

COMBAT HISTORY OF THE 501ST ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

*13 Oct 44 - May 2 45*

On Friday, 13 October 1944, the 501st Armored Field Artillery Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph H. Harrison, boarded the "Sea Robin" at New York Harbor. She was a new vessel, just in from her maiden voyage and anxious to be tried on the high seas.

There were a few skeptics on board who were wary of sailing on the "unlucky day" but their superstitions went to the winds when the battalion spent Friday night on board and found themselves there still in berth the following morning. That cool Saturday afternoon the men caught a fleeting glimpse of the Statue of Liberty and settled down to wondering where it was going and how long the voyage would take.

Sixteen days later the 501st arrived at Marseilles. Then came the vehicles and equipment. The battalion unloaded and hauled, cleaned, oiled, built, and stowed. Of course there was time off too and everyone saw France's "Mediterranean Capital."

Battalion left Marseilles on 22 November 1944, arriving in the Portieux area some 400 miles north on the 25th, where Thanksgiving dinner was served. No one was enthusiastic about the "40 and 8".

After 7 days in that assembly area the battalion was ordered to move to Alsace, thru the Vosges Mountains, on 1 December. It closed at Scherlenheim, and moved into firing position in the vicinity of Niefern at 1530, 2 December 1944. Battery A had not yet received its M17 guns from Marseilles and remained at Portieux. Battalion mission was reinforcement of the fires of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. AA protection was furnished by Battery D of the 398th AAA Battalion.

The 501st was given its baptism of fire the following day when two enemy fighters strafed our gun positions. Thought taken unaware the .50 calibre MG's of the battalion and automatic weapons of the ack-ack drove them off.

On 3 December 1944 Battery B fired the first battalion round against the enemy, to open a registration at 0930.

Officers and men began to accustom themselves to the adverse weather conditions. Rain and cold were a daily hindrance; M-7's were continually bogged down in the muck, necessitating frequent moves of each piece so that they could be moved on short notice. Nothing could be kept dry for any length of time.

On 4 December the battalion moved to the vicinity of Engwiller, where it undertook reinforcement of the 171st Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. The 45th was driving east and northeast of Metesheim; support rendered by us was of a general nature.

Next day Battery C destroyed the first enemy vehicle credited to the battalion when it knocked out a tank at 1100.

FO tanks 1 and 2 left the battalion position at Engwiller, loading up at 2100 and reporting to the 191st Tank Battalion at Phaffenhoffen. Attack was scheduled for early morning. Wire was strung by both sections under artillery and mortar fire.

**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*William D. Tulp 1st Lt MAC*  
DOWNGRADING COMBAT 19 FEB 46

NOV 28 1945

FO #1, under command of 2nd Lt. (then Sergeant) Henry F. Mc Weeny, 02007146, was credited with knocking out a 170mm gun, which was located approximately 600 yards in front of the OP. Thru FDC the FO's were firing the 105's of the 501st, along with 155mm and 8" guns of supporting artillery elements.

The following day both tanks ran the gauntlet of fire and again established OP's. FO #1 fired 8" guns on camouflaged enemy positions, silencing heavy enemy mortar fire which was hindering the attack. Sergeant McWeeny's tank was forward of friendly infantry positions and after repulsing a stiff counterattack the crew found themselves almost cut off. Four hours of cautious maneuvering were required before they again found themselves in friendly territory. Besides Sergeant McWeeny, who was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his excellent work, men in the tank were Sergeant James R. Spencer, 3258-7884, Corporal Odis Q. Howard, 38185135, Tec 4 Clement F. Bujewski, 37250516, and Pfc Robert G. Mueller, 37603170.

FO #2, Lieutenant William E. Leightenheimer, 01184253, and his crew, Staff Sergeant Spencer H. Smith, 35111991, Corporal John W. Uhrig, 37339380, Tec 5 Leon J. Johnson, 37446999, and Pfc. Merlin N. Dahmke, 37477646, successfully maintained an OP high in a building in Phaffenhoffen, directing fire on numerous enemy positions.

It was hot for the boys up front! It was estimated that on 6 December 1944 over 600 rounds of enemy artillery fell into Mertzwiller in little over an hour.

While at Engwiller, Battery B received the first German artillery fire caught by the battalion, when 3 rounds of 88mm landed in a gun position. Slit-trenches were water-filled and after the first round water flew from many steel helmets in attempts to take cover without getting soaked.

On 8 December Battery A rejoined the battalion. While at Engwiller the battalion saw the Luftwaffe frequently. On the afternoon of 10 December 1944 three planes, thought to be ME 109's, flew over the area and all AA weapons opened fire. All three planes were believed to have been hit; two Flying Fortresses were also seen to fall thru the clouds that same afternoon.

On the miserable dark rainy night on 11 December, the battalion went into position at Mertzwiller. It has been taken from the 45th Division and attached to the 14th Armored Division. En route two of Battery A's M-7's struck enemy glass mines and were temporarily lost to action.

12 December saw the battalion moved to Hegeny, and the 13th it went to Surgourg, by way of Hagenau. The roads were crowded and traffic congested, so the march thru Hagenau Forest was quite slow. The night was bitterly cold. We arrived at Surbourg early in the morning, moved to the vicinity of Soultz a few hours later, and in the afternoon advanced to Schoenenbourg, arriving just a few hours after the enemy had left. The situation was beginning to build up for a limited drive against strong and prepared enemy positions.

On 16 December 1944 the battalion was given march order and drove north to Riedseltz. Pfc Merlin N. Dahmke, 37477646, voluntarily laid a telephone line forward of friendly elements to an OP, enabling an observer to adjust fire on an enemy SP gun delaying the advance on Wissembourg. He received the Bronze Star medal for this action.

FO's and reconnaissance officers went into Schweighofen and Kapsweyer with their sections to seek and direct fire on targets within the SeigfriedLine. Here at last the battalion really began to see activity in all categories. The first rounds, 25 in number, of propaganda were fired on 16 December 1944.

Battery A fired direct precision fire on "Dragon's Teeth" and pill-boxes in the vaunted West Wall. Their M-7's were moved boldly forward for this firing. 18 December saw the first posit round fired by the battalion toward the Germans.

During the attack on the Seigfried Line, Staff Sergeant Albert W. Brubach, 33401440, reconnaissance Sergeant in Battery C, established an OP in a church steeple at Kapsweyer, Germany. At this time the enemy still occupied much of the town. Withstanding heavy sniper, mortar, and artillery fire, he directed our artillery on the foe. The Bronze Star medal was awarded to him for this meritorious action.

Our position was at Altenstadt, just short of the German border, on 20 December, but next day it was moved back to its original position at Reidseitz. Heavy firing continued thruout this period. At Kapsweyer, Germany, Tec 5 Harold R. Lusby, 38335956, volunteered to lead and assist a wire crew in laying a telephone line from an OP to an advanced gun position to be occupied by a 155mm gun. During the two hours required to lay the line, this soldier withstood withering sniper and artillery fire, later receiving the Bronze Star medal.

The enemy maintained an OP in a church steeple at Steinfeld, Germany, from which murderous fire was fired at our advance elements. Light artillery could not destroy or dislodge the Germans, so Captain Bernard P. Gwalthney, commanding Battery A, took a 155mm M12 gun and its crew to a position near Kapsweyer, 1100 yards from the enemy OP. With direct fire he proceeded to adjust on the steeple. After the first round the enemy began to fire artillery and mortars in an attempt to destroy the M12. Despite this fire the steeple and OP were destroyed, and the gun and crew withdrawn without injury. For his heroic achievement, Captain Gwalthney was awarded the Bronze Star medal.

The 501st withdrew to Ingolsheim on 24 December, where it spent a quiet Christmas. Four days later we marched thru a freezing, bleak night to Weyer. Battalion remained there over New Year's, being in XV Corps reserve at the time. Snow filled the Alsatian winter skies; everyone took a well deserved break. On the morning of 1 January 1945 the battalion moved north to Bueen in support of CC"A", 14th Armored Division. The roads were icy and tracked vehicles had difficulty in holding their positions in the line of march.

The next morning the battalion moved under CC"A" to Neuwiller, but left in the late afternoon and closed into position at Reidheim. At 0345 3 January 1945 the battalion left Reidheim and marched into Weinberg, where it reinforced the fires of the 171st Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. The firing was done in the area around Wingen, Wimminau, Lichtenburg, and Reipertswiller.

5 January saw the battalion in position at Ingwiller, where it remained until the sixteenth of the month, reinforcing fires of the 45th Division Artillery. While at Ingwiller the 501st did its heaviest firing up to that time. Our FO's and Liaison Officers were at Reipertswiller and Lichtenfeld. At Reipertswiller it became necessary to move the CP of the supported infantry battalion because of heavy mortar and artillery fire from the foe. Pfc Carl E. McGraw, 35875602, Battery B, voluntarily laid wire from the new location to the radio halftrack, for which he later received the Bronze Star medal.

The enemy drive into northern France and Belgium put a great strain on the U. S. Seventh Army. Strength of the infantry companies in the vicinity of Reipertswiller was very light; artillery had to be the main line of resistance. The 313th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion of the 314th Infantry Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion of the 257th Infantry Regiment, called for artillery fire 25 to 50 yards from their positions and the 501st put its fire down as requested and with excellent effect.

At Reipertswiller the enemy held 200 yards of a ridge along the edge of town. Nebelwerfer and mortar fire was intense. Oddly enough, after an estimated force of 300 infantrymen (enemy) went around and took Lichtenfeld, to the rear of Reipertswiller, both friendly and enemy artillery were using the same base point for adjustment. This base point was a small road junction behind Reipertswiller.

Lt. John P. Mayer, 01178254, and his driver, Cpl. Jack T. Steiner, were trying to return to the battalion CP with the BC and RO sections of Battery A when they encountered part of the enemy force infiltrating into Lichtenfeld. A short fire-fight ensued but the sections finally succeeded in returning safely to Reipertswiller to take an alternate route.

On 16 January 1945 near Phillipsbourg, France, Cpl. Theodore J. Anderson, 37466704, member of the liaison attached to 36th Combat Engineers, repaired a cut wire leading to their CP from the 501st radio halftrack. This was done in an open field under enemy artillery fire and successfully maintained badly needed communication. For his good work Cpl. Anderson later received the Bronze Star medal.

Enemy artillery pounded the CP area at Ingwiller night after night but fortunately no damage or casualties resulted. On 16 January 1945 the mission of the battalion was changed and it was ordered into direct support of 37th Engineer Regiment, moved to Zinswiller and closed in the middle of the afternoon.

Just after evening chow enemy artillery began to pound the battery positions and the village itself. It was "big stuff"; the ground was frozen and personnel took cover in ditches and behind natural banks. One round of 170mm hit just behind Battery B's number 6 gun, causing 4 casualties; 2 wounded and 2 killed. These men were the first in the battalion to be killed by enemy action. The CP area was shelled early in the morning but there were no casualties.

Excessive enemy counterbattery fire received in the Zinsweiller area prompted the movement of the battalion to Offwiller on the 17th of January 1945. Enemy artillery in Zinswiller killed 2 more men that night; they were in the liaison and maintenance parties which remained in Zinsweiller when the battalion moved to Offwiller.

On the twentieth the battalion returned to 14th Armored Division control and withdrew to Ettendorf to reinforce the fires of the 103rd Infantry Division artillery. The march was made in the face of a driving blizzard and in bitter cold. All vehicles had difficulty in keeping on the icy roads. While at Ettendorf, innumerable missions were fired in blinding snowstorms.

The morning of 23 January 1945 we took up a new position at Weitbruch, where we relieved the artillery of the 12th Armored Division. The mission was to reinforce the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which was supporting the 142nd Infantry Regiment of the 36th Infantry Division. Jet-propelled enemy aircraft bombed the battalion while en route but no damage or casualties were recorded. A lone JP scored a near miss on a Battery B M-7 which preceeded the battalion into position as adjusting gun. A bomb splinter neatly split a center tent pole being placed by that section.

The battalion marched to Bitschwiller on 2 February 1945 and went into firing position in direct support of CC"A" of our Division, which was attached to the 36th Infantry Division. Service Battery remained in position at Brumath. We gave active support to the attack on Oberhoffen, where fighting was fierce. Battalion FDC established an A-S Flash Base on two water towers at Bischwiller. Thru this flash base, battalion and Corps fired on innumerable gun positions, discovered at night. Heavy harrassing fire was maintained on the road running north from the Souflenheim Woods.

The morning of 5 February the battalion moved to the vicinity of Kurtzenharsen, to support the 117th Cavalry Regiment, which was attached to CC"B". We supported the right sector of the 7th Army front, and also established liaison with the 63rd Royal African Artillery of the 2nd French Army.

While acting as observer with Company B of the 25th Tank Battalion, CC"B", the tank of Lieutenant (then Sergeant) Henry F. McWeeny suffered a direct hit by a heavy artillery shell. However it was able to proceed and direct fire for the attack on Oberhoffen. Members of the tank crew were Sergeant Harry O. Miller, 36215013, Corporal Paul E. Price, 35478807, Tec 5 Harold M. Trainer, 35617045, and Pfc Troy Burlison, 37402566.

Firing what was believed to be a captured American SP gun, the enemy threw a dozen rounds into our firing battery positions just out of Kurtzenhausen. Fortunately no damage or casualties were suffered. A tall chimney in Oberhoffen, thought to be the enemy OP, was knocked out by direct tank fire; the hostile artillery abruptly ceased.

The night of 10 February 1945 the battalion put 437 rounds of HE in Drusenheim. Next day the town was marked with red smoke shells, enabling the 1st TAF to blast targets there.

Activity along the front began to slacken after the first week in February; the lines were stationary. Battalion mission was continual harassing fire. Limited training was resumed and a battalion rest center was established at Brumath in the Service Battery area. Even the rest center saw action however, when on the night of 14 February "Alsace Alice", the enemy 380mm railroad gun worked over the city with 15 devastating rounds. All M-7's in the battalion were brought back to Brumath, alternately, for third echelon maintenance, and each gun crew had a two day rest there.

Three enemy tanks were knocked out at extreme range on the fifteenth. Two were hit by Battery C and the other by Battery B.

We moved to Ettendorf on 17 February; the battalion CP was located in the school building where it had been three weeks previous. Firing batteries went into the area around Grassendorf, with Service Battery going from Brumath to Scherlinheim. The battalion was in direct support of CC"B" of the 14th Armored Division. Sergeant Henry F. McWeeny received a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant, Forward Observer.

Action was almost nil on the front but the battalion established an A-S Flash Base with observers in Ringeldorf and on the crest before Grassendorf, firing on numerous enemy personnel and vehicles. Lieutenant McWeeny and Sergeant Miller went out with a patrol from Company B of the 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion to locate enemy positions in the Hagenau Forest and to capture PW's. A communication line was run out from Company A's CP into the woods, but it was later cut by the enemy. The patrol was cut off. Using radio these two men directed artillery fire from the 499th, 500th, and 501st battalions and brought the patrol out of a dangerous situation involving enemy mortar and small arms fire, bringing an end to the fire-fight.

The passive action of the last half of February 1945 lasted two weeks into March. Our activity remained defensive in character and many harassing missions were fired. The towns of Engwiller, Bitchoffen, Mertzwiller, Metesheim, Kingwiller, and Hagenau Forest received regular TOT's.

Company B of the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion was given, on 27 February, the mission of sending a 150 man patrol into woods east of Uberach. Upon entering the woods the patrol was pinned down by heavy automatic-weapons fire. This prevented their returning to their lines. Lieutenant James E. Nicholson, 01180644, the accompanying artillery observer, located the enemy weapons and

adjusted artillery fire of the battalion on them, causing the enemy considerable casualties and enabling the patrol to return to friendly lines with the loss of but one man. Later Lieutenant Nicholson was awarded the Bronze Star medal for this action.

On the 14th of March 1945 the battalion moved to Niederaltdorf to be in general support of CC"A", 14th Armored Division. At this time Division and Corps were preparing for the attack to come. Suddenly the 36th Infantry Division relieved the 14th Armored at the front; the 501st stayed on the line however.

The next day the battalion marched and took up a new position at Niedermörsch, supporting the 36th Infantry Division, and on 17 March 1945 the 501st drove ahead to Forestheim. The drive east gathered momentum and on the night of the 18th we closed at Oberseebach, then in direct support of Task Force Watson.

On the following day the battalion moved to Gietershof, and when the attack turned east toward Kapsweyer and Steinfeld, the battalion marched to Altenstadt. Artillery firing increased sharply. The 501st fired 1354 rounds on 21 March 1945, 1119 rounds the next day, and 1635 rounds on 23 March, continually throwing out rounds in attack preparations, against counterattacks, upon withdrawing enemy infantry, and at the enemy rocket positions. The spirit of the attack was catching and both officers and men worked with renewed vigor. All FO's were with Task Force Watson. Air observers and liaison pilots flew early and late patrols to keep the enemy down and locate the Nebelwerfer, in addition to their daily scouting for possible targets.

Near Steinfeld, Germany, during the breaking of the Siegfried Line, the halftrack of the FO of the 499th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was knocked out by enemy artillery. The 499th was in direct support of the attack while the 501st was in general support. Fire had to be maintained if the attack was to succeed. Lieutenant John P. Meyer, O1178254, saw the halftrack destroyed and immediately, with the assistance of Staff Sergeant Herbert O. Clark, 31236603, and Tec 5 Lynn B. Shaw, 32671222, assumed the task of organizing and directing the artillery fire for the attack, thus preventing a successful enemy stand.

On the morning of 23 March 1945 the 501st was in general support of a Combat Command consisting of the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion, 25th Tank Battalion, and elements of the 125th Engineer Battalion, which was to attack and secure the town of Schaidt, Germany.

At the west edge of Schaidt lay an enormous anti-tank ditch covered by several concrete pill-boxes placing cross-fire on the ditch. Early in the morning two companies of the 68th succeeded in entering the town from the south, but the 25th was unable to secure the north end of the town as it was halted by heavy enemy anti-tank fire. Two tanks were knocked out and the infantry surrounded.

Although the tanks were forced to halt their advance, the crew of a tank recovery vehicle driven by Tec 5 Richard A. Kudrle, 37466706, of our Service Battery, passed the 25th Column, outmaneuvered three enemy 75mm guns, and reached the ditch. They were successful in filling in the ditch despite hostile small arms and artillery fire. As they were turning around to rejoin the armored column, enemy artillery scored several hits on the vehicle, wounding an officer from the 125th Engineers and an enlisted man. Tec 5 Kudrle removed these men from his burning vehicle and put them in the comparative safety of a ditch along the road; then he put out the fire. He attempted to reach friendly troops to get medical aid but was driven back by enemy fire.

Tanks from the 25th Tank Battalion then silenced the three 75mm guns and proceeded across the filled-in ditch into Schaidt and reinforcing the two 68th Armored Infantry Battalion companies already in the town. Then these wounded were given attention. Tec 5 Kudrle was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

The battalion went into position at Kapseyer, Germany, on 23 March 1945, and that afternoon Battery B moved forward thru the "Dragon's Teeth" and pill-boxes of the famed West Wall to a firing position in front of Steinfeld. This area had not been previously cleared by the infantry, who had driven thru pressing the attack.

Soon after the battalion was in position it was suddenly discovered that there were enemy personnel with an 88mm gun in a draw about 200 yards away. With the help of a passing gun from the 499th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, this weapon was destroyed and the enemy manning it captured.

By 24 March 1945 the last Germans west of the Rhine had been eliminated and the battalion went with the division into Corps Reserve, closing at Vollmersweiller, Germany. We left this position on the last day of March and after a long night march crossed the Rhine north of the historic city of Worms, going into position at Georgenhausen at 1000 Easter Sunday 1 April 1945, after passing thru the flattened city of Darmstadt.

Now the method of fighting changed considerably. Instead of occupying a position for several days or a week, the waiting guns of the battalion were moved to 22 different places in the month of April 1945. Cautious offensive action and limited objectives were gone. Defensive action was out of the question of course. Air observers began reporting enemy activity on a large scale and continuously contributed marvelously to the attack by breaking up enemy units holding up our advance elements.

While at Georgenhausen the battalion learned that the Division had been relieved of attachment to VI Corps and attached to XV Corps. Next objective was the city of Neustadt, approximately 90 miles to the northeast. We were placed in direct support of CC"R", which was to follow CC"B" to Lohr and then receive a specific mission of our own.

The attack was started on 2 April 1945 and the head of the column ran into considerable opposition at Lohr. The battalion went into a heavily-wooded bivouac area off the road thru the German National Forest, about 10 miles southwest of Lohr. We left late in the morning of 4 April, but determined enemy resistance again held up the column and the guns went into position in the vicinity of Neutenbach, where they gave direct support for the attack on Gemunden. Next move was on the sixth, when, Gemunden having been cleared, we proceeded to Aschfeld. CC"R" was now on the right flank of the division, driving due east.

The battalion marched into Wilburhausen on 7 April, where it was learned that CC"A" had taken the objective, Neustadt. We were ordered to remain at Wilburhausen and await further orders. On 8 April 1945 Sergeant Martin B. Antaramian, 36286497, liaison Sergeant, volunteered to take three men with himself to rout the enemy from New Bessingham, Germany. Upon entering the place they were informed by a liberated PW that the enemy were entrenched behind the village. The halftrack received heavy small arms fire, but after a brief fire-fight the Germans surrendered and 85 prisoners were taken. For this action, Sergeant Antaramian received the Bronze Star medal.

We moved to Oberstreu by way of Neustadt on the ninth of the month, where the division was to be reorganized prior to further attack. The attack to cross the Main River and cut the Autobahn south of Bayreuth began the morning of 11 April 1945. CC"R" was now on the left flank of the Division, bordering elements of Third Army. The battalion reached Roth that night and continued east to Brikack the following day. Lichtenfeld, Germany, was taken and on 13 April 1945 we closed into position at Ruendorf, moving early in the afternoon to Oberlingheim and Krogelstein, where we stayed that night.

Everything was going well the morning of the 14th when over the trees fronting the battalion area came two ME-109's and three FW 190's. They strafed us, causing one casualty and damaging two Service Battery vehicles. Considerable kitchen equipment was destroyed. Hot lead was flying from all available weapons; the 398th AAA claimed to have shot down three of the five attackers.

Now the important objective was the old city of Nurnberg. The division was to flank it on the east while other Seventh Army units attacked the city from the west. The battalion left its position at Leupes, where it had moved on 15 April 1945, and marched south on the superhighway to Sindlbach. Next day we continued to Reichels-hofen and then back to Sindlbach. Nurnberg was taken but there was more ahead. The Danube, a major barrier, had to be crossed. The enemy was weakening fast but the attack had to be pushed.

The 94th Cavalry Squadron was completely surrounded by the foe at Creusen, Germany. The enemy repeatedly attacked the town with a force of approximately 40 tanks and a battalion of infantry. Lt. Nernal L. Rostetter, O1171599, directing battalion fire foremost for 48 hours or more, succeeded in breaking each attack and demoralizing the Germans. He received the Bronze Star medal for this.

On 20 April the battalion went into direct support of CC"R", which was to drive south along and west of the Autobahn to Allersberg. It reached Feutsch and supported the attack south. Part of the road was under heavy enemy artillery fire, but the battalion crossed safely and continued on openly toward Allersberg. That night the head of the column met fanatical resistance near Allersberg, so we went into position along the superhighway north of Altenfelden.

The morning of 21 April 1945 the 25th Tank Battalion jumped off from Altenfelden with the mission of attacking and securing Allersberg. Smoke laid down by the battalion allowed the tankers to pass "88 Junction", where a tank and tank destroyer had been previously knocked out. Soon forward elements of the tankers reached the vicinity of Allersberg, the enemy launched a counter-attack with infantry and supporting artillery. Lieutenant John L. Larson, 01181005, called for immediate supporting fire from the 501st, meanwhile placing cannon and machine gun fire from his tank on the advancing enemy. The attack was successfully repulsed. Our fire was well placed and very effective. Lieutenant Larson was awarded the Bronze Star medal.

Fierce fighting continued. Many rounds of enemy artillery fell near the battalion position. Service Battery returned to Feutsch and Headquarters Battery moved back up the Autobahn about a mile, where it continued to receive artillery fire. Battery A at the left of the highway was attacked from the woods on its exposed left flank, practically surrounded, and subjected to high bursts. Battery A was finally forced to move back some 1500 yards, but only four casualties resulted from this constant action.

On 21 and 22 April the battalion found innumerable targets, firing 1187 and 995 rounds respectively at personnel, tanks, and guns flashed in or near Allersberg.

The following evening Battery B encountered enemy snipers who had infiltrated before the battery went into position and to the left of it. Several vehicles had been knocked out along the highway and some personnel wounded. Small arms fire began coming into the Battery B position. Outpost guards were withdrawn and the battery prepared for a stand against enemy infantry; however contact thru battalion channels with the 400th Armored Field Artillery Battalion at Sperberslohe, brought covering fire. Several of their rounds landed in the battery position but there no casualties.

On 23 April the drive to clear Allersberg and drive to the Danube began. Battery A remained in position to help the 25th Tank Battalion keep the Autobahn open until relieved by CC"A", and the battalion left the Sperberslohe area and moved south. After suffering one casualty on the way from enemy artillery, we went into firing position at Pyras. Also the division was transferred from XV Corps of the Seventh Army to III Corps of the Third Army. Attack continued on 24 April 1945, the battalion marching to Schorfhausen. Blown bridges over the Altmühl River held up the advance, and enemy SS troops held up the construction of a bridge by the engineers with counterattacks.

On 26 April the battalion left Schofhausen and marched southwest to Kosching. Ingolstadt was cleared on 28 April and CC"R" began its drive to the Isar River. The battalion crossed the Danube at Ingolstadt and marched south to Rottenegg, going into position the next day at Obersussbach and Reichersdorf. On 30 April the battalion moved to Eugench to support the attack of CC"R" on Landshut.

While at Eugench the town was taken under fire by light enemy artillery. Battery B was moved from its location overlooking the village to a rear position, as it was believed the enemy had direct observation on the battalion. One enemy shell hit the CP and took the roof off the building.

On 1 May 1945 the battalion crossed the Isar River at Moosberg. Thousands of prisoners of war were liberated there by the division. Enemy resistance was negligible. Battery C destroyed the last enemy vehicle accredited to the battalion at 1415 1 May 1945, and fired the last round fired by the battalion in combat at 1445 1 May 1945 at Hohenpolding.

It became evident that the German army was collapsing and the end of organized resistance was just a matter of time. On the morning of 2 May the battalion marched thru Velden and Buchbach to Renoldsberg, where its guns were in firing position when the war officially ended in Europe.

VICTORY IN EUROPE 8 MAY 1945.

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