

* I figured we actually started our combat about the middle of July 1943 when we left Camp McCoy Wis. by truck with about 125,000 troops and attack the wheat fields of North & South Dakota. We did the whole bit of bringing in the wheat harvest from driving the Farm Egg to shocking wheat.

Our Company C of 602nd T.D. Bn was stationed in the Minot No. Dakota area just a few miles from Canadian border. We went out to the farms each morning from our tents in the school yard each morning & worked 10 & 12 hour days. If the farmer had room for us we stayed on the farm occasionally. The farmer Pd 50[¢]-60[¢] or 75[¢] per hr. per man depending on what we did shock, Drive Truck or Farm Egg. We were to spend a couple of weeks but wound up about 6 or 8 weeks returning to McCoy about the middle of Sept.

After we ^{landed in France} got ^{into} into combat in Europe POC 3rd Platoon put Tanks in Position on the Bank of Mosel River about the 3rd or 4th day after arriving in France. We were well camo but about 2 PM Lt Hatchinson drove his jeep across an open field on a return trip from the bank of the river to our position & when he stopped in front of one of the tanks the Germans hit it with a round from an 88. We lost the jeep driver, the Tank driver & the Gun loader. The Lt rolled under the tank & was not injured. The other 3 were killed in action. That was our only

tank Loss + Loss of Life in our entire combat tour.

Company C-602nd T-13 Par. was attached to 6th Cavalry Group which consisted of 6th Cavalry 29th Cavalry a Company of Rangers, a Company of Engineers. The I.D. & other small outfits consisting of a total of about 600 personnel. This took place some time early in November & at 1st it was an off & on situation but became a permanent attachment. We stayed with that group for quite sometime & our mission seemed to be cleaning up small pockets of German Prisoners so we mostly drove the roads & Highways by day & running into German resistance late afternoon each day so we would fire a few rounds retreat to the last town we passed & usually bed down in houses. The next morning the armoured jeeps would return to our last scene of action & pick up a few prisoners & then we would continue our ~~search~~ search for prisoners or a front.

One day while attached to the 6th Cavalry Group we were called upon about noon to see if we could get a Doughboy Division loose that had been pinned down on a hill by German 88's.

We attacked from the flank & captured about a dozen 88's with their trails down & in line with the Doughboy Div we proceeded up the winding road

on the hill & took prisoners at nearly every house on our way up. & as we got to the top of the hill our Ganner ~~was~~ saw an 88 flash & zero'd on it & knocked it out killing 5 Germans.

The last house on the top of the hill had been the German Aid Station & in the rear of the house were 22 German Officers to the Rank of Colonel all with hands tied in the Back & a bullet hole in the temple. If I recall we took something like 750 German Prisoners & there were only 450 of us on the Attack. We were awarded the Presidential Citation for that attack. That did not include the whole 60th Div. Only Co C as attached to 6th ~~Division~~ Cavalry Group. We had a real easy war while with them with few casualties. We were detached & sent to the 1st Army Front & went into Bastone. The night we pulled out on the 6th ~~Division~~ Cavalry Group German patrols killed about 140 men in their beds knowing the armour was gone. We spent about 10 days waiting for weather to clear outside of Bastone. The morning they were able to fly & bring in paratroops we moved up the roads from the woods we had been hiding in to help relieve Bastone. The war was over shortly & we spent a lot of time retreating & turning ground over to Russians which

upset us no end. Personally I pulled about
60 days M P Duty in Marseille France +
Returned to the States in early Dec 1945
being discharged from Ft Leavenworth Dec 11 1945

We were Part of the 3rd Army + spent quite
a bit of Time following the Whims of Gen Geo
Patton. One time we were on banks of the
Rhine River about 50 miles past the front.

Patton got his wrist slapped for that little maneuver
+ we suffered loss of all gas supplies for 18 days
It was a little scary to be in Combat with
our tanks with Less than $\frac{1}{4}$ Tank of Gas. We
Drove M-10 Tanks with 76 mill. Guns