

HEADQUARTERS
629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

29 January 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History - 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.
(Tifui Channels)

Forwarded herewith is Unit History of this battalion
for the year 1944.

GLENN COLE
Lt. Col., Inf (TD)
Commanding



Incl:
Unit History (26 pages)
Sketch of March Route

UNIT HISTORY 1944



A. Original Unit

- Designation - 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Self Propelled.
- Date of Organization - 15 December 1941
- Place of Organization - Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.
- Authority for Organization - War Department (exact order or letter reference not available)
- Sources from which personnel were obtained - transfers from 29th Infantry Division and selective service sources.

B. Changes in Organization (During period covered by report)

Authorization received 21 September 1944 for this unit to reorganize under T/O & M 18-25 dated 15 March 1944. (Auth: letter, Hq First US Army, 18 September 1944, subject: Reorganization, file 320 (C)). Prior to this date unit was organized under T/O 18-25 dated 27 January 1943 w/c/.

C. Strength, commissioned and enlisted, at beginning and end of period with monthly net increase or decrease.

	Hq & Hq Co			Co A		Co B		Co C		Hon Co		Med Det		Bn Total			Net Incr			Net Decr		
	O	WO	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM	O	WO	EM
1 Jan 44	13	1	113	5	128	5	128	5	128	5	128	2	17	38	1	637	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Jan	13	1	112	5	127	5	127	5	128	5	128	2	17	38	1	633	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Feb	13	1	112	5	127	5	127	5	128	5	128	2	17	38	1	633	1	-	-	-	-	-
31 Mar	13	1	113	5	128	5	124	5	128	5	122	2	17	38	1	628	1	-	-	-	-	-
30 Apr	13	1	117	5	130	5	134	5	136	5	127	2	17	38	1	657	3	-	35	-	-	-
31 May	13	1	116	5	130	5	134	5	134	5	126	1	16	38	1	652	-	-	-	1	-	-
30 June	13	1	116	5	130	5	134	5	136	5	128	1	16	38	1	650	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 July	13	1	125	5	135	5	134	5	134	5	115	1	16	37	1	653	-	-	3	1	-	-
31 Aug	13	1	117	5	115	5	120	5	123	5	112	1	15	34	1	601	-	-	-	3	-	52
30 Sept	13	1	118	5	108	5	120	5	117	5	111	1	16	35	1	590	1	-	-	-	-	11
31 Oct	13	1	110	5	123	5	120	5	123	5	109	1	15	35	1	600	-	-	10	-	-	-
30 Nov	13	1	111	5	124	5	122	5	123	5	109	1	15	35	1	604	1	-	4	-	-	-
31 Dec	13	1	111	5	117	5	107	5	123	5	111	1	15	34	1	584	-	-	-	3	-	30
- - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

D. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof

<u>Station</u>	<u>Date of Arrival</u>	<u>Date of Departure</u>
Warden Hill Camp, Dorset County, England (Permanent)	10 Jan 1944	9 May 1944
Stonehenge, England (Permanent)	9 May 1944	26 June 1944
Piddlehinton Camp, Dorset County, England (Temporary)	26 June 1944	29 June 1944

E. Marches

1. Liverpool, England to Warden Hill Camp - 9-10 January 1944.

- Purpose - Movement from port of debarkation to permanent station.
- Length of daily march - Unknown, movement by rail.
- Roads - Railroad, bed good.
- Weather - Slow drizzle until approximately 100100 Jan; clear bright moonlight to 100400, heavy fog to 101000 January.
- Remarks - Battalion traveled on two (2) troop trains. The second section arrived at Maiden Newton, Dorset County, England at 100800, first section arrived 101100 January 1944. Personnel transported $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles NE from Maiden Newton to Warden Hill Camp by truck.

2. Warden Hill Camp to Stonehenge, England - 9 May 1944.

- Purpose - Concentration of troops preparatory to invasion of Normandy.
- Length of daily march - 62 miles.
- Roads - Good, moderate traffic
- Weather - Clear, cool
- Remarks - Road march made with T/O vehicles in five march units. Departed old station 0830 hours; arrived new station 1400 hours. Rate of march $12\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h.

3. Stonehenge to Piddlehinton Camp, Dorset County, England - 26 June 1944.

- Purpose - Marshalling preparatory to movement to embarkation point for crossing of English channel to Normandy beachhead.
- Length of daily march - 60 miles.
- Roads - Good surface, wet and slippery, moderate traffic.
- Weather - Steady rain.
- Remarks - Battalion moved in five (5) march units at $12\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. Time of departure - 0800 hours; time of arrival - 1100 hours.



E. Marches

4. Piddlehinton Camp to Portland Harbor - 30 June 1944.
 - a. Purpose - Embarkation for crossing of English channel to Normandy beachhead.
 - b. Length of march - 18 miles.
 - c. Roads - Good surface, moderate traffic.
 - d. Weather - Clear with moderate west wind.
 - e. Remarks - Battalion marched by boat loads from marshalling area to embarkation point.
5. Portland Harbor (England) to "Omaha" Beach vicinity of St. Laurent sur Mer, France - 30 June 1944 to 2 July 1944.
 - a. Purpose - Join allied build-up forces in Normandy beachhead.
 - b. Length of march - Unknown (short sea voyage)
 - c. Roads - Not applicable
 - d. Weather - Frequent scattered showers, slight west wind. Channel slightly choppy.
 - e. Remarks - Battalion made channel crossing loaded in LCTs and LSTs in convoy. Voyage made without mishap.
6. Vicinity of St. Laurent sur Mer to Balleroy, France - 3 & 4 July 1944.
 - a. Purpose - Assemble battalion.
 - b. Length of march - 14 miles.
 - c. Roads - Hard surface, narrow, heavy traffic of all types.
 - d. Weather - Clear
 - e. Remarks - As boat loads were landed vehicles were moved from beach to dewaterproofing areas. As soon as dewaterproofing was complete and road clearance could be obtained, boat loads moved out in convoy to assembly area 1 mile east of Balleroy. From this assembly position gun companies moved out to gun positions S and SE of Balleroy in the Gaumont sector and reinforced artillery fires of 1st Infantry Division Artillery and 5th Infantry Division Artillery from 5 July 1944 to 22 July 1944.
7. Balleroy, France to Chemin de St Lo, France - 22 July 1944.
 - a. Purpose - Assembled battalion in V Corps reserve.
 - b. Length of march - 6 miles.
 - c. Roads - Hard surface, narrow, moderate traffic.
 - d. Weather - Clear, dry.
 - e. Remarks - Location of battalion assembly position at Chemin de St Lo (1 1/2 miles W of Gormelain) under direction of enemy observation. Battalion CP shelled shortly after it was established.
8. Chemin de St Lo to St. Amand, France - 1 August 1944.
 - a. Purpose - Assembled battalion in V Corps reserve.
 - b. Length of march - 9 miles.
 - c. Roads - Hard surface, medium width, moderate traffic.
 - d. Weather - Clear - dry.
 - e. Remarks - None

E. Marches

9. St Amand to vicinity Guilberville, France - 3 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Assemble battalion in V Corps reserve.
- b. Length of march - 8 miles.
- c. Roads - Fair, dusty, narrow, little traffic.
- d. Weather - Clear, dry & warm
- e. Remarks - None.

10. Guilberville to vicinity St Martin Don, France - 4 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Assemble battalion in V Corps reserve.
- b. Length of march - 15 miles.
- c. Roads - Good, macadam surface. One (1) large bridge destroyed over Vire River - by-passed by Bailey bridge; traffic heavy.
- d. Weather - Clear, dry & warm.
- e. Remarks - None.

11. St Martin Don to vicinity Brecey, France - 7 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Join VII Corps upon notice that battalion had been relieved of attachment to V Corps and attached to VII Corps.
- b. Length of march - 55 miles.
- c. Roads - Macadam, excessively heavy traffic.
- d. Weather - Clear, dry & warm
- e. Remarks - Movement began at 1700 hours on urgent orders to occupy new assembly position east of Brecey as soon as possible. Following the break-through of the 1st US Army between Mortain and Avaranches the enemy employed counterattacks in force in an effort to breach the supply lines of our troops. VII Corps which was repulsing this counterattack called for TD reinforcement and in reply had had this unit attached on 1st US Army order. Battalion was attached on VII Corps order to 30th Infantry division operating in the St. Barthelemy - Mortain - Le Mesnilbourg sector. Gun companies were moved individually to join infantry regiments of the 30th Infantry Division prior to daylight 8 August and engaged enemy armor with direct fire for the first time.

12. Brecey to Le Mesnillard, France - 8 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Bring battalion CP, Hq Co. and Ren Co. into closer proximity with 30th Infantry Division CP.
- b. Length of march - 5 miles.
- c. Roads - Macadam, good, little traffic.
- d. Weather - Clear & dry.
- e. Remarks - None.

E. Marches.

13. Le Mesnillard, France to Le Pas, France - 14 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Move to assembly position from which to join other VII Corps troops in exploitation of retreating German forces in the Falaise Pocket.
- b. Length of march - 35 miles.
- c. Roads - Macadam, narrow, dry, moderate traffic.
- d. Weather - Clear day.
- e. Remarks - None.

14. Le Pas to Magny-le-Desert, France - 16 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - To join 9th Infantry Division, to which battalion had been attached by VII Corps, in attack against south side of the Falaise pocket in vicinity of La Forte Meuse.
- b. Length of march - 38 miles.
- c. Roads - Good, part macadam, part hard dirt.
- d. Weather - Clear & dry.
- e. Remarks - None.

15. Magny-le-Desert to Le Grais, France - 17 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Follow up attack against south side of Falaise pocket in direction of Argentan.
- b. Length of march - 7 miles.
- c. Roads - Hard surface, dirt.
- d. Weather - Clear.
- e. Remarks - None.

16. Le Grais to Mortagne-au-Perche - 21 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Move to assembly position.
- b. Length of march - 58 miles.
- c. Roads - Macadam, good, traffic moderate.
- d. Weather - Clear.
- e. Remarks - None.

17. Mortagne-au-Perche to La Forte Vidame, France - 24 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Assemble in 9th Infantry Division reserve.
- b. Length of march - 30 miles.
- c. Roads - Macadam, good, traffic moderate.
- d. Weather - Clear.
- e. Remarks - None.



E. Marches.

18. La Forte Vidame to St. Jean de Beaugard - 26 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Assemble in V Corps reserve upon relief from attachment to 9th Infantry Division and VII Corps (Auth: VO39, 1st US Army)
- b. Length of march - 104 miles.
- c. Roads - Good, macadam surface.
- d. Weather - Good
- e. Remarks - None.

19. St. Jean de Beaugard to Orsay, France - 27 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Get into V Corps sector.
- b. Length of march - 5 miles
- c. Roads - Good macadam
- d. Weather - Clear
- e. Remarks - Battalion held in V Corps reserve awaiting clearance of Paris of enemy by French and V Corps forces.

20. Orsay to Paris (Bois de Vincennes), France - 29 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Movement of V Corps troops to assembly positions W of Paris
- b. Length of march - 34 miles
- c. Roads - Excellent, blastop and concrete.
- d. Weather - Heavy rain to 1000 hours, clear afternoon.
- e. Remarks - Battalion participated in parade of V Corps troops through Paris. Bivouaced in Bois de Vincennes night of 29 Aug 1944.

21. Paris to Juilly, France - 31 August 1944.

- a. Purpose - Attached to 5th Armored Division. Mission-to move as rapidly as possible into enemy held territory NE of Paris, cut enemy supply routes and routes of withdrawal; to secure bridges and critical points against destruction by the retreating enemy.
- b. Length of march - 23 miles.
- c. Roads - Good macadam
- d. Weather - Steady rain.
- e. Remarks - Battalion attached to OCA, 5th Armored Division. Gun companies further attached to TF Bexley, TF Burton & Co G detached from battalion and attached to OOR for movement north through Compiègne Forest.

22. Juilly to Crepy-en-Valois, France - 1 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 19 miles
- c. Roads - Good, hard surface
- d. Weather - Fair
- e. Remarks - None.

E. Marches

23. Crepy-en-Velois to Challes, France - 2 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 15 miles
- c. Roads - Good, hard surface
- d. Weather - Fair
- e. Remarks - None.

24. Challes to Carlepont, France - 3 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 12 miles
- c. Roads - Good, one bridge over Aisne R. blown out by enemy, repaired by engineers.
- d. Weather - Fair
- e. Remarks - Battalion CP Group, Hqs and Pioneer Platoon of Ron Co and 1 Co of M-4 tanks led off on wrong road by an engineer truck the driver of which had fallen asleep at a halt. Were first allied troops to enter town of Carlepont. Time, at dawn.

25. Carlepont to Eame, France - 3 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 70 miles
- c. Roads - Good
- d. Weather - Excellent
- e. Remarks - None

26. Eame to Mesmont, France - 4 September 1944

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 84 miles
- c. Roads - Good
- d. Weather - Good
- e. Remarks - None

27. Mesmont to Vendresse, France - 5 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
- b. Length of march - 26 miles
- c. Roads - Good
- d. Weather - Fair
- e. Remarks - Co G relieved of attachment to OGR, 5th Armored Division and returned to battalion control (Auth: VOGG, 5th Arm Div)

E. Marches

28. Vendresse to Pont Maugis, France - 6 September 1944
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
 - b. Length of march - 11 miles
 - c. Roads - Good, heavy traffic
 - d. Weather - Good
 - e. Remarks - None
29. Pont Maugis to Thonne-le-Thil, France - 8 September 1944
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
 - b. Length of march - 24 miles
 - c. Roads - Good, moderate traffic
 - d. Weather - Fair
 - e. Remarks - None
30. Thonne-le-Thil, France to Schuweiler, Luxembourg - 9 September 1944
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
 - b. Length of march - 34 miles
 - c. Roads - Good
 - d. Weather - Good
 - e. Remarks - Cos B and C engaged armor of withdrawing enemy along approaches to city of Luxembourg in vicinity of Strass and Dippach.
31. Schuweiler to Neudorf, Luxembourg - 10 September 1944
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above) secure city of Luxembourg.
 - b. Length of march - 12 miles
 - c. Roads - Good
 - d. Weather - Excellent
 - e. Remarks - 1st Lt Edgar M. Hibbette and his $\frac{1}{2}$ ton driver, Pfc Marvin Toler, Co G, were first allied troops to enter city of Luxembourg. Co E, 629th TD Bn and 1st platoon of Ren Co were first allied units to enter city of Luxembourg.
32. Neudorf to Brauch, Luxembourg - 12 September 1944.
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
 - b. Length of march - 4 miles
 - c. Roads - Good
 - d. Weather - Good
 - e. Remarks - None
33. Brauch to Berbourg, Luxembourg - 13 September 1944
 - a. Purpose - (See 21 (a) above)
 - b. Length of march - 20 miles
 - c. Roads - Good
 - d. Weather - Good
 - e. Remarks - Information received that battalion was detached from 5th Armored Division and attached to 28th Infantry Division (Auth: VODG, V Corps)





E. Marches

34. Berburg to Weiswampach, Luxembourg, 15 September 1944.

- a. Purpose - To join the 28th Infantry Division for attack against Siegfried Line between Sevenig and Hechuscheid, Germany (E of Our R)
- b. Length of march - 89 miles
- c. Roads - Good, traffic light
- d. Remarks - None

35. Weiswampach, Luxembourg to Elsenborn Camp, Belgium - 5 October 1944

- a. Purpose - Move to assembly area with 28th Infantry Division
- b. Length of march - 33 miles
- c. Roads - Good
- d. Weather - Scattered showers
- e. Remarks - Gun companies moved with Infantry Regiments to which attached.

36. Elsenborn, Belgium to Mulartshutte, Germany - 26 October 1944.

- a. Purpose - Move to assembly position with 28th Infantry Division.
- b. Length of march - 39 miles
- c. Roads - Good, heavy traffic
- d. Weather - Light rain
- e. Remarks - Assembly position preparatory to attack on Schmidt and Vossenack.

37. Mulartshutte, Germany to Andler, Belgium - 30 October 1944

- a. Purpose - To join VIII Corps and 2nd Infantry Division.
- b. Length of march - 59 miles
- c. Roads - Good, heavy traffic
- d. Weather - Clear, cold
- e. Remarks - Battalion detached from 28th Infantry Division and V Corps and attached to VIII Corps and 2nd Infantry Division (Auth: VCOG, 1st US Army and VCOG, VIII Corps). TD companies reinforced Div Arty fires and fired direct fire missions against enemy strongpoints, pillboxes, and OPs.

38. Andler, Belgium to Housset, Belgium - 2 December 1944.

- a. Purpose - Assemble VII Corps zone
- b. Length of march - 67 miles
- c. Roads - Good, hard surface, heavy traffic
- d. Weather - Steady rain
- e. Remarks - Battalion undergoing ordnance check prior to commitment.

E. Marches

39. Houset, Belgium to Gressenich, Germany - 9 December 1944

- a. Purpose - Join 83rd Infantry Division (Auth: VOGG, VII Corps).
- b. Length of march - 16 miles
- c. Roads - Good, hard surface, traffic heavy
- d. Weather - Snowing lightly and raining
- e. Remarks - TD companies attached to infantry regiments as follows:
Co "A" in Division reserve, subsequently to 329th Infantry Regiment vicinity of Krewinkel, Germany - Co "B" to 330th Infantry Regiment vicinity of Gresshau, Germany (Co "B" attached and joined 330th Inf Regt 4 December) - Co "G" to 331st Infantry Regiment vicinity of Sheviahutte, Germany.

40. Gressenich, Germany to Coquier, Belgium - 24 December 1944.

- a. Purpose - To join 75th Infantry Division in assembly position preparatory to counterattack against 6th German Panzer Army (Auth: VOGG, VII Corps).
- b. Length of march - 71 miles
- c. Roads - Bad, snow and ice, traffic heavy
- d. Weather - Clear and very cold
- e. Remarks - None

41. Coquier, Belgium to Tehogne, Belgium - 26th December 1944.

- a. Purpose - To move into billets and into closer proximity with TD companies.
- b. Length of march - 6 miles
- c. Roads - Extremely icy
- d. Weather - Clear and very cold
- e. Remarks - None



F. Campaigns

1. Normandy

- a. Duration - 2 July 1944 to 24 July 1944
- b. Purpose - To invade France along channel coast and establish beachhead.
- c. Authority ordering - WD, GO 80

2. Northern France

- a. Duration - 25 July to 14 September 1944
- b. Purpose - Exploit Normandy breakthrough and drive enemy from French territory.
- c. Authority ordering - WD, GO 80

3. Germany (No. 1)

- a. Duration - 15 September 1944 to date to be announced
- b. Purpose - To destroy the German Army on the Western Front.
- c. Authority - WD, GO 80

G. Battles

1. Caumont Sector (France)

- a. Place - Caumont, France
- b. Date - 4 July 1944 to 22 July 1944
- c. Campaign - Normandy
- d. Forces engaged - 3rd Parachute Division.
- e. Result - Consolidation in Caumont sector with the Normandy beachhead.

2. Mortain (France)

- a. Place - St Barthélemy, Mortain and Le Neubourg, France.
- b. Date - 8 August 1944 to 13 August 1944.
- c. Campaign - Northern France
- d. Forces engaged - 1st SS Panzer Division, 2nd SS Panzer Division, 130th Panzer Lehr Division and 116th Panzer Division.
- e. Result - Enemy armored effort to cut supply routes of breakthrough forces repelled.

3. Falaise Pocket - Argentan (France)

- a. Place - La Ferte Macé
- b. Date - 18 August 1944 to 20 August 1944.
- c. Campaign - Northern France
- d. Forces engaged - Elements of 7th German Army
- e. Result - Destruction of bulk of the German 7th Army.



4. Northeastern France and Luxembourg

- a. Place - Northeastern France to Luxembourg
- b. Date - 31 August 1944 to 14 September 1944
- c. Campaign - Northern France
- d. Forces engaged - Remnants of German 7th Army.
- e. Result - Bulk of enemy forces driven from Northern France and from Luxembourg.

5. Siegfried Line (No. 1)

- a. Place - Winterspelt, Heekhuscheid, Grosskampenberg, Lutzkamps and Sevensig, Germany
- b. Date - 14 September 1944 to 4 October 1944
- c. Campaign - Germany (No 1)
- d. Forces engaged - Fortress, Marsch, and Fusilier units.
- e. Result - Limited penetrations against Siegfried Line.

G. Battles

6. Siegfried Line (No 1)

- a. Place - Roetherath, Krewinkel, Belgium - Ramschied, Hollerath, Germany.
- b. Dates - 8 October 1944 to 25 October 1944.
- c. Campaign - Germany (No 1)
- d. Forces engaged - Fortress and Marsch units defending Siegfried Line.
- e. Result - Harassing of defending forces, reconnaissance of Siegfried defenses.

7. Schneifel, (Germany).

- a. Place - Auw, Oberlascheid, Winterspelt, Germany.
- b. Date - 30 October 1944 to 1 December 1944
- c. Campaign - Germany (No 1)
- d. Forces engaged - 347th Infantry Division, 18th Volksgrenadier Division, 91st Infantry Division.
- e. Result - Harassing of defending enemy troops.

8. Duren (Germany)

- a. Place - Gey, Strass, Birgel, Gurtzenich, Lenderdorf, Germany.
- b. Date - 8 December 1944 to 20 December 1944.
- c. Campaign - Germany (No 1)
- d. Forces engaged - Elements of 353rd Infantry Division and 3rd Parachute Division.
- e. Result - Bulk of enemy driven from west bank of Reer River in the Duren sector.

9. Ardennes Salient (Belgium)

- a. Place - Grandmenil, Manhay, Sadzot, Belgium.
- b. Date 25 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.
- c. Campaign - Germany (No 1)
- d. Forces engaged - 560th Volksgrenadier Division, 2nd SS Panzer (Das Reich) Division, 116th Panzer Division of 6th German Panzer Army.
- e. Results - Halted advance of Sixth Panzer Army in Ardennes Salient.



H. Commanding Officers in important engagements.

1. Caumont, France

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Francis H. Dobbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, FA (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain John R. Chaplain, Inf (TD)
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

H. Commanding Officers in important engagements.

2. Mortain, France

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain John R. Chaplain, Inf (TD)
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

3. Falaise Pocket - Argentan.

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain John R. Chaplain, Inf (TD)
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

4. Northern France and Luxembourg

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain John R. Chaplain, Inf (TD) - (Reld on 12 Sept-1200 hrs by
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC Captain Edward A. Ryan)

5. Siegfried Line

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain Edward A. Ryan, FA (TD)
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

6. Siegfried Line

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
 CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
 CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
 CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
 CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
 CO C Co - Captain Edward A. Ryan, FA (TD)
 CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

H. Commanding Officers in important engagements.

7. Schnseifel, Germany

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
CO C Co - Captain Edward A. Ryan, FA (TD)
CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC

8. Duren

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
CO C Co - Captain Edward A. Ryan, FA (TD) - (Held on 31 Dec-1200 hrs by 1st
CO Med Det - Captain Dominic A. Savoia, MC Lt Anthony G. Covatta)

9. Ardenne Sector

Bn Comdr - Lt Col Glenn Cole, Inf (TD)
CO Hq Co - Captain Francis H. Debbins, FA (TD)
CO Ron Co - Captain Harry L. Harris, FA (TD)
CO A Co - Captain Charles M. Grimshaw, Inf (TD)
CO B Co - Captain Edwin H. Stewart, FA (TD)
CO C Co - 1st Lt Anthony G. Covatta, AUS (TD)



I. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men

CAUMONT SECTION

Headquarters Company:

1st Lt. William L. Fox WIA

Company "G":

Pvt. Clair D. VanAuker WIA

MORTAIN SECTION

Reconnaissance Company:

Pfc Jonas P. Davis WIA

Cpl Winston E. McHenry WIA

Sgt Ronald H. Robertson WIA

1st Lt. Floyd H. Dikeman WIA

Pfc James J. Blandfield WIA

Pfc Vincent H. Firsich WIA

Sgt Robert P. Perry WIA

T/4 Robert H. Egas KIA

Pvt William D. Armstrong KIA

Pfc Virton (NMI) Creek KIA

Company "A"

1st Lt. Kenneth L. Brown WIA

Sgt John Donaldson WIA

S Sgt Joseph F. Wrazeck WIA

Pfc Louis A. Feschimo WIA

Pvt John P. Carney WIA

Pvt Walter A. Mesingo WIA

2nd Lt. Lester R. Smith WIA

Pvt James G. Deschamps WIA

Cpl Howard W. Burry WIA

2d Lt. Walter C. Palmere WIA

S Sgt Thomas R. Donovan WIA

Sgt Michael Balik, Jr. WIA

Sgt Maxwell C. Bishop WIA

Cpl Leroy F. Lebold WIA

T/4 William H. Parker WIA

T/5 Clarence E. Wright WIA

Pfc George W. Rowey WIA

Pvt Robert A. Driscoll WIA

Pvt Santos L. Ramirez WIA

Pfc Thomas L. Romano WIA

Pvt Ludwig L. Keller WIA

Cpl Darris Roux KIA

Pfc Thornton E. Mason KIA

Pfc James H. Kramer KIA



I. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men (cont'd)

MORTAIN SECTOR

Company "B":

S Sgt Ralph Barber	WIA
Sgt Otis W. Talley	WIA
Cpl David A. Richie	WIA
T/S Paul H. Martin, Jr.	WIA
Pvt Joe A. Holliday	WIA
Cpl Quinton R. White	WIA
Cpl Paul [unclear], Jr.	LA

Company "G":

Pvt Travis R. Ramey	WIA
T/S Jesse E. Myers	WIA
Pfc Mitchell J. Thusek	WIA
Pfc George J. Keeler	WIA
Pvt George Krajnovich	WIA
Cpl Henry B. Harrington	WIA
Pvt George L. Desvonges	WIA
Sgt James W. Richardson	WIA
Pvt Ralph K. Truelove	KIA

Medical Detachment:

Pfc Calvin G. Gilbert	WIA
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PALAISE POCKET:

No Casualties

NORT HEASTERN FRANCE

Reconnaissance Company:

Pfc Clarence O. Bannasch	WIA
Pfc Richard (NMI) DeBoer	WIA
T/4 George H. Alder	KIA

Company "A"

Sgt Baxter E. Price	WIA
Cpl Edward E. Grinnell	WIA
T/S William W. Thompson	WIA
Sgt Doyle L. Lile	WIA
Pvt James W. Littell	WIA
Sgt Donald L. Barnes	WIA



I. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men (Cont'd)

SIEGFRIED LINE #1:

Company "A" (Cont'd)

Sgt Thomas E. Fretwell, Jr.	KIA
Pfc Gerard J. Blaney	KIA
Pfc Charles H. Cook	KIA
Pfc James W. Neely	KIA

Company "B"

Cpl Paul Swarscheck, Jr.	WIA
T/5 Donald H. Booth	KIA

Company "G"

Pfc Howard R. Schmitter	WIA
Pvt Harry W. Fairbanks	WIA
Pvt Joseph L. Bungarter	WIA
Cpl Arthur S. Osmon	WIA
Cpl Lewis Hamerla	KIA

SIEGFRIED LINE #2:

No Casualties.

SONNENFEL SECTOR

Pvt Michael J. Plume (Co B)	WIA
Pvt Robert A. Bushholz (Co C)	WIA

DUREN SECTOR

Company "A":

Cpl Joseph J. Martin	WIA
Sgt Walter G. Davis	WIA
Sgt Thomas M. Bayne	WIA
Pvt Orville Ruthenberg	WIA
2d Lt. Walter G. Palmer, Jr.	WIA
Sgt John S. Garrett	WIA
Pvt Dominic A. Beggi	WIA

Company "B":

1st Lt. John G. Maldane	WIA
Sgt Paul J. Sotak	WIA
Pfc Edward Y. Higgins	WIA
Sgt Ralph Barbar	WIA
T/4 Henry E. Johns	WIA
1st Lt. William J. Vann	WIA
T/5 Victor Mahoney	WIA



I. Losses in Action - Officers and Enlisted Men (Cont'd)

DUREN SECTOR

Company "B" (Cont'd)

Pvt Walter Saumenig	WIA
Pfc Vincent DeFalco	WIA
Pfc Thomas K. McGreevy	WIA
T Sgt John Mahoy, Jr.	WIA
Sgt Edward J. Makowski	KIA
Sgt Joseph A. Blataik	KIA
Sgt Edward P. Tumas	KIA
Cpl John R. Aprilante	KIA
Cpl Homer D. Renager	KIA
T/5 James H. Meitzler	KIA
Pfc Lael C. Barber	KIA
Pfc George C. Maringer	KIA

Company "C"

S Sgt Ernest L. Vaffoni	WIA
T/4 Herbert W. York	WIA
Sgt Alexander F. Snedden	KIA

ARDENNES SECTOR

Company "A":

T/4 Joseph J. Swaro	WIA
Cpl Bruno D. Negera	WIA
Pvt Forrest Lamb	WIA
Sgt Oscar M. Mullins	KIA
Pfc Edwin W. Metz	KIA

Company "B":

Sgt James R. Kohls	WIA
Sgt John T. Ross	WIA

SUMMARY:

Total WIA's	--	85
Total KIA's	--	25
Total MIA's	--	0
Grand Total		110



J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action:

(1) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: Clarence R. McCleery, ASN 35358440, Sergeant, Reconnaissance Company.

b. Act: On 10 August 1944 the Reconnaissance platoon of which Sergeant McCleery was a member was assigned the mission of securing and holding a cross-road against enemy mechanized attacks until relieved by the infantry. The leading vehicle, an M-8 tank destroyer, was disabled by mines and the personnel therein were seriously injured. On his own initiative and in the face of heavy enemy small arms fire, Sergeant McCleery personally evacuated the injured men and directed the removal of the battalion radio and SOI. Sergeant McCleery's cool action in the face of heavy enemy fire was instrumental in preventing further loss of life in the platoon. The courage, coolness and complete disregard for personal safety in the face of enemy fire displayed by this enlisted man reflects the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Indiana.

c. Award: Silver Star.

(2) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: William D. Armstrong, ASN #0366110, Private, Reconnaissance Company.

b. Act: The first platoon of Reconnaissance Company was bivouaced in a field just west of Mortain, France on the night of 11 and 12 August 1944. At 0025 on 12 August enemy planes attacked that general area, first dropping flares and then bombs. While the flares were burning over the area, bombs were being dropped in surrounding areas. The heavy drone of the plane engines indicated much activity in the dark skies above. As the flares burned out Pvt Armstrong left the safety of his foxhole with Pfc Englert and proceeded to awaken the men in his sector of the field and to get them into their foxholes to avoid being hit by any bomb fragments. This heroic action by Pvt Armstrong in disregard for his own safety, and with the safety of his fellow men foremost in his mind, and in the presence of enemy planes circling the area in the darkness above deserves praise of the highest degree. In this act to get the men of his section safely in their foxholes, he was killed by the bomb that landed in his area. One (1) other MM was killed in his foxhole, and one (1) MM was wounded.

c. Award: Bronze Star (Posthumously).

(3) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: John A. Englert, ASN 35723472, Private First Class, Reconnaissance Company.

b. Act: On 12 August 1944 enemy planes attacked the bivouac area of the unit near Mortain, France. The enemy dropped flares and as they were burning out Pvt. First Class Englert left the safety of his foxhole and proceeded to wake the men in the immediate area so that they could get into their foxholes to avoid

J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action

(3) b. Act: (cont'd)

being hit by bomb fragments. Shortly after the men had been warned, bombs dropped in the immediate vicinity causing casualties. Most of the men after having been warned by Private First Class Englert were able to seek cover before the bombs hit the immediate area. The heroic action of Private First class Englert deserves the highest praise. Entered military service from Indiana.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(4) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: Edgar M. Hibbetts, ASN O-1825272, 1st Lt., (2nd Lt at time of act), Company C.

b. Act: From 8 August 1944 to 11 August 1944 Second Lieutenant Hibbetts and his platoon occupied the western part of Mortain, France as a support party for an infantry unit. During this entire time the area occupied by the platoon was under continuous fire both day and night, by enemy mortar, artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. Second Lieutenant Hibbetts, through his continued reconnaissance, technical knowledge of the situation, and his fearlessness in the face of enemy fire, was constantly able to give the best advice to his men as to course of action to be taken. His continued presence with the men at the destroyers was an inspiration to them. Second Lieutenant Hibbetts personally assisted in the evacuation of wounded infantry men when the aid men were unable to handle the casualties. The morale and physical support given to the infantrymen by this platoon of composed men under the able leadership of Second Lieutenant Hibbetts was instrumental in the success of the mission. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(5) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: Abraham L. Evans, ASN 35583259, Corporal, Company A.

b. Act: While the second platoon of my company was in position in the vicinity of St. Barthelamy, France on 9 August 1944, one destroyer was hit by mortar and artillery fire. Evans and Long who were on the rear deck of their destroyer firing their machine guns were knocked to the ground on the first hit. They sought safety in a nearby foxhole. The enemy was firing continuously at the destroyer. Private Moxingo appeared in the turret with blood covering his face and front and attempted to climb out. Evans left the safety of his foxhole and Bartkowiak ran from the safety of his destroyer approximately 50 yards away in the continuous firing to move Moxingo to the safety of a foxhole. By that time ammunition in the destroyer was exploding and the destroyer was burning. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was still being directed at the burning destroyer. Evans and Bartkowiak above and beyond the call of duty further endangered their lives to remove Moxingo from the foxhole near the burning destroyer to another foxhole approximately 50 yards away and then to the rear where medical aid men evacuated him. Evans and Bartkowiak were not wounded in performing this heroic act.

c. Award: Bronze Star.



J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action: (Cont'd)

(6) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: Raymond Bartkowiak, ASN 32739350, Private First Class, Company A.

b. Act: While the 2d platoon of Company A was in position in the vicinity of St. Barthelamy, France on 9 August 1944, one destroyer was hit by mortar and artillery fire. Evans and Long who were on the rear deck of their destroyer firing their machine guns were knocked to the ground on the first hit. They sought safety in a nearby foxhole. The enemy was firing continuously at the destroyer. Private Mazingo appeared in the turret with blood covering his face and front and attempted to climb out. Evans left the safety of his foxhole and Bartkowiak ran from the safety of his destroyer approximately 50 yards away in the continuous firing to move Mazingo to the safety of a foxhole. By that time ammunition in the destroyer was exploding and the destroyer was burning. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was still being directed at the burning destroyer. Evans and Bartkowiak above and beyond the call of duty further endangered their lives to remove Mazingo from the foxhole near the burning destroyer to another foxhole approximately 50 yards away and then to the rear where medical aid men evacuated him. Evans and Bartkowiak were not wounded in performing this heroic act.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(7) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.



a. Name: Charles M. Grimshaw, ASN O-24872, Captain, Commanding Company

A.

b. Act: During the period 8 August to 13 August 1944, Company A, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, with Captain Grimshaw commanding, was supporting elements of an Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of St. Barthelamy, near Mortain, France. For those five days this company was subjected to exceptionally heavy hostile artillery, mortar and rocket fire, and considerable sniper fire. Captain Grimshaw, continually checking on the status of his men and equipment, by day and night, gave personal inspiration to his men. The intense enemy fire directed at the areas occupied by his company was most trying on the morale and the physical condition of the men. However, Captain Grimshaw, frequently exposing himself to enemy artillery and mortar fire and always maintaining complete calmness and high spirits was able, by his continual presence with his men, to keep their spirits high. His superior leadership under these most unfavorable conditions was a great inspiration to his men as well as to the men of the depleted Infantry unit that he was supporting. The presence of his company in this area enabled the depleted Infantry unit to hold the area which the enemy was endeavoring to secure. The outstanding action and leadership of Captain Grimshaw merit great praise. Entered United States Military Academy from Oklahoma.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(8) Engagement: Battle of Mortain.

a. Name: Louis F. Barrish, ASN 33036232, First Sergeant, Company A.

b. Act: During the period 8 August to 13 August 1944, Company "A",

J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action: (cont'd)

(8) b. (cont'd)

629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was supporting elements of an Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of St. Barthelmy, Near Mortain, France. For these five days this company was subjected to exceptionally heavy hostile artillery, mortar and rocket fire, and considerable sniper fire. The Infantry unit that was supported had many casualties and was greatly depleted. The presence of Company "A", 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, in the area enabled the Infantry unit to hold it in spite of the enemy's efforts to drive them out with artillery and mortar fire. During the period, First Sergeant Barrish was continually going from group to group, under fire, giving encouragement to his men and checking on their welfare. His calm actions and personal interest in his men helped to keep their morale and fighting spirit at the highest level. First Sergeant Barrish was continually checking, day and night, to be sure that his men were in their foxholes and other places of comparative safety during the periods of intense shelling. His untiring efforts in behalf of his men were an inspiration of the highest value to them and to the men of the depleted Infantry unit. The actions of First Sergeant Barrish throughout this period merit the highest praise. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(9) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1.

a. Name: Thomas E. Fretwell, Jr., ASN 13065301, Sergeant, Company A.

b. Act: Company A, in which Sergeant Fretwell was a section and destroyer commander, was supporting elements of the 109th Infantry in the vicinity of Harzspelt, Germany on 16 August 1944. Our mission was to neutralize enemy pillboxes and other targets of opportunity while the infantry advanced and secured their positions. When Sergeant Fretwell's destroyer reached the top of the hill, 12 shots were fired at enemy targets. By that time, 20mm machine gun, rifle and 88mm fire was directed at his destroyer. One 88 hit it in the front which caused it to burst into flames immediately, causing unknown injury to the assistant gunner and assistant driver and burns to the driver and the gunner. Sergeant Fretwell and the two men with burns left the destroyer by way of the turret and ran towards the rear where it was comparatively safe. On realizing that his other two men did not get out of the burning destroyer, he started back to get them out. Intensive machine gun, rifle and 88 fire was still being directed at the burning destroyer. In leaving his place of comparative safety, Sergeant Fretwell completely disregarded his personal safety in the face of the intensive fire to go to the aid of his two men. As Sergeant Fretwell reached the turret he was hit by the enemy fire and fell dead along side the burning destroyer. This extraordinary act of heroism was above and beyond the call of duty and deserves praise of the highest order.

c. Award: Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)

(10) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1

a. Name: Donald H. Booth, ASN 11097568, Technician 5th Grade, Company B.

J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action

(10) (cont'd)

b. On the morning of 20 September 1944, Tec 5th Grade Booth was sent up to the 3rd platoon of Company B to remove a radio from one of the destroyers and take it to the rear, where he could repair it in a place of safety. After checking the radio he decided he could repair it without taking it to the rear. Heavy enemy mortar and some small arms fire was directed at the destroyers during the time Booth was working on the radio. Disregarding this intense mortar fire he continued to work diligently on the radio in the destroyer until it was operating properly. He realized the importance of maintaining radio communication between this platoon and the company command post, and placed that job before his personal safety. Friendly tanks were maneuvering in the area surrounding the platoon of destroyers. The movement of these tanks caused the enemy to fire their mortars into the area. Tec 5th Booth completed his work on the radio at approximately 1315. As he was leaving the turret, one of our M-4 tanks that was operating to the east fired on the destroyer with both the 75mm and the caliber 30 machine guns. Booth was hit and fell to the ground mortally wounded. The incident was no doubt the result of mistaken identity, even though other friendly tanks were scattered throughout that area. Tec 5th Booth displayed great courage and maintained complete calmness while repairing the radio under heavy enemy mortar fire. As a result of his courage and attention to duty, the radio was repaired in a minimum amount of time. Tec 5th Donald H. Booth was killed while performing this very important service under such trying conditions.

c. Award: Bronze Star (Posthumously)

(11) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1

a. Name: John C. Haldane, ASN C-1822874, 1st Lt. (2d Lt at time of act), Company B.

b. Act: The area occupied by the 1st platoon of Company B on 19 September 1944 in the vicinity of Kessfeld, Germany was subjected to intense mortar and artillery fire at approximately 1100 hours. Several men were able to notify the men of this platoon that their O.P. which was 300 to 400 yards to the front had been knocked out. Lt. John Haldane, the platoon leader, and Sgt. Edward Makowiecki, the destroyer commander, without hesitation and in complete disregard for their personal safety, went to the location of the O.P. They found the telephone wire leading to the O.P., carried it to their destroyer and established communication with infantry O.P. until another O.P. was functioning. They were quick to realize the seriousness of the unit being without the O.P. and accomplished the act in a very cool and efficient manner. Lt. John C. Haldane was not returned while performing this heroic act.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(12) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1.

a. Name: Edward J. Makowiecki, ASN 33034177, Sergeant, Company B.

b. Act: The area occupied by the 1st platoon of this company on 19 September 1944 in the vicinity of Kessfeld, Germany was subjected to intense mortar and artillery fire at approximately 1100 hours. Several men were able

J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action: (cont'd)

(12) b. (cont'd)

to notify the men of this platoon that their O.P. which was 300 to 400 yards to the front had been knocked out. Lt. John Haldane, the platoon leader, and Sergeant Edward Makowiecki, the destroyer commander, without hesitation and in complete disregard for their personal safety went to the location of the O.P. They found the telephone wire leading to the C.P., carried it to their destroyer and established communication with infantry O.P. until another O.P. was functioning. They were quick to realize the seriousness of the unit being without the O.P. and accomplished the act in a very cool and efficient manner. Sergeant Edward Makowiecki was not wounded while performing this heroic act.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(13) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1

a. Names: John Mahoy, ASN 33036486, G Sgt, Company B, and Wilbur Walters, ASN 33036157, G Sgt, (T/4 at time of act), Company B.

b. Act: One destroyer of this unit was hit by enemy fire and disabled on 15 September 1944 in the vicinity of Kessfeld, Germany. The damage to the rocker arms and one track was such that the vehicle could not be towed to a place of safety. The crew could not stay with the destroyer due to its location in close proximity to the enemy. Sergeant Mahoy, the company motor sergeant, was ordered to check the destroyer for the possibility of repairing it or towing it back for repairs. As a result of that inspection he and Tec 4 Walters made nine trips to repair the destroyer. Each time the enemy directed artillery, mortar or machine gun fire at the destroyer and forced them to retire to a place of safety. Due to this enemy fire they were able to work for only one to three hours on each trip. On four of these trips two other company mechanics accompanied Sergeant Mahoy and Tec 4 Walters. On the last trip they were pinned down for approximately one and one-half hours before they could retire. After being forced back from the destroyer on the first several visits it was evident that the enemy would attempt to prevent the work to repair the destroyer so it could be recovered. In spite of this unfavorable condition these men returned on their own initiative, time after time to complete the job. They disregarded their safety and with complete coolness worked under fire until it became too hot for them to continue. The location of the destroyer made it impossible to get all the necessary tools to the position to make the repairs. However, these men worked earnestly and under fire with inadequate tools until the rocker arm and track were repaired. These men accomplished their job to the extent that another crew completed the repairs on a later day.

The heroic and meritorious service performed by Sergeant Mahoy and Tec 4 Walters in their attempt to recover this much needed vehicle deserves considerable praise. Sergeant Mahoy and Tec 4 Walters were not wounded while performing this meritorious service.

c. Awards: Each man received the Bronze Star.



J. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action: (cont'd)

(14) Engagement: Siegfried Line No. 1.

a. Names: Leonard A. Shoemaker, Jr., ASN 33009001, Tec 4th Grade, Company B, and Lemuel F. Watkins, ASN 33023692, Tec 4th Grade, Company B.

b. Acts: One destroyer of this unit was hit by enemy fire and disabled on 15 September 1944 in the vicinity of Kessfeld, Germany. The suspension system and track was disabled so that the destroyer could not be moved until repairs were made on it. The situation was such that the crew could not stay with the destroyer. Tec 4 Watkins and Tec 4 Shoemaker, company mechanics, were in charge of the recovery vehicle. They made four attempts to assist in the repairs of the destroyer. All the time they knew that the enemy would direct fire at them in an effort to prevent them from repairing and in the end recover the vehicle. Each time they were forced to withdraw from the disabled destroyer after working as long as possible under the strain of the mortar and artillery shells that fell near by. On the last trip, they were pinned down at the destroyer for approximately one and one-half hours by heavy and continuous mortar and artillery fire before being able to withdraw to a place of safety. Tec 4 Watkins and Tec 4 Shoemaker worked with unusual speed and complete coolness under the strain of the continuous mortar and artillery fire which the enemy directed at them to prevent the recovery of this valuable vehicle. They disregarded their personal safety to continue their work while mortar and artillery shells fell around them, retiring only when the fire became so intense it was impossible to continue. Due to the position of the destroyer, the enemy observation and the close location of the enemy, these mechanics were forced to make the necessary repairs using inside tools in the minimum possible time.

Tec 4 Watkins and Tec 4 Shoemaker deserve much credit in performing this heroic and meritorious service in their efforts on this battlefield recovery of the much needed vehicle.

c. Awards: Each man received the Bronze Star.

(15) Engagement: France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

a. Name: Ralph E. Lenson, ASN 33078302, E/Sgt, (1st Sgt at time of Act), Company B.

b. Acts: For the period 12 July 1944 to 4 October 1944 First Sergeant Lenson performed his normal duties in an outstanding manner and in addition performed duties of the company executive officer when he was as liaison officer and assisted the supply sergeant in the distribution of supplies. His superior ability in planning and organizing, his untiring and unhesitating attention to duty and his willingness to accept additional responsibilities enabled him to perform these other duties in an outstanding manner. During the period 12 July to 19 July 1944 this company was performing indirect fire missions in the vicinity of Balleroy, France. 1st Sgt. Lenson assisted the company executive in running the company FDC. When the company FDC was operating day and night he relieved the executive and was in charge of the FDC at regular intervals. He also relieved the HCO and the VCO on certain occasions. These duties were in addition to his normal duties and required special knowledge which he had learned since his departure from the United States. During period in which the FDC was subjected to enemy



3. Former and Present Members who have distinguished themselves in action

(15) b. (cont'd)

shell fire, Sergeant Lemon performed his job with complete confidence and coolness. When the company was in support of the 120th and 12 Infantry Regiments in vicinity of Mortain, France from 8 August to 13 August, Sergeant Lemon again organized his duties to the extent that he was able to perform the duties of the company executive while the executive was absent on duty as Liaison Officer at another organization. At this time the platoons were widely separated. The company supply sergeant was busy getting supplies from the battalion headquarters to the company C.P. Sergeant Lemon in addition to his normal duties and the duties of the company executive, organized an efficient system for getting the supplies and the extra large amount of ammunition to the widely scattered platoons. Through his untiring efforts and his willingness to accept responsibility, the elements of his company were always adequately supplied and the administrative details were performed promptly and in an excellent manner. Again, in the vicinity of Grosskampenbourg, Germany from 15 September 1944 to 26 September 1944, Sergeant Lemon performed additional duties by supervising the movement of supplies from the company C.P. to his scattered platoons. He performed the duties of his company executive who was liaison officer with the unit to which the company was attached for that particular period.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

(16) Engagement: Siegfried Line Nol.

a. Name: Robert A. Buchholz, ASN 35723012, Private First Class, Company C.

b. Act: Pfc Buchholz, while a member of a destroyer crew on a special direct fire mission on enemy pillboxes and houses had two fingers on his left hand fractured and his left wrist injured in the breech mechanism of the gun when the second round was fired. Disregarding this injury and the pain, he remained at his post and by using his left arm he loaded an additional 64 rounds of 3-inch ammunition and thereby enabled his crew to complete its important mission in the prescribed time. At the same time this gun was covering the adjacent gun which was also firing on planned targets and prevented enemy guns in its sector from firing on the adjacent gun.

c. Award: Bronze Star.

