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## *The battle of the Rhineland*

24—29 JANUARY 1945

Company "C" was emplaced in indirect fire positions, with a mission to support the fire of the 24th Field Artillery Battalion.

30—31 JANUARY 1945

The third platoon of "A" Company moved into positions formerly occupied by Company "C", in the vicinity of Eft.

The second "Recon" established an observation post at Besch, and the first "Recon" withdrew to Battalion reserve in the vicinity of our CP.



1 FEBRUARY 1945

Company "B" continued to furnish anti-mechanized protection for the north flank of the XXth Corps area in the 94th Division zone. The first platoon of Company "A" supported the 1st Battalion of the 301st Regiment, in its assault on Campholtz Woods. They neutralized two enemy

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pillboxes and one dugout, destroying one enemy machine gun emplacement with an estimated three killed. Company "C" was attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group with two platoons employed on the secondary mission of supporting fire of the 241st Field Artillery Battalion. One section of the third platoon was placed in position on the west bank of the Saar and prepared to fire, on order, on enemy pillboxes on the opposite side of the river.

The Silver Star Medal was presented to 1st Lt. Charles L. Smith, of Company "B", by General George S. Patton for gallantry in action.

### 2 FEBRUARY 1945

The first platoon of Company "A", in position near Borg, Germany, continued its support of the 1st Battalion, by neutralizing one pillbox and one dugout, during the attack, and destroying another pillbox. One section of the third platoon of Company "C", from their positions in the vicinity of Fremersdorf, fired 22 rounds of APC, penetrating and probably destroying one enemy pillbox on the west bank of the Saar. The first and second platoons continued their secondary mission in support of the 241st Field Artillery Battalion.



### 3 FEBRUARY 1945

Due to weather conditions and poor visibility, the first platoon of "A"



Company was unable to fire on pillboxes in the vicinity of Campholtz Woods. However, this platoon continued to transport supplies and evacuate the wounded from this sector by use of armored vehicles. One section of the third platoon, Company "C", fired 80 rounds of APC and 30 rounds of HE on ten enemy pillboxes on the east bank of the Saar, near Fremersdorf. All pillboxes were destroyed and three enemy machine gun emplacements. Upon completion of this mission, the section withdrew under cover of darkness, and was placed in reserve near the Company CP. The first and second platoons of Company "C" continued supporting fires on the 241st FA Battalion, firing 120 rounds on harassing missions. Artillery reported that the illuminating shells, fired the preceding night, lighted the target area excellently. The Company Commander of "C" Company reported that the pillboxes in this area were not as strongly constructed as those in the Saarlautern area.

#### 4 FEBRUARY 1945

Captain James D. Butler, Company Commander of "A" Company, was killed in action in Campholtz Woods. The first and second platoons of Company "C", continued on their secondary mission in support of the 241st FA Battalion, firing harassing missions.

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### 5 FEBRUARY 1945

"A" and "B" Companies continued to provide anti-mechanized protection in the Division's zone. Company "A" neutralized two enemy pillboxes and assisted in repulsing an enemy counter-attack in the northeast section of the Campholtz Woods by direct fire with HE ammunition. "C" Company attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group, fired harassing fires on targets east of the Saar.

### 6—7 FEBRUARY 1945

Company "C" was relieved of attachment to the 3rd Cavalry Group, and reverted to our control at 2400.

"A" Company expended 132 rounds of HE at pillboxes, shelters, and gun positions east and northeast of Campholtz Woods. "C" Company expended 16 rounds of HE in harassing missions on targets east of the Saar and having been detached from its assignment, closed into their Assembly area at 1400. The first "Recon" captured one prisoner, a deserter, in Rustroff.



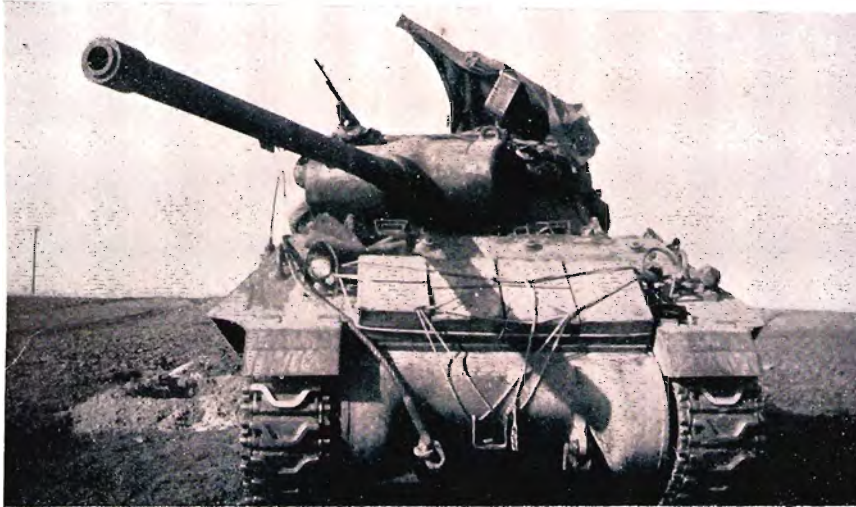
### 8—13 FEBRUARY 1945

The second platoon of Company "C" occupied positions near Weis, and the first "Recon" established an observation post in the same vicinity.

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**“A” Company expended 22 rounds on a German artillery observation post and mortar positions with two enemy known to be killed.**



**14 FEBRUARY 1945**

Two platoons of Company “C” were placed in position north of Merschweiler in support of the 919th Field Artillery Battalion. Three half-tracks continued to transport supplies to the forward elements of the Division.

**15—16 FEBRUARY 1945**

The two platoons of Company “C”, supporting the 919 Field Artillery Battalion, fired 562 rounds, assisting in artillery preparation preceding the infantry attack north of Borg. “B” Company’s first platoon fired 399 rounds on the towns of Nunzingen and Kirf, and the first platoon of “A” Company fired 16 rounds on machine gun emplacements.

Next day, the first platoon destroyed two Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun which was believed to be immobilized by our artillery north of Borg.

**17—19 FEBRUARY 1945**

Two platoons of Company “B” and two from Company “C” assisted in artillery preparation for the Division attack to seize routes through the

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Siegfried Switch, over which the 10th Armored Division could launch an attack to clear the Saar-Moselle triangle. Upon seizure of the Division's initial objective, one platoon of Company "A" was placed in position on high ground north of Borg. Two platoons of Company "C" were placed in position, one near Sinz and the other near Borg. Company "A" captured one prisoner.

#### 20—21 FEBRUARY 1945

As the Division continued its attack east of the Saar, Company "A" displaced forward to positions in the vicinity of Freudenburg, Weiton, Faha, and captured one prisoner.



#### 22 FEBRUARY 1945

"A" Company was placed in direct support of the 301st Regiment, and "B" Company with the 302nd. "C" Company was in general support, prepared to support the Division Artillery fire. Our CP moved to Kallesleuken. "A" Company captured one prisoner.

#### 23—24 FEBRUARY 1945

We prepared to cross into the bridgehead area on Division's orders. The third platoon of "A" Company was placed in position on high ground near Kastel, to cover approaches to Serrig. They fired 13 rounds at a target believed to be a camouflaged vehicle. The burst destroyed the camouflage and revealed an enemy pillbox. The remainder of us assembled and prepared to cross the bridgehead on orders.

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26—28 FEBRUARY 1945

“B” Company and our rear echelon moved to a new assembly area near Trassem.

Our C.P. moved to Saarburg. Effective today, we are converted from a Towed to a Self-Propelled Bn. “C” Company was attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group and further attached to the 3rd Cavalry Squadron and moved to a new assembly area near Freudenburg.

1 MARCH 1945

We remained attached to the 94th Div and were assembled in the Division area prepared to cross the Saar on Division’s order. “A” Company, less one platoon, with the second “Recon” attached, was placed in direct support of the 302nd Regiment, and moved into the 302nd’s sector. The second platoon with the attached “Recon”, took positions in the town of Ober Zerf.

2 MARCH 1945

“B” Company, less one platoon, was placed in general support of the 301st and occupied positions as follows: one platoon was in Shomerich, one in Lampaden, and one section in Obersehr. Company “C” was attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group, and moved to positions in their zone to furnish anti-mechanized defense on approaches from the east. The



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second "Recon" assisted with direct 37 mm and rocket fire, in clearing about 20 enemy from the southern portion of Ober Zerf. S/Sgt Latti, Sgt Bognanni and Pvt Meehan of "Recon" were wounded in this action Cpl Lemas of Company "A" was wounded by artillery fire at Zerf.



### 3 MARCH 1945

Captain Gordon T. Stovall and Sgt Gibbons of "C" Company departed on a reconnaissance of the company sector and failed to return. Later, they were reported missing in action.

### 4—5 MARCH 1945

Reconnaissance Company was activated with 1st Lt. Lawrence A. Satterfield appointed its Company Commander. Company "A", 818 Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached to us and employed to add depth to the anti-mechanized defense in the Division's zone and also to be used as mobile reserve in the event of an enemy armored attack. Company "B" captured four prisoners, and Company "C" captured two prisoners.

### 6—7 MARCH 1945

Prior to dawn the enemy launched a counter-attack in a strength estimated at two regiments of the 6th SS Mountain Division, and succeeded

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during darkness, in surrounding friendly elements located in Baldringen, Schomerich, Lampaden, Obersehr, Vorlingen and Guttweiler, and at dawn launched attacks to dislodge friendly forces including one section of Company "A", two platoons of Company "B" and one platoon of Company "C" in these localities. Gun crews and security sections defended their positions with all available means, and in the action, succeeded in throwing the enemy back with staggering losses while suffering only light losses in men and materiel themselves. A detailed account of the action is as follows: The first platoon of "B" Company was in position in the zone of the 3rd Battalion with the first section in position near Obersehr, covering armored approaches from the east. The security section was also in the vicinity providing security for the two guns there emplaced. The second section was in Lampaden. There was no security with this section, but local defense was coordinated with "I" and "L" Companies of the 3rd Battalion.

#### The First and Security Sections at Obersehr, Germany.

At approximately 0200 a lone German soldier speaking perfect English approached an outpost of the security section at Obersehr. When challenged this German gave the proper password and told the security sentinel that he would be back in a few minutes with two or three men. This soldier withdrew a short distance and returned with several more men who surrounded the sentinel and took him prisoner. This accomplished, an enemy force of about one company of the SS Mountain Division, reinforced, infiltrated around and surrounded the town. Some of this enemy force occupied buildings in the town while the remainder dug-in surrounding the town. At daybreak the enemy forces launched an attack to clear our forces from the town. This attack lasted throughout the day until about 0700 the next day when the Germans in the town, after inflicting only light casualties on our own forces and suffering increasingly heavy casualties to their own troops, hoisted a white flag and demanded that our forces in the village surrender. The reply to their demands was "NUTS" and the fighting resumed, lasting until 071430 by which time the Germans had been dislodged from the village after suffering staggering casualties. As a result, in and around Obersehr there were 27 known enemy killed and an additional 35 to 40 estimated killed. Seventy nine prisoners were taken.

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The Second Section, First Platoon, "B" Company at Lampaden.

At 0604 hours, infiltrating enemy infantry surrounded the two guns of this section and an enemy patrol of ten men attacked, attempting to take the third gun. The crew on guard killed seven of this patrol and drove the remaining three back. After daybreak, these two gun sections defended their positions with small arms fire, killing an estimated fifteen additional enemy without loss to themselves. At 0701 the crew of the fourth gun section discovered an isolated group of twenty Germans apparently not desiring to continue the fight. Covered by a machine gun near their positions, four members of this gun crew moved forward and took those twenty prisoners. At 0718 the fourth gun section noticed an enemy self propelled gun previously damaged by our own artillery firing into the town of Lampaden. This crew immediately fired three rounds into the vehicle and completely destroyed it.

Second Platoon, Company "B" at Schomerich.

At 0601 enemy infantry estimated at two companies of about three hundred men, who had previously, by infiltration, encircled the village, launched a coordinated attack to dislodge our troops in the town and succeeded in occupying some of the buildings. The attack toward the town was stubbornly resisted by the platoon who worked in close coordination with "C" Company 302nd Regiment. They succeeded by 0615 in subduing this enemy force except for sniper fire which was finally silenced after the arrival of a platoon of friendly tanks.

The Third Platoon, "C" Company in Korlingen and Guttweiler with two Platoons of Troop "A" 3rd Cavalry Group.

The enemy attacking this platoon in these two towns was in a strength of about 200 foot troops. The Germans at Guttweiler were first sighted by one of the platoon's gun section as they moved into new positions at 0600. The gun was taken by two Germans entrenched thirty yards from it, but were killed a few minutes later. TD's and Cavalry, in dismounted action, prevented the Germans from entering either of the towns. Light tanks then routed and captured the outside defenders. The third platoon killed four, wounded two and captured eleven prisoners.

8-10 MARCH 1945

Battalion rear echelon and "Recon" Company moved to Wawern. "B"

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Company captured two prisoners and "C" Company captured four.

Because of a change in the 94th Division's boundaries and since Company "A" of the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion had replaced "C" Company, attached to the 3rd Cavalry Group, we were able with Companies "A" and "C" to cover all approaches to the Division zone. "B" Company was withdrawn to Battalion rear echelon to be converted to self propelled.



11—12 MARCH 1945

Company "A", less one platoon, plus one section of "Recon" and one platoon of "B" Company, was attached to the 302nd Regiment. Company "B" less one platoon of Company "A" and one section of "Recon" was attached to the 301st Regiment. Company "C" was given general support of the 94th Division. Liaison was established by the attached companies and the reconnaissance was made for assembly areas from which to move as directed in the Division's attack eastward to the Rhine. "B" Company test fired their new 90 mm guns.



**13 MARCH 1945**

Companies "A" and "B" remained in their assembly areas until completion of the bridgeheads over the Runer River. Company "B" crossed the 301st's bridge with two platoons and occupied positions. "C" Company remained in their assembly area with the Division Reserve. One platoon moved to the vicinity of the rear echelon to receive self-propelled equipment.

**14 MARCH 1945**

We continued in support of the 94th Division with Company "A" attached to the 302nd Regiment, and Company "B" attached to the 301st, in the Division's attack toward the Rhine. "A" Company in close contact with the forward elements of the 302nd, fired on enemy machine gun nests and strong points, slowing the advance. An estimated twenty Germans were killed by this fire. Company "B", advancing with the forward elements of the 301st, against light resistance, did not find it necessary to assist the infantry's advance with fire. One M-36 was destroyed by fire apparently caused by some mechanical defect.

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15 MARCH 1945

"A" Company attached to the 302nd, furnished anti-mechanized protection for the leading battalion and established a base of fire under which the flanks and leading elements could advance. This company had infantry mounted on its destroyers and entered the town of Riensfeld, where they assisted the infantry in capturing 100 prisoners. "B" Company, attached to the 301st, furnished anti-mechanized protection for the advance of the southern column of the Division. During the day they expended eleven rounds of HE in destroying one enemy anti-tank gun and captured two prisoners near Hedert.



16 MARCH 1945

"A" Company was relieved of attachment to the 302nd, and was placed in direct support of the Division. They assembled in Lampaden and then moved to Wawern to be converted to self propelled. "B" Company continued in the 301st zone, advanced rapidly assisting with direct fire from machine guns and 90 mm guns in the reduction of points of resistance en route and by 1000 hours the 376th and "B" Company was attached to them and continued to advance to the vicinity of Grimsburg. Company "C" took Company "A's" positions over, and continued to furnish anti-mechanized support to the 302nd. During the advance to Riensfeld, they

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destroyed one artillery piece. "Recon" Company moved to Lampaden and the Battalion CP moved to Schillingen.



#### 17 MARCH 1945

"A" Company continued conversion in Wawern. "B" Company with direct 90 mm and machine gun fire continued to aid the 376th. The end of the day found forward elements in the vicinity of Eisen. During the advance, two M-36's were destroyed by enemy anti-tank guns. "C" Company continued in support of the 302nd and fired upon targets of opportunity as their rapid advance overtook the fleeing German column. In this advance, they destroyed two enemy cargo vehicles and captured 17 prisoners. At the close of the day, they had reached Birkenfeld. "Recon" Company and the Battalion CP moved to Hermeskiel.

#### 18 MARCH 1945

"C" Company, operating with a "Recon" section and an Infantry I and R Platoon as a point and with Infantry riding the destroyers, spearheaded the advance of the 302nd Regiment. During the day they destroyed three enemy anti-tank guns, two armored personnel carriers, two cargo vehicles, captured 18 prisoners and killed an estimated 110 of the enemy. This

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day's drive cleared the towns of Riensburg, Nohen, Reichenback and Baumholder. The second section of the first "Recon" platoon, attached to "C" Company, operated as a point and succeeded by a surprise advance in capturing, intact, the vitally important bridge spanning the Nieder River near Nohen. The remainder of "Recon" Company and our Battalion CP moved to Birkenfeld.

#### 19 MARCH 1945

In the absence of supporting tanks, "B" Company, with an attached section of "Recon" as a point, spearheaded the advance of the 376th and at the close of the day reached Wolfstein. During the advance, 165 prisoners and one ambulance were captured. Very little resistance was encountered and the operation consisted mostly of a road march. "C" Company with infantry mounted on the destroyers, continued to lead the 302nd in pursuit of the fleeing German elements. Six cargo trucks loaded with ammunition, one armored personnel carrier, one self-propelled gun and one pillbox were destroyed. Forty prisoners were taken and 52 were killed. In the vicinity of Reiboldskirchen a full unit was trapped by the rapid advance and 1500 prisoners were taken. "Recon" Company and our Battalion CP moved to Baumholder. Staff Sergeant Charles J. Andrunaites, "C" Company, received a posthumous award of the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

#### 20 MARCH 1945

"B" Company continued its advance with three anti-tank guns, six cargo carriers to its credit and four enemy killed and 39 taken prisoner. "C" Company continued to lead the advance of the 302nd with two armored personnel carriers and one cargo truck destroyed and 18 enemy killed and 72 taken prisoner. Reconnaissance Company and the Battalion CP moved to Otterberg.

#### 21 MARCH 1945

"A" Company completed conversion to self-propelled and moved near Otterberg. "B" Company advanced to Oggersheim and "C" Company moved to Frankenthal. On the way, Charlie Company destroyed one 150 mm artillery piece, one armored personnel carrier and one half-track. Sixteen of the enemy were killed and eight taken prisoner. Reconnaissance Company and the Battalion CP moved to Grunstadt.

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## *The battle of Central Europe*

### **22 MARCH 1945**

“A” Company, reinforcing the fires of the 919th FA Bn., was placed in secondary mission positions in Frankenthal. “B” Company assembled near Oggersheim and remained there for much needed maintenance.

### **23 MARCH 1945**

“A” Company remained in indirect firing positions but due to an ammunition shortage, was unable to fire. “B” Company became part of Task Force Cheadle and assisted in its assault on Ludwigshafen. “C” Company remained in Frankenthal and “Recon” Company at Asselheim.

### **24 MARCH 1945**

“A” Company remained in position but again didn’t fire. “B” company continued on its assault on Ludwigshafen and was successful in the taking of the city.

### **25—29 MARCH 1945**

We moved to the 94th Division’s Rest Camp at Baumholder, closing in at about 1830. We completed reorganization and much needed maintenance. Further training was also conducted in subjects found deficient in combat.

### **30—31 MARCH 1945**

We were relieved of assignment to the Third Army and together with the 94th Division were assigned to the 15th Army. Moving by motor, we departed from the Third Army area and bivouacked for the night at Arlon, Belgium. The following morning we continued on our movement to the 15th Army’s sector and at the close of the day pulled into Huls, Germany.

### **1 APRIL 1945**

After nearly eight months of continuous combat employment with the Third Army, beginning with the commencement of the drive across France and terminating with the capture of Ludwigshafen, we were attached to the 94th Infantry Division, XXII Corps, 15th Army, at Huls, Germany.



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Prior to daylight, we closed into our assembly area at Huls and at noon were attached to the 94th Divisional Artillery. The second and third "Recon" platoons made reconnaissance of the area for positions in which to perform secondary missions. Except for the "Recon" parties, the remainder of us spent the day in the organization of the new location and installing communications.



#### 2—4 APRIL 1945

Selected gun positions were organized for occupation on Division Artillery orders. "A" and "C" Companies occupied the previously reconnoitred and prepared positions. We, less Companies "A" and "C", were given the mission of organizing and governing the locality of Huls. Reconnaissance Company was assigned the mission of patrolling the area of responsibility continuously, day and night.

#### 5 APRIL 1945

"A" Company was ordered to reinforce the fire of the 301st FA Bn, and "C" Company was ordered to reinforce the fire of the 365th FA Bn.

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Both companies made an attempt at registration but were unsuccessful because poor visibility rendered observation of the bursts impossible. During the afternoon, "C" Company moved one gun to a direct firing position on the west bank of the Rhine River near Nierst and fired two missions. One target was a church steeple used as an enemy observation post and one a water tank used as a machine gun position and observation post. Both targets were destroyed.

#### 6 APRIL 1945

"A" Company fired 14 missions on targets east of the Rhine in the western portion of the Ruhr pocket near Dusseldorf. "C" Company failed to fire and spent the day in care and cleaning of equipment and materiel.

#### 7 APRIL 1945

"A" Company fired seventeen unobserved, harassing missions, and two observed missions, destroying one enemy machine gun. "B" Company test-fired three new destroyers from the west bank of the Rhine near Nierst. Targets used for the test firing were five reported enemy machine gun nests. They were all destroyed. "C" Company fired four unobserved, harassing missions.

#### 8—9 APRIL 1945

"C" Company fired twelve unobserved, harassing missions.

"A" Company fired 26 unobserved, harassing missions and "C" Company fired nine. We were ordered to make a training schedule on subjects found not up to desired standard during combat.

#### 10 APRIL 1945

Continuing in support of the 356th FA Bn, "A" Company, fired 30 unobserved, harassing missions. "C" Company continued to support the 301st FA Bn. and during the day fired 14 unobserved, harassing missions and one observed on possible enemy gun positions with excellent results.

#### 11 APRIL 1945

"A" Company fired 20 unobserved, harassing missions. "C" Company fired six missions also expending 90 rounds of direct fire on buildings from which two enemy 20 mm guns were firing, destroying them. The remainder of us continued training as prescribed.

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12—14 APRIL 1945

“B” Company, using one gun from a position on the west bank of the Rhine near Nierst, fired one mission at an enemy observation post and destroyed it. “C” Company fired six unobserved, harassing missions.

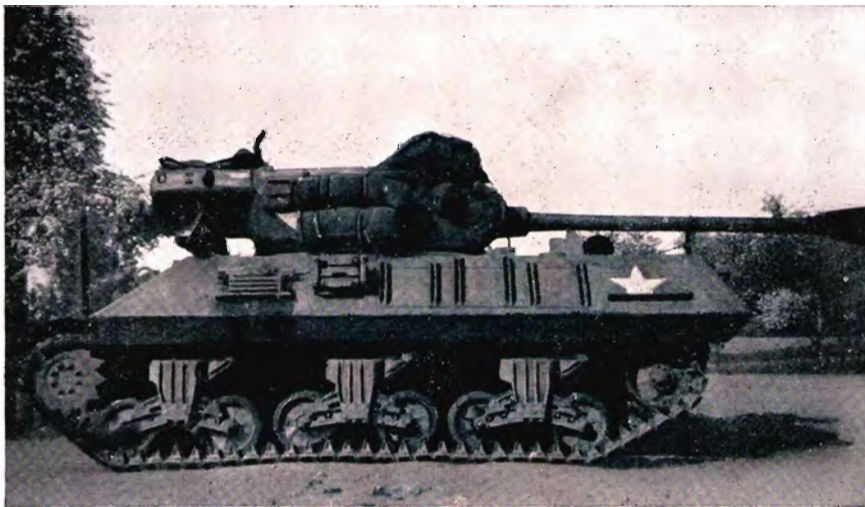
Reconnaissance Company was assigned the mission of patrolling in the zone of the 1st Battalion, at Limburg. “B” Company was given the responsibility of patrolling Huls. No firing was done by either “A” or “C” Companies. During the day’s patrol, “Recon” Company apprehended one civilian without a pass and two civilians suspected of theft of U. S. Government property.

15 APRIL 1945

“Recon” Company continued to patrol in its assigned zone and apprehended two civilians without identification. “A” Company moved near St. Hubert and “C” Company moved to Stenden. At 1200, we were attached to the 376th Regiment and were given an area of approximately sixty square miles to occupy, organize and govern.

16 APRIL 1945

Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 302nd Infantry Regiment with mission of maintaining four stationary outposts and patrolling by motor the west bank of the Rhine River, east of Krefeld. Seven civilians were picked up without proper identification. Six of the seven were



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proven to be German soldiers and were delivered to the 94th Division PW cage.

**17—18 APRIL 1945**

We maintained patrols, enforced military government in our zone and continued the training scheduled. Nine displaced persons, at large, were picked up and delivered to the Displaced Person Camp, near Kempen. "Recon" moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Munchen Gladbach.

**19—22 APRIL 1945**

Two prisoners of war were taken and two displaced persons were interned at the DP Camp near Krefeld. Five suspected German soldiers were delivered to the CIC for screening. Reconnaissance for a suitable area in the vicinity of Ratingen, Germany, was initiated.

**23—24 APRIL 1945**

We were attached to the 301st Infantry Regiment for the movement east of the Rhine, in the vicinity of Dusseldorf. We closed into the new area and prepared to accept responsibility for approximately 150 square miles of territory north of Dusseldorf. At 1200 we assumed responsibility of the Military Government of the area. All companies made thorough reconnaissance in their respective zone to locate enemy troops, abandoned materiel and ammunition and to establish suitable security guards and patrols.

**25 APRIL 1945**

We continued military government in Ratingen. Reconnaissance revealed a bridge prepared for demolition, two ton and one quarter ton trucks loaded with anti-tank mines, two 88 mm guns with ammunition, three anti-aircraft searchlights, two food warehouses in Ratingen. Twelve prisoners of war were apprehended, all with discharges dated April 1945. They were delivered to the 94th Division PW pen. A house to house search was started and 60 cases of typhus were located at a hospital at Lintorf.

**26 APRIL 1945**

Twenty-five ex-soldiers were apprehended and were taken to the CIC for screening. They were established as prisoners of war and were sent to

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the Division PW cage. All companies established road blocks for the control of civilian traffic and bridge guards were set up at critical places to prevent sabotage. Several minor cases of pillaging by displaced persons and foraging for food were reported. One hundred seventy-two prisoners of war were taken during the day. Fourteen small DP camps, located in our area with an estimated population of 3,000, principally Russians, but representing all nationalities were established. Arrangements were made for opening one large DP camp in the southern part of the area, with the intention of moving all DP's to this area camp as soon it was possible.

#### 27—28 APRIL 1945

We continued to police area and enforce Military Government. Thirty-seven PWs were apprehended and taken to the Division PW cage. Captain Ingram was appointed battalion DP Officer in order to place the large camp in operation as soon as possible.

#### 29—30 APRIL 1945

Forty-five prisoners were taken. Our DP Camp began to operate and approximately 300 DPs were moved by captured vehicles to this area. Approximate strength of this camp was estimated at 1,500 with an estimated capacity of 5,000. Former Gestapo member was sent to CIC for screening. Five hundred DPs were taken to our large DP Camp.

#### 1—7 MAY 1945

Attached to the 301st Regt of the 94th Division, we were assigned the responsibility of occupying and governing an area of about 250 square miles consisting of 11 Orts of the Landkries, Dusseldorf-Mettman. Our area responsibility was the northwest corner of that Landkries. Civilian population of this area was estimated to be roughly 40,000 including 5,000 displaced persons.

Our Battalion Commander in order to adequately cover the assigned area, divided it into four equal sectors and placed one Company in each.

To control the sector our Battalion Executive with all the staff members at his disposal, was designated as the Military Government Officer. Also in each company, a Military Government Officer, who received his instructions from Battalion, was appointed. It was learned that it was an impossible task for the courts of the Military Government detachments to try all the cases arising in the area. So by proper authority,

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our S-2 was appointed Summary Courts Officer with jurisdiction over our area. Because of his knowledge of law and proper court procedure he was capable of handling all the cases in our area. The principle civilian offense was the violation of the imposed curfew regulation. The most pressing problem confronting us in this area was the assembling and caring for the 5,000 displaced persons living throughout the area in small groups, and depending for food on the fruits of their pillaging and looting. These persons were living under conditions best described as deplorable. We were fortunate in finding in our area a vacant Military Camp in good repair that would house all the displaced persons in the area. To guard and patrol the area we were using over 300 men daily.

**3 MAY 1945**

V-E Day. The war in Europe was officially over. Little celebrating was noted.