



703rd Road Block



Vol. V #1 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter 3/1994

THIS ONE TIME, SHOW UP--PLEASE !!

Our battalion reunion is set for May 17-19, 1994, Tuesday-Thursday, in Springfield, Missouri at the RADISSON. Your costs at the Radisson are \$54/day/room, Send \$25 to Fred Hunt \$15 of which will be for the banquet.

Included in this Road Block are the forms for registering at the Radisson, and with the Reunion Committee.

Let's get with it!

WARNING ADVISORY!

Immediately as motorists get off I-44 at Exit 80, please do not be misled by the Sheraton Hotel sign on your right! Go another six miles south to the RADISSON HOTEL on your right. For registration, use the Sheraton Inn form as is. Name change, same address.

REUNION ROSTER

Bresnick, Frank (C) Langbeckers (A)
Cerrito, Joe, Kathy (B) Michalowskis (A)
Czajkowski, J., J. (B) Owen, L., R. (B)
Collins, Tom, Dot Perry, S., P. (Hq.)
Crochetière, W., H. (B) Santino, James (A)
Downey, Bob, Ruth (C) Schutt, Bob, Lora (A)
Erwin, John, Laura (Hq) Showalter, Lt. Col.
Goldberg, N., F. (A) Sinn, Leo (Hq)
Goodrich, M., D. Major Stoll, Arthur (B)
Green, Bob (Hq) Straub, Leonard (A)
Hanneman, L., J. (3A.D.) Wagonsellers, (B, C)
Hunt, Fred, Georgia (Hq) Walker, L., S. (A)
Hoy, Ed, Maja (R, Hq) Williamson, J.W., C. (A)
Langerveld, R., R. (B)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5-17-94 Tuesday Continental Breakfast, 8-10 AM
(Dutch Treat) Greetings to all and pick up your packet at Atrium, poolside.

5-18-94 Wednesday 9:30 A.M.-Noon General Business Meeting. Lunch.
1:00PM Board Bus to Andy William Show at 3:00 PM.

5-19-94 Thursday AM Free time.

7:00 P.M. Banquet

Reunion Coordinating Wives: Inez Wagonseller and Georgia Hunt.

Banquet Host and M.C. Merle Goodrich
Hospitality Room Managers: Len Straub, Bob Schutt, Jim Santino.

OUR C.O. WILL BE THERE!

"I'll fly to Springfield May 19 for the 703rd dinner, fly home on the 20th, and leave the 21st for West Point for my 55th class reunion, May 23-24. Lucille and I will stay over the 25th in case any 703rd'ers in the area wish to join us in a "dutch treat" dinner at the Holidome, Suffern, N.Y."

W.E. Showalter

703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion Association
Annual Membership for 1994

Please send \$10 for membership and volunteer \$10 for the quarterly Road Block to
I.B. Wagonseller, Treasurer, 320 W. Walnut
Bowie, TX 76230

When you include a note with your check with news, suggestions and questions, it enhances friendships and strengthens our association.

Tell us about what remained with you from your army experiences. Sure, there were occurrences you do not want to remember! There were some you are glad to recall. Get the "yarn" to us so we can put it all together, recreating as closely as possible the life of the 703rd.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH!

Bill Wagoner (A) telephoned with sorrow in his voice. Charlie Markeveys (Hq) lost Martha (85) to cancer, 1-2-94, and Bill visits him quite often. [See Road Block, IV, 4, 12/93, 12]. Bill found him taking it very well, and asks that the men of the battalion let Charlie, who is hardly able to move, know how we feel about his losing his loved one,---that we wish we had his "guts"!

With Bill's help, Charlie is responding to the earlier messages we have sent. He sure appreciates notes from you. How about visits from the men and women close by?

Nursing Care Center, Room 206
Belvue Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010

William and Kathleen Wagoner
139 Stonecrest Drive
Bristol, CT 06010
203 582 6544

IT'S AN ORDER! TELL HIM YOU KNOW HE'S HURT'N

Oscar Carlson (B), RR#6 Box 1058, Astoria, OR 97103. He needs your sympathy and prayers! "Della got lost 12/11 or early morning, 12/12, and with no word or clues. We had hundreds of searchers, helicopters, coast guard, and dogs but no word yet. [It was] on T.V., radio and newspapers, but we keep hoping something will turn up!"

As of 2-24-94 Della has not been found!

PLEASE ?

BARTENDER, POUR A COUPLE FOR JOHN STRAHOSKY (C) AND LOU GUERRA (R,HQ)

John and Lou deserve an award and be entitled, "The Monongahela Tank Destroyers"! For all of us they have been combing the river valleys around Pittsburgh and promise they'll find even more of our comrades. Here's their score up till now:

L.Dale, LaVerne Hamilton Lou, Frances Guerra
(R,H) 508 Lynn St.Box 407 (R,H)1003 ShadyAve.
Roscoe, PA 15477 Charleroi,PA 15419
412 938 2829 412 483 7314

Joseph,Gladys Sholtis Lou, Julia Buvit(R)
103 Zen St. 513 Wood St.
Monongahela, PA 15063 California, PA 15419
412 258 8004 412 938 7020

Wilber E. Frye (H) Lou gave us:
153 Garden Ave. Harold Ziedman,
Clearview Terrace Miami, FL
Monongahela, PA 15063 Pete Noga
412 258 4889 Reading, PA
Anyone have addresses for Ziedman or Noga?
Lou sent photos for identification and use in
the Road Block.

T A P S

"I am very sorry to report the death of my wife, Lois, who contracted pneumonia on 12/21 and passed away, 12/27/93."
Marlow C. Dearden (Hq) R.R. #2 Box 403
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Mike Gacy,(R) Bentleyville, PA 1-6-84
John Labick,(R) Monongahela, PA 12-9-89
Leonard Brand,(R) Charleroi, PA
Stanley Gillen,(R) Roscoe, PA
Charles Feuster,(R) Charleroi, PA
Carmen Greco, (HQ) Donora, PA
Frank Hummer (C) Elrama, PA 1978
Dan Molitoris (C) Clarksville, PA 1991
Rita Molitoris (P.O. The Road Block to her
was returned and stamped, "Deceased".
Wayne Murphy (H) Monongahela, PA 1992

FRED FOUND A FELLOW TRUCKER!

They began a friendship on The Mohave and now they'll keep it going.
Ernest Vetrone (Hq.)
1008 Market Street
Mount Ephraim, NJ 08059

FRED HUNT HAD THE HELP OF A CD ROM
NATIONWIDE DATA BASE

He wants to know if anyone can get that
computer system to work for us. It found
Vetrone and could turn up more comrades:

Eugene V. Brown (Hq) Mrs. Jesse Kittrell (Hq. A)
315 Rosewood Avenue 312 Leola Drive
Eugene, OR 97404-2363 Griffin, GA 30223

Jesse checked out in 1991. John Erwin
(Hq) and LeRoy Walker (A) are in touch with
Jesse's wife.

From the desk of

S. STROTHER SMITH, Jr.

Feb. 11, 1994

Dear Goldberg,

I AM SORRY THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
ATTEND THE REUNION THIS SPRING. GIVE THE GUYS
MY REGARDS.

NOT LONG AGO I CAME ACROSS THESE PIC-
TURES OF THE 703RD COLORS AND OTHERS TAKEN
ALONG THE RHINE IN THE SPRING OF '45. I AM
ENCLOSING THEM ALONG WITH THE "A" CO. PENNANT
WHICH MRS. SMITH MADE, AND WHICH I PROUDLY
FLEW FROM MY HALF TRACK (NOT THE ONE WITH THE
.75 STICKING OUT THE REAR). SHE ALSO MADE THE
GREEN FELT ARM BANDS FOR OUR ENLISTED PLATOON
LEADERS. BOY, DID I CATCH HELL FOR THAT, AND
FOR TAKING THEM TO OFFICERS CALL. LTS. PAUL-
SON AND WISSING JOINED US SOON AFTER THAT.
MOST OF OUR PLATOON LEADERS WENT ON TO FORT
KNOX R.O.T.C. SCHOOL, AND CAME OUT WITH
HONORS.

THE WEATHER HERE TODAY REMINDS ME OF THE
WEEKEND AT PICKETT '42 AND OF THE WINTER OF
'44-'45.

WITH BEST REGARDS

Capt. Smith

The men in the small photos he sent need
identification. We'll bring the photos and
the pennant to the reunion. Let's hope we can
share their company at future reunions.

EXCERPTS FROM YOUR LETTERS

"After I got out of the hospital around
1950, we went to Windsor Locks, and had a
nice visit with "Cliff" and Dottie.
C.B. O'Connor (B) was the nicest fellow I
ever knew.. He sure had a sad ending. -----
In Fleron, Belgium two of "B" Co. T.D.'s were
on road block. Ours was called "Buddies", the
other one may have been "Bob's Boys" with Bob
Goren in charge.-----The platoon sergeant,
Pat Petrokovich,-----was A-1, a real role
model.-----

Two buddies in my destroyer from around
Providence, R.I. earlier in the war were
Campbell (Scotty) Ewart who was hit in the
face by the recoil of the M-10, 3" gun.
The other one was Joe Castoldi. [Do you know
how I can get in touch with them?]------We
hope to make the battalion reunion in May."
Richard and Ruth Langerveld (B) 9856 W. Gull
Lake Rd. Richland, MI 49083 616 629 9863

"--thought you'd like a copy of the signa-
tures and addresses of the guys in the 703rd
when it was deactivated.----It might refresh
your mind on some of the men you had forgot-
ten.-- Not only has Don McKiernan written,
[Don does volunteer teaching and Yolana was
reelected as President at their senior
citizen center], but Marge and Frank Miller's
visit led to lots of good talk on the guys of
Co. "A".--Vern Olson's widow was born a Moen,
but of a different breed of 'cats'! Got a
nice card from her --and she expressed her
thanks for the many letters and cards she got
from "A" Co. families after Vern checked out.
---I talked with Al Miller (A), 203 W. 14th
St., Lamar, MO 64759. Imogene's arthritis
that is very crippling along with Parkinson's
disease, does not allow them to stray far
from home.---We are great grandparents!!
Joseph and Imogene Moen (A), 5239 4th St.
N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55421

612 572 8765

*LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING US
IN SPRINGFIELD*

Al and Imogene Miller (A); Matt and Genevieve Luczynski (A); "--the 703rd--was highly mobile and in great demand in lots of battle sectors." Ed and Maja Hoy (Rcn,Hq); "I'm busy! It's February and I must spray my peach trees with dormant oil, give a presentation to our county genealogical association on the *Peters Colony Of Texas---*, meet with our county historical association to decide on historical markers, and entertain Inez!" I.B. and Inez Wagonseller (B,C). The treat would be a visit to their home, with its exhibit of Texan crafts and history.

CAN'T GET THERE BUT WISH YOU WILL!

Clair and Glenna Murray (A); " '93, and the start of '94 find us not too well." "Tippie" and Anne Giovino (C); "I'm as fit as possible, but with a bit of arthritis." John and Jennie Misiaszek (B); "--fine and locked in with the snow and cold." George and Anna Toma (A); "I especially enjoy Hap Paulson's regular literary contributions." Bill Lynch (Hq).

A Kind Word For Sybil Dupree

" Just two years ago I learned from Lorenzo Sanford (1C) the address of Eric Dupree (1C) whom I had not seen since Darmstadt. I sent him a letter and photo of six of us as we prepared to march in an English parade in Mere. Eric replied. I sent him a card and note last Christmas, but Lorenzo told me that Eric left us last October. Sybil, his wife, confirmed the sad news with a note. She would like a word from his comrades."

Mrs. Eric Dupree,
425 Drucilla,
Vidor, Texas 77662

Jack Biddulph (C)

TANK DESTROYER "BOLO TIES"
LAPEL PINS, "HAT TACS"

A V A I L A B L E

The "bolo ties" have the T.D. emblem with all the colors of the unit patch, as do the "hat tacs" or lapel pins. Both are 1" in diameter. The bolo ties sell for \$6.00 plus \$.50 for shipping and handling. The hat tac costs \$4.00 plus the same S.& H.

Send your order and check to:

Leonard Straub (A)

207 North Maple Street

Mount Prospect, IL 60056

TELL US MORE, PLEASE?

From Battle Experiences, 7/44 - 4/45, HQ ETO USA, extracts from issues published in the European Theater.

Tank Destroyer Notes Chapter 11, p. 50

II Occupation of Positions, 255

Slow Movement "Move into position slowly. The vehicle can be better controlled and better prepared to fire. Fast movement attracts attention and causes considerable noise." -- 703rd TD Bn.

III Engaging Targets, 260

Range Cards Help "Range cards are still necessary. Get exact ranges from the map in daylight, and if possible, zero in on critical points and record the data."--703rd TD Bn.

S'long, Mom, Sis.

Mother cried and petted, mama's boy to the last minute. They stood on the porch that early morning, 2/12/42. Lincoln died again that day. That was the way I felt with my womanfolk's tears behind me in the dawn. It was warm snow that was melting and fog seemed to glisten with whatever light there was. Fifty yards from the house I could not see. I shook the sentimental salt from my eyes. They filled again, but I was around the bend,--a last glance over my shoulder, and the suitcase felt heavy. It was but a mile to the draft board office.

Editor

Thoughts 2-17 Aug., 1944
Written in Breinig
Excerpts of Biographies

Big Wray of Big Spring is dead.
His large Western heart no more.
To thrill to a coyote's wail,
Or the hum of a cowboy song.

Old ladies in black of Le Mesnil Tove,
Walk among the tall birches,
Wreath American graves with roses,
Then hurry home to cider
And tales of a battle that's over,

Big Wray of Big Spring is dead.
The man with the big heart,
The best soldier in the TD's, dead by the
roadside.

Death came to Sgt. Burgess,
Burgess of Marshall, Texas,
Well-liked, curly headed, handsome
Enemy tank fire, small arms,
Barrages of artillery
Chaos-with a reply.

While other men lay deep in foxholes
Big Wray of Big Spring And Cpl. Bush of
Corsicana
Manned their gun
Destroyed three Panther tanks
Kept firing after their own destroyer
Had been hit three times when death came.

*Oh! For the Life of a "Recon" Sergeant
in Company "C"!*
10-17-44

We reconnoitered Breinig for quarters,
finding two large homes, nicely decorated.
Major Goodrich appreciated what we selected.
My room is in the N.E. corner, small,
with religious pictures, "Gegrüsst seist du
Maria", and with the figure of Jesus on a
cross! Within the room is a chinese case
filled with fancy dishes, wine glasses. The
one medium sized oaken bed has three mat-

tresses. The one on top is of feathers that's
so soft, that I did not sleep well,-- not
being used to it. I shared it with Kosylo.
10-20-44

I made another trip into Aachen with
supplies for 1C. Aachen lay pretty there in
the valley. There was the continuous booming
of guns, smoke rising from burning buildings
in the center of the city, our P-37's bombing
and strafing.

Before returning to Breinig we stopped
for lumber beside three abandoned barracks
that had been quarters for soldiers and
wives. We obtained large yellow, red and blue
comforters from the beds. We sought candles
and heavy socks, but had no luck. We picked
up as a souvenir a small folder of pictures.

I.B. Wagon seller

GRIST FOR THE HISTORIAN

It is becoming more clear why it is so
hard to recreate what happened when our line
companies went into action with the 82nd Air-
borne Div. and the 1st Infantry Div. in the
Bulge. [12/18-24/44]. The Germans knew where
they were going, smashing west. Our infantry
commanders needed our armor to help form bar-
riers "Jerry" could not breach.

Our T.D. platoons expected to be broken
into two T.D. sections. Occasionally a T.D.
had to fight alone. That one T.D. crew might
have to dismount some of its crew to provide
security. Did the fight that crew experienced
get told to a platoon sergeant or officer
after it was over? By the time our platoon
leaders had a chance to learn what happened
to their T.D.'s, little but immediate atten-
tion to licking wounds was done. Battalion
After Action Reports (AAR) tell us very
little of what occurred. The T.D. crews may
have gotten together when they pulled out of
the action around Christmas time, but little
is left of what they talked about. Forty nine
years later have left even fewer details.

Can you help the historian come closer
to the truth?



Captain John W. Cole (A)



James Wray and Wife (C) Texan
K.I.A. Juvigny le Têtre 8-11-44



"A" Co. A Way To End a Training
Day at Camp Hood, Texas.



Garcia, Marciszanek, Misiaszek
Wilson, Newberg (B)
Belgium, 1/1945



Shedrick P. Rutledge (2A)
Texan at Indiantown Gap
1/25/1943



Larry Gatti, Del Legrant
Bill Wagoner (A) at Camp Polk.



Ray Descoteaux (A) Short in height,
long on smiles, and fast on hikes.



Joe Scanlon, Dick Moore, Wayne Newton
Ralph Barile
Joe Haselrick (A)

It is with Hap Paulson's (C) determination to help me "get it straight", with I.B. Wagonseller's notes and poems, with Capt. Charles B. MacDonald, historian, in that fight with the 2nd Inf. Div., the battalion records, and a visit to the Library of Congress that we get down to cases.

According to the 703rd AAR Journal, Col. Showalter instructed Capt. Gosch (C) at 1320 of 12/19 to take "C" Co. to the 26th Inf. 1st Inf. Div. position. By 1855 "C" Co. was near Bütgenbach, and at 0655 of 12/20 the Bn.CP learned that there the enemy was a close threat from the South.

Col. Daniels, 2nd Bn., 26th Inf. of the "Big Red One", to which Paulson's platoon (2C) was attached, did not like his position and moved forward to better dig in to protect Bütgenbach and Dom Bütgenbach from attack.

Below is Paulson's narration of his meeting Daniels. It is remarkably similar to Macdonald's narration, yet the actors and the date are different.

"When I reported to Col. Daniels in Bütgenbach, he spoke to a tank platoon leader, myself, and if memory serves me right, Gosch, CO of "C" Co. Declaring that our position was undefendable where his depleted forces were located. He proposed that we attack and secure positions further south. The terrain there was lined with marshes, that would force the Germans to come through narrow channels. He wanted one gun at each of the channels. I told him that was tactically incorrect, that I could only split the platoon into sections so that each of my guns would have another as cover. He empathized with me, but insisted that the situation called for a big gun at each channel. However, he would situate the tank platoon to give covering fire to three of our guns. The fourth gun would have to go it alone. Its position would be the furthest out, on the main road into the town. If it was overrun, the Germans would be driving up into the area where the other TD's and tanks were in position. I chose Price's TD. He was always the one looking for the action, and we were

lonely sentinels on the road S.E. of Dom Bütgenbach. Col. Daniels let me have a heavy mortar section as my fire support. I had no contact with Daniels (different radio frequencies). I knew nothing about the action until we were called back to rejoin the division many days later."

Hap wrote the following, 6-12-93, "--- I had no contact with anyone from the 1st Infantry. Even the unit that was to outpost us dug in on the hill behind us. --Col. Daniels came down to Schaefer's position following the action. Reid and Glod were in his crew. His infantrymen had told him that when the fighting started, the men in the tanks deserted them. He was about to scream at the TD's because his tankers would not have left. However, when he saw the empty casings, and the havoc that had been reeked upon the Germans in front of our gun's position, he went back to his HQ and sent Gosch a letter of commendation." Where is that letter? Gosch never showed it to Hap!

"Reid was non-committal. He said that he had knocked out a couple of tanks, maybe four or five, and when he couldn't see any more tanks, he told Glod to load HE shells to fire at troop carriers. That was when Glod fractured his hip. Reid continued to fire, move his vehicle, loaded, all on his own.

My only regret is that Gosch, who came down to the site after the action, didn't see fit to put it in the morning report."

On 12-22-44 I.B. wrote in his diary, "Enemy attacked Bütgenbach at dawn, -snow falling- 2C on road block 400 yards from C.P. when enemy column of tanks approached. At a range of 40 feet Cpl. Reid, gunner from Oklahoma, knocked out the first tank, a Mk. V, also destroying a halftrack. Enemy withdrew; left a many of their own dead behind.

Yesterday enemy attacked 1 and 2C positions. Martinez, Taberski were hit, evacuated. My peep was at Regt. Hq. A mortar barrage fell, wrecked it, wounded Ferris' leg and arm. He was evacuated. We moved our CP back to Nidrun."-----

In that salient defended by the 2nd Bn. of the 26th Infantry, the three days of hard fighting left the Germans with 782 dead, a loss of 47 tanks and T.D.'s. The defenders lost close to 250 men, 5 .57's(A.T. guns), 3 Shermans, and 1 T.D. Clinton Reid's (2C) fighting success is not specifically credited in the histories. 3C was in reserve in Bütgenbach and got in on some action. See T.D. Operations Report next issue.

OUR LEADERSHIP

John Tolland, an historian of W.W. II, left his papers in the Library of Congress. Narrating what happened at Bütgenbach during "The Bulge". He left there manuscripts by a Bn.C.O. of the 26th Inf. Regt.(1st Inf. Div.), Lt. Col. D.M. Daniel, under whom our 2C took orders in that fight, and a report from our battalion C.O. The former document was written many years after the fight, and makes no mention of the 703rd T.D. Bn. Lt. Col. Showalter's T.D. report below, was written before a month had passed.

Hq. 703rd T.D, Bn.

January 18, 1945

TANK DESTROYER OPERATIONS I

Shortly after the German breakthrough into Belgium on Dec. 16,1944, this TD Bn. (90mm SP) found itself involved in movement and attachment from its normal Corps and Division to two others and back to its normal status again. The cavalcade of events, actions and method of employment are told in the following narrative. Emphasis is placed on the type of employment for it is customary in infantry divisions to attach TD Companies and Platoons to infantry regiments and battalions respectively. However, as this operations summary will demonstrate, the field manual method did bring out several fundamental principles of TD doctrine.

The Germans had finally committed their Sixth Panzer Army, not to keep us from crossing the Roer River, which many believed would

be their primary probability of commitment, but make a major effort through the Schnee Eifel Forest into the Ardennes with the Meuse River their first major objective.

The 1st SS and 12th SS Panzer Divisions spearheaded the attack, the 1st SS on the left, the 12th SS on the right. Both divisions were initially successful, but the 12th SS was slowed down considerably, shortly after their initial penetration, and was stopped long enough for the Vth Corps to set up hasty defenses along a general line, Monschau, Hofen, Wirtzfeld, Bütgenbach, with the 26th Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division occupying the high ground about 1000 meters northwest of Büllingen.

The 1st SS Panzer Division, being more successful, had penetrated further to the west in the direction of Malmedy, Stavelot, Stoumont, thus putting Vth Corps in the position of an anchor for any attempts on the part of the Allies to contain the penetration on its north flank. Its position was doubly important because it was directly astride the main routes of the 12th SS Division into Malmedy, Eupen, Verviers and points N. and W. It was further known that each of the two leading divisions had another panzer division backing them up - the 2nd SS behind the 1st, and the 9th SS behind the 12th - thus making it imperative that the sector be strongly fortified by all available AT defenses.

Consequently the 1st Infantry Division, attached to Vth Corps had at its disposal not only its organic AT guns,(57mm), and its normal attachment of one TD Battalion,(634th, M-10's), but also the 134th AA Bn.,(11 90mm), and the 703rd TD Bn. They had the necessary AT defenses in depth to insure as far as possible an adequate defense of its sector against probable strong armored pressure.

Upon the arrival of this battalion at 0730 hours, 18 Dec 44, the companies assembled in the vicinity of Sourbrodt. The Battalion C.O. having reported to 1st Inf.Div.Hq., returned to inform staff, and Co. C.O.'s of the first mission of the battalion.

The 26th Inf. Regt. was already on line. The 16th had just arrived, and assembled in the vicinity of Robertsville, Outremarch, Bruckberg, while the 18th assembled a few miles to the N.W. On our left, the 2nd Inf. Div. was consolidating defensive positions.

The 26th Inf. Regt. held the high ground between Bütgenbach and Büllingen. From Bütgenbach to Weismes and Malmedy the situation was extremely fluid, and neither side held any ground along that line.

The 16th Inf. Regt. was setting up hasty defensive positions in their present assembly area, and was making plans to move up abreast of the 26th Inf. Regt. to resecure the main highway between Bütgenbach and Weismes, a most important route needed for the proposed advance of the 12th SS Panzer Div.

Lt. Col W.E. Showalter, C.O., Capt. Swett,
S-2, Capt. Siebert, S-3.

[To be continued]

The 703rd TD Bn. Journal, has for the record the following:

12-20-44 0745 Rcd msg C Co. "alerted 0655, enemy attacked at AM from south."

0825 Bn CO rcd word C moving to meet attack
1130 Bn CO called C Co. 2 Plats. C Co. in firing position.

12-21-44 1020 Liaison Officer report. Enemy penetration w/tks, inf, and arty prep. in vicinity of C Co.

1110 Bn Exec O report 14 enemy tanks vic C Co. small arms, mortar fire.

1630 From C Co. 2 EM and 2 veh. casualties by shell fire. Ferris, Taberski evac'd. 3C, 1 sect. to Dom Bütgenbach, 2nd sect. moved from CP Bütgenbach.

1800 Bn CO to CP from 1st Inf Div CP, plans for C Co for night: 1 plat C Co. to be moved from the line to the position enabling them to move to S or W to repel an enemy armored threat.

1805 Bn CO confirmed report of sect. C Co destroying Mk V (?)

(?) see 1150 12-24-44 3C claims KO of Mk IV Gunner White.

Rcn peep hit by en. inf. recovered 1600. Martinez LWA by enemy artillery.

12-22-44 0830 Ln O reports 1 tank, 1 TD in 26th Inf. sector KO'd. CO to C CP to see if they were ours.

0915 Ln O 1 report 26th Inf hit. St. With lost.

1000 C Co. report 1 M-20 KO'd by arty.

1030 Liaison Officer 2, info on enemy penetration 'tween A and K Co.s 26th Inf C Co. area.

1040 3A alerted to move to help C Co. if necessary.

1100 CO rtd fr C Co. w/info 2C KO'd 1 en tk, 1 M36 KO'd, both reports unconfirmed.

3C and 2C sections moved.

1620 Bn CO back. 2 M36's need repair. CO confirmed kill Mk V and 1 H/T. Mk V KO'd at 60 yds. burned. *[Was this 2C's Reid as I.B. had in his diary?]*

1828 C Co. reported 1620 above. Asked for parts for damaged M 36.

1900 C Co. msg. expended 11 AP 1 HE
1 APCBDF

2200 2C destroyed en. strongpoint.

12-23-44 1200 Rcd S3 rpt fr C Co. for 12-22-44. 3C KO'd Mk V and 1 H/T. 1 EM Pvt Johnson injured by gun recoil.

1940 Rad msg fr C Co. 1 EM LWA.

2000 Rad msgs fr C Co. 3C position. 2C on 12-22-44 used 21 HE, 6 APCBDF, 605 .50 cal.

12-24-44 1300 Gosch came to Bn CO confirms report of Mk IV KO'd by 3C plus Mk V KO'd by Cpl. White.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN, III

There was a war to be fought, and so on the Christmas days, 1943, there they were, firing at Minehead along the Bristol Channel. Christmas day found Len Straub, Larry Gatti and Nate Goldberg of "A" Co. among others, on duty, as most of the men had the day to themselves or to enjoy the hospitality of local residents. To their surprise a few days

later, those who did not have Christmas off, were given a free day. The three were invited to dinner by Mrs. Marsh of Porluck, Doverhay Down. There were three children, a lad in his late teens, a daughter in her early teens and a boy of six or so. Here was the traditional English middle class, formal table setting, simple, silver elegance, the crisp, flavorful crust of the unjacketed potatoes, a small roast duck: waiting for another occasion one remained in the tiny garden pool. It was a fine dinner enjoyed in reserved yet pleasant conversation.

In 1937 Mrs. Marsh had been with her husband at the port of Aden, key in the British Middle East. Being pregnant she returned to England to be with her children. Her husband's tour with a shipping concern would be completed in 1939, but with war his duty was to remain at his post. It had meant over six years of separation.

The next spring the world knew of the victory at El Alamein, and Nate Goldberg went on short leave to London. Here was the evidence of the bombings of the city, the blackouts, the defense wardens in the dark streets as he anticipated the sirens' warnings of a coming raid that did not happen. There was that pretty girl at the Service Club who was company at table tennis, and surprised him by agreeing to date him. The adventure of finding her at her address the next evening, and looking at a hole in the ground told him he had been "stood up"! It was the searchlights reaching in the heavens, the Spring crisp evening, confidence to look forward to the run out to Eton that led him to forget to censure the pretty girl.

Young Marsh had invited him to lunch at Eton. The famous boy's school is part of the English scene for which the homes and gardens of Mere had prepared him. As he walked past small bungalows, he wondered that they might be the quarters of the students. The piano music of Beethoven he heard from one of them was as beautiful as what he was expecting from the visit. He was the honored guest to the right of the proctor. There was a thin

slice of meat, the few leaves of lettuce, the boys in formal morning coats. While at the table, it was not the son but the pale, lined face of Mrs. Marsh that came to the soldier's mind. To him it was her burden, her bearing which showed him what our loved ones also might be suffering in that time of war.

On that leave he stopped off at Richmond to attend Easter services. Officers had returned very recently from the victory against Rommel in Africa. The numerals in their blouses had traces of desert sand, and mixed with the tan was the sunburn of fair English complexions. Amidst all those uniforms of commissioned officers, Goldberg's embarrassment was not in order, but it was there. At a convenient time before the end of the service, he slipped away. To Be Continued

DANGEROUS !

"In the army some jobs were more dangerous than others. To me the job given me when I was in the C.C.C. camp in Moab, Utah, 1940 was the most dangerous! There in the Great Salt Lake Desert we were to kill prairie dogs and build a check dam. The dogs were digging holes causing sheep to break their legs.-- We were short on toilet tissue, and my straw boss gave me the assignment of handing it out, *NO MORE THAN TWO SHEETS AT A TIME!*

My life was in danger. I was threatened many times. Previously I had made enemies in order to prove I couldn't be picked upon. It helped when I decided to hand out the paper to each man as he came into the latrine. Even in combat I was not that scared!"

Charles Bornstein (C)

A MESS OF A MESS

I must truly confess, that when it came to a mess, ours was the messiest of all.

A baker we had, but looking for

steak, we never saw any at all. The mess sergeant we trusted, had to be busted, nothing else we could do.

We thought a new guy would have a
 steak fry. We wound up with
 "Arquilla's Stew!"
 The Colonel one night, exercising his right,
 checked our kitchen and
 almost did vomit!
 For the first time in years, we had
 fresh eggs my dears, the Mess
 Sgt. was making them omelets.
 The Colonel roared, "You are busted,
 you can't cut the mustard",
 so Arquilla became our new chef.
 We wanted steaks and not stew, but he
 fed us ragout. There really
 was no relief.
 Kotarski's cakes, once so grand, now
 tasted quite bland. He blamed
 it on Arquilla.
 "I can't make tasty pudding, cakes,
 custard or nothing, cause
 Matt drank up all the vanilla!"
 "Hap" Paulson (A,C)

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