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 By I.H. 11/01/01, Date 3/1/02

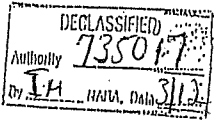
It began Dec. 20th at Buschdorf
 Germany.

It began on Dec. 20th at Buschdorf Germany
 we the first platoon of Co. C. 614th T.D. Bn.
 entered Comhatt. Early in the after
 noon of Dec. 20th we received a mission
 from our Battalion Commander which
 come down from 3rd Army Head Q.
 To enter Buschdorf a little Germany
 village. We were to work in conjunction
 with the 90th Div. of the 45th Cal. So
 from Buschdorf down the road to
 seek positions we went. So it began
 as we were traveling this road we
 come to a road block there it began
 we received almost every kind of
 fire possible. Our ~~Company~~ ^{Platoon Leader} ~~Commander~~
 at that time 1st Lt. Walter S. Smith
 moved forward on a 1/4 ton to locate
 our positions. While he was gone
 we waited on this road receiving
 fire from 88 & mortars. Well these
 was our first experience of being

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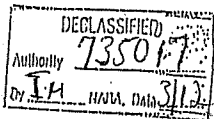
fired at. So we all remained on our vehicles, under fire until our platoon leader returned. At that time we had traveled so fast we had only three of our halftracks in the column. So the platoon leader with those three trackers heads down for our positions. Leaving the Sec. Sgt and his $\frac{1}{4}$ ton to wait there at that road block for the other vehicles. So as we moved along this narrow wooded trail, the Tank destroyer platoon that we were relieving started moving out. The Germans must have seen them. Because at that time they fired at us and the other Tank destroyer unit with "every thing they had. So that last for about 45 min. But in the mean time we tried to make it to the positions. We received so much fire until we had to dismount from our half tracks. So we did.



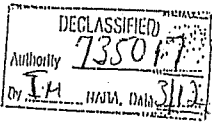
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and every body tried to get some
 place where they could be protected
 from the fire. So the firing went
 on, and we lay on the ground afraid.
 But after all there came a time
 in every mans life that he may
 come in contact with fear. And
 so there it was for us. We had
 one man killed. A mortar got
 him. And several more were wounded
 and two of our Sgts. were shell
~~shock~~ shocked. So all of these
 men had to be taken to an aid
 station or hospital. We had no
 means of taking them except ~~to~~
 by jeep. So we used the platoon
 leaders jeep to carry them to the
 aid stations. And from the aid
 stations they were transferred to
 hospitals. This means that our
 platoon is short of men now. So
 what do we do. So now at this
 time the firing has ceased, Every

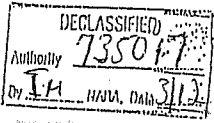
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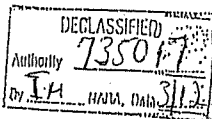
is silent. At this time ⁴dark is coming fast. So we the few that was left remained there with the plat. leader and plat Sgt. 3/sgt. Sturkey so as night falls we remain there on this little wooded trail. Well it happened at this time 1st Lt. Charles G. Thomas gets the news who had happened. He come down to fire out if every was ~~at night~~ night. Lt. Thomas was our Company Commander at that time a swell man too. So after a while our platoon leader had a talk he went back to Buckdorf where our Company C.P. was being set up. In the mean time we the rest of the plat. don't know what the score is. So that night he sent some members of the 3rd plat up to help us on our guard duty & security for that night. So now it is night the plat leader



tell us to ~~not~~⁵ scruple our Guss
 and put them in possession on the
 trail, and so we did. we had
 machine guns 50 Cal + 30 Cal. plus our
 3 in for security and every man
 had his own weapon. So here
 is where it is hard on us. we
 had never been use to this kind
 of stuff. We didn't sleep at all that
 night. The next morning we were
 sent ~~of~~ some food. Well I should
 say 10 in one rations. Now we realize
 this war. We weren't hungry at all
 that morning. And every body was
 muddy & ~~dirty~~ dirty it was a sight.
 So our company commander comes back
 that morning and tell us we would
 move in our possession that morning.
 Now we weren't so afraid this
 time as before. So we move in
 our possession with the help of the
 fog with in 500 yds. of the Dragon
 teeth. So we get our fox holds



duge. And get^b set for a big day. So about noon time it began again. The germans shell us with those 88 & mortars for at least three hours. And the hard part about it was that we couldn't see where it come from. They even fired Burp' guns and machine guns of all types. So all we could do was lay there in our holds and take it. We couldn't fire back at them because we couldn't see them. They were well dug in. So after a while the 95th Div laid down a heavy Barrage so when that was over it become ~~to~~ silent again. So we remain there that after noon very quite. So at six o'clock we received hot food so we come back to eat two or three at a time until we all had ate. So right after we had ate they began shelling again.



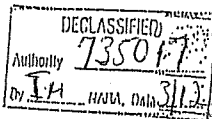
We taken it all without fighting back.
 And then night came again. There
 it was hard again we had to
 be very watchful at night for German
 patrol. And to it was only a
 few of us. We really didn't know
 where the Germans were or how
 many it was. So after that night
 it came day again and we felt
 much better. This is the 3rd
 day of combat for us now. So
 early that morning we received a
 lot of machine gun fire. Out to
 the left of Sgt. Chesterfield Jones' gun
 we had security out there with a
 30 cal. machine gun. With two men
 on it. Pvt. David Campbell and P.F.C.
 H.B. Griffin were the men on it. The
 Germans fired so close to them until
 they were really excited. Griffin says
 to Campbell look there are those Jerry
 out there behind that hay stake
 Griffin says bump off one or two.

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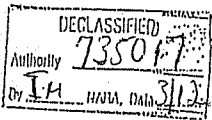
So Campbell fired his machine gun which was the first weapon fired by the first platoon. And as soon as he fired it the Germans really gave it to us. They began with these 88 & mortar & machine guns. An German mortar came so close to Campbell's foot hold until it knocked him out of his hold so ~~Campbell~~ Campbell says. So now he and ~~Griffin~~ Griffin runs across the field to the woods for cover. About an hour later Lt. Thomas came up and asked how was every thing. So the platoon leader told him so when he fired out that Campbell & Griffin had left that machine gun he says Campbell what happens. Campbell told him he laughed and said are you afraid Campbell told him "Sir I believe I have as much guts as the next man but when a German

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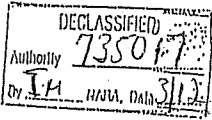
mounter for the you out of you
 hold its time to go." The Lt.
 smiled and said do you think
 you have as much guts as
 me. Campbell says, yes sir. The
 Lt. said then well best go get
 that machine Campbell says
 yes sir. And so they did. So
 well it went on that after noon
 we received a lot more fire.
 Sgt Chesterfield Jones and his gun
 crew was pin down in there fox
 holds. A German machine gun al-
 most made a slit trench out
 of Sgt Jones' fox hold. So when he
 got a chance to get out he made
 it through the woods to the jeep
 where Lt. Smith had for his C.P.
 There Jones told the Lt. of the
 way his gun crew was pin down.
 So the Lt. tells Jones to go back
 and withdraw his crew back to
 the jeep where his C.P. was. So



Jones did. He withdrew all of his men except one. And that was P.F.C. Fred Clements. Clements was pin down by mortar. So in about ten or twenty min. after that, there was a cry. Fred Clements had been hit by a mortar. Jones and his Corporal Otis Pettigrew went for Clements. And brought him back to the Jeep where the C.P. was set up. Clements was hit in ~~several~~ several places by ~~schrapnel~~ shrapnel. So the Co + Plat leader helped to give him first aid. And then Cpl. Pettigrew took him on his back and tried to make it to the road where he could get some one to get him to the Hospital. Pettigrew had to stop and drag Clements in the woods, the Germans saw him with Clements and fired machine gun at them. So when that was over they tried it again. And they finally made it. So the Co. told



us that night "we won't move
 out. So we waited for night to
 come. And so it did. They ~~seem~~
 seem to have known we were going
 to move out that night. They
 began shelling us and they shelled
~~us~~ us until the 95th Div. F.A. laid
 down another barrage. So we moved
 out while they were laying down
 that barrage. So we went back
 to a little town 7 miles from Buschdorf
 name Oberpoll there we staid for
 that night and the next day there were
 a lot of men with ~~back~~ trench feet
~~who~~ went to the hospital Roy Griffin Russell
 Ruffin, Luther J. Hall. All of these men
~~from~~ were from Sgt. Jones' Squad.
 So now the platoon is very thin.
 about 23 men left. So we leave
 Oberpoll, Germany and go to Lunville,
 France. We were in Lunville for
 3 days and we then went to Naugonthein
 France. we were there for a night
 and a day and we left and went
 to Migleheim France so from then on

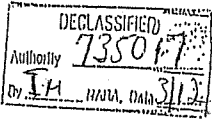


We were with the ¹²7th Army. The
 next morning we had a mission to
 find on a church step at Griesbach,
 France. We found on it and we
 then moved ~~to~~ in to the town.
 So we stayed there that next
 day and we then moved to Wouth
 France. We stayed there at Wouth,
 for two days and we then moved
 to Dieffenbach, France, we were there
 for a day, and then move on to
 Preuschdorf, France and from there
 to Lamperstock, France. Near Preuschdorf
 was where we lost a lot of men from
 the Company. So from Lamperstock, France
 we entered Climbach. The 1st. platoon stayed
 in Climbach for three days and we
 then taken a position on a mountain
 out from Linstroff we were there for
 three days & night. There the Germans
 gave us hell again. But no losses.
 So from there we went to Guenille,
 France, we were there for a day &
 a night and we then moved to

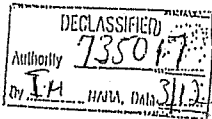
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Farberville France. There we had
 a new Co. Our Platoon leader Lt. Walter
 J. Smith had been made CO. Lt.
 Thomas had been ~~won~~ wound so
 Lt. Smith taken over. Our ~~Platoon~~ platoon
 Sgt. S/Sgt. Sturkey had been made
 Platoon leader. And Sgt. Summers one
 of the Gun Sgts had been made
 Platoon Sgt. So now we are in
 a defensive position. We spend Christmas
 there in Teding, France the 1st platoon.
 We were there until January 13th
 then we moved to another little
 town for about five days. Then
 we moved on to Reichshoffen, France.
 We were there for two & a half days
 and then we moved to Niederbronn
 France. From there we moved to
 Zinswiller France, and from there to
 Zutzendorf, France. We were there for
 two days and we then moved to
 Obermodern, France. So from there we
 went to Ingwiller, France. There we were
 in a defensive position from Feb. 2 to



march 16. And on the morning of
 march the 17th we arrived at Neiden
 France again we were then on that
 big drive. we ~~by~~ arrived in Winger-
 France. and from there to Bobenthal,
 Germany. we were there for about
 four days and from there we went
 to Nothweiller, Germany and from there
 to Erlenboch, Germany. From there
 we went to Imzflingen, Germany. And
 from there we went to Waldsee, Germany
 so from there we traveled. We
 crossed the Rhine River and in to
 Woth, Germany. we spent the night
 in Woth, Germany & from there we
 went to Ogenburg Germany here the first
 Plat stayed for a bout two weeks. and
 from there the last big drive on up
 the border to Austria. On the night
 entering Austria going down a long steep
 hill Sgt. Jones Half Troop turned over
 one man was killed and four hurt
 James O. Parker was the man killed.
 he was one of the replacements we
 had gotten. So from there we



we moved up ¹⁻⁵ to Brenner Pass where we were to meet the 5th Army in Italy. So we clear up every thing from Austria there, and then we came back to Innsbruck, Austria we were there for 3 days and we then moved to Ober Lantach, Austria and we were there 2 days and the war ended. That was the end.

The Facts which you have just read are true facts. A true story of the First Platoon of Co. C 614th T.I. Bn. In Combat.

Written by
 Prof. Chester Jones