

The 9th and 51st British AA Regiments moved into support in that vicinity a day or two later, and together the units advanced against strong enemy patrols and heavy mortar fire through Quereinella and Mt. Nero, entering Leghorn from the south at dawn of the 19th. Meanwhile, the firing companies in their direct support roles were moving forward steadily and on the 18th of July, Company C, supporting the 363rd Infantry Regiment, entered Livorno (Leghorn) with the Infantry riding on the destroyers.

The 23rd of July again found the Battalion transferring, this time back to the 88th Infantry Division and moving into positions southeast of Pisa. Company A was initially attached to the 349th Infantry Regiment, Company B to the 350th Infantry Regiment, and Company C to the 351st Infantry Regiment; all units were to undergo training in river crossing. The Arno River was ahead. While the remainder of the Battalion was practicing river crossings, Company B was attached to the 363rd Infantry Regiment to support their attack, and on the 4th of August was pulled back out of the line and rejoined the Battalion now in a bivouac area near Volterra. The Battalion continued practicing river crossings, conducting maintenance, and working problems with the 760th Tank Battalion until the 20th of August, when they were again attached to the 91st Infantry Division. On the 22nd of August the Battalion closed into an area near Poggibonsi for a short stay and then on the 26th of August, closed into an assembly area near Grossina.

The 1st of September found the Battalion again being called into the line. This time the Battalion, less Company A and one reconnaissance platoon, was attached to the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron to work under the 88th Infantry Division. Company A and the reconnaissance platoon continued to work with 91st Division. By the 3rd of September, B

Company had cleared the Arno River and was engaging the enemy north of there. On 7th of September the 34th Division took over. The Battalion, less Company A, was still working with the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron.

THE GOTHIC LINE

The next great natural defensive line for the retreating enemy was the huge, sprawling Apennines Mountain Range, running from north of Pisa to Rimini and extending 60 miles in depth to the Po Valley. The enemy had erected literally hundreds of defensive positions here, and using the thick walled houses and buildings as observations posts, had set up elaborate and well planned strong points in a desperate effort to halt the Allies. Special effort, of course, being made to block the few highways that twisted their way to the Po Valley. Once again the Battalion was to aid in the cracking of a tough objective.

On the 7th of September B Company and one reconnaissance platoon were supporting the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, the 1st platoon of C Company was supporting C Troop, 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, and A Company and one reconnaissance platoon was supporting the 755th Tank Battalion. The dug-in enemy forces in their pillboxes, concrete emplacements, houses and armored guns tried desperately to stop the attack, but yard by yard they were forced back. Throughout September and into October the firing companies gave close supporting fire to the Infantry until about the middle of October when bad weather began to make operations extremely difficult. The roads soon became quagmires, and fogs and mists limited observation. The approach of winter forced the Allies to halt, temporarily, their onward plunge and to



Monghedoro and results of "B" Company's direct firing.



"B" Company M-10 South of the Arno in indirect fire position.

settle down into purely a holding position to move up supply points and await the coming of Spring. The Battalion again was split up and attached to the various regiments in the sector, firing directly or indirectly, as the situation arose. Mt. Adone and Mt. Arnigo and the heavily fortified town of Livergnano stood frowning down on the Battalion's positions and the enemy, from these great heights, was able to command the entire sector. The caves to the right and left of Livergnano, as well as the town, were taken under direct fire and by the 15th of October had been reduced to rubble. Prisoners taken during this period remarked that they were unable to withstand the terrific shocking effect of the 3 inch guns. A Company on the 15th moved into Livergnano in support of the 361st Infantry Regiment with B Company acting as artillery support. By the 17th A Company was near Casoni and B Company was engaged in the destruction of Brento and Cadito.

On the 23rd of October, A and B Companies, plus two reconnaissance platoons, were attached to Division Artillery, A going to the 916th FA Battalion and B going to the 346th FA Battalion and a few days later to the 347th FA Battalion. C Company meanwhile was still attached to the 34th Infantry Division. Supply was now one of the major obstacles confronting the Battalion and only through the vigorous efforts of Headquarters Company was it accomplished, pack-mules often being pressed into service to keep the forward gun positions supplied with ammunition and food. The pioneer platoon of Reconnaissance Company, maintaining Highway 65, was commended for their excellent work during this period. Here, too, was tested the practicability of illuminating shells and the results were found to be excellent. The enemy, finding daylight movement usually fatal, tried supplying his units by night and so the need for the illuminating shell arose. It was tested and soon determined that one gun could light up its own target and

then take it under effective fire. A Company on the 22nd of November was firing on enemy personnel at Ostia Nuovo, with air bursts, with excellent results. Reconnaissance Company had been experimenting with their M-8's in indirect firing methods and on the 12th of December moved them into indirect firing positions and fired through B Company's Fire Direction Center. A machine gun clinometer was used as a quadrant, with firing tables being worked out by Battalion personnel. A Piper Cub was also made available to the Battalion during these winter months and some excellent results were obtained by the Battalion with the guns being directed from the plane.

On the 28th of January Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron and on the 6th of February went into the line as Infantry near Vergato on Highway 64. The company occupied various infantry positions in that sector until it returned to the Battalion on the 11th of April.

THE PO VALLEY

With the coming of Spring the Artillery offensive was stepped up, and early in April the Battalion was again transferred to the 88th Division to work with them, preparatory to storming through the Po Valley. A Company was attached to the 363rd Infantry Regiment, B Company to the 361st Infantry Regiment, C Company to the 349th Infantry Regiment while Reconnaissance Company was again sent to the line companies for reconnaissance and liaison. While still in firing positions on the 15th of April, 1945, the Battalion was visited by Lt. General Lee and Major General Geoffrey Keyes. On this date with General Lee acting as loader, General Keyes fired the Battalion's 200,000th round at the enemy from one of B Company's guns.



Some prisoners we took.



M-10's lined up in Belluno, May '45.



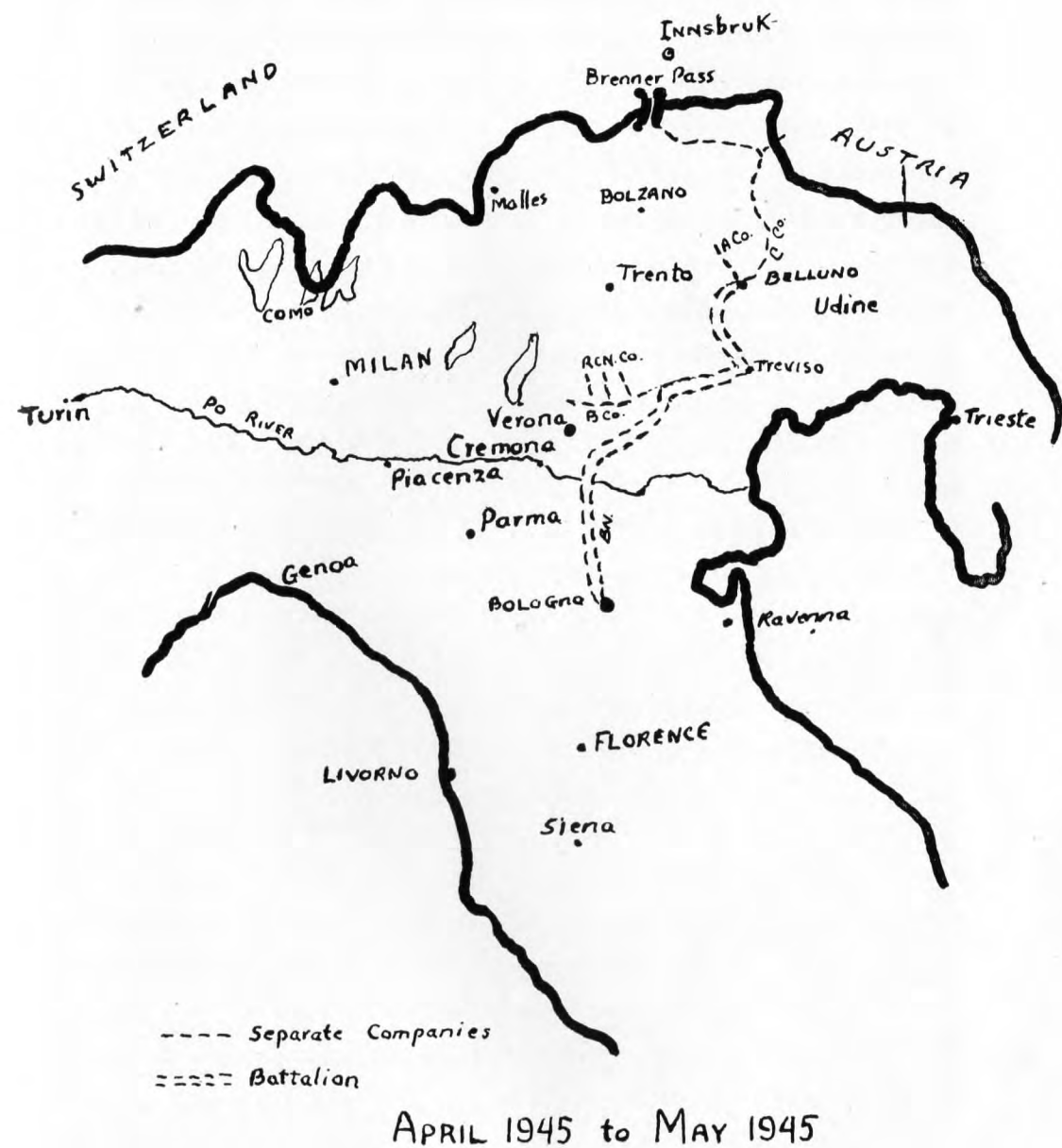
Ski jump near Cortina, Kraut 10th Army Headquarters, Italian Tyrol.



Lts. Brown and Snow, "A" Company, and abandoned Flak Wagon near the Austrian Border.

On the 16th of April the attack opened. A Company was advancing with the 362nd Infantry Regiment, B Company with the 363rd Infantry Regiment and C Company with the 349th and 350th Infantry Regiments of the 88th Division. Progress at first was slow but once the Division had broken out of the mountains and into the valley, it gained momentum and the enemy was soon put to a near rout. The Battalion, in its swift advance was credited with large numbers of enemy forces killed or captured, the destruction of several tanks, and the overrunning of enemy positions. By the 26th of April, the Battalion had crossed the Po River and on the 27th of April was supporting the Infantry in crossing the Adige River. A and B Companies, by the 29th, were near Cologna. A day later A Company was near Vicenza, with B and C Companies near Brento. Large numbers of prisoners and equipment were still being taken daily and the final collapse of the enemy in Italy now seemed imminent. Their main effort now seemed to be to try to reach the Alps to the north but the advance had been so rapid that huge parts of their armies had been cut off and surrounded.

On the 1st of May the Battalion pushed on into Treviso where they met elements of the British 8th Army and closed the trap on thousands of enemy forces to the south. The 88th Division was pulled out of the line in that vicinity and the 85th Division came into the line to continue the attack northward. The Battalion, less Reconnaissance Company, was immediately attached to the 85th, A Company going to the 337th Infantry for an attack on Mas, B Company to the 338th Infantry at Verona as reserve, and C Company to the 339th Infantry for an advance on Belluno. Reconnaissance Company remained with the 88th Division as flank security. A Company, on the 3rd of May, participated in the capture of a portion of the 278th Infantry Division, which was part of the 76th Panzer Corps, taking between 4,000 and 5,000 prisoners, complete with



transport, artillery, supplies and baggage trains. C Company on the 4th was advancing along Highway 51 to the junction of Highway 52, thence along Highway 52 towards the Austrian border near Sillian, capturing numerous garrisons along the way and at Piave di Cadore captured the 73rd Panzer Corps Headquarters and its attached troops. Finally on the 5th of May, 1945, the 3rd platoon of C Company, supporting the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry reached the Brenner Pass and contacted elements of the 103rd Infantry Division of the 7th Army which was closing in from the north. Escape for the enemy was now cut off and on the 5th of May the fighting ceased in Italy.

C Company on the 6th of May moved into San Candido to set up a road block there, and also one at Sillian, Austria, while Reconnaissance Company, having been released by the 88th Division, reverted back to Battalion control and started convoying the defeated enemy to POW camps in the rear. A period of watchful waiting prevailed for a few days following the defeat of the enemy and then the Battalion started moving into an assembly area near Feltre for a rest and maintenance of equipment.

On the 4th of June the Battalion again moved, this time to Montecatini to prepare to return to the States. There Major Wallace L. Clement who joined the Battalion as a first lieutenant in 1942, assumed command of the Battalion. On the 18th of July the Battalion boarded the "Marine Raven" at Livorno for shipment home, arriving in Newport News on the 31st of July, slightly under three years from that sailing date in New York harbor, the 6th of August, 1942.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



"A" Company Officers in Montecatini



"Coming Home," SS Marine Raven, July '45

AWARDS

For "distinguishing themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services,"

The LEGION OF MERIT was awarded:

Sgt. Charles O. Norred

M/Sgt. Frank Radosevich

For "distinguishing themselves by gallantry in action,"

The SILVER STAR was awarded:

S/Sgt. David A. Hall

Lt. Col. Fred G. Rowell

1st Lt. Byrel A. Moore

Sgt. Joe J. Verkovich

S/Sgt. Wayne Showalter
(Posthumously)

1st Lt. Edgar S. Williamson *
Capt. Benjamin H. Zuber, Jr.

For "distinguishing themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States,"

The BRONZE STAR was awarded:

Armstrong, Capt. Clifton E.
Baule, PFC Edwin O.
Berlin, 1st Lt. Bruce A.
Black, T/4 Norvin P.
Blatz, S/Sgt. Albert S.
Bramlett, Sgt. William L.
Briggs, Sgt. Robert T.
Broderick, Sgt. Martin P.
Buckner, 1st Lt. Edward H.
Burton, Sgt. George R.
Callaway, 1st Lt. Joe A.
Chylik, T/Sgt. James E.
Chandler, Capt. Darrell E.

Clement, Major Wallace L.
Creevey, PFC James J.
Culbertson, T/Sgt. Charles L.
Drabic, 1st Lt. John J.
Dufurrena, 2nd Lt. Johnny B.
Fontenot, PFC Joseph D.
Fore, PFC James A.
Frede, PFC Kurt E.
Gaddy, Sgt. John T.
Garcia, Sgt. William
Glester, Pvt. Joseph F.
Glover, S/Sgt. Ralph D.
Gumm, Cpl. Orval G.

Haley, Major Bernard P.
Harris, Sgt. Ted C.
Haskell, Capt. Samuel R.*
Hunt, Sgt. Thaddeus W.
Jones, S/Sgt. Carl M.
Jones, S/Sgt. Hal T.
King, 1st Lt. Allan D.
Lopez, Cpl. Michael A.
Lowrey, Capt. Herbert F.
Magruder, T/Sgt. Charles N.
Manczak, PFC George
Mangum, Sgt. Norman D.
Marshall, T/Sgt. Clarence E.
Montoya, Sgt. Lorenzo
Moore, 1st Lt. Byrel A.
Morgal, Tech 4 Ambrose J.
Morgan, Tech 4 Johnny D.
Muniz, Cpl. Jose F.

Padilla, Tech 5 Adrian M.
Patch, Capt. James A.
Patrick, S/Sgt. William D.
Quintana, M/Sgt. Joseph I.
Raffucci, 1st Lt. Francisco L.
Snow, 2nd Lt. Morris H.
Sumerall, Cpl. Berry
Swift, 1st Sgt. R. M.
Troeger, 1st Lt. Clarence E.**
Wallace, PFC Forrest L.*
Wallis, Tech 4 William J.
Weatherford, S/Sgt. John D.
Weaver, Capt. William N.
White, Sgt. Thomas D.
Wray, Sgt. John G.
Yaworsky, 1st Lt. John
Yount, Pvt. Eugene L.

For having received wounds in the service of their country as a result of enemy action,

The PURPLE HEART was awarded:

Anaya, Cpl. Eloy G.
Anderson, pfc. Dallas C.* ‡
Aragon, Pvt. Chris J.
Baca, Pvt. Anastacio L.
Bachus, Sgt. Stanley E.
Baker, Cpl. Jack D.
Benner, Cpl. Francis L.
Berlin, 1st Lt. Bruce A.
Booth, Pvt. Marcus R.
Botts, Pvt. Demar R.
Bramlett, Sgt. William L.
Brown, 2nd Lt. Robert L., Jr.
Browning, Sgt. Roscoe J. ‡
Burris, Pvt. David E.
Burton, S/Sgt. William F.
Bush, Pvt. John C.
Carnes, S/Sgt. Thomas R. ‡
Carr, Pfc. John C., Jr. ‡
Cary, Pfc. Harold M.
Chesley, Pfc. Henry J.
Clinkscapes, Cpl. Burton R.
Clark, 2nd Lt. Joseph M.

Clover, Sgt. Ralph D.
Colby, Tec. 5 Robert L.
Curtis, Pvt. Bill D. ‡
Dahl, Tec. 5 Ruben P.
Danielson, Sgt. George W.
Davis, Cpl. James S.
Deweese, Sgt. John B.
Dilday, Pvt. Ralph E.
Dorrance, Pfc. Oliverio ‡
Doseff, 1st Lt. Robert H.*
Ebald, Pvt. William H.
Englert, Sgt. Clifford E.
Escobar, Pfc. Porfirio J. ‡
Esslinger, Sgt. Richard T. ‡
Fenn, Tec. 4 Carl A.
Ferguson, Pvt. Leroy S.
Ferguson, Tec. 5 Mose A.
Fink, Tec. 5 Carrol L.
Fore, Pvt. James A.
Firtos, 1st Lt. Mike J.
Freels, Tec. 5 Luther
Gaddy, Cpl. John T.

Gallitano, Pvt. John R. ‡
 Galway, Sgt. Ney C. ‡
 Glester, Pvt. Joseph F.
 Clover, S/Sgt. Ralph D.*
 Gorczynski, Pvt. Walter J.
 Grant, Tec. 4 Victor
 Gray, Pvt. Leon O.
 Greiner, Pvt. John L.
 Groninger, Pvt. Eldon E.
 Guterrez, Sgt. Garfield J.
 Gwyn, 2nd Lt. Wilson E. ‡
 Hafenstein, Tec. 5 Clarence G.
 Hall, S/Sgt. David A.
 Hansen, Sgt. Hubert W.
 Harmon, Sgt. Alexander ‡
 Hellwege, Pfc. Myron R.
 Hernandez, Cpl. Vincent B., Jr. ‡
 Herrera, Pvt. Onecino M.
 Hitsman, 2nd Lt. Melvin E.
 Hooker, Pvt. Wayne F.
 Hooton, Pfc. James D.
 Hunt, Pvt. Clyde
 Hutchens, 1st Lt. Ronald H.
 Jennings, 1st Sgt. Walter T.
 Johnson, Pvt. Roy M. ‡
 Johnson, 2nd Lt. William F.
 Joyce, Sgt. John A.
 Kauth, 2nd Lt. John W.
 Kee, Tec. 5 Joe
 Keitel, 1st Lt. Fred A.
 Laramie, Cpl. Charles A.
 Lee, Pfc. Rufus E.
 Lindsey, Sgt. Charles H. ‡
 Lopez, Pfc. Jose G.
 Mangum, S/Sgt. Norman D.
 Martinez, Pvt. Tranquilino ‡
 Matuszewski, Sgt. Paul C.
 Meskimen, Tec. 4 Loyal N.
 Mendenhall, Sgt. Wilburn D.*
 McCarthy, Tec. 5 John S.
 McCullough, Tec. 5 George E. ‡
 McCully, S/Sgt. Michael M.
 Montano, Pvt. Bentura
 Montoyo, Sgt. Lorenzo
 Moore, 1st Lt. Byrel A.
 Moore, Pvt. Frank A.

*—One (1) Oak Leaf Cluster.

**—Two (2) Oak Leaf Clusters.

‡—Posthumous.

Awards through 1 October 1945. Others pending.

Mueller, 2nd Lt. Carl ‡
 Navarskas, Sgt. Vito J.
 Nelson, Cpl. W. A. ‡
 Nicholson, Pvt. Randle E.
 Norred, Sgt. Charles O.
 O'Connor, Pvt. Charles H.
 Olson, Sgt. Clifford
 Pack, Tec. 5 Charles W.
 Paulsen, Pvt. Chester G.
 Peters, 1st Lt. Eber H.
 Phillips Tec. 5 Earl R.
 Pine, Tec. 4 Albert J. ‡
 Portillo, Tec. 5 Pablo A.
 Rand, Pvt. Harriman W.
 Richards, Pfc. William A.
 Roberts, 1st Lt. Harris A.
 Rouse, S/Sgt. Frank
 Ruiz, S/Sgt. Filberto
 Schanhaar, Pvt. Vincent H.* ‡
 Schnell, 1st Lt. Jacob* ‡
 Showalter, Sgt. Wayne W. ‡
 Slater, Sgt. James R. ‡
 Snow, S/Sgt. Morris H.
 Snyder, Sgt. Walter W.
 Sorrenti, Pfc. Gene F.
 Sparks, Tec. 5 Luther D., Jr.
 Stallings, Cpl. Alfred F.
 Stillwell, Cpl. Tom
 Stoops, Pvt. Stanley E.
 Trump, Tec. 5 Floyd R.
 Wagenen, S/Sgt. Reed Van
 Wallis, Tec. 5 William J.
 Wasell, Cpl. Lester W.
 Watts, S/Sgt. Thomas H., Jr.
 Webster, Capt. James T.
 Weske, Sgt. Wilfred C.
 White, Cpl. Harold*
 White, Sgt. Leon O. ‡
 Widener, Pfc. Alfred C. ‡
 Williams, Pvt. Ivor W.
 Williamson, 1st Lt. Edgar S.
 Willis, Pvt. Carter L.
 Wright, Tec. 5 Bert
 Yurk, 1st Lt. James D. ‡
 Zavistoski, Pvt. Joseph P.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- The English, so hospitable at Christmas time, trying to make the Yanks feel at home.
- The Irish girls with their sturdy legs, able to dance for hours and then walk for miles.
- Drill call in Ireland—dark and wet.
- The practice alert and march from Crom Castle to Newtown Butler and back.
- The range and hike back from it to Crom.
- The long train ride to Belfast on pass.
- London.
- Arabs peddling oranges and eggs, with prices skyrocketing immediately.
- The battle of El Gor.
- The beach at Beni-Saf.
- Four miles in forty-two minutes.
- General Wilbur's school.
- The moving target range at Sebduu with the imperturbable Arabs refusing to move out of the impact area.
- Winter at Sebduu with the Arabs seemingly closing in on us—and the one who was hit with a red flare by an industrious C Company guard.
- That tasty gazelle meat.
- May 11, 1944, what a show that was when the whole Allied line started to move.
- The Goums, colorful, excitable, and terrifying to the Krauts.
- Newly liberated Italian towns, with cheering people throwing flowers, kisses, and waving wine bottles.
- Triumphal entry into Rome.
- Living off the land, each tank laden with vegetables, eggs, and even chickens, and each crew having at least one good cook.
- Rest camps in Florence and Rome.
- Rotation, always stunning news.
- Mt. Adone.
- Breaking into the Po Valley after all those months.
- Krauts withdrawing—and the Kraut convoy passing at night with neither force aware of the other.
- The Alps, beautiful but not nice for fighting.
- Cessation of hostilities, with Krauts and Yanks patrolling the same streets, both armed.
- The various kinds of beverage in various parts of the world—port, stout, vin blanc, muscatel, cognac, vino bianco, etc.
- Montecatini, preparing to go to Japan via the States.
- The "Marine Raven"—"Keep the ship clean"—and a "Special good morning to the cooks and KP's."
- Civilians again, after all these years.

FINITO

If you know a former member of the 804th who has not received a copy of this history within a reasonable length of time after you get yours—tell him to write and ask for one.

LT. JOHN B. GREGG
1104 So. Washington St.
Park Ridge, Illinois.



