance on his earlier act but we had a good idea where we'd ring down the final curtain on him.

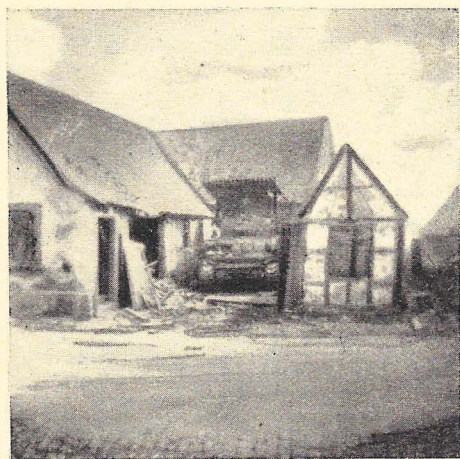
The following morning, the 19th, the tanks moved cross-country due to a blown bridge, and moved cautiously. An enemy AT gun, 77 mm, was observed and properly eliminated by the lead tanks.

As the column returned to the road near Altenstatt, Sgt Hamilton's tank was fired on by a bazooka. The projectile was deflected by the tow cable and completely stopped by the sand bags on the front slope. The bazookamen, plus two compatriots, were taken prisoner after a round of 75 mm changed their attitude.

The advance continued — — then the point tank was fired on by an AT gun from the left rear. Pfc James Hampton, loader from Evansville, Indiana, was instantly killed and Sgt Hamilton stunned by the round that had skimmed across the top of the turret. Here, it was, that cool and calm Cpl John T. Allison, gunner from Terre Haute, Indiana, directed the driver to back up. Crawling beneath the gun he moved the body of Pfc Hampton to one side, loaded the 75 mm, returned to his seat and fired on the suspected gun position. Once again prisoners were taken.

Altenstatt was entered and it seemed that the enemy expected us. "Screaming Mimi's" (multiple rockets) poured in steadily but we moved on through Wissembourg, taken this time by the 36th Div., crossed the Lauter River, and rolled up the road up the road to take Schweighofen. Outpost positions were taken, amidst a hail of "Mimi's" and 170 mm shells, as darkness set in.

Daylight brought a fast start to our tank fire at anything protruding above the earth back of the "Teeth", plus a steady rain of 75 and 76 mm shells into Steinfeld. This lasted throughout the day and when nightfall came, the tanks returned, by platoons, to Schweighofen. Here they were restocked with everything needed and returned to Kapsweyer and its' outlying area. One of our tanks, refitted with rocket tubes, had returned to us this afternoon and was immediately christened, "Buck Rogers".



"Buck Rogers"

The next morning brought a low hanging mist and it was while our vehicles were climbing the ridge north of Kapsweyer that the tank of S/Sgt Shelton, overturned. Fortunately, no one was injured and our recovery vehicle proceeded to the scene and righted it, under heavy shelling. The remainder of the day was spent in firing at targets behind the "Dragons' Teeth".

Early in the morning of March 22nd, our vehicles attempted to cross a treadway bridge over a crater, through the "Teeth", this bridge having been constructed during the night by the Engineers from the 125th Engineer Battalion, under very heavy fire. The "Kraut" laid an accurate concentration on the spot and we were forced to withdraw to Kapsweyer. After another hectic day, a successful crossing was made that night.

D LINE



Anti-tank Ditch-Schaidt

The main street in Steinfeld was so completely covered with heavy artillery fire, when the town was entered, that each tank sought the protection of a building for some cover. The tank of Cpl John Hart, Buffalo, N.Y., received a direct hit with a phosphorous shell and was temporarily "out of action". March 23rd, which later proved to be the final day of this struggle, found an all out attack on the town of Schaidt. Lt Chrisman's 1st platoon furnished flank protection on the left, for the main body moving forward. This platoon, key to the whole attack, destroyed six dug-in tanks, countless pillboxes and AT gun emplacements, and captured approximately 100 prisoners. Meanwhile the other two platoons accomplished their work in the same style. The white flag was everywhere — — the impregnable "Line", the vaunted West Wall had been smashed. The 1st platoon swept on through Schaidt and into Freckenfeld, adding more and more AT guns to their record. With darkness near at hand both towns were secured and held. Elements of the Free French Army poured through us the next day. We moved toward the Rhine River, unopposed, and were twelve or so miles from there when we received orders to return to Schaidt.

The following days were spent doing the necessary work that follows each major engagement with the enemy. Everyone was "at ease". We were far behind the front lines but knew that before long we would overtake the forward elements.

THE SIEGFRIED LINE



Anti-tank Ditch-Schaidt

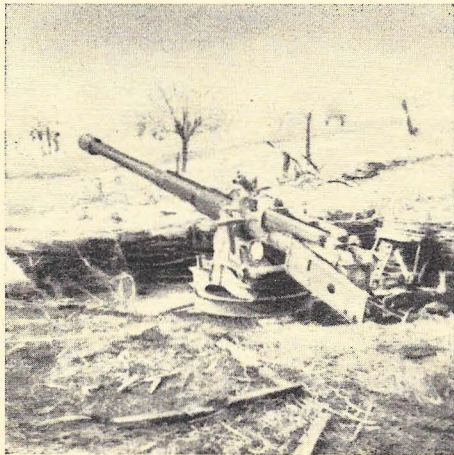


The Key to the Siegfried

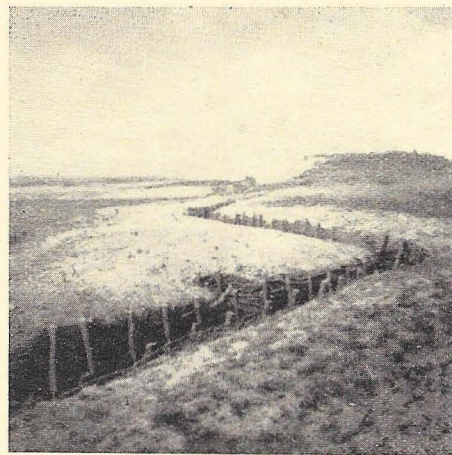


Entrance to Pillbox

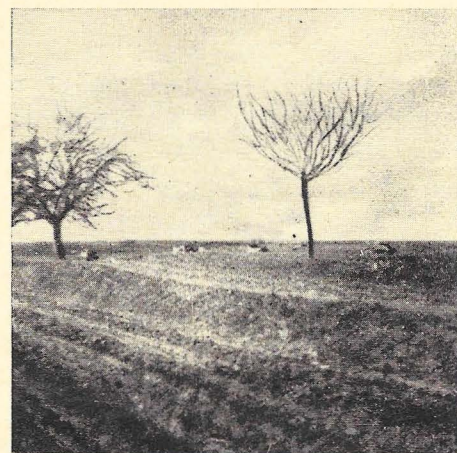
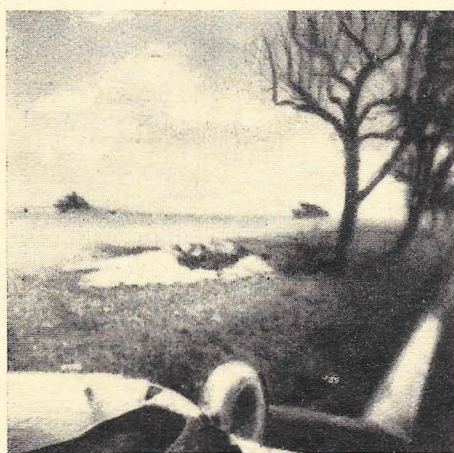
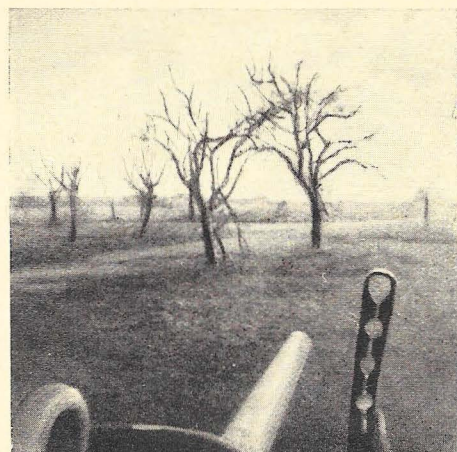
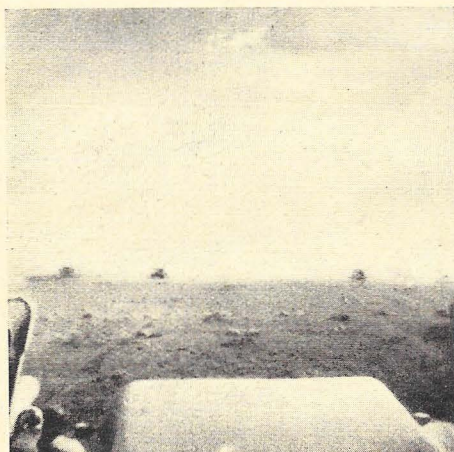
THE SIEGFRIED LINE



88 mm AT Gun



Connecting Trenches



These pictures were taken during the actual attack from Stein'eld towards Schaids and while the photographer was under sniper fire.

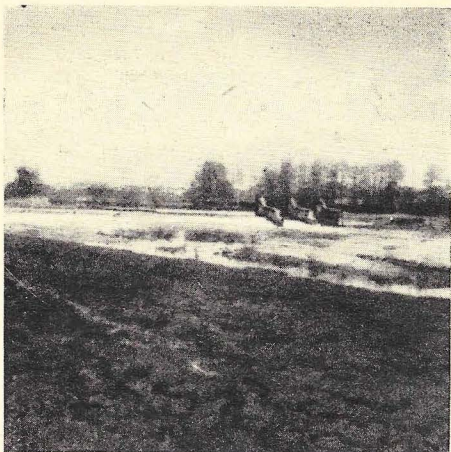
GERMANY.

At 0330, the morning of April 1st, Easter Sunday, we moved from Schaidt deeper into "Adolf's" domain. Crossed the Rhine River at Worms, in the early afternoon, and later found ourselves on the Frankfurt—Munich Autobahn (super highway). The entire 7th Army was on the move with columns of vehicles stretching for miles along it. Finally, towards dusk, we halted at Gross-Beiberau — — 115 miles from our starting point. It was the longest, continuous trip we had ever made in our tanks.



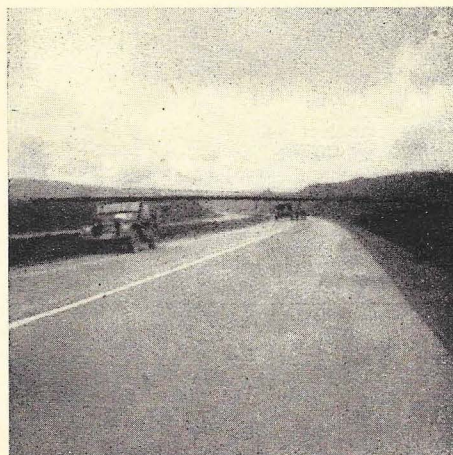
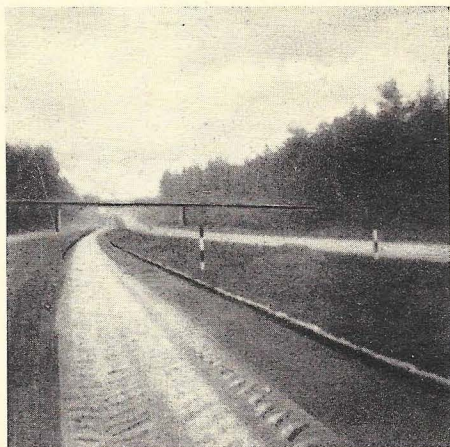
Crossing the Rhine

Were on the go early the next morning and crossed the Main River at Worth. We had been moving north but now we headed east. No opposition was met and we set up at Rohrbrunn that night. The next week brought almost continuous movement with the enemy surrendering on all sides and a minimum of resistance being met, mostly by fanatical SS troops, who were in the minority. Among the villages passed through or credited to us were Lohr, Aschfeld, Obersfeld, Neu-Bessingen and Frickenhausen. We had worked in all directions, at one time being within 10 miles of the border of Czechoslovakia, but at this time we pointed south. April 12th brought the capture of Lichtenfels on the Main River. With the aid of the division's CCR Rifle Company of colored troops, the river was forded and the large town taken after a short "fire fight". Our Battalion Commander Lt Col Watson, had a close call when enemy small arms fire pinned him down. With the tank of Sgt Eddie R. Parrish, Angier, N.C. furnishing cover and fire, he crawled to safety.



Fording the Main River-Lichtenfels

The following day found us at Allendorf where we were temporarily isolated from other units due to the collapse of a bridge in our rear, for a short period. On the 15th after a fast run, we cut the Munich Autobahn at Haag, south of the city of Bayreuth and therefore deprived the enemy of his last main escape route to the south. The 18th found us at Litzlohe, east of Nurnberg. Here it was that we prepared for a victory Parade in the Nazi Citadel. In the midst of these preparations came orders to move — — and move we did.



The Autobahn At Bayreuth

Late afternoon of the 19th found us working south on the autobahn in the vicinity of Allersberg. Sudden artillery fire from our left flank drew casualties among our supporting Negro infantrymen. Our lead tanks with Sgt Rowden and Lt Kekar knocked down the church steeple in Goggelsbruck as a precaution against enemy observation. With darkness closing in the company pulled off the road and behind a low ridge outside of the village of Altenfelden. Enemy vehicles were observed in the town of Allersberg, to our east, and heavy concentration of artillery fire was laid in by our artillery during the night. Early the next morning three Mark VI tanks were seen and a fire fight ensued with one of the enemy tanks left burning, thanks to Sgt Emmitt O. Koonce, Houston, Texas and his gunner, Cpl Raymond J. Dashineau, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Orders were received to move back on the

88 Junction

highway again and everything went smoothly until we hit a road junction outside of Goggelsbruck. A Mark VI, "Tiger" tank had the crossroads "zeroed in", and a hit on S/Sgt Shelton's tank during the fast run disabled his 76 mm gun.

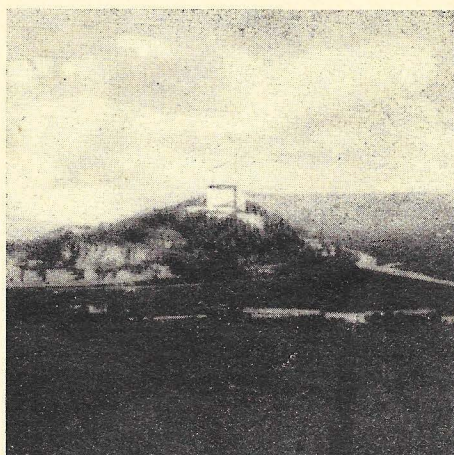
As we rolled into the village of Goggelsbruck, word was received over the radio, that the rear of our column (our trains) were being counter-attacked. Leaving the 2nd platoon to hold Goggelsbruck, another wild run was made back through "88 junction" and on arriving at the scene found that our "Buck Rogers" tank, with excellent shooting by Pfc Joseph L. Caldarella, Buffalo, N.Y., and a few tanks from "B" Company, 25th Tank Battalion had successfully beaten off the attack. Previous positions on the ridge were taken up and the remainder of the day consisted of "sweating out" the heavy incoming artillery and tank fire. A small attempt by an enemy patrol to infiltrate through our lines was "nipped in the bud" by the ever alert tankers. The day and night of the 21st passed in much the same style. The morning of the 22nd saw our 1st platoon entering Allersberg without resistance and the delay in our move south, was at an end. Tec 4 Earl W. Miller, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Pfc William C. Roberts, Normangee, Texas, proved to be our only casualties during this fracas when both received shrapnel wounds.



Mark VI "Tiger" Tank

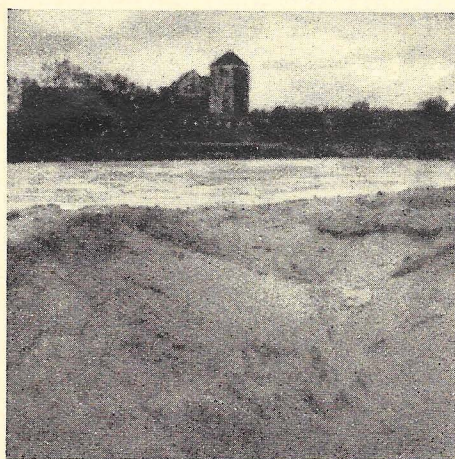
April 23rd brought news that the 14th Armored Division was now part of General George Patton's 3rd Army. Our company was to be attached to the 86th Infantry Division in a drive on Munich. On reaching Weizenburg, our company was "broken up", with each platoon joining a battalion of the 342nd Infantry Regiment. Different roads were taken with the large town of Eichstätt. The Roman Catholic Center of Germany, as our first objective. Lt Chrisman's platoon in one column, moved with light opposition to the outskirts of Rothenstein. Here, it was, that an 88, by-passed by the infantry reconnaissance, fired on the lead tank of Sgt Stanley C. Kicinski, Syracuse, N.Y., and put it out of action, minus casualties. Tank fire by the other tanks of the platoon remedied the situation and the advance continued. "Jerry" was now using his "flak" guns as ground pieces and the air was filled with 20 mm projectiles. A mortar "hit" on Lt Chrisman's tank caused him to be evacuated with fragment wounds and Sgt Parrish assumed command of the platoon, now consisting of two tanks. Our 3rd platoon tied in with our 1st that night and fired indirect into Eichstadt. The next morning found Sgt John R. Garrity, San Bernardino, California, pointing our weary tankers in another "5th gear

ride" into the objective. S/Sgt Neff was commissioned a 2ndLt at this time and assumed full command of the 3rd platoon.

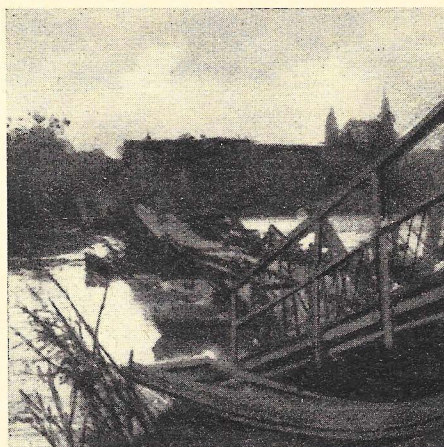


Eichstätt

Ingolstadt, a city on the Danube River, was next. After a stiff fire fight on the river banks, the infantry made an assault crossing and the once beautiful city was cleared when our tanks crossed the newly laid ponton bridge the following morning, the 26th of April.



The Blue Danube-Ingolstadt



Bridge in the Danube

Meanwhile in this same action, the tank of Lt Kekar, platoon leader of the 2nd platoon, had been knocked out in the vicinity of Wettstetten by another 88. The tank commander together with Tec 4 Barina, Cpl Albert Miller, Pfc Ira Skidgel, Eugene, Oregon, were injured, while Pvt Harry Williams, Hohenwald, Tennessee, lost his life. Cool work by Sgt John T. Meadows, Bowling Green, Kentucky, kept the platoon moving until Lt Kekar returned shortly, afterwards.

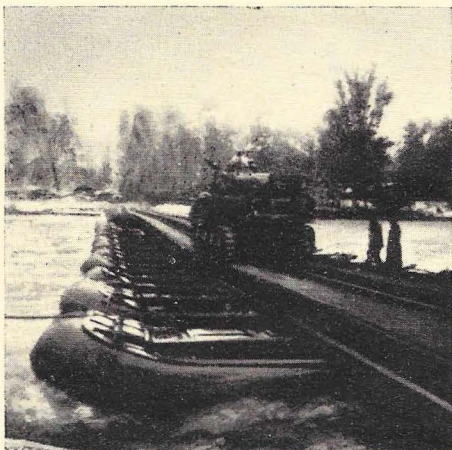


Bombers' Work

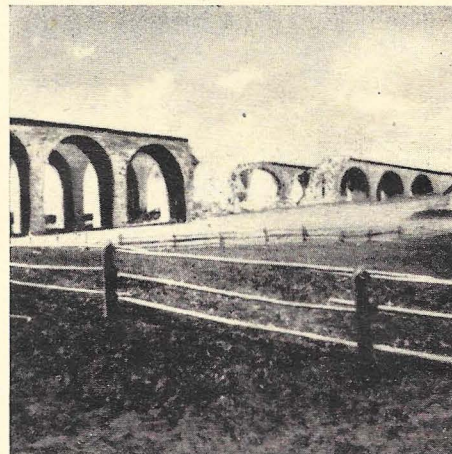


All Points North

The drive continued southeast and assumed the proportions of a road march. Countless prisoners were taken while towns and villages, the "white flagged" kind, became more frequent. Langenbruck, Schweitenkirchen, Freising and Erding, to name a few, were taken in quick order.

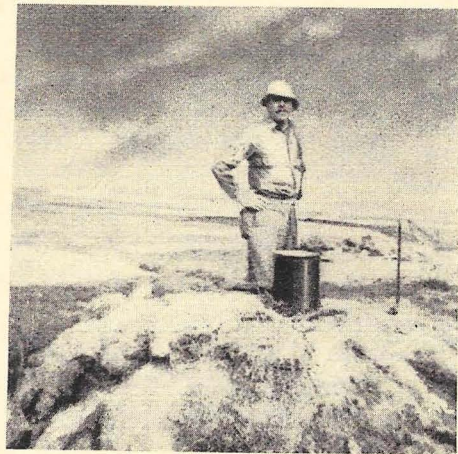


Crossing the Isar River Freising



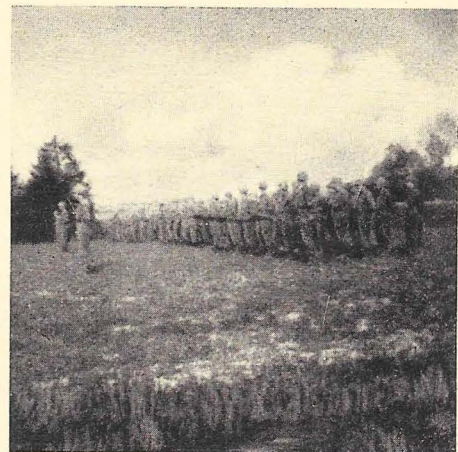
Road block at Schweitenkirchen

While all this was going on, our Company Commander, Capt. Winiarczyk together with 1st/Sgt Denna R. Ferrell, Seth, West Virginia, were constantly on the go contacting and resupplying our scattered platoons, covering more than 1200 miles in less than a week. Then came the order to "stop". It was on May 2nd that hostilities ceased for us, with the 1st platoon in the vicinity of Haag, the 2nd in the Buchbach area and the 3rd near the small village of Arth... all deep in Bavaria and within sight of the Alps Mountains.



1st/Sgt Denna R. Ferrell

The company regrouped at Hilpolding, where we remained to receive the news that Germany had surrendered, unconditionally, on May 7th.



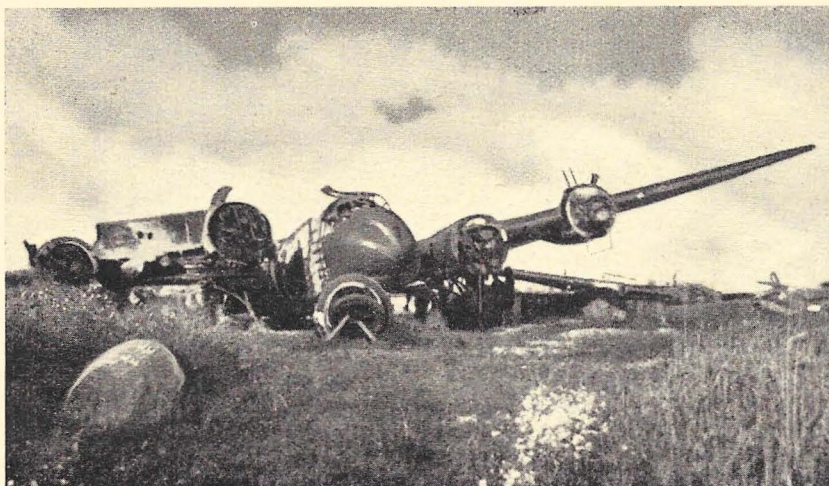
V-E Day Formation

This long-awaited announcement was taken calmly by all. The "job", and it had been a difficult one, was done.

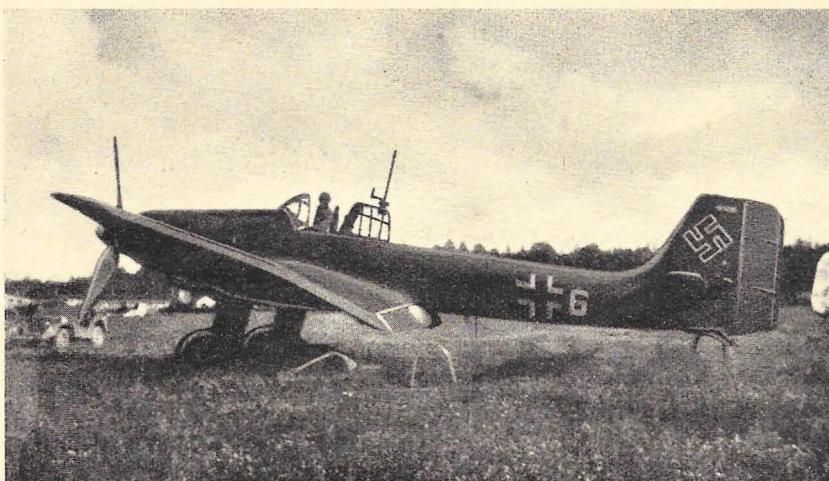
Headquarters, 25th Tank Battalion, credited us, of "Charlie" Company, with the following:

Unofficial

Enemy Aircraft destroyed	1
Enemy tanks destroyed	11
Enemy vehicles destroyed	7
Enemy AT guns destroyed	56
Enemy personnel casualties	550
Enemy personnel captured	3490



Luftwaffe with Shorn Wings



JU 87-Stuka Dive Bomber

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

SILVER STAR MEDAL

Sgt William J. O'Brien (Posthumous)
1st Lt Robert R. Chrisman

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Capt Andrew W. Winiarczyk	w 2/oak leaf clusters
S/Sgt Leonard R. Shelton	w/oak leaf clusters
S/Sgt Fred S. Hirsekorn	w/oak leaf clusters

1st Lt Hilliard F. Kirby
1st Lt Robert R. Chrisman
1st Lt William H. Kekar, Jr.
1st Lt Quinto G. Chelli
1st Lt Fred H. Gisse
2nd Lt Felix J. Neff
1st/Sgt Denna R. Ferrell
T/Sgt Wendel L. Hull
S/Sgt James E. Knight (Posthumous)
S/Sgt Norman E. Hargraves
Sgt Douglas K. Hamilton
Sgt Clarence R. Rowden
Sgt John R. Garrity
Sgt Philip R. Ternan
Sgt John T. Meadows
Tec 4 Howard V. Winnick
Tec 4 Henry W. Polkoski
Tec 4 Wendell C. Nielsen
Tec 4 Carl R. Slaughter
Tec 4 Earl W. Miller

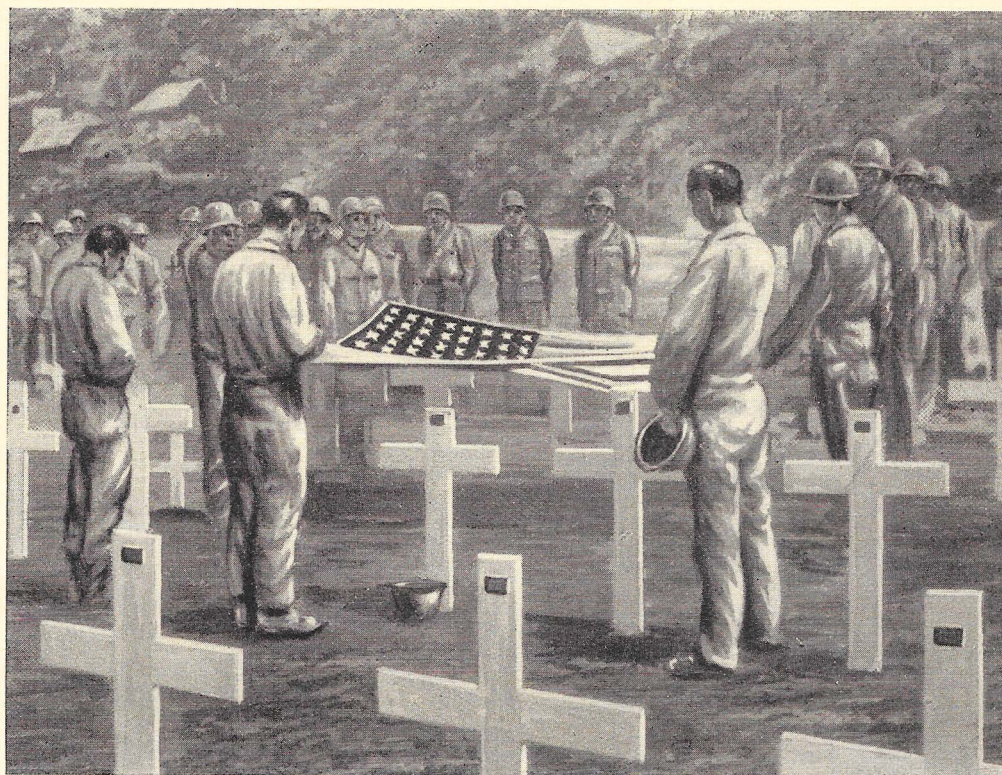
Tec 4 Cletus J. Bealer
Tec 4 Ralph R. Nowak
Tec 4 Alfred A. Hinz
Cpl Albert W. Miller
Cpl Arthur P. Garrett
Cpl William R. Mallard
Cpl Donald H. Neufeld
Cpl John T. Allison
Cpl Walter Freauff
Cpl Raymond J. Dashineau
Cpl Stuart H. Bogue
Cpl Roy A. Smith
Cpl Conrad A. Romero
Tec 5 John V. Prince
Pfc Herbert T. Kuczora
Pfc William C. Roberts
Pfc Thomas H. Britt, Jr.
Pfc LaVar D. Click
Pfc Irwin D. Busby

PURPLE HEART MEDAL

Sgt Philip R. Ternan	w/oak leaf clusters
Pfc Calvin A. Meiers	w/oak leaf clusters
Pvt Ira D. Skidgel	w/oak leaf clusters

Capt Andrew W. Winiarczyk
1st Lt Fred H. Gisse
1st Lt Hilliard F. Kirby
1st Lt William H. Derr (Posthumous)
1st Lt Robert R. Chrisman
1st Lt William H. Kekar, Jr.
1st Lt Quinto G. Chelli
2nd Lt Donald R. Corlett
S/Sgt James E. Knight (Posthumous)
S/Sgt Norman E. Hargraves
Sgt William J. O'Brien (Posthumous)
Sgt Edward F. Kelly
Sgt Douglas K. Hamilton
Tec 4 Richard J. Barina
Tec 4 Earl W. Miller
Tec 4 Wendell C. Nielsen
Tec 4 Myron A. Nelson
Tec 4 Jess J. Dent
Cpl John P. Hart
Cpl Clifford E. Ritchie

Cpl Thomas H. Limberg
Cpl Walter Freauff
Cpl Albert W. Miller
Cpl Raymond P. Mielke
Tec 5 Ferdinand R. Lucke
Tec 5 George Pavlica
Pfc Louis R. Fink
Pfc Ben H. Hanson
Pfc James A. Hampton (Posthumous)
Pfc Roy D. Huffman
Pfc William C. Roberts
Pfc Elio S. Nila (Posthumous)
Pfc Neil W. Benedict
Pfc Seymour Hayden
Pfc Jack J. Bauer
Pfc John R. Neeman
Pvt Elmer Rush
Pvt Charles Kiersky
Pvt Eugene Simmons (Posthumous)
Pvt Harry Williams (Posthumous)



In Memoriam

Sgt William J. O'Brien
13 January 45
Rittershoffen, France

Pfc Elio S. Nila
18 December 44
Kapsweyer, Germany

S/Sgt James E. Knight
12 January 45
Rittershoffen, France

1st Lt William H. Derr
13 January 45
Rittershoffen, France

Pvt Eugene Simmons
12 March 45
Ringeldorf, France

Pfc James A. Hampton
19 March 45
Altenstatt, France

Pvt Harry Williams
26 April 45
Hepberg, Germany

... that these dead shall not have died in vain ...

ABE LINCOLN

Rooster of Company "C" 25th Tank Battalion

Capt Andrew W. Winiarczyk
Nanticoke, Pa.

1st Lt Quinto G. Chelli
Springfield, Mass.

1st Lt William H. Kekar, Jr.
Topeka, Kansas

1st Lt Robert R. Chrisman
Williamsport, Pa.

1st Lt Fred H. Gisse
Salem, Oregon

1st Lt Hilliard F. Kirby
St George, S.C.

1st Lt William H. Derr
Norristown, Pa.

2d Lt Harold T. Mooney
Champaign, Illinois

2d Lt Felix J. Neff
Kansas City, Kansas

2d Lt Donald R. Corlett
Seattle, Wash.

1st/Sgt Denna R. Ferrell
Seth, West Virginia

T/Sgt Wendel L. Hull
Kempton, Illinois

S/Sgt Harry F. Fahrendorf
Covington, Kentucky

S/Sgt Norman Hargraves
Allentown, Rhode Island

S/Sgt Fred S. Hirsekorn
Kansas City, Mo.

S/Sgt Leonard R. Shelton
Winchester, Kentucky

S/Sgt James E. Knight
Jena, La.

S/Sgt Oscar Campbell
Harlingen, Texas

Sgt John R. Garrity
San Bernardino, Calif.

Sgt Douglas K. Hamilton
Albany, New York

Sgt Edward F. Kelly
Bayonne, New Jersey

Sgt Stanley C. Kicinski
Syracuse, New York

Sgt Emmitt O. Koonce
Houston, Texas

Sgt John T. Meadows
Bowling Green, Ky.

Sgt George E. Molnar
Barnesboro, Pa.

Sgt Eddie R. Parrish
Angier, N.C.

Sgt Clarence R. Rowden
Rochester, New York

Sgt William J. O'Brien
Chicago, Ill.

Sgt Leonard D. Rossa
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sgt Philip R. Ternan
Lagrange, Wash.

Tec 4 Cletus J. Bealer
Williamsville, New York

Tec 4 Emery W. Boldenow
Lansing, Ill.

Tec 4 Elias W. Denomie
Odanah, Wisconsin

Tec 4 Coy Elkins
Shidler, Okla.

Tec 4 Alfred A. Hinz
Roselle, Illinois

Tec 4 Marvin O. Koontz
Fresno, Calif.

Tec 4 Harry W. McDonaldson
Weyers Cave, Va.

Tec 4 Raymond L. Miller
Louisville, Ky.

Tec 4 Earl W. Miller
Minneapolis, Minn.

Tec 4 Wendell C. Nielsen
Salt Lake City, Utah

Tec 4 Myron A. Nelson
Sioux City, Iowa

Tec 4 Ralph R. Nowak
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Tec 4 Henry W. Polkoski
Iron River, Wisconsin

Tec 4 Carl R. Slaughter
Boring, Oregon

Tec 4 Howard V. Winnick
Orbisonia, Pa.

Tec 4 Richard J. Barina
Broome, New York

Tec 4 Jess J. Dent
Garrison, Texas.

Cpl John T. Allison
West Terre Haute, Ind.

Cpl Loral E. Barnett
Evansville, Ind.

Cpl John C. Beagel
Pratt, Kansas

Cpl Stuart H. Bogue
Port Huron, Mich.

Cpl Raymond J. Dashineau
Niagara Falls, New York

Cpl William E. Dougall
Valparaiso, Ind.

Cpl Walter Freauff
Portland, Oregon

Cpl Arthur P. Garrett
Terre Haute, Ind.

Cpl Robert W. Keating, Jr.
Northampton, Mass.

Cpl John P. Hart
Buffalo, New York

Cpl Thomas H. Limberg
Dayton, Ohio

Cpl William R. Mallard
Macon, Georgia

Cpl Loomis F. Mayfield
Sikeston, Mo.

Cpl Raymond P. Mielke
Mayville, Wisconsin

Cpl Donald H. Neufeld
Enid, Okla.

Cpl Conrad A. Romero
San Acacio, Colo.

Cpl Roman J. Scharmach
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Cpl Harry J. Smith
Ansley, Nebr.

Cpl Roy A. Smith
Lebanon, Pa.

Cpl Marvin H. Wellman
Hoopeston, Ill.

Cpl Albert W. Miller
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cpl Clifford E. Ritchie
Callao, Mo.

Tec 5 Earl W. Barnes
Ord, Nebr.

Tec 5 Gilbert Bernstein
Columbus, Ohio

Tec 5 Carl E. Davis
Wasola, Mo.

Tec 5 Elmer J. Keitel, Jr.
Clayton, Mo.

Tec 5 Albert E. Happel
Evansville, Ind.

Tec 5 Walter L. Hohbein
Beatrice, Nebr.

Tec 5 Francis J. Mahoney
Amesbury, Mass.

Tec 5 William P. Miller
Zanesville, Ohio

Tec 5 Virgil L. Mulvanian
Texarkana, Texas

Tec 5 George Pavlica
Wirt, Minn.

Tec 5 John V. Prince
Sioux City, Iowa

Tec 5 Charles J. Vares
Oakland, Calif.

Tec 5 James F. Walker
Canton, Mo.

Tec 5 Ferdinand R. Lucke
Rugby, North Dakota

Tec 5 Clifford D. Meadows
Dix, Illinois

Pfc Jack J. Bauer
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Pfc Lewis Bellanca
Reading, Pa.

Pfc Silver J. Berra
St Louis, Mo.

Pfc Joseph Bielecki, Jr.
Hamtramck, Mich.

Pfc Irwin D. Busby
Canadaigua, New York

Pfc Joseph L. Caldarella
Buffalo, New York

Pfc Virgil H. Claussen
Wilson, Kansas

Pfc LaVar D. Click
Denver, Colo.

Pfc James D. Crow
Dallas, Texas

Pfc Thurman J. Curtsinger
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Pfc Amel F. Dockins
Dolph, Arkansas

Pfc Joseph Gable
Pittston, Pa.

Pfc Carl W. Glitzer
Rochester, New York

Pfc Robert E. Hammond
Wichita, Kansas

Pfc James A. Hampton
Evansville, Ind.

Pfc Ben H. Hanson
Charleston, West Va.

Pfc Roy D. Huffman
South Fork, Pa.

Pfc Leland E. Knab
Brockport, New York

Pfc Herbert T. Kuczora
Elmwood Park, Illinois

Pfc Andy Lambdin
Frakes, Kentucky

Pfc Meyer Levin
Philadelphia, Pa.

Pfc Arthur H. Logan
Bayonne, New Jersey

Pfc William R. Mahan
Peoria, Arizona

Pfc Calvin A. Meiers
Verona, Pa.

Pfc James M. Melton
Strafford, Mo.

Pfc Frank P. Mendes
Artesia, Calif.

Pfc Harley R. Minnier
Hills Grove, Pa.

Pfc John R. Neemann
Douglas, Nebr.

Pfc Paul S. Ogburn
Ghent, Kentucky

Pfc Robert E. Palmore
Kankakee, Illinois

Pfc Robert L. Rock
Chicago, Illinois

Pfc William C. Roberts
Normangee, Texas

Pfc William R. Schmitz
Newport, Kentucky

Pfc Virgil L. Sedrick
Fagus, Mo.

Pfc Robert E. Singer
Boston, Mass.

Pfc Hymen M. Sniderman
Rochester, New York

Pfc Paul S. Stewart
Centerville, Iowa

Pfc Bernie F. Stroble
Leavenworth, Kansas

Pfc Frank J. Tesaro
Dorchester, Mass

Pfc John S. Wasko
Detroit, Mich.

Pfc Frank E. Webster
Fort Smith, Ark.

Pfc Willie R. White
Blue Ridge, Texas

Pfc Kenneth E. Friend
Detroit, Mich.

Pfc George W. Barker, Jr.
Maplewood, Mo.

Pfc Neil W. Benedict
Evanston, Illinois

Pfc Thomas H. Britt, Jr.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Pfc Louis R. Fink
Hudson, New Jersey.

Pvt Donald F. Alderman
Rushford, New York

Pvt Louis H. Allers
Davenport, Iowa

Pvt Donald J. Brown
Genoa, Illinois

Pvt Pedro M. Carrillo
Los Angeles, Calif.

Pvt John M. Corcoran
Mehoopany, Pa.

Pvt Ralph S. Crosby
Cleveland, Ohio

Pvt Nellis D. Fiedler
Newport, Mich.

Pvt Maurice D. Foy
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Pvt Richard L. Galyen
Buffalo, New York

Pvt Warren C. Gerber
Brooklyn, New York

Pvt Garrett R. Honey
Stoutland, Mo.

Pvt Myron C. Kula
Detroit, Mich.

Pvt Robert P. Riedel
Hales Corner, Wis.

Pvt Norbert P. Rezek
Chicago, Ill.

Pvt Harry R. Simonson
Coleraine, Minn.

Pvt Herman H. Van Uden
Geddes, South Dakota

Pvt Lawrence A. Waranka
Milwaukee, Wis.

Pvt Lee P. Wirthle
Burr, Nebr.

Pvt Seymour Hayden
Brooklyn, New York

Pvt Ira D. Skidgel
Eugene, Oregon

Pvt Elmer Rush
Elbowoods, N. Dakota

Pvt Charles Kierski
Pittsburg, Pa.

Pvt Elio S. Nila
Los Angeles, Calif.

Pvt Eugene Simmons
Drakesboro, Kentucky

Pvt Harry Williams
Hohenwald, Tenn.

Pvt Arnold L. Artigiani
Jessup, Pa.

Pvt Daniel L. McAlee
Drexel Hill, Pa.