

Rumors circulated rapidly on the night of the fifth of January. We had learned the jerries were pouring troops across the Rhine river and it wouldn't be long before our guns would be blazing at elements of Rommel's panzer divisions. The battalion had sat up a perimeter defense in the vicinity of Niederbronn and Worth France. Every three gun was well camouflaged, every relief was constantly observing to the front. Without explanation we were given orders to prepare to move. Halftracks and guns lined the road and slowly began moving back from the present line of resistance, as did all units with the Seventh Army. This night was especially cold, snow laid a foot deep. Our men were uneasy, as was every man that made the withdrawal. Traveling to Zinswiller France we learned that we had gone too far beyond the Allies front, we would have faced a possible encirclement had we not withdrawn. Inch

When the allies crossed the Rhine the German Army became disorganized, the American Army lost no time pushing ahead, in fact we moved so fast from our rear elements equipment couldn't be replaced rapidly. Many of our halftracks needed to be replaced but time did not permit. Sgt. Daniel James halftrack developed engine trouble which our mechanics couldn't remedy, thus he was left with his crew until ordinance towed him in. The few nights they spent on the road was none too pleasant. Small bands of Germans who were bypassed during our hasty advance roved the woods harassing American troops at night which Sgt. James vividly remembers. One night while his men huddled around a fire thirty jerries fired on them, Sgt. James dispersed his men fighting them off with small arm and machine gun fire.

The last important mission we performed was our march with specially picked units to meet elements of General Clark's Fifth Army in Italy. The Task Force left Mittenwald, Germany May 5, to travel one hundred miles through the snow capped mountainous Alps of Austria. Though there was practically no resistance during our march there was constant fear that vehicles would slip on the icy road and fall down into any one of the canyons we frequently passed. Unfortunately several vehicles overturned while descending an unusual steep hill several men were seriously injured. During our entire combat days the men got along swell with the men of the 103 Inf. Div. as they did when fifteen to twenty rode our halftracks during the long trek that took us as far as the Brenner Pass.