

Probably one of the hottest towns the Third Platoon ever encountered was Bobenthal, Germany 20 March 1945. As we made our entrance into the town during the night, the jerries were firing the largest shells they had. First Sergeant Robert Cannon received the orders personally from General Mc Ailiffe to take his guns forward. Five tanks which tried to go up to the main line of resistance during the morning were knock out on the road. The jerries guns were emplaced behind the mountains, their observation post had to be in one of two pillboxes, which were very visible. First Sgt. Cannon seeing no need for two of his guns sent them back leaving Sgt. Roosevelt Robertson and Sgt. Dillard Booker crews to stand the intense shelling and sniping. Booker's gun stood in the road surrounded by a rock emplacement his men built that night. The guns were to be moved further forward during early morning when a bridge that had been knocked was put in, but it took longer than anticipated also the Germans had too good of an artillery bracket around the bridge. During the morning First Sgt. Cannon gave Booker orders to fire on the two pillboxes facing his gun. It wasn't long before eighty rounds were emptied into the boxes. Later we learned the jerries had numerous machine guns trained on the road, for some reason they never did fire.

On the 24th of April a task force composed of one company of Infantrymen and one three inch gun started for a town not far from Metingen, Germany. We were told there would be little or no resistance. As the leading infantry jeep got within one hundred yards of the town it was hit by a bazooka shell killing the officer driving. The infantry quickly deployed, Sgt. Booker had his gun placed into action beside a house affording the best field of fire and protection from small arm fire. We noticed German soldiers running from house to another Sgt. Cannon fired on them with his carbine to no avail. Sgt. Booker waited anxiously for Capt. Smith to give First Sgt. Cannon permission for him to fire. When orders did come every suspicious house was fired upon. It was quite a show for the infantry for they liked to see our guns roar. It wasn't long before the Mayor of the Town came forward with a white flag to reveal the jerries had left. Thus the TD's added another town to their list.

Sgt. Dillard L. Booker

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