

Authority E.O. 12958

HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
A.P.O. 446 U.S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

Period: 1 December 1944 - 31 December 1944.

1200 1 Dec 44 Complete relief of this unit by 2d Bn 442d Inf (Maritime Alps Campaign).  
1800 1 Dec 44 Unit arrived Frejus, France from Peira Cava, France mounted. Entire unit assembled.  
0700 2 Dec 44 Unit moved on mounted march to St. Raphael, France to rail-head for loading.  
---- 2 Dec 44 First and Second Sections of Train I loaded weapons, vehicles, and personnel for movement (1st Sec, Train I - Hq & Hq Co, Co A, 1 Platoon Co B, Pers Sec) (2d Sec, Train I - balance Co B. Train II (Co C) also loaded weapons, vehicles, and personnel for movement.  
1730 2 Dec 44 Train I left St. Raphael, France.  
0200 3 Dec 44 Train II left St. Raphael, France.  
0700 3 Dec 44 Wheeled vehicle convoy left St. Martin-du-Var, France.  
---- 3 Dec 44 Trains I and II and wheeled vehicle convoy enroute to destination.  
---- 4 Dec 44 Trains I and II and wheeled vehicle convoy enroute to destination.  
---- 5 Dec 44 Trains I and II and wheeled vehicle convoy enroute to destination.  
0300 6 Dec 44 Train I arrived Evinaux, France (V008886).  
0330 6 Dec 44 Personnel and vehicles of Train I detrained and began mounted road march.  
1430 6 Dec 44 Personnel of Train I arrived at Schwindratzheim, France (Q900171).  
1900 6 Dec 44 Wheeled vehicle convoy arrived at Schwindratzheim, France.  
2000 6 Dec 44 Train II arrived Evinaux, France (V008886), detrained and began mounted road march.  
0100 7 Dec 44 Personnel of Train II arrived at Schwindratzheim, France (Q900171).  
7 Dec 44 Unit reorganized and prepared for future operations.  
8 Dec 44 Platoons of Hq Co, Co A, Co B, and Co C reconnoitered surrounding towns of Bramuth (Q980146), Guedertheim (R015135), Weyersheim (V050130), Hoenheim (R015025), Souffelweyerheim (R004040), and Reichstett (R014052). All reported roads only could be used by tanks and half-tracks. Bridges in good shape. Terrain generally flat, wet, and boggy. All surrounding streams flooded. Shoulders of roads clear of mines. Report submitted to CCR, 14th AD.  
1930 8 Dec 44 One (1) half-track lost by Co C NE town of Niederschaeffolsheim (R005190). Track hit mine, blowing same up. Ey fire exploded gas tank and vehicle was completely demolished. All personnel escaped without injury.  
---- 9 Dec 44 Preparation for battle commitment.

CLASSIFIED

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE  
DOWNGRADING COMMISSION

1930 8 Dec 44

614-1MF-(683)-0,9  
Panoramic Report + 146  
6th Armored Inf Bn  
14 Dec 44  
11/11/44

UNIT HISTORY - 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Continued)

---- 10 Dec 44 Preparation for battle committment.  
 ---- 11 Dec 44 Co A, 47th Tk Bn, joined this unit for coming operation and Co A, this unit, joined 47th Tk Bn for coming operation.  
 1640 12 Dec 44 1st Platoon Co B, 68th, sent to assist Division Task Force as outpost security vic Surbourg (084345).  
 ---- 13 Dec 44 Unit alert awaiting battle committment.  
 0400 14 Dec 44 Co A, 47th Tk Bn, released to join 47th Tk Bn.  
 0800 14 Dec 44 Co A, 68th, released and rejoined this unit.  
 1015 14 Dec 44 Received order from CCR, 14th AD, at Scherlenheim, France (0863195) to make mounted road march to new assembly area at 1045.  
 1105 14 Dec 44 Bn cleared Schwindratzheim, France (0900171).  
 1325 14 Dec 44 Bn closed in new assembly area at Oberbetschdorf, France (R120332) and Niederbetschdorf, France (R134332).  
 1445 14 Dec 44 Fragmentary orders issued to I&R Platoon for route reconnaissance north from present location.  
 1715 14 Dec 44 I&R Platoon returned from reconnaissance mission. Cleared towns of Oberseebach (R187410) and Aschbach, France (R182372). For results of road reconnaissance see overlay.  
 1430 15 Dec 44 Unit received order from CCR, 14th AD, to proceed on mounted road march to Oberseebach, France (R187410).  
 1530 15 Dec 44 Unit crossed IP at Niederbetschdorf, France (R134332) on mounted road march.  
 1700 15 Dec 44 Unit closed in at Oberseebach, France (R187410). One (1) M8 Assault Gun casualty (breakdown) enroute. Trains to remain at Niederbetschdorf and revert to Service Co and be brought forward under Trains Comdr later.  
 1730 15 Dec 44 Outposted town of Oberseebach, France (R187410).  
 1115 16 Dec 44 Bn Ex O contacted CCB, 14th AD, to discover situation in their sector. S-3 and Commo Officer contacted elements of 62d Armd Inf Bn in Wissembourg, France (R155485) to determine developments in their sector.  
 1630 16 Dec 44 Above party returned to CP.  
 1530 17 Dec 44 Received orders from CG, 14th AD, to relieve 62d Armd Inf Bn.  
 1600 17 Dec 44 Oral march order issued to CO's and Platoon Leaders (see written march order attached). Companies to be moved off road in Altenstadt (R112477). Co A, this Bn, to be prepared to join 25th Tk Bn vic of Schweighofen (R210595). Ex O in charge of mounted road march.  
 1645 17 Dec 44 Bn crossed IP to begin relief of 62d Armd Inf Bn.  
 2005 17 Dec 44 Co B and Co C moved up to line to relieve 62d Armd Inf Bn, following order issued by CCA, 14th AD, at 1830. Co B, 68th, to relieve Co B, 62d, and Co C, 68th, to relieve Co C, 62d.  
 2400 17 Dec 44 Rcn Patrols #1 & 2 out, consisting of one officer and 3 EM each.  
 0200 18 Dec 44 Last of column closed in at Schweigen, Germany (R160505).  
 0545 18 Dec 44 Patrol #1 in. Patrol reported they drew several rounds burp gun fire from vic of (190523), also drew more burp gun fire from vic of (190523) at 0300. No activity noticed in village, but several lights appeared to be moving around on high ground north of village. White flares went off intermittently from hill north of village. At 0415 heard burp gun continuing to fire southward. Saw caliber .30 tracer fire going northward. Drew rifle fire



UNIT HISTORY - 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Continued)

0545 18 Dec 44 from vic (186522) while at (188519). Searchlights after planes went on about 0230. Two piles of ammo at (193517) - about 15 cases in one and 12 in another. Artillery falling all along high ground West of Ober Otterbach.

0545 18 Dec 44 Patrol #2 in. Patrol reached vic of (177515) where it was fired on by SAF from (176521) and (174522). Heard burp gun fire at 0350. German patrol estimated as three (3) men heard in the vic of (178519) traveling southeast at 0425. While at (180518) patrol received approximately fifteen (15) rds rifle fire from vic of (179521) and vic of (182521) at 0435. Flares on high ground above town of Ober Otterbach.

0745 18 Dec 44 Attack launched per Operational Instructions #6, Hq CCA, 14th AD. Ten minute preparation fired by 500th Field Arty on Ober Otterbach, Germany (R175528) and stream line running thru town. Co B on the right, Co C on the left astride the road. Two platoons Co B, 25th Tk Bn, deployed on high ground overlooking town for close support of infantry. No resistance encountered until forward elements reached position about 300 yds south of bridge over the Ouer River. At this time hvy mortar and some arty fire was concentrated approx (168519). The assault elements continued attack with Co B circling the town on east, reaching vic cemetery (174527). Communication with Co C only occasionally. One platoon tanks followed infantry into town. Tanks stopped by road block in southern edge of town. Road block held up operations one hour and a half. Tanks continued to move thru village but stopped by blown bridge in approx center of town. Dozer unable to find material to make fill; obstacle held up operations approx two hours until engineers repaired it. Smoke fired by arty on possible ey OP's from high ground vic (158539). Smoke drifted to north edge of town. Enemy launched counter-attack under cover of this smoke. Tanks and infantry forced to withdraw to high ground overlooking town from south. Two platoons, Co B, unable to withdraw due to automatic weapons and sniper fire. Men in these platoons infiltrated back during reorganization.

1430 18 Dec 44 Reorganization commenced and completed 1800. Numerous enemy snipers made evacuation extremely difficult. Heavy Machine Gun Platoon placed on right flank to strengthen defensive fires. Frequent arty and mortar fire fell throughout sector during operation.

----- 19 Dec 44 Right flank extended making front 3,000 yds wide. Per Operational Instructions #10, Hq CCA, 14th AD, troops dug in further and held high ground south of Ober Otterbach. Heavy enemy arty and mortar fire throughout day in our sector. Co C, 48th Tk Bn, fired on known pillboxes; effect unknown. Ceased firing with tanks at 1430 to allow Arty FO to adjust 8" howitzers. Visibility decreased making observed fire impossible. Harassing missions to be fired throughout night. Co B, 25th Tk Bn, replaced by Co C, 48th Tk Bn, C Troop 94th Rcn (less one plat) attached. 3d Platoon, Co C, 125th Engrs, atchd. 500th FA in support.

UNIT HISTORY - 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Continued)

2130 19 Dec 44 Rcn Patrols #3 & 4 out, consisting of one officer and 3 EM each.  
 0030 20 Dec 44 Patrol #3 in. Reached vic (178528). At that point patrol was halted by a German. Patrol hit the ground. They were then fired on with several rifle shots. Heard and then saw Germans move around patrols' left; Germans were attempting to cut off patrol so patrol withdrew. A large fire which was so intense that it lit up one side of the town of Ober Otterbach was observed. Patrol observed some Germans attempting to extinguish a fire at (178521). Patrol received rifle fire from (180529). After patrol withdrew MG fire was observed striking the position they had been in from the same vicinity.

0030 20 Dec 44 Patrol #4 in. At (190512) patrol observed a fire and heard a tank motor running in that same general direction. By light of fire at (190512) saw what appeared to be individuals moving about at approx (187514); also observed what appeared to be tracks of horse-drawn caissons (181518); tracks about twelve inches wide and six to eight inches deep. At (184520) patrol received 3 rds rifle fire coming from right front. Heard burst of MG fire from left front. Heard movement of men to left of position - number unknown.

---- 20 Dec 44 Troops remained at dug-in positions on high ground south of Ober Otterbach. Artillery active, firing on ey positions and pill-boxes.

2030 20 Dec 44 Rcn Patrol #5 out, consisting of one officer and 3 EM.  
 2130 20 Dec 44 Rcn Patrol #6 out, consisting of one officer and 3 EM.  
 0100 21 Dec 44 Rcn Patrol #5 in. From R.C. at (181517) patrol could hear few scattered rounds SAF in area North of that point. Arrived at hard surfaced E-W road at (186521), started north and received MG fire from NW and NE. From that position they could see big glow over the crest of the ridge from right front. Remained in that position approx one hour. MG bursts once in a while during that time. Approx 6 rounds of arty landed in area approx 200 yds north of patrol during that time. On way back could see MG tracer coming toward our lines from NE to SW.

0100 21 Dec 44 Rcn Patrol #6 in. Patrol reported when they reached vic (17905175) received two rds tracer from right front. Patrol moved north to (17905185) and received 3 rds mortar fire from approx 20° az. Patrol moved back to (180516), remained there for about one-half hour, then moved north again by route about 100 yds West of where they had received the fire. They reached the stream in vic (178512) and received two more rds tracer from left front and two rds tracer from right front and two rds mortar. They were in creek bed about 20 minutes. During that time they received about six bursts of burp gun fire and 15 to 20 rds MG fire. The stream is about 7 ft. deep at that point and water about 10 in. deep. This SAF passed directly over their heads as they were in the stream. During entire patrol they observed big glow over the ridge on left front.

0600 21 Dec 44 Co C withdrew under cover of darkness to Line 1 where new positions were dug. Two platoons, Co C, 48th Tk Bn, moved into firing position vic (177520) to (188518). Two 105mm howitzer AG's accompanied this platoon and fired fuze T105CPC at visible ey fortifications. Co C, prior to withdrawing, set up dummy



UNIT HISTORY - 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Continued)

	21 Dec 44	emplacements with helmets mounted on stakes and "C" ration cans, simulating telescopes.
1615	21 Dec 44	One German soldier walked into our lines and surrendered.
1630	21 Dec 44	Co C returned to forward dug-in positions.
----	21 Dec 44	Enemy arty expended on dummy emplacements. One 105mm AG succeeded in knocking off a corner of one pillbox. Result of other 105 AG undetermined.
0600	22 Dec 44	Co B withdrew under cover of darkness to Line 1 where new positions were dug. Two platoons, Co C, 48th Tk Bn, moved into firing position vic (177520) to (188518) to fire on visible enemy pillboxes and any possible ey positions. Tank fire had no apparent effect on fortifications. Co B, prior to withdrawing, set up dummy emplacements similar to those set up by Co C on 21 Dec 44. Ey artillery and mortar active throughout day.
1630	22 Dec 44	Co B returned to their forward dug-in positions.
----	22 Dec 44	Arty in support of our troops active, firing on ey fortifications.
0100	23 Dec 44	Two three-man ey patrols dispersed; one ey wounded and two killed.
0600	23 Dec 44	Co C withdrew under cover of darkness to Line 1 and rear dug-in positions. Two platoons, Co C, 48th Tk Bn, moved into firing position vic (177520) to (188518) to fire on ey fortifications. Effect unknown; visibility very poor. Arty supporting our troops, active on ey fortifications. Ey arty and mortar active throughout day.
1630	23 Dec 44	Co C returned to their forward dug-in positions.
0900	23 Dec 44	Officers from 3d Bn, 315th Inf (relieving unit) reconnoitered our positions and made preparation to take over our sector.
----	23 Dec 44	Co B and Co C remained in forward dug-in positions throughout day. Arty supporting our troops, firing on ey fortifications. Ey arty also active throughout day.
1800	23 Dec 44	Relief began; verbal march order issued (see copy of written march order). Co B and Co C relieved by platoons from the exterior flank. Companies to reorganize in Schweigen to proceed to Merkwiller. Complete relief to be effected by 2400, this date. Co C, 48th Tk Bn, to be relieved by one platoon Co A, 47th Tk Bn. First of column crossed IF at Schweigen, Germany.
2115	23 Dec 44	Relief of this unit completed by 3d Bn, 315th Inf.
2330	23 Dec 44	Bn closed in completely at Merkwiller, France (R070372) and Diffenbach-les-Woerth, France. See overlay for location of troops.
----	24 Dec 44	Unit reorganizing at Merkwiller and Diffenbach-les-Woerth.
----	25 Dec 44	Unit in bivouac at Merkwiller and Diffenbach-les-Woerth. No change in location of troops.
----	26 Dec 44	Unit in bivouac at Merkwiller and Diffenbach-les-Woerth. No change in location of troops.
----	27 Dec 44	Unit in bivouac at Merkwiller and Diffenbach-les-Woerth. Training schedule being carried out (see atchd Tg Schy covering this period). Road reconnaissance to the north made by I&R Platoon. For results see atchd overlay.
----	28 Dec 44	Unit in bivouac at Merkwiller and Diffenbach-les-Woerth. Officers and key NCO's attended Counter-Sabotage Demonstration held by VI Corps.

UNIT HISTORY - 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44 (Continued)

2200	28 Dec 44	Unit plus attachments (C-48th Tk Bn, 2d Plat Co C 94th Rcn) began mounted road march to new area. See atchd march order. For route of march see atchd overlay.
0345	28 Dec 44	Last elements of march column closed in new area. Unit and attachments in bivouac at Schoenbourg (Q655259), Lohr (Q639285), and Ottwiller (Q628296). See overlay for location of troops and outposts.
----	30 Dec 44	Unit and attachments in bivouac at Schoenbourg, Lohr, and Ottwiller. Current training schedule being carried out (see atchd copy covering this period). CG, 14th AD, decorated two officers and five EM, this unit, with Bronze Stars. Road and terrain reconnaissance made by I&R Platoon. For results see overlay.
----	31 Dec 44	Unit and attachments in bivouac at Schoenbourg, Lohr, and Ottwiller. Current training schedule being carried out (see atchd copy covering this period). Officers planning and reconnoitering area for Defensive Position (mixed Inf-Tk Bn) Demonstration. Sketch (full size drawing) of German Crockery Mine, which was found in Bn CP at Schoenbourg upon arrival there, submitted to CGA, 14th AD.



Unit : 68th Armd Inf Bn  
Place: Schwindratzheim, Fr.  
Date : 141015 Dec 44

MARCH ORDER NO. 1

Received order to move at 141015 Dec 44. Oral order of march:

Adv Gd:

Point - I&R Platoon  
Adv Party - 1 Plt Co C  
Support - Co C (-) plus AG Plt

Main Body:

Hq & Hq Co (-)  
Co A  
Co B (-)  
Kitchen & Supply Trucks  
Medics  
Maint Plt

Rear Gd:

1 Rifle Sqd Co B  
AT Plt Co B

Speed - 15 mph

Density - 30

One (1) minute between companies; 5 minutes between units.

Route of March - See overlay.

Co C outposted assembly area on arrival. I&R billeting party. Time is now 1035. Move out.

EDWARDS  
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT

S-3