



TYPICAL 607th FIELD C.P.

Rcn. Troop, K Co. of the 346th Infantry Regiment, 2nd platoon Co. C of the 312th Eng Bn and supported by fires from the 155 mm howitzers of the 335th FA Bn. The Task Force was divided into three hard hitting companies plus a CP group. Each company consisted of a platoon of tanks, platoon of TDs, platoon of Infantry, riding on the armored vehicles, and a platoon of the 87th Rcn. Troop. The CP group contained the remaining forces. It crossed the Rhine at Boppard on a pontoon bridge and assembled six miles to the northeast at Dachsenhausen which was the limit of the Division advance.

The Task Force's first objective was Nastatten, 12 miles southeast of Boppard. At 0545 March 27th the Task Force took off for Nastatten, the plan of attack being to advance along the high ground to Ruppertshaffen and thence to Nastatten. By 0830 the Task Force had reached Ruppertshaffen, three miles west of Nastatten, where it assembled and regrouped.

The third Task Force Company, under the command of 1st Lt. Glen

J. Doman. 346th Infantry Regiment, made the attack on the town at 0915. The first company, commanded by 1st Lt. Frank W. Jones, Jr., 735 th Tank Battalion, and the second Company, commanded by Capt. J. Laverne Nicklas, 607th TD Bn, supported the attack by fires from the hills west of the town. The Third Company's armor was stopped at the Muhl River when the bridge was blown in the face of the advancing reconnaissance elements. The Infantry under 2nd Lt. Robert L. Picher, 346th Infantry Regiment, swept through the town and cleared all enemy resistance. The pioneer platoon commanded by



OUR FIRST TFS OBJECTIVE—NASTATTEN



WE KNOCK OUT ANOTHER AA-AT GUN

2nd Lt. Caeser Merlo prepared a ford across the Muhl River. By 1300 the armor of the Task Force crossed with the mission of continuing to the east.

The 2nd Company heading northeast for Holzhausen received heavy 20 mm fire, small arms fire, and AT fire coming from the vicinity of Holzhausen. The Third Company attempting to bypass to the north was slowed by darkness and enemy fire. The Task Force assembled for the night one and a half miles northeast of Nastatten at Buch. During the day they had captured 47 prisoners and advanced eleven miles.

Behind and to the flanks of the Task Force, combat teams of the Infantry Regiments advanced, the TD platoons being in small Task Forces. Co. A advanced to Bad Ems, passing through Ober-Lahnstein and meeting some resistance and road blocks. To the south of Co. A, Co. C advanced with the 345th Infantry to the vicinity of Miehlen, two and one-half miles north of Nastatten, meeting light resistance and some AT and 20 mm fire.



ONE OF TFS'S OBJECTIVES—AN AUTOBAHN

The next morning, 28th of March, the Task Force took off again with a new objective, Hahnstatten, 15 miles away. The 2nd platoon of Co. C, 312th Eng Bn was attached and the 335th FA Bn was relieved from direct support. At 0830 the attack on Holzhausen was renewed by approaching it from two directions. No resistance was met and the Task Force headed northeast toward Katzenelnbogen meeting small arms and artillery fire 1500 yards west of the town. The town was enveloped from three sides in conjunction with the 6th Cav. Group which was advancing from the northwest. It was entered at 1540 after destroying two 88mm AA-AT guns. With a new objective, Kirberg, the Task Force pushed on reaching Hahnstatten at 1800 and Kirberg at 1900, the only delay being a few abatis road blocks. The 1st Company pushed east three miles to Daubon-Eufinger and cut the north-south autobahn. During the day two 88mm AA-AT guns were destroyed, 1 prime mover destroyed, 99 prisoners captured and an advance of 18 miles was made.

Co. A had advanced with the Infantry along the Lahn River to



KNOCKED OUT JERRY ARMORED CAR

Limburg, six miles northwest of Kirberg, and Co. C had pushed to Hahnstatten meeting no resistance.

At 0930 March 29th the Task Force began their advance to the new objective of Grossen-Linden, 40 miles distant. They reached Niederselters where a column of the 345th Combat Team, with Co. C attached, was met. The Task Force bypassed them and pushed through Ober-Brucken, Munster, Wolfenhausen, Weilmunster, and Kraftholms where elements of the 9th Armored Division going to Giessen via Grossen-Linden were met. Changing objectives, the Task Force moved south at Oberwetz to Oberkleen, then to Niederkleen, Lang Gons and Holzheim, arriving at the latter place at 1500. Instructions were received to defend a line—Grossen-Linden, Lang Gons and Pohl Gons. Patrols sent into the woods in that vicinity met little opposition and took numerous prisoners. During the day 210 prisoners had been taken and an advance of 40 miles had been made.



A LONE WOMAN WATCHES THE CAPTURE OF A FRIGHTENED VILLAGE

Co. A advanced along the Lahn River to Giessen where they met the 9th Armored. Co. C in a Task Force with a Company of Tanks and a Battalion of Infantry headed for Butzbach but at Niederseltzer, three miles northeast of Kirberg, they ran into heavy resistance and were held up all day. At 1900 they launched an attack in which Sgt. Sue of Co. C destroyed one 75 mm AA gun. By 2100 all resistance had ceased.

Captured enemy documents and statements of prisoners indicated that the area in the vicinity of Butzbach was an assembly area for stragglers of the Rhine defenses. Accordingly, on March 30th the Task Force received the mission of securing Hoch-Weisel, three miles southwest of Butzbach, and sweeping the woods to the north and west. At 0800 the 3rd Company moved there and the 3rd Rcn. platoon and the Pioneer platoon occupied positions between Butzbach and the woods to the west. The day was spent sending patrols through these woods. During the day the Task Force destroyed nine 20mm AA guns, eight 37mm AA guns on 2½ ton trucks, one 40mm AA gun, three 105mm

guns, seventeen 75mm AA-AT guns, four 88mm AA-AT guns and twenty three vehicles. 519 prisoners were taken.

Co. C advanced on to Brandoberndorf, ten miles west of Butzbach.

On March 31st the Task Force continued to clear the large woods to the west of Butzbach by first showing their armor and then by the use of combat patrols picked up the disheartened stragglers. 418 prisoners were taken.

April 1st found all missions assigned accomplished, the Task Force dissolved and the Battalion assembled near Kleeberg. During the Task Force's operations, it had taken 1485 prisoners and had advanced 76 miles.

Second Task Force

Armored thrusts had raced miles east of the limit of the Division's advance leaving it in the rear areas.

On April 3rd Co. A, with the 2nd Rcn. platoon attached, was attached to the 6th Cav. Group and joined them at Huhlbach 55 miles to the northeast, ten miles northwest of Hersfeld.

Co. C, with the 1st Rcn. platoon attached, was attached to the 345th Infantry Regiment and Co. B, with the 3rd Rcn. platoon attached, was attached to the 346th Infantry Regiment.

On April 4th the Battalion CP, plus Rcn. Co. minus three platoons, moved to Ronshausen, 70 miles to the northeast with Companies B and C moving into assembly areas in that vicinity with the Infantry Regiments.

On April 6th Co. A was relieved of attachment to the 6th Cav. Gp. and joined the Battalion, assembling at Bebra, three miles northwest of Ronshausen.

On the following day the 87th Division went into action. Co. A supporting the 347th Infantry Regiment moved southeast 40 miles to Ober-Schonau, ten miles southwest of Ohrdruf, and placed guns in position near there. Co. B moved to the vicinity of Bairoda, fifteen miles northwest of Ober-Schonau. Co. C advanced to the vicinity of Tambach, five miles north of Ober-Schonau, where they fired on enemy troops and destroyed one MK IV tank. The Battalion CP moved to Floh, six miles northwest of Ober-Schonau. During the next two days the regiments slowly advanced eastward fighting through heavy forests and hills, meeting some small arms, mortar, and direct fire.



TYPICAL C.P. IN GERMANY

By April 9th Companies B and C had moved their CP's to Tambach in the heart of the Thuringen Wald.

On April 10th Task Force Sundt was reconstituted at Tambach. Obtaining clearance from the 89th Infantry Division on the north, it marched through their area which was further advanced than the 87th, passed northeast through Ohrdruf, and Arnstadt. Then the Task Force turned south back into the 87th sector cutting behind the enemy lines. The first opposition was met at Trassdorf, six miles southeast of Arnstadt. Here heavy direct and artillery fire was encountered. The Second Company moved through Ober-Willingen, one mile northeast of Trassdorf, to the high ground 1000 yards southeast where it was stopped. All efforts to advance were met by heavy fire. The First Company was ordered to by-pass Trassdorf and drive southwest toward Ilmenau, pushing into the enemy's rear. Then the mission was changed, orders being received to head east through Stadtilm to Rudolstadt. The First Company was ordered to the high ground to the northwest of Stadtilm

and the Second Company was ordered to move into Stadtilm from Nieder-Willigen. The First moved to attack, but was stopped when heavy artillery and direct fire hit both companies. As darkness fell, the Task Force bivouaced in place for the night.

Co. A, in the southern part of the Division's zone, advanced with the 347th Infantry about ten miles, passing through the towns of Oberhof, Elgersburg, Ober-Porlitz, Grafinau and to Cottendorf where they met determined resistance. One hundred SS men armed with small arms and panzerfausts and supported by assault guns and tanks were encountered. When a TD was hit by a bazooka and set afire Sgt. Dominic Karr distinguished himself when he evacuated a wounded man while under small arms and artillery fire. Disregarding his own safety, 2nd Lt. Grant W. Claymore dashed through the mortar, artillery and machine gun fire to the burning destroyer, climbed inside and rescued his gunner. Returning again to the destroyer which was now aflame with burning ammunition he rescued another man. For his courageous action and extraordinary heroism Lt. Claymore was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.—The support lent by the TD's enabled the Infantry to take the town with very few casualties.

Co. C, with the 345th Infantry, moved through Crawinkel, Plaue, Reinsfeld and Neiderwilligen. The 346th Infantry relieved the 345th, Co. C passing to the 346th. By evening the Task Force and the Regiments held a line generally from just outside Stadtilm southwest to Angstadt, a distance of seven miles.

On April 12th the 1st Company attacked Stadtilm from the north and the 2nd Company attacked from the west. The 346th Infantry with the 1st and 2nd Battalions abreast (not part of the Task Force) attacked south of Stadtilm to seize and hold the high ground southeast thereof. All bridges across the Ilm River were known to have been blown with the exception of the main highway bridge which was not to be blown until the Americans approached. The attack developed with such speed that the bridge was captured intact together with the entire company left behind to defend it. The 3rd Battalion of the 346th Infantry followed the 2nd Company into the town and occupied it.

The 1st and 2nd Companies moved across the bridge and proceeded to the high ground to the east and beyond, passing through Großlieb-lingen and Kleinlieb-lingen. Advancing through Solsdorf, Thalendorf,

Kerlau and Eichfeld toward Rudolstadt, the Task Force met some resistance. Dive bombing by P-47's was used on enemy in Ehrenstein with good results. The 2nd Company encountered abatis on the southwest approaches to Rudolstadt, but reduced these with the help of the Engineer bulldozers. There they encountered heavy small arms and bazooka fire, which destroyed one M-8 but by nightfall had taken the southwest part of the town. The 1st Company moved to Schaala and attacked Rudolstadt from the west in conjunction with the 2nd Company's move to attack, but encountered a defended road block and lost a tank to bazooka fire. The 3rd Company moved up to the left of the 2nd Company in Rudolstadt. During the afternoon the air support strafed the high ground to the east and the enemy in the town.

Co. A, supporting the 347th Infantry, advanced south of the route taken by the Task Force to Bad Blankenburg meeting little opposition.

Co. C, with the 346th Infantry, aided in the capture of Stadtilm and then advanced on the left and echeloned to the rear of the Task Force. They stormed Remda, overcoming small arms and artillery fire, and entered Eichfeld, three miles west of Rudolstadt. The 2nd platoon, supporting the 2nd Battalion 346th Infantry, closed on the Task Force CP.

The following day the Task Force continued their attack on Rudolstadt in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion 346th Infantry, trying in vain to capture an intact bridge across the Saale River. Reaching the river after overcoming small arms, bazooka and sniper fire, they found the bridges had all been blown, as had all the other bridges in the Division sector. The Task Force assembled 3000 yards northwest of Saalfeld prepared for immediate movement to take the high ground in the vicinity of Possneck, twelve miles to the east. . . .

Co. A, with the 2nd Rcn. platoon attached, forded the stream at Bad Blankenburg with the 347th Infantry and advanced to take Saalfeld, finding all of the bridges across the Saale River had been blown. A bridgehead was established.

Two platoons of Co. C with two Battalions of the 346th Infantry raced ten miles eastward to the Saale and found that all the bridges had been blown north from Rudolstadt to Uhlstadt.

At 1345 April 14th the Task Force crossed the treadway bridge erected at Saalfeld and drove 15 miles eastward to Peuschen, three miles southeast of Possneck, before meeting any resistance. The 1st



607th CROSSING THE SAALE RIVER AT SAALFELD

Company pushing from Schmorda, two miles west of Peuschen, was stopped by bazooka fire at the edge of a woods, losing one M-8 and crew. The 2nd and 3rd Companies, advancing from Wernberg (one and one-half miles south of Possneck), were stopped by intense direct fire 800 yards west of Peuschen. The 3rd Company moved to the high ground north of Peuschen to cover the 2nd Company's movement into the town. The 2nd Company entered followed by the 3rd. When darkness fell, the Task Force CP and the 1st Company bivouaced in Wernburg.

Co. A crossed the Saale River behind the Task Force with the 347th Infantry and advanced through Schmorda to Moxa, one and one-half miles south of Peuschen, meeting only light resistance, but knocking out one 75 mm SP gun when Sgt. Esposito's crew turned in a stellar performance.

Co. C crossed the bridge at Weissen, north of Rudolstadt, at 1930 and only advanced three miles before darkness overtook them.

The following morning the Task Force dashed eastward meeting little resistance through Taskau, Knau, Plothlen, Dittersdorf, Dragensdorf

and Tegau, a distance of about fifteen miles. At Tegau it turned southeast to Lawitz where heavy artillery fire and small arms fire was encountered coming from the east and northeast. The 3rd Company passed the 2nd moving south on a parallel road, one mile to the west, and advanced to Kerschkau where it eliminated scattered resistance. The 2nd Company took the lead again pushing to Lossau and southeast to Lengenbuch, five miles east of Schleiz, where it intercepted a sizeable force of enemy moving from the town on foot and in wagons. Joined by the 1st Company all the enemy were killed, captured or dispersed by this force. Following this shelling the two companies moved east two miles to Thierbach where heavy resistance was encountered and where they held up for the night.

Co. A, with the 2nd Rcn. platoon attached, advanced with the 347th Infantry to the vicinity of Schleiz, passing generally through Ziegenruck, Crispendorf and Monchgrun.

Co. C, with the 1st Rcn. platoon attached, moved with the 346th Infantry Regiment to the vicinity of Possneck where they were held up at a road block. Clearing it they advanced toward Zeulenroda, not meeting any resistance until they reached Pahren, four miles west of Zeulenroda, where they encountered direct fire. They fought their way east two miles to Klein-Wolschendorf where they spent the night.

The following morning the resistance continued in Thierbach with small arms fire. The 1st and 2nd Companies contacted the Burgermeister and requested the surrender of the town and garrison on threat of destruction. The request was refused. In the center of the town was a strongly defended enemy road block. Disregarding his own safety Captain J. Laverne Nicklas reconnoitered it and then led the tanks and the infantry into the town directing the lead tanks fire on the obstacle and a house filled with German troops. While directing these operations Captain Nicklas was killed by a sniper's bullet. For his courageous action and devotion to duty he was awarded the Silver Star. The 1st Company pulled back and took positions overlooking the town. When the 2nd Company had cleared, the 1st Company destroyed the town with direct fire, taking seventy five prisoners, including a colonel.

The 3rd Company by-passed the town and proceeded across country, by-passing the city of Pauss, going to Unterpirk, Bernsgrun, Frabersgrun, to Steindorf and then racing to the Weisse-Elster River hoping



THIERBACH BURNS—A MONUMENT TO CAPT. NICKLAS

to capture a bridge at Barthmahlen. The 3rd Company closed on the tail of a German artillery battery in the process of crossing the bridge. In the fight that ensued the road was blocked with knocked-out artillery, horses and Germans. The delay was sufficient to permit the Germans to blow the bridge. Reconnaissance to the north located the railroad bridge at Cossengrun still intact. Seizing the bridge 1st Lt. Morrow moved his Company across and on to Jocketta, Helmsgrun and Gansgrun, where they met intense tank fire. One Sherman tank was destroyed. The Company later moved to Altensalz. The 2nd Company proceeded to Neuensalz, three miles east of Plauen, fording the river at Barthmahlen. The 1st Company moved through the 2nd Company and on to Mechelsgrun. The Task Force CP moved across the railroad bridge, then south to Neuensalz, taken shortly before by the 2nd Company after a sharp fight.

The 1st platoon of Co. A, with the 3rd Bn. 347th Infantry, advanced from Schleiz through Langenbuch, Muhlstroff, Mehltheurer, Syrau

to Plauen where they seized and secured a bridge. S/Sgt. John T. Johnson, Co. A, was given the mission of seizing this bridge across the Weisse-Elster River. He mounted a squad of Infantry on two destroyers and led his small task force from the edge of the city through two miles of devastated blocks and almost impassable streets. The smoking tracks of a German tank were a risky but welcome aid in finding the way. Moving rapidly toward his objective, he surprised the enemy, seized the bridge and engaged in a fire fight with the Jerries who were firmly established in three buildings overlooking the bridge. Covered by the fire of his comrades, S/Sgt. Johnson fearlessly entered the buildings alone and captured one SS officer and ten enlisted men. His award was the Silver Star for gallantry. Also in this vicinity Lt. Daniel M. Auvil of Co. A was making a motorized recon-



LIBERATED D.P.'s NEAR BARTH MAHLEN



*PASSING THROUGH THE STREETS OF RODEWISCH ON THE WAY
TO GERMAN HELD AUERBACH*

naissance in advance of a task force when he encountered an enemy patrol consisting of a reconnaissance car and two motorcycles. Lt. Auvil opened fire with his machine gun mounted on the jeep eliminating the reconnaissance car and one motorcycle. When his ammunition became exhausted, Lt. Auvil returned to the Task Force, led a light tank forward and directed it in destroying the remaining motorcycle, preventing the enemy from obtaining knowledge of the Task Force. For his heroic action and initiative Lt. Auvil was awarded the Silver Star. The 3rd platoon of Co. A with the 1st Battalion 347th Infantry drove from Langenbuch south through Plauen to Oelsnitz, meeting no resistance, but firing upon fleeing Germans.

Co. C with the 346th Infantry headed east with the mission of seizing a bridge over the Weisse-Elster River at Elsterberg. On entering the town they met small arms, machine gun and one round of 88 mm fire. Sgt. Benner caught the 88 mm flash; Cpl. Green destroyed the



LAST ARMORED VEHICLE DESTROYED BY 607. CO "C" DESTROYS A GERMAN T.D.

gun with his first round. The bridge was seized and the high ground east of town secured.

On April 17th the 3rd Company of the Task Force pushed east and seized Bergen. The 1st and 2nd Companies moved to Unter-Lauterbach and Trieb, both northeast of Bergen.

The 1st platoon of Co. A advanced with the 3rd Battalion of 347th Infantry to Theuma, four miles southeast of Plauen.

The 1st platoon of Co. C with the 1st Battalion 346th Infantry advanced six miles southeast to Treuen, taking it without opposition. The 2nd platoon with the 2nd Battalion 346th Infantry pushed on to Lengenfeld, four miles northeast of Treuen, where four light tanks were destroyed by a 75 mm Jerry tank destroyer. The panzerjaeger was destroyed by Sgt. Chriske's gun, Cpl. J. T. Wilson gunner, and the Battalion took up a defensive position around the town.

On April 18th and 19th Task Force Sundt remained in place patrolling to the east. Enemy patrols entered each of the company's areas, destroying one M-20 but sharpshooting by Sgt. Stella accounted for



RADIO CONTACT WITH THE RUSSIANS FROM NEUENSALZ

the German leader. On April 20th the Task Force, less the Infantry Company, assembled in the vicinity of Neuensalz.

The dash made by this second Task Force Sundt netted 109 miles and 1344 prisoners in nine days. Once the break was made through the Jerry's lines, the scene became a mad rush, fighting through or bypassing defenses — speed was the watch word. To stop was to be pinned down; to continue was to crush Jerry's frugal attempts to delay and leave a string of dead Jerries and burning German vehicles behind. The Germans had pitted the 11th Panzer Division, the so-called "Ghost Division" in the 87th Division zone to "Stem the Tide", but to no avail. The speed with which the Task Force operated was too great to permit a defensive position to be properly set up. 2 tanks, 11 trucks, 4 half-tracks, 3 armored cars, 6 wagons, 3 tractors, 3 motorcycles, 3-75 mm guns, and 1-105 mm gun were destroyed in comparison with our losses of 1 tank, 2-M 8's, 1-M 20, and 1 half-track.

During the two week period April 23-May 6, elements of the Bat-



THE WAR'S END A GERMAN DIVISION SURRENDERS

alion remained in defensive positions, conducting maintenance of equipment. Very few changes of locations were made. On May 6th Task Force Sundt was dissolved; its mission completed. The Battalion elements remained in assembly positions near Neuensalz.

The most terrible war of all time was drawing to a close. Junctions between the Americans and Russians were imminent all along the front. To prevent unnecessary casualties limiting lines were established beyond which no one could advance. For the 87th Division it was the Mulde River. On May 6th the 347th and 346th Infantry Regiments, with Companies A and C in support, advanced about 12 miles east against slight resistance. On this drive Sgt. Charles P. Patnude, Co. C, encountered a very effective road block at a railway underpass in the vicinity of Falkenstein. Two box cars had been removed from the railroad, placed across the road and covered by artillery, mortar and machine gun cross-fire. Sgt. Patnude, taking his destroyer into the underpass, pushed the box cars apart so he could fire at the ho-



MASS SURRENDER AFTER PEACE WAS SIGNED

stale machine guns. After knocking out the machine guns Sgt. Patnude and two crew members, while still under heavy mortar and artillery fire, dismounted and hooked a cable from the destroyer to the railroad cars and pulled them to the side of the road, enabling friendly troops to advance. For his courage and leadership he was awarded the Silver Star. After reaching their objectives, patrols were sent to the Mulde River taking hundreds of prisoners. On May 7th the Battalion CP, Rcn. Company and Co. B moved to Fredrucksgrun, four miles southeast of Falkenstein. On the 8th and 9th Companies A and C assembled with the Battalion at Fredrucksgrun. Peace had been signed. A brilliant record was closed. The greatest of all wars was finished and the lights went on again all over Europe.

PART TWO

COMMENDATIONS

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General APO 403

16 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

THRU : Commanding General, Ninth U.S. Army, APO 339, U.S. Army

TO : Commanding General, 95th Infantry Division, APO 9,
U.S. Army

1. The achievement of your division and attached units, consisting of the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 778th Tank Battalion, and 547th AAA AW Battalion, in successfully completing the assigned mission in connection with the reduction and capture of the strongly fortified city of Metz by Third U.S. Army was outstanding, both in the combat skill of the individual units committed and the control and sound tactical judgment displayed by commanders of all echelons.

2. The fourteen days of continuous attack against a strong and aggressive enemy, along a 26-mile front, drove irresistibly to the heart of the city of Metz where contact was made with American forces advancing from the south. In the course of this attack you successfully (1) made four assault crossings of the Moselle River at its high flood stage, (2) penetrated the line of defending forts, reducing those necessary to accomplish the mission, and (3) greatly contributed to the destruction of an entire reinforced German division. Against these fortifications which had never before in modern times fallen by assault, in terrain favorable to the enemy, and under almost intolerable weather conditions of rain, flood, and bitter cold, your officers and men met a most searching combat test which required not only individual courage, skill, endurance, and determination, but also sound tactical judgment coupled with an insatiable desire to close with the enemy.

3. This achievement has added lustre to the glorious history of American arms, for which you and all the officers and enlisted personnel of your division and attached units, are highly commended.

G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U.S. Army, Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
APO 403

25 April 1945

My dear General Middleton:

Again the exigencies of war have separated the VIII. Corps and the Third Army. We are all most regretful.

None of us will ever forget the stark valor with which you and your Corps contested every foot of ground during Von Rundstedt's attack. Your decision to hold BASTOGNE was a stroke of genius.

Subsequently, the relentless advance of the VIII. Corps to the KYLL River, thence to the RHINE, your capture of KOBLENZ and subsequent assault crossings of the RHINE at its most difficult sector, resulting in your victorious and rapid advance to the MULDE River, are events which will live in history and quicken the pulse of every soldier.

Please accept for yourself and transmit to the officers and men of your command my sincere thanks and admiration for the outstanding successes achieved.

May all good fortune attend you.

Very Sincerely,

G. S. PATTON JR.,
Lieut. General, U.S. Army
Commanding

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS VIII. CORPS, APO 308, U.S. ARMY, 27 April 1945

TO: See Distribution.

It is with deep appreciation and a sense of humility that I transmit to the officers and to the enlisted men who have served in the VIII. Corps since December 16, 1944 this letter of appreciation from General Patton.

As we review the picture since Bastogne, we see performance of feats by

officers and men of the Corps which in normal times one would have believed to be impossible of execution. It is however doing the impossible which marks the leader and returns the winner in war.

My sincere thanks to those members of the Corps now living and my humble reverence to those now deceased who by devotion to a cause and a duty made this letter of appreciation from our Army Commander possible.

TROY H. MIDDLETON,
Major General U.S. Army,
Commanding.

2nd Ind

HQ. 87th INF. DIV. APO 448 U.S. ARMY, 2 May 1945

TO: All Members, 87th Infantry Division, 549th AAA Bn, 607th TD Bn and 735th TK Bn.

1. General PATTON'S letter and General MIDDLETON'S indorsement aptly express the outstanding battle performance of the VIII. Corps. The 87th (Golden Acorn) Division has been privileged to play an important part in the achievement of these successes. The place names marking the record of the 87th Division will forever be illuminated with the bright light of consistently successful action. THE ARDENNES - THE SIEGFRIED LINE - THE KYLL - THE MOSELLE - KOBLENZ - THE RHINE - PLAUEN and THE MULDE - these names will be written in bold letters on the pages of history for all posterity to see.

2. I pass the commendations of these two outstanding leaders to you with soldierly pride and pleasure.

FRANK L. CULIN, JR.
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

ROSTER OF 607th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

OFFICERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>City and State</i>
SUNDT, HARALD S. (Lt. Col.), S*, B, PH, LH, CG	Long Beach, California
NELSON, GRANT F. (Maj.), B	Salt Lake City, Utah
SOLOMON, JOHN W. (Maj.), B	Laguna Beach, California
BINDER, ISADORE (Capt.), B	New Rochelle, New York
BODELL, WILLIAM J. (Capt.), PH, B	Lima, Ohio
BOHRER, NED (Capt.)	Boonville, Indiana
HABERKORN, HAROLD R. (Capt.), B	Los Angeles, California
JOY, RICHARD D. (Capt.), B	Omaha, Nebraska
LANSER, ROLAND L. (Capt.), B	Kansas City, Missouri
LONG, ERNEST W. (Capt.), B	San Bernardino, California
MITTLEDORF, MORTON W. (Capt.)	New York, New York
NICKLAS, J. LAVERNE (Capt.), S, B	Deming, New Mexico
WALKER, SAMUEL C. (Capt.)	Teaneck, New Jersey
WEIBLE, RALPH D. (Capt.)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
ARRISON, ROBERT L. (1st Lt.), S, PH*	Sheriden, Wyoming
AUVIL, DANIEL M. (1st Lt.), S, B**	Mineral, Washington
BAKER, LEROY C. (1st Lt.), PH	Seattle, Washington
CASSIDY, THOMAS J. (1st Lt.), PH, B	Washington, D.C.
EBY, HAROLD H. (1st Lt.)	Longmont, Colorado
EDENS, ROBERT B. (1st Lt.)	Copper Hill, Virginia
HANDLER, CHESTER J. (1st Lt.), S, PH	Washington, D.C.
HARRISON, EDMUND P. (1st Lt.)	Los Olivos, California
JOHNSON, GUNNAR E. (1st Lt.)	New York, New York
KILLEEN, JAMES R. (1st Lt.), PH	Bronx, New York
KING, JR. GEORGE W. (1st Lt.), S, B	New Bedford, Massachusetts

KNAPP, ALBERT C. (1st Lt.), S	Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
LYNCH, ARTHUR E. (1st Lt.)	Venice, California
MIRAGEAS, GEORGE J. (1st Lt.)	Boston, Massachusetts
MOLNAR, SIMON P. (1st Lt.), S	Owosso, Michigan
MORETSKY, ABE (1st Lt.), PH	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
NASH, RAYMOND P. (1st Lt.), PH*	Adrian, Michigan
NEWELL, RUSSELL D. (1st Lt.)	Memphis, Tennessee
O'CONNEL, DANIEL J. (1st Lt.)	Burlington, Vermont
PENDERGAST, WILLIAM (1st Lt.), PH*, B*	Oakland, California
REYNOLDS, RICHARD A. (1st Lt.), DSC, S*, PH, CG	Memphis, Tennessee
SCHECHTER, ELLIOTT (1st Lt.)	Newark, New Jersey
SEIDEL, RICHARD H. (1st Lt.), B	Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
SMELTZER, RUSSELL J. (1st Lt.), PH	Kokomo, Indiana
STONE, CALVIN R. (1st Lt.), S*, PH	Peoria, Illinois
TERRY, WILLIAM O. (1st Lt.), PH, B	Cookeville, Tennessee
TWOMBLY, JOSEPH G. (1st Lt.)	Franklin, Tennessee
WOITTE, KEITH V. (1st Lt.)	Gettysburg, South Dakota
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MERLO, JR. CEASER (2nd Lt.)	Stockton, California
WEISSER, SEYMOUR T. (2nd Lt.)	New York, New York
PIERSON, STANLEY D. (CWO)	Pacific Grove, California
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