



HEADQUARTERS 823 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
ST. MAUR (921278) BELGIUM


7 SEPTEMBER, 1944

GREETINGS:

THIS HEADQUARTERS CROSSED THE BELGIAN BORDER AT 03 SEPTEMBER 1944, AND STARTED TO SET UP ITS COMMAND POST IN THE WOODS SOUTHWEST OF ST. MAUR. BEFORE BECOMING COMPLETELY SET UP WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT 25 GERMANS WERE, WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM AMBROT, ALSO ATTEMPTING TO OCCUPY SAID WOODS. IN HIGH DISPLEASURE AT SUCH PROCEDURE THIS HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY PACKED UP AND MOVED OUT BAG AND BAGGAGE LEAVING THE GERMANS IN TEMPORARILY UNDISPUTED POSSESSION. WE THEN SURROUNDED THE AREA AND WHEN OUR BEST TAKEN GERMAN DID NOT VOLUNTARILY EVICT THE UNAUTHORIZED TENANTS, STRONGER MEANS, EG. 30 CAL AND 50 CAL MACHINE GUNS, WERE RESORTED TO. RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE GERMANS NOT BEING UP TO THE STANDARD WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO, ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE WAS CALLED FOR. THIS FIRE CAUSED A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN ANGLO-BELGIAN RELATIONS AND SOME GERMANS SURRENDERED, NOT TO MENTION THOSE WOUNDED AND/OR DEAD WHO COULDN'T. WHEN THIS HEADQUARTERS AND INFANTRY FINALLY STROLLED THROUGH THE DELIGHTFUL TREES AND BUSHES, WITH FIXED BAYONETS, THERE WAS COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS AND ALL SURVIVING GERMANS SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY, THE FINAL COUNT BEING 91 CAPTURED WITH 7 KILLED.

By ABOUT 1600 HOURS THE HEADQUARTERS WAS NICELY SET UP IN THE "CHATEAU" AND GROUNDS WHERE WE REMAINED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT WHICH TIME WE MOVED ON TOWARD THE FINAL OBJECTIVE. DURING THIS TIME OUR UNIT WAS ROYALLY ENTERTAINED AND TREATED BY THE BELGIANS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CHATEAU.

TO THE PEOPLE OF BELGIUM WE BRING THE GOOD WISHES OF OUR COUNTRY AND HOPE FOR YOUR EARLY LIBERATION. TO MONSIEUR MASSON AND THE FOLKS OF "CHATEAU" OUR HEARTY THANKS FOR A VERY PLEASANT STAY AND MAY PEACE AND PROSPERITY BE YOURS IN THE COMING YEARS.

  
STANLEY DETTMER  
LT. COL.