

# THE 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

*by*

Captain Roy T. McGrann

1946



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*The 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion***INTRODUCTION**

This book is the fulfillment of a promise that I made to Lt. Col. Herold shortly after he joined the Battalion at Camp Hood that at some future date the complete story of the outfit would be gathered into one volume and distributed to the members. This promise was reiterated to the Battalion in the last issue of the "Hellcat" which was distributed at Nurnberg. The selection of myself as the author is very obviously not due to any literary prowess which I possess but more logically because I was the oneness but more logically because I was the one standing nearest when the idea came to the colonel. The only other qualification that I seem to possess lies in the fact that I have been a member of the Battalion since the first shipment of officers arrived on April 24th, 1942.

Shortly after the Battalion arrived in Nurnberg, Germany, and took up its occupational duties, plans were made to have the book published there. A rough draft of the book was published in the "Hellcat" to give those men returning home on "Points" a short history to take home with them until the book was finished. The sudden end of the war in the East and the subsequent change in the category of the outfit and its shipment home interfered with those plans. Gathering together all possible material that would be of use in the writing of the story, the Battalion Staff entrusted it to my care and hoped that some day the book would be finished.

In its finished form the book, to my personal taste, is inadequate. There are hundreds of incidents worthy of note which occurred during training as well as on the battlefield, but of which no record exists. The action in the book until after the battle of Argentan was written almost entirely from memory and the scraps of information gained from the few official records still in the files. After that time the staff records furnished a more detailed but still "skimpy" account of the daily "doings" of the outfit. For the sake of brevity in reports the individual action of individuals, crews or even of platoons was reduced to the terse statement of how many rounds were fired, at what targets they were fired and the results, while the story of how they accomplished each mission, which forms the essence of an historical account, remains only in the memory of those who accomplished the deed.

The available information has been gathered and written to the best of my ability, my only hope is that it meets with the readers approval. My expression of gratitude to Major Stewart for his interest in the work and to Sergeants Jull, Senger, Dreissel and Laino for the preparation and safekeeping of the records used, and to Captain Leatzow for the use of his pictures.

Roy T. McGrann,  
Captain, 610th T.D.Bn.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

This book is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel William L. Herold and the following members of the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion who were killed

Lt. Charles R. Garis  
Lt. Richard J. Merrill  
Lt. Harry B. Watkins, Jr.  
S/Sgt. Lawrence M. Fraley  
S/Sgt. Henry A. Moser  
Sgt. Antonio Castellano  
Sgt. Ralph I. Derr

Sgt. Delbert D. Lee  
Sgt. Joseph J. Lusardi  
Cpl. Hans W. Hermansen  
T/5 William Argento  
T/5 Edgar N. Bird  
T/5 Leo R. Cote  
T/5 Wilber E. Dosey  
T/5 James E. Jones  
T/5 Clayton W. Leavitt  
T/5 Joseph J. Palmieri  
T/5 Rudolph Pisani  
T/5 Donald Vetrone  
Pfc. Lloyd D. Beckner  
Pfc. Herbert Etenson  
Pfc. Albert M. Luciano  
Pfc. Charles F. Masterson  
Pfc. Edward A. Strain  
Pfc. Louis J. Perrus  
Pvt. Frank A. Chrzanowski  
Pvt. John J. Drobny  
Pvt. Robert H. Hensel  
Pvt. Clifford L. Hook  
Pvt. Ted J. Howard  
Pvt. Mathew Hurta  
Pvt. Peter Kravetz  
Pvt. John Oresick  
Pvt. Angelo V. Raccio  
Pvt. Isaac O. Sensenig  
Pvt. William R. Sorensen  
Pvt. Edmund D. Sullivan  
Pvt. Albert J. Vercellin



# CHAPTER I

## Activation

On the 11th of April, 1942, Headquarters 45th Infantry Division (Thunderbird Division) located at Camp Barkeley, Texas issued Special Order Number 88 activating the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Light Towed). At this time Tank Destroyer Battalions were divided into two groups one being armed with the 75mm gun and the other with towed 37mm guns. The 610th at the time of activation was in the latter group.

The order, effective at 1201 AM on the 10th of April, also assigned five officers from the 645th TD Battalion to command the newly organized Battalion. This included 1st Lieutenant Herman H. Greenhaw who was the ranking officer, and 76 enlisted men who comprised the cadre. The list of the original members of the Battalion follows:

1st Lt. Herman H. Greenhaw	Sgt. Edwin R. Ailey
1st Lt. William F. Fuller	Sgt. Robert S. Tuller
1st Lt. Donald L. Gulihur	Sgt. Thomas L. Alexander
2nd Lt. Harold K. Christian	Sgt. Fred W. Thompson, Jr.
2nd Lt. Harvey F. Allen	Sgt. Gilbert B. Fester
M/Sgt. Elijah S. Williams	Sgt. Melvin L. McCoy
M/Sgt. Jess G. Ramsey	Sgt. Richard C. Barclay
l/Sgt. Vernon E. Lucas	Sgt. James L. Anderson
l/Sgt. John C. Thomasson	Sgt. William T. Daniels
l/Sgt. Raymond J. Beams	Sgt. Leonard T. Lostrum
l/Sgt. Howard W. Duvall	Sgt. Herman L. Snoddy
l/Sgt. Lawrence M. Bevins	Sgt. Ray E. Lane
T/Sgt. Jack O. Winborn	Sgt. James N. Wvne
T/Sgt. Donald H. Jones	Sgt. James F. Riney
T/Sgt. Egbert W. Sextor, Jr.	T/4 Lewis H. Schrimsher
S/Sgt. Addis I. Powell	T/4 Donald L. Hawkinson
S/Sgt. Roy O. Linville	T/4 James E. McMullen
S/Sgt. Ennis B. Maurer	T/4 Lloyd N. Hawkins
S/Sgt. Dee F. Pinkerton	T/4 James W. Bradshaw
S/Sgt. Roy E. Rayon	T/4 Francis J. Taylor
S/Sgt. William W. Woodard	T/4 Philip Dyer
S/Sgt. Fred A. Powell	T/4 Harold L. Routh
S/Sgt. Frank Stocks	T/4 Dean J. Crockett
S/Sgt. Jesse R. James	T/4 Otis Baugh
S/Sgt. Clyde Hutson	T/4 Lemuel R. Elliott
S/Sgt. Wallace J. Tipton	T/4 Eugene R. Hayden
S/Sgt. Wilson R. Porter	T/4 Fred C. Haas
S/Sgt. Stephen A. Bailes	T/4 James E. Byrd
S/Sgt. Paul W. Burpo	T/4 George Stipanovic
S/Sgt. John C. Higgins	Cpl. William R. Lackey
S/Sgt. Elijah S. Lovely	Cpl. James M. Daniel
Sgt. Jay L. Cruze	Cpl. Don II. Thompson
Sgt. Albert R. Martin	Cpl. Carl K. Thompson
Sgt. Wilber W. Eakinsvely	Cpl. Edward N. Fyfe
Sgt. Jay L. Cruze	Cpl. Jack Gumm
Sgt. Albert R. Martin	T/5 Carlton E. Blackwood

Sgt. Wilber W. Eakins  
Sgt. Clyde G. Rawdon  
Sgt. Philip H. Brown  
Sgt. Leon R. Condren  
Sgt. Wayne R. Rowden  
Sgt. Leo R. Moore  
Sgt. Charles J. Woltkamp

T/5 John R. McKenzie  
T/5 Leon F. Hawkins  
T/5 Louis W. Winchester  
T/5 Paul J. Schieffer  
T/5 Lewis M. Sutton

The above group moved into an area removed from the divisional area at Barkeley and set about drawing equipment and o moved into an area removed from the divisional area at Barkeley and set about drawing equipment and organizing the nucleus for the Battalion that was to be. Lieutenant Greenhaw was promoted to Captain shortly thereafter. On April 24th twenty officers from Camp Joseph T. Robinson reported for duty with the Battalion. The original personnel assignments had 10 officers and 18 enlisted men in Headquarters Company with 1st Lt. McGxann commanding the Company, "A" Company with four officers and 14 EM under 2nd Lt. Allen, "B" Company with four officers and 13 EM under 1st Lt. Jongeward, "C" Company with four officers and 13 EM under 1st Lt. Kantola, and the Pioneer Company with three officers and 14 EM under 2nd Lt. Stewart.

The 45th Division had meanwhile left Camp Barkeley to be replaced with the 90th Infantry Division. On May 1st the battalion moved its personnel and equipment to the Theatre of Operations Camp on the edge of the Camp and began to set up housekeeping in the dilapidated area assigned to them. This area will be forever memorable to those that existed in it for its open sewers, muddy streets, and the generations of mosquitoes that were raised and fostered there.

On May 2nd Major Joseph M. Lovell reported for duty and assumed command of the Battalion. Major Rolland E. George reported for duty on the 4th and was assigned as Battalion Executive Officer while Captain Greenhaw became the Operations and Training Officer.

Changes in the personnel of the Battalion were a commo personnel of the Battalion were a common occurrence at this time. Men were constantly leaving for schools, transferring between companies or to other branches of the Service. The ranks of the outfit had been swelled somewhat by the arrival of the first lot of 168 men from the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Wolters, Texas. By the 31st of May the Battalion strength stood at 25 Officers and 229 Enlisted Men. Major Lovell was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 6th and on July 8th Captain Arthur B. Jeffery joined the Battalion.

Some attempts at training had, of course, been going on during this time. The outfit had received its full complement of vehicles, in fact there were more vehicles than there were men, but drivers were trained and three 37 mm guns were borrowed from the Engineers of the 90th Infantry Division. The T/O and T/ E of a towed TD Battalion, at that time, were a matter of conjecture and what little information was obtained changed from day to day. As a result the training was mostly limited to Infantry tactics and a concentration of effort placed on drivers' and mechanics' training. On July 8th the Battalion moved out on its first night problem held at the East Hawkins Ranch on the Reservation. The problem consisted of dividing the Battalion into two groups with one group, the enemy, trying to raid the bivouac of the other. This problem was greatly enjoyed by the participants and resulted ined by the participants and resulted in valuable knowledge gained, at least, in the niceties of being comfortable in the field. Too much criticism should not be made of the training procedure used at this time as the conception of Tank Destroyer action still was based on the Seek, Strike, and Destroy principle of small units in individual attack upon, at this time vulnerable, tanks. This type of attack upon the model tanks and enemy tactics used at that time, was feasible in the desert.

Training in the handling of motor vehicles had advanced to the Joint where it was desirable to train the men in convoy operation. The first practice convoy was conducted on the 15th of July, the Battalion traveling to Westbrook, Texas, on the drive. The Pioneer Company, which name may he unfamiliar to many, was re-designated the Reconnaissance Company on the 21st of July.

No mention of Camp Barkeley can be complete without an introduction to the ob an introduction to the obstacle course constructed by the Battalion to fulfill its obligations on physical conditioning. The course, fairly

short, being in the neighborhood of half a mile long, was laid out along the drainage ditch leading from the camp sewage disposal plant. The first obstacles, merely jumps across four foot ditches and scaling a nine foot wall, were fairly tame, but the run through the sand and high weeds leading to the thirteen foot jump across the creek was a test of endurance. From the jump the trail led down the creek to the cross-over which was a steel rope strung across the water and negotiated by hand. Then it led back up the creek where a sense of balance was developed by crossing sixteen feet of water on a 2x6 placed on edge. The next obstacle was another crossing of the creek. This time it was accomplished by swinging across on a 'grape vine' rope and then tapering off to an overhand crossing on a pole into which steel spikes were driven horizontally. It doesn't sound like much but no one has ever run the course consistently and failed to drop in the water at some time or other while the number of men who never ran the course without a dip in the water was fairly high. The experience of hitting the water was further complicated by the fact that the sewer was rather close upstream and the stench was overpowering.

During the entire time that the Battalion occupied this T/O area regular inspections were made by the Post sanitary officer and the area condemned at every inspection. It finally got to the place where the young doctor who made the inspections was heard to exclaim he was going to throw away his textbooks for if any man could live in such an area and still be as healthy as this outfit then apparently the textbooks were wrong.

The culmination of basic training was reached on the 17th of August when the Battalion went to the range for firing. At that time the equipment, consisted of the same three 37 mm guns, fired on the sub-caliber range, that were borrowed from the Engineers, .30 cal. rifles M 1917 (Enfields), and .30 cal. heavy machine guns. The latter two arms were not on the T/E but were substituted for training. It was while firing on the ranges that IA. General Walter Krueger made an inspection of the Battalion.



Through the summer of 1942 the Army was expanding tremendously and the need for additional officers was acute. As a result, every man who expressed the desire and who met the qualifications was sent to OCS for the necessary training. It began to be quite a problem to keep experienced non-coms in an outfit for as fast as they obtained the necessary army training they were off for school.

With the approach of Autumn the Battalion was finally moved onto the main post in the hutments being constructed. It was quite an event to be living in a building after spending six months in tents.

Major Benjamin F. Taylor joined the Battalion on November 8th, and was assigned as Executive Officer. Shortly after this Lt. Col. Lovell was transferred to the 822nd TD Bn. and Major Taylor assumed command of the Battalion. Following close upon the arrival of Major Taylor the Battalion also obtained a medical officer, 1st Lt. Oliver S. Schadt. Up to this time our medical detachment had consisted only of Sgt. Burpo and Cpl. Gumm as trained medics and a skeleton crew which they had trained. Both of the original members had transferred to OCS.

## CHAPTER II

# CAMP BOWIE, TEXAS

### *Basic Unit Training Center*

The Battalion departed from Camp Barkeley early on the morning of December 4th moving by motor convoy to Camp Bowie, Texas. This Post was located on the outskirts of Brownwood, Texas, and was part of the set-up for the training of Tank Destroyer units. Here was located the Basic Unit Training Center where battalions were given their full quota of tiwn and facilities were maintained for the ta of tiwn and facilities were maintained for the basic training of the raw replacements. The need for men had become so great that it was no longer feasible to train all of them in the large Replacements Centers so the men were sent directly from civilian life to the units where they received all their training. It was also on December 4th that the Battalion received six new officers. Two of them, Lts. Staib and Wittmer were on loan from the TD Replacement Pool at Camp Hood but Lts. Shields, Watkins, Snyder and Waldbart were assigned to the Battalion.

Hardly had the battalion settled down to the routine of life at Camp Bowie and the men become familiar with Major Taylor's hikes and obstacle course when word was received that the Battalion would be filled and the training started in earnest. The first shipment of very raw and disheveled former civilians arrived on January 5th from Fort Dix, New Jersey to be closely followed on January 8th by another train load from Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Aside from the newness of the uniform to these future "rough, tough and smart" soldiers the four or five day ride from the East Coast in coaches had not improved either their appearance or their disposition. Before the excitement of their arrival had worn off they found themselves lined up before Lt. Schadt's dispensary and the ever present needle was applied in their first introduction to "shots."

The round of intensive training was begun e round of intensive training was begun immediately. After a few short orientations on the wearing of the uniform and the appearance of a soldier, in particular a soldier of the 610th, the new life was begun. There was the usual indoctrination to be completed. The days were so busy and the requirements so many, the carefree civilian life of a few short weeks before was now an age away. Of course, men were homesick but the sympathetic "Doc," whose remedy for homesickness was castor oil, soon had that situation under control.

The brief stay at Camp Bowie was highlighted by several incidents usually preceded by one of Major Taylor's "hollow squares." The first explained to the men the things expected of them as members of the 610th. It soon became quite clear that what he had to say were not idle words. The first hike upon which the Battalion embarked will never be forgotten. That five miles figuratively became five hundred and men dropped out like flies. The men and the "boys" were soon separated and the "boys" persuaded to behave as men. The treatment must have been effective for it became a tradition to the outfit that no one became a straggler unless "the blood oozed out of your shoe."

The shortage of equipment and the practical efficiency of training a mass of men in the same subjects on an organized hasis necessitated the pooling of equipment so that sufficient guns, radios, etc., were available to the separate or etc., were available to the separate or individual units as they studied each subject. The Battalion soon found itself firing all weapons on the range in the middle of February and also discovered that it can get cold in Texas. Those Sundays spent on the "ready line," or hitting the frozen ground on rapid fire were a trial to any spirit. The time off from training was negligible but almost everyone got into Brownwood as often as they could and made the acquaintance of Texas Bourbon at bootleg prices.



The weekly parade every Thursday night, when classes were over early, soon became one of the events of the week at Bowie. For this occasion everyone "spooned up" and you marched twice around if everything didn't go right the first time. It was also here that the drum and bugle corps started to furnish the music for the parades.

The training at Camp Bowie was under the direction of the 9th TD Group. It was under this same group that the Battalion trained at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and later in Europe; and under their supervision they took their first Army Ground Force Test on February 26th, 1943. The test embraced a motor march to an appointed bivouac, the setting up of a bivouac, and a few small problems to determine the degree and nature of security, black-out discipline, and housekeeping including the digging of slit trenches. Another problem, the black-out drive, run on one of the nights spent in the field, will hardly be forgotten. The culmination of this test was one of physical endurance. Led by Major Taylor, the entire Battalion lined up in column and raced around a circle to the distance of five miles, completing the circuit in the record breaking time of 58 minutes and then lined up and raced an additional 100 yards just to show it could be done. That was the first record established by the "record breaking 610th."

The training at Camp Bowie was drawing rapidly to a close. As usual the Battalion set a record by finishing the eight weeks basic training in seven weeks and was now awaiting the next move to complete the training cycle. It may be well to note here that the 610th was the first Battalion to complete the full training cycle established by the Tank Destroyer Center. Other battalions, of course, were trained before the 610th completed the cycle but of those only part of the men went through BUTC as this Battalion did; or else they skipped BUTC and went on to Hood for the Advanced Training. Some battalions, notably the 645th, never did go through the established training cycle.

Orders were received from Camp Hood to move the Battalion to that Station on March 3rd. Equipment was packed, commands issued and the outfit moved on schedule. A few days prior to the movement the Battalion had received an initial issue of the M3 Tank Destroyer. These were the guns mounted on half-tracks familiar to all as the insignia of Tank Destroyer units. Since time did not permit the unloading of this equipment, it was reshipped to Camp Hood to be used in training there.

## CHAPTER III

# CAMP HOOD, TEXAS

### *Advanced Unit Training Center*

After an extremely cold motor march, the Battalion arrived at Camp Hood, glad to move into the standard Army barracks of that post. No time was lost in conditioning the Battalion to all requisite standards. All men were soon in the thick of classes receiving instruction for the particular job to which they were assigned. The first part of the program concentrated more on the individual training of each man for his particular job, while the last half of the course was to be devoted to unit training of the Battalion as a whole. The two courses were separated by a week on the then-called "tank hunting course" of which more will be said later. The strength of the Battalion at this time stood at 981 enlisted men and 48 officers.

The training at Camp Hood was conducted by the Battalion initially under the supervision of the First Training Group of AUTC. Practically every class was visited daily by a representative of the Training Group and a detailed report of the progress of each was duly recorded. The Camp was also famous for its vehicle standards that kept drivers and mechanics continually hustling to keep ahead of the Inspectors.

Some additional firing was also conducted here mostly with the 37 mm and 75 mm sub caliber and service charges. It was required that every man be familiar with all weapons so a great amount of time was spent on the ranges and in "dry shooting." The mornings were usually devoted to some of the specialty schools such as radio operation, etc. General Bruce was then in command of the TDC. The stay here was greatly enlivened by persistent periods of quarantine occasioned by a few cases of communicable disease. As fast as the quarantine was lifted on one man another became afflicted. As a result the Battalion, or portions of it, were under a working quarantine most of the time. The Battalion continued to receive exceptionally good reports on the progress of its training on the course. To receive a report graded "Superior" became the usual experience. The concentrated work on map reading, military courtesy, drill, etc., soon drew to a close and by April 11th the outfit was ready to move to the Tank Hunting or Commando Course.

During this week of concentrated physical conditioning, the Battalion was required to move out into the field to the course proper. This was on Course No. 3, the farthest one from the main post. The ordeal began early one Monday morning when the entire Battalion marched down to the obstacle course. The initial stages of the course, similar to the old one at Berkeley, consisted of a wall to be scaled with help and followed by a run to the hand-over-hand ropes. Blisters surprisingly developed fast. A quarter of a mile run led to the next obstacle, a high trestle to be scaled and then to the "piece de resistance," crawling through the barbed wire course. This was made slightly difficult by the fact that an intense smoke screen was laid over the area and the instructors on the course, who stood alongside, hurried the process of crawling by tossing quarter sticks of dynamite at the feet of the laggards. Then a hand-over-hand climb up a twenty foot rope and down the other side. Next came the jump over a mud fillside. Next came the jump over a mud filled ditch, then across a ravine and the long run up the appropriately named "puke" hill. This was the schedule every morning for the week. In the evening, to insure that every one slept well, all personnel were required to again crawl through the wire obstacle. The remainder of the day was spent participating in the various scheduled events. The next big event, looked forward to, was the infiltration course in which every man was required to crawl through overhead machine gun fire, barbed wire and land mines. The psychological build-up of this course was designed to condition the body to meet and to cope with the severest degree of stress under the greatest difficulties. It was not infrequent that men broke on this course, but every man in the Battalion completed it without incident beyond that of sore necks, elbows, and knees. Other events included firing the rifle from the hip and the pit of the stomach, pistol firing from the crouch, identification of weapons by their sound, city and village fighting, some work in demolitions, and firing

in the tunnel. One night was given over to an attack upon simulated tank bivouacs by raiding parties equipped with demolitions and "molotov cocktails." The entire series took three days to complete and the course was repeated with a few variations the second half of the week.

The obstacle course was run for record on the last day of the stay on the on the last day of the stay on the course. Each man ran against time and each unit was timed for its completion of the course. At the end of one week the physical aptness of the Battalion had increased immeasurably and although it was still an ordeal to run the course it could be done with much less effort. On the record run, Capt. Tice took the Battalion and course record in the time of four minutes, three seconds, followed by S/Sgt. McMullen at 4: 33, and Lt. Wingerter at 4:35. The fastest company record is accredited to Headquarters Company who finished in six minutes, 25 seconds, but with only a few men, while the best line company was represented in the personnel of "B" Company who finished in seven minutes, three seconds. The final test given on the course was a five mile walk with full equipment on our way back to barracks. The walk developed into a run up and down hill and across country. The companies and the Battalion were again competing against time and did a creditable job. Reconnaissance Company led the pack completing the five miles in 53 minutes, this was a course record. The entire Battalion completed the run in 57 minutes. Prior to this time no battalion had ever finished the course with less than thirty stragglers. The 610th came in to a man, no stragglers, no laggards. One man had a severe injury to his hand when he fell on some barbed wire, but the damage was repaired on the run and he completed the run and he completed the course while another man passed out 100 yards short of the finish line and was carried over the line by the medics. To make our record more notable we met a battalion from one of the other courses taking the hike and proceeded to pass their entire column at the double.

Shortly after the return from the course the Battalion was required to pass a test in physical fitness given by the AGF under the supervision of the 12th TD Group. Company "B" was selected by Colonel Decry, the Group Commander, to take the test and it set an all time high record of 96.8% for the course.

The personnel of the Battalion, now proficient in their individual duties, spent the remainder of the time integrating the individuals into a fighting team. This was accomplished first by sections, then platoons and companies, finally the whole group was merged into a fighting battalion. The battle of "Cowhouse Creek" raged incessantly and in" raged incessantly and information was gained by bitter experience. Reconnaissance company once ably fought off a "Piper Cub" air attack only to be caught pulled off the side of the road by a column of tanks which shouldn't have been there. On another occasion "C" Company set up a very able defense of a hill only to find that it was the wrong hill, while Headquarters Company and the rear echelon was completely routed by a flying column of Cavalry. Colonel Decry, who seemed to delight in catching mistakes, made everyone pay dearly for the lessons learned.

On the 21st day of May, Lt. Colonel William L. Herold assumed command of the Battalion. Major Taylor, who had ably directed the Battalion through its formative stages, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on the day he departed from the outfit to attend the joint Army-Navy Amphibious Command. The Battalion had practically finished its training at Camp Hood, only two or three problems remained to be completed. The arrival of Lt. Colonel Herold at this time was, indeed, fortunate for he had previously been the G3 of AUTC and had written the problems that remained to be solved. This information stood the Battalion in good stead, particularly on Battalion Problem No. 3, which was the final problem. Arriving by motor march to the area of bivouac, the Battalion was fed and ordered to move to an assembly area preparatory to repelling a tank attack at dawn. This requiring a tank attack at dawn. This required a blackout move to Anderson mountain, the issuance of orders for the attack, and the occupation of positions to repel the attack by a Company of Sherman tanks. The problem was run off so satisfactorily that the Battalion was credited with destroying another column of tanks that had blundered into the area while in the process of solving another problem assigned to them.

Another problem was run somewhat later in which an entire Group made a blackout move to an Assembly area and then moved out to stop another tank attack supported by air. The blackout trip led through the impact area of the artillery range and some difficulty was experienced with the antique bridges and roads over which the route lay. Several half-tracks were upset, one with Lt. Enich's arm caught under the side, but no serious casualties occurred and the outfit was successful in completing its mission though it was the only Battalion that was so

fortunate. The planes caused no end of excitement, but the camouflage was apparently good for they made twenty-two passes over the area without spotting the positions.

The prescribed training program for the Battalion was completed and the Battalion graduated from Camp Hood with flying colors. The bulk of the members of the outfit had been in the Army six months with scarce time to draw a deep breath, so Colonel Herold arranged to take the entire Battalion on a three daake the entire Battalion on a three day holiday to Buchanan Dam and let them blow off steam. A motor march was made to the locality and camp set up in an abandoned CCC camp. The men were on their own and did as they pleased, fished in the lake, swam, or just loafed as suited their fancy. A dance was arranged one of the nights with the battalions own "dance band" supplying the music. The belles were gathered from all the local communities and were furnished transportation to and from the dance while Colonel Herold contacted the NYA camp close by and flattered the supervisor into letting his charges attend the dance. For an impromptu dance it turned into quite a large scale affair. The personnel of the Battalion were told that they were on their own and to behave themselves, and they did without exception, at least as far as the authorities were concerned. There were no complaints registered during the three day stay at the camp.

Returning to Camp Hood the Battalion prepared to move again. It was not definite as yet where it would go and rumor had us moving to every post in the United States. Meanwhile the green light was given on furloughs and great concern was felt as to the roster to be run. It finally worked out to most everyone's satisfaction that within the limits of necessity, men would depart according to the length of time they had been away from home.

The rumors were finally set to rest when on the 16th of Junally set to rest when on the 16th of June the Battalion departed for Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The Battalion moved by rail on two trains with all of their equipment. At times on that trip it seemed as though the engineer had lost his direction and was taking us directly overseas, for a view out of any window revealed nothing hut water. It would require a diving helmet to see Missouri on that trip.

# CHAPTER IV

## CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA

### *The Hoosier State*

If there is any Post in the United States which the 610th TD Battalion ever considered as home, that Post is Camp Atterbury. The nearness of Indianapolis, the frequency of the visits there, and the congenial atmosphere and good times which were had there all contributed to this feeling.

Shortly after arriving at this post the Battalion was equipped with the new tank destroyer Battalion was equipped with the new tank destroyer, the M10A1 which was a 3" gun mounted on a gasoline driven M4 chassis. After a flurry of trouble over driving the destroyers on the cement streets of the post, a driving range was set up and the training of drivers for the destroyers started in earnest. In addition the numerous military subjects, which everyone had been subjected to at such a furious pace while at the TD school, were gone over more in detail and the knowledge broadened to insure that every member of the Battalion was thoroughly familiar with all subjects which contributed to make a smart fighting outfit. The importance of training TD units in artillery fire was beginning to be stressed, so a great deal of time was spent in mastering that art.

On July 10th the Battalion was saddened by the death of one of its members when T/5 Zarrillo was killed in a motor accident while on guard. The Battalion was formed in a hollow square for the ceremony and the General Order announcing his death was read after which the bugler sounded taps, the military method of saying farewell to a comrade.

Camp Atterbury, at the time of the Battalion's arrival there, had just been vacated by the 83rd Infantry Division and as a consequence the outfit was the only tactical unit in the camp. This did much to improve our training facilities for ranges were always available to fire the clean up runs and the maneuver area was utilized for the Batmaneuver area was utilized for the Battalion's problems. Numerous inspections were held by everyone from Colonel Hutson, the 9th TD group commander, on down and oftentimes by visiting "firemen." General Gorder of the 2nd TD Brigade inspected the battalion in July. Early in August Col. J. B. Hunt conducted an inspection and reported, "The unit is ably commanded, well organized, with no obstacles to further progress."

The physical training of the outfit had not been neglected during the months in Indiana and every week found the companies out in the summer sun pounding up the roads and sweating out the excesses of the trips to "Nap-Town." One of the new requirements of the Army Ground Forces required a nine mile hike in two hours, also a twenty-five mile hike in eight hours. In August it was decided to get the nine mile job out of the way, so, led by Major Jeffery, the outfit took off. The hike was accomplished in one hour and fifty-nine minutes with just a few aching feet and legs as a consequence. This was one time that our famous drum and bugle corps was rather in the way. On every hike that the Battalion made the Corps always met them as they reentered the Post and led the column in. As soon as the music started the heads would go up, shoulders back, and it's a credit to the Battalion that they always came in from a hike looking as much like soldiers as hike looking as much like soldiers as when they left. On the occasion of the nine mile hike the music set too slow a pace to accomplish the test within the time limit so it had to be dispensed with. The drum corps was ably led throughout its entire existence by Corporal Baltzell who also doubled in the job of Bugler as well as his regularly assigned job of Dispatch Clerk.

One of the regular training activities of all units in the Army was participation in one of the maneuvers which were held in various parts of the country so the time was now ripe for the next step in the training. At that time most of the TD units were going to the Tennessee Maneuver Area. The frequent inspections which had been held

by higher Headquarters were all designed to judge the Battalion's fitness for combat. The Battalion passed all inspections with distinction but the recommendation of the Inspecting Teams had always included the statement that participation in a maneuver was deemed desirable.



AN M10A1 ON THE DRIVERS COURSE AT CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA

# CHAPTER V

## TENNESSEE MANEUVERS

The Battalion was ordered to the Second Army Maneuver area on the 16th of August, 1943, and the equipment and personnel were loaded on trains for the trip to Camp Forrest, Tennessee. The weather had been quite pleasant up to this time but promptly upon arrival in the maneuver area it began to rain and camp was set up the first night during a downpour. The rain continued for a week while awaiting for the first problem of the 3rd phase of the maneuver to begin. The problems usually began at daybreak on Monday, and in some cases on Sunday. The action of each operation was carefully designated and controlled by the umpires to illustrate some phase of combat in which it was desired to train the participating troops. Most of the problems seemed to include a river crossing operation of some type and after seeing the conditions which were met in Europe the stress placed upon this type of operation can be well understood. The Tank Destroyer Battalions (four battalions operating under the control of the 13th TD Group) operated with the "Red Forces" throughout the entire phase while the opposing armor (the 12th Armored Division) was one component of the "Blue Force." The battalions comprising the 13th TD Group were the 774th, 810th, 630th and the 610th.

The "Red Forces" in the operations were always assigned the initial role of defense and as a result comprised much the weaker force consisting almost always of one infantry division, the Tank Destroyer Force, some reconnaissance elements and the normal attached troops. The "Blue Force" consisted of the armored division, the other infantry elements, and also the Paratroop Force whose strength varied. The Air Corps was a thorn in the side of both forces because of the ease with which they could claim credit for "knocking out" all types of vehicles merely by flying over them. The initial problem did not include a crossing of the famous Cumberland River for the bat tie was joined South of that place with the "Blues" attacking South and East. One of the main Combat Commands of the armor penetrated into a pass through the hills and the pattern for the succeeding phases of the maneuver soon began to take shape. It always resolved itself into the battle between the armor and the 610th for the Battalion always seemed to be in the midst of the action no matter where they were placed initially. The first problem of course was quite an experience for everyone, as all were new to extensive field operations, particularly in conjunction with infantry, but confidence soon took the place of indecision and the outfit began to show its mettle.

It was on the third problem in the series where the Battalion really distinguished itself at the most opportune time possible. A distinguished visitor, Colonel McCrystal of the Armored Section of Headquarters Army Ground Forces, was paying a visit on his inspection of the battalions in the maneuver and was with the outfit during this particular operation. The plan of action called for the "Red Forces" to occupy a limited bridgehead over the Cumberland River and to protect it from the attack of the "Blues" finally retreating across the river if the situation so demanded. The Battalion occupied positions protecting the pontoon bridge located at Woods Ferry and it was here that the main attack of the opposing force developed. The position was maintained with the help of a "Task Force" of infantry and the attack almost completely stopped before it became necessary to abandon the positions. The infantry notified the force that it was withdrawing so, allowing sufficient time for all troops and equipment to get across the bridge the companies began to break action and withdraw. The tank columns were so close to the positions that they were practically coming down the road as one column with the destroyers. A reconnaissance element meanwhile, under Lt. Wingerter, had moved to the extreme right boundary of the area close to Nashville and finding that the roads behind them were blocked elected to find a way of crossing the river and coming up to join the Battalion on the other shore. They finally succeeded in getting across by finding a ferry in operation and just about this time reported from across the river that they were there and requested any orders which might be forthcoming. As the Battalion was about ready to cross, they were immediately given the mission of finding an assembly area where the portions of the

Battalion could be gathered as they dribbled across so that a minimum of time would be spent on reorganization. This they did and met each element as it succeeded in crossing element as it succeeded in crossing the river and directed them to a bivouac. The main force of destroyers was now streaming across in surprisingly good order and with practically no casualties. One destroyer developed battery trouble and had to be abandoned but a skeleton crew marmcd the weapons and chalked up a devastating score with the gun before it was ruled out of action. It was as near perfect a withdrawal action as could be encountered and having been accomplished at night, while still in contact with a superior attacking force with no resulting confusion, did much to impress the inspector as to the efficiency of operation.

After this problem the outfit was drawn out of the action during one problem to be reequipped with a new type destroyer, the M10. This was essentially the same weapon but was driven by a diesel powered motor instead of the gasoline job in the M10A1. The outfit moved to the outskirts of Camp Forrest while the old equipment was turned in and the new drawn and prepared for operation. The bivouac was a very pleasant one, the weather was fine and the beer plentiful so the rest was thoroughly enjoyed. The week was soon over and back into action the Battalion went. The succeeding operations were similar to the ones which had been participated in before and require no special mention aside from the fact that in every problem the Battalion received the full armor attack. Colonel Darling in one operar attack. Colonel Darling in one operation ordered that the Battalion be placed in reserve away from the main action so that one of the other battalions could get in on the fun. In this instance the armor made one of its end runs of which it is so capable and wound up trying to come through an area on the flank of the force where the 610th was enjoying its reserve position.

The following comment by a member of the Battalion writing in the Battalion newspaper the "Hellcat" is worthy of reproduction. The article is unsigned so the author must go unmentioned. "Maneuvers are not funny. Not by a long shot. It is a serious and sometimes deadly business. Whether by chance or ability, the 610th suffered no serious casualties in sharp contrast to other outfits participating in the same phase."

"The phase consisted of eight problems eight battles. Each one lasted from three to five days. That meant three to five days of hasty meals, snatches oof hasty meals, snatches of cold sleep, lots of work arid innumerable movements by blackout convoy. It meant tense, wary watching and waiting for news of the enemy. And when news was received --- lightning decisions and fast action. The blackout march is a feat in itself. Tennessee terrain (or at least the terrain encountered in the maneuver area) is a challenge even in daylight. Bluffs, rocks, ditches, and rivers are constantly recurring features. Heavy clinging mud when the rains came-and they came often. The move by blackout: two pinpoints of red light to guide one through vast unseen space. The vehicle in front goes around a bend and even these two meagre beacons showing distance and route are obliterated. Hurry and catch him--one guesses at the sharpness of the turn--and hopes that the guess is good. Then pull into a new area and camouflage in darkness. All in silence not so easy gotta be done. It's not so bad on a clear night hut then there is more danger of detection."

"The 610th conducted itself superbly on maneuvers. It was in the thick of every battle. It accounted for a maximum number of tanks with a minimum of losses. If here and there a link was loose the problem served to weld that link into the chain. Strength was reaped from the seeds of doubt and error. Every obstacle served as a stepping stone to a closer knit organization."

"The 610th was good! We know it was our CO., Lt. Col. Herold, told us so. We believe him. We respect his word and decisions."

The above article reflects the spirit of the Battalion. They were good and they were proud of it. Can they be blamed for being somewhat cocky? The following comments from disinterested observers on maneuvers only served to heighten the pride that each man felt in his organization. Colonel McCrystal the AGF inspector "Morale, esprit, enthusiasm and basic training is splendid excellent. The entire outfit is alert. Military courtesy and discipline is exceptional." Colonel King of 2nd Army Training Brigade stated, "The 610th is an outstanding outfit. Good morale and esprit." Colonels Bacon and Wily of Tank Destroyer Center-"We understand from all reports that the 610th is leading the field. The 610th had the best record at Camp Hood, too." Lt. Col. Darling commanding the 13th TD Group stated, "The 610th is my best Battalion. I try to give the other battalions a chance but the 610th always gets the action." Major Bardes, the chief umpire for TD's in the 2nd Army stated,



"The best functioning and smoothest Staff I have ever seen anywhere. Military courtesy is excellent. The morale, esprit and enthusiasm is better than in any battalion I have observed. It is difficult to find anything to 'cut' the 610th on. The smartest Rcn company that has been down here. Company "B" is the most nearly perfect company "B" is the most nearly perfect TD Company ever observed." An Armored Force Battalion commander stated to Captain Duchoisios of C Company which had just mopped the remnants of his tanks near Milton. 'Thank God you are on our side in the real the real thing. We will never know where to expect you and you always had your foot on our necks.'" Such was the record on maneuvers.

At the completion of the last problem and while awaiting orders to travel to a post, Lt. Col. Herold had one of the famous "hollow squares" and all personnel were told that they were now approaching close to the culmination of all training which was combat and that insofar as he was able the men would know as much about their future actions as he would he permitted to tell them. They were also informed that the Adjutant, Lt. Grishkat would be sent ahead of the Battalion to arrange for a party to be held in one of the towns along the route. It was now definite that the Battalion was returning to Atterbury and that the trip was to be made by motor march with the exception of the destroyers and some of the crews which traveled by train. Tentative arrangements called for the stop over at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and it was hoped to have the party there.

The motor convoy departed from Camp Forrest on the 11th of November and arrived at Bowling Green early in the afternoon. The column was met by a real reception committee consisting of the State Police and escorted through the town to the Fair Grounds where a bivouac was set up. It soon was discovered that practically the entire town had been turned over to entertaining the outfit and a fancy formal dance was to be held in the town that evening. There were two schools in the town, one the Western Kentucky State Teachers College, and the other a Business College, and the students practically came in a body in formal gowns. It was rather a change from two months spent in the field to a formal dance, but the pace was taken in stride and a memorable time had by all. Every man was informed that the town was theirs, to enjoy themselves, but to repay the hospitality by staying out of trouble and being ready to move at 0600 in the morning. One officer was placed on MP duty in the town and spent his time in talking with the police officers. No incidents were reported to the authorities that night and every man was ready to move at the appointed hour in the morning.

Being fully aware that the Battalion was now ready for combat, the training program was set up on the return to Atterbury to insure that all requirements for overseas movement would be met. This seemed to mostly revolve around details such as lectures on yellow fever, some additional map work, completion of firing for every man in all weapons, and an additional infiltration course which was to be run at night. Great stress was placed on improving the technique for indirect fire with the primary weapon, for experience in combat of other outfits had shown its necessity. At that time the Second Army had a requirement that two weeks of every month had to be spent in the field. Although it was not required to move out immediately, the Battalion did move shortly thereafter to the top of the hill overlooking the cantonment area. Being at the end of November the weather was extremely cold and training programs forgotten in the necessity for keeping warm. On the first night out the temperature dropped to the vicinity of 10 above and a fairly heavy snow fell.

## CHAPTER VI

# REORGANIZATION

On December 5th, 1943, while the Battalion was still out in the field, disquieting news was received. A number of tank destroyer units were to be converted from self-propelled to towed, and the 610th was among them. The first reaction was heartbreaking for every member of the battalions loved the self-propelled guns with which they had been trained. There were two other battalions at the post at that time, the 608th and the 773rd. The 773rd was preparing to ship overseas and the order did not mention them, while the 608th who were out in the field, proceeded to rub it in for all it was worth. They soon stopped that however, when they were notified that their outfit was to be disbanded. Lt. Col. Herold seemed to feel the blow more than anyone for while associated with TDC he had been an exponent of the self-propelled guns and had assisted in the preparation of TM 18-5 which was the self-propelled battalion guide book. He was greatly heartened, however, when told by some visiting "brass" that only the best battalions had been selected for conversion as they had only a minimum of time in which to retrain and be ready for combat so the highest type of personnel was required to do the job.

The Battalion immediately requested that it be permitted to go into quarters for equipment had to be processed, new men obtained and trained and a very intensive training program instituted in order to meet the requirements which tentatively called for the Battalion to be ready to go overseas six weeks after the guns and additional personnel were received. The personnel changed rather drastically as the T/O called for only four companies dropping the Reconnaissance Company and adding two Recon platoons to Headquarters Company while the personnel in the gun companies was increased, for a gun crew now called for ten men where the destroyers called for ten men where the destroyers each had only five men. The personnel problem was to be solved very readily by taking over one-fourth of the personnel of the 608th TD Battalion as well as the majority of their officers. The official order called for the reorganization to be completed as of the 15th of December so the work was started immediately.

It was also necessary to send a group of about 150 men to Camp Gordon, Georgia for training with the fifty caliber machine gun in Antiaircraft fire so they departed on the 15th of the month. In the meantime Colonel Herold had contacted the 2nd TD brigade and received permission to send a force of men to Camp Brecknridge, Kentucky where the 821st TD Battalion, an old towed outfit, was located. The cadre sent there were to pick up all the pointers they could to serve as a nucleus around which the training with the new weapons could be accomplished. No one in the Battalion up to that time had seen a towed gun except to pass the few that were being experimented with at Camp Hood. On the 16th of December the cadre drove to Breckenridge to undertake this training and spent a week with Lt. Col. Mains' battalion. Upon the return of this detail they brought 12 of the towed guns back with them so that the training could be started immediately.

With the quick comeback in spirit of the battalion as a further evidence of the healthy condition of its morale, the work was started in earnest after the Christmas holiday. It was now necessary to undertake the artillery training in deadly earnest as the likelihood of employment as artillery with the towed 3" guns was more apparent than ever. Meanwhile the new men and officers had to be processed and the records straightened out. The Battalion was extremely fortunate in getting the personnel of the 608th as replacements for they were well trained and were known. They melted into the combined battalion without a ripple to cause delays or unnecessary work. The Battalion had returned to train under the 9th TD Group commanded at that time by Colonel Hutson.

Soon after the reorganization of the Battalion Col. Hutson departed to be replaced by Colonel Lansing McVickar. No one can forget the inspections which he held nor the turmoil he could cause merely by walking through the battalion area.

There were still a series of tests to be passed by the Battalion even if it had been newly converted to a towed outfit. One was the Air-Ground liaison test to train and test the cooperation with the air corps and several maneuvers were held repelling the attack by Lt. Chitwood in his light tank. Needless to say that in spite of the arduous work that was being undertaken time was still found to pay almost weekly visits to Indianapolis to enjoy the scenery, particularly in the vicinity of the Claypool Hotel. The officer problem hhe Claypool Hotel. The officer problem had increased fourfold at this time. At one time there were 92 officers assigned to the Battalion which normally calls for about one-third that number. The Company commanders were driven to distraction just thinking up things for them to do so they would get from underfoot. The 30th Infantry had returned from the maneuver at the same time as the Battalion and greatly complicated the training program at the time of greatest need. It was also preparing to go overseas and had priority over all training facilities .The lot of a separate battalion at such a time is a trying one. Just to show them that the 610th could still stick in there with the best of them a mortar squad firing the 81 mm mortar was trained in the Battalion. The instructors came from the division and the Battalion squad was led by Lt. Chasten of "C" Company. In the final firing and gunners test, in competition with teams from the division and from 9th Group, Lt. Chasten, the mortar squad, and the Battalion took the honors.

The Battalion colors had been ordered from the Quartermaster General for a long time when they were received on the 22nd of January. In the presentation ceremony, Lt. Col. Herold, in the absence of the Group commander, presented the colors to Major Jeffery for the Battalion. A really full dress parade followed the presentation for the 366th Infantry (colored) which was stationed on the Post had loaned twas stationed on the Post had loaned their band for the ceremony. The band was afterwards designated the 27th Army band. It's the same outfit that later in the spring used to parade the Battalion area at reveille.

An inspecting team from Camp Hood arrived for the final test of the Battalion on the 10th of February. The letter which Colonel Herold wrote to the members of the Battalion best illustrates the success of that test.

"MUCH IS EXPECTED"

"Much has always been expected of the 610 because the 610 has always aimed at the top. Our training records have been high- nearly always just a little higher than those around us. As our record of achievement went up we have continually raised our sights, for all of us realize that a good outfit cannot stay the same- t must improve or deteriorate. Our record of achievement at Camp Berkeley, Camp Bowie, Camp Flood, Tennessee Maneuvers, and Camp Atterhury has been enviable, hut thry has been enviable, hut that is only the opening chapter of the historical record of the 610, and of every soldier who is a part of the 610.

"The outstanding charactcristic of our Battalion is the enthusiastic pride the esprit de corps which every man of us feels for our unit. This was never more apparent than in our most recent tests, The AGF Air-Ground Test, The AGF Tactical and Firing Tests, and the AGF Physical Fitness Tests, all given under the most adverse conditions and all coming while we were reeling under the body blow of reorganization due to the change in T/O. Each of us felt a magnificent pride in the performance of his organization during those hectic days just finished. Our pride has been justified and challenged by the final words of the War Department Inspector General who remarked last week that 'THE 610 IS THE BEST BATTALION HE HAS INSPECTED, THAT IT HAS FINE TONE, AND WILL RATE UP THERE WITH THE BEST, AND THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE 610 WILL DO GREAT DAMAGE TO OUR ENEMIES.'

"In the last statement of Colonel Buckannon is the challenge -THAT MUCH IS EXPECTED OF THE 610, and in the first two sentences is his justification for those high expectations.

"Our sights are high; every soldier of the 610 will carry his part of the load and then some, and as a result our splendid team

our winning team-will carry its part of the load-and then some  
--FOR MUCH IS EXPECTED OF US-CARome  
--FOR MUCH IS EXPECTED OF US-CARRY ON!!"

W. L. HEROLD.

One of the daily experiences at this stage of the game was the little exercise designed by the colonel to keep the men physically fit, and also give them a little experience in handling the towed gun, called the Man-Maker Course. This exercise consisted in man-handling the 5,000 odd pounds of the gun through the deep Indiana snow and mud, and was guaranteed to cure insomnia and soft hands. The program was afterwards adopted by the TDC for inclusion in their recommended training courses. Several changes in personnel had taken place toward the close of the stay at Atterbury. Capt. Debski, the Dental Officer, had been transferred to 9th Group, M/Sgt. Porter had left the ranks of Enlisted Men when he accepted a Warrant and became a WOJG and Captain Greenhaw received a promotion to Major.

Every Orderly Room in the Battalion was by now emblazoned with charts showing the name of each man in the outfit with a series of checks after his name showing that he had received another dose of "shots," been indoctrinated in Yellow Fever control, had fired all the weapons and completed a myriad of other details. It became apparent as the charts filled with check marks that the time was just about ripe for something to be happening. On the 19th of March it was discovered that Capt. Carr, Lt. Grishkat, and Cpl. Deagle were among the familiar and Cpl. Deagle were among the familiar faces missing from all formations so the rumor became an actuality. The AW's concerning desertion were read and also the inevitable warning to "Keep Mum." The advance party had left for parts unknown. Amidst a flurry of excitement of packing up the families and sending them home and getting equipment in shape for a "Long Sea Voyage" the Battalion prepared to depart from Camp Atterbury.

## CHAPTER VII

### CENSORED

Amid as much hush-hush as only the army can generate and everyone still know practically as much as the men who are moving, the Battalion departed from Camp Atterbury on the 31st of March. The final gesture at the train station was the Band drawing at the tear strings with "Auld Lang Syne." The only equipment carried was the personal clothing and equipment of each man and side arms. As the greater portion of the men of the Battalion came from the East tn of the men of the Battalion came from the East there was much speculation as to the exact destination of the Battalion, though a large number of the men had already learned that the Port of Embarkation was Camp Kilmer. The Battalion arrived at noon on the 1st of April and immediately started in on the last minute preparations for embarking. The typhus shots were given here, decontaminated clothing issued, equipment inspected once more and a myriad of administrative details completed.

All personnel were naturally confined to the Post during this processing stage and no passes were to be issued until the Post gave its release on the Battalion being prepared for shipment. The details were soon accomplished and the first passes issued. Men were not allowed to reveal at what post they were located and twelve hour passes were given to New York and the surrounding towns. Those men living in the vicinity hurried home for what they thought might be their last visit while those not native to the East headed for the big town for what might be their last fling. At least a 24-hour alert was expected before the actual leaving and no one could predict when it might arrive as it was issued by the Port Authority. For the first few days there was quite a scramble to get into town before it was too late, but as time passed the finances began to ebb and some passes were actually refused.

The first week passed and still the information was the sased and still the information was the same. The alert was expected at any minute. The daily trips to town were still going on. Eventually it became clear that no one knew when the Battalion would leave in spite of the assurance of the Post complement that no outfit spent more than seven days on the post. With the Battalion's record it was evidently felt that they must establish a new record for staying at the Port of Embarkation for they remained at Camp Kilmer for six weeks. There was one change of location during this time, the outfit moving to a new set of barracks. Suddenly one morning there was a flurry of excitement when the colonel was called to Post Headquarters in a hurry. Everyone wondered but the fears were soon allayed when Colonel Herold returned from the meeting with the information that the Battalion was to move, but instead of overseas they were going to Camp Dix, New Jersey. This was not the only battalion in this predicament for there were four other battalions and the 8th TD Group.

The Battalion arrived at Camp Dix on the 5th of May and were soon busy making their "Tent Camp" livable. The area was in pretty bad shape for it had been unused for a long time. No one could make any estimate as to what the battalions were doing there or how long they would remain there. Tentative plans were made for some training to be resumed and arrangements even made for drawing sonic equipment to train with. It was now appquiment to train with. It was now approximately two months since any training had been undertaken. To help pass the time a formal guard mount was held every day and also a few fancy parades. The attitude of the men remained cheerful hut they were still puzzled as to just what was going on.

The Battalion "Organization Day" had passed with no more than a few passing thoughts but the colonel decided to celebrate this belated anniversary in a more fitting manner so permission was obtained from the post to hold a dance in the Field House located close to the cantonment area. Again a precedent was established for no dance had ever been held in one before. Arrangements for getting some additional girls for the party were made through the local Red Cross and the building decorated. Prior to the dance a track meet was held for the Battalion. Someone who had previously occupied the post had started to build a track but had not gotten very far

with it. The Battalion turned to and in the space of a week turned out a pretty fair field. The week was busy for each unit also had their pictures made on the field there at Dix and a very formal parade was held. The dance turned out fine with quite a few of the Battalion wives present and the gaps were ably filled by a bevy of girls who belonged to a model school in Philadelphia partaking of the sport. Even Lt. Snyder was prevailed upon to render one of his very ably presented songs. There was much excitement felt among the members of the organization for permission had been received to again start issuing furloughs to men. The first batch of men had already left for their distant homes when the Battalion was unexpectedly alerted for shipment again. At this time some members of the Battalion seemed to be in every state. Capt. Kantola had even departed for the State of Washington and some concern was felt about getting everybody back in time to leave with the Battalion. The Battalion departed from Fort Dix, N. J., on the 29th of May and again returned to Camp Kilmer, N. J. It was felt that this was the real thing at last so little doubt remained that the Battalion was going overseas. Most of the processing was already accomplished and about the only remaining task was the "physical inspection" where by the time a man got his clothes off he was told to put them back on and get out of the way for the next group.

The colonel was appointed as a commander of troops so he departed with his staff and the advance detachment including a baggage detail for shipside on the 1st of June. The Battalion followed on June 2nd taking a train ride through Jersey to the Ferry wharf and that unforgettable walk to the ferry. The man who carried as much as an extra pack of cigarettes on that trip deeply regretted his error. Soon the ferry pulled up at another wharf where two large ships another wharf where two large ships were tied up. One was the "Mary," and not until the many steps had been climbed to the loading floor, was it determined that the big one was not for the Battalion but the slightly smaller ship moored alongside, the Dutch Liner "Nieuw Amsterdam." Loading continued until late that night and was finished shortly after one o'clock. The "Nieuw Amsterdam" pulled out at six o'clock on the morning of June 3rd.

No trip across the Atlantic in wartime can be called uneventful. The "Nieuw Amsterdam" was a large and fast ship, being the flagship of the Holland American Line. The ship safely negotiated the harbor and was soon under the escort of a dirigible, headed for the unknown. The route followed was always pretty much of a mystery, but at times the weather was warm and then extremely cold. The ship traveled alone as the code flashed to the ship by the dirigible late that afternoon revealed "You are alone-good luck." "T are alone-good luck." The usual rumors of submarine attack and unidentified planes were rampant but more attention was paid to the crap games going on out on deck. The food, of course, was terrible and many cases of "sea sickness" and "GI's" kept the troops occupied. The ship was armed with 3" AA guns and the Battalion was requested to furnish additional gun crews to assist the ship's personnel in manning them. At ten o'clock every morning an inspection was held by the English officer commanding the ship and was usually either preceded or followed by the "ship's drill."

No one can ever forget the surprise "ship's drill" held the third morning out. The bells rang at about 0500 in the morning and was soon followed by the thick Dutch accent announcing "This is enemy attack this is enemy attack." Little time was lost in arising and getting dressed with a quick decision as to what to wear to spend an unknown time in the water. Suddenly the cough of guns was heard above deck. Some brave souls close to port holes even reported seeing the "Attacking Planes." Word was soon given to "Prepare to abandon ship" and the orderly procession to above deck started. Nothing could be seen there but the crisp gray dawn and after a pause it was discovered that it was all just another practice with some gun drill for the Navy gunners aboard.

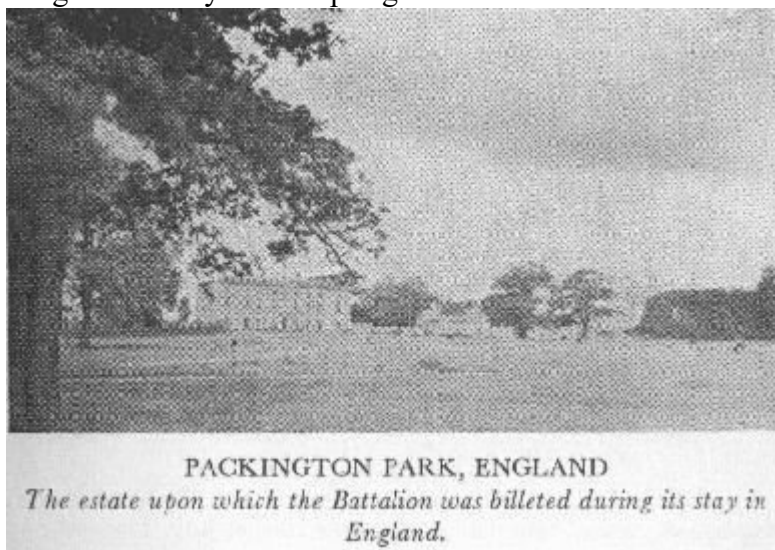
While all the ship's personnel were still above decks the loud speaker was suddenly e decks the loud speaker was suddenly turned on. The silence of death reined on the ship while the eventful voice went on. "Today the Allied Armies under my command invaded the continent of Europe." The date was June the 6th, the voice that of General Eisenhower announcing to the world that the Invasion was an accomplished fact. The ship was then approximately in the middle of the Atlantic.

On the 11th of June increased air activity of British planes announced the impending approach to England. A faint haze in the South soon resolved itself into the headlands of Ireland. Little was seen of the land of the Shamrock before night fell and the dawn found the ship anchored in the Firth of Clyde with the green hills of Scotland hemmind in the horizon. Amid much bustle the personnel prepared to quit their home of nine days. The Battalion was divided into two groups, one disembarking at Greenock, Scotland, while the second landed at Gourock. The personnel were marched directly to the train station where they hoarded trains for the trip South.

Here some Scotch Red Cross workers passed out coffee, cigarettes and candy and the train was soon made up and moved out. The route led through Glasgow, Scotland and then on South through Birmingham, England to the railroad station of Hampton-in-Arden where at long last we met up with the advance detail which had left so many months before. The new home was located in one of the famous English located in one of the famous English Estates of which so much has been heard. This one was called Packington Park, and was located close to Coventry, England, and to Birmingham. Personnel were quartered in modified Neissen huts and work was soon underway in getting the equipment, which the advance detail had been gathering, in shape for combat.

This was the second complete issue of equipment which had been drawn by Captain Carr since he had been in England. It was learned that the outfit had originally been designated as a "D day" outfit to be attached to the 9th Infantry Division on the invasion. Owing to the delay in sailing from New York the Battalion did not arrive in time so the equipment was turned over complete to the TD Battalion which was called in to take the 610th's place. Most of the items were on hand but some shortages still existed which the 54 section promptly tried to fill by driving all over England to the various depots. After the initial orientation on how to behave with the English the men began getting acquainted in Birmingham and Coventry and some went so far as to be able to drink the famous English "hitters." No one could get used to the climate and the wool clothes which were so warm in New York were almost insufficient in the dampness of the English countryside in Spring.

A great amount of work had to be done in modifying the vehicles so that all equipment could be stored in them and a few personnel were sent to schools on Waterproofing and Bomb Disposal while the Battalion prepared its equipment. The guns issued were brand new and it was necessary to fire them so that the sights could be adjusted and the peculiarities of the guns determined before the time came when they must be fired in earnest so the gun crews were taken to a range of the English army, located at Harlech, Wales. Here was a very fine towed target range where the guns were first fired.



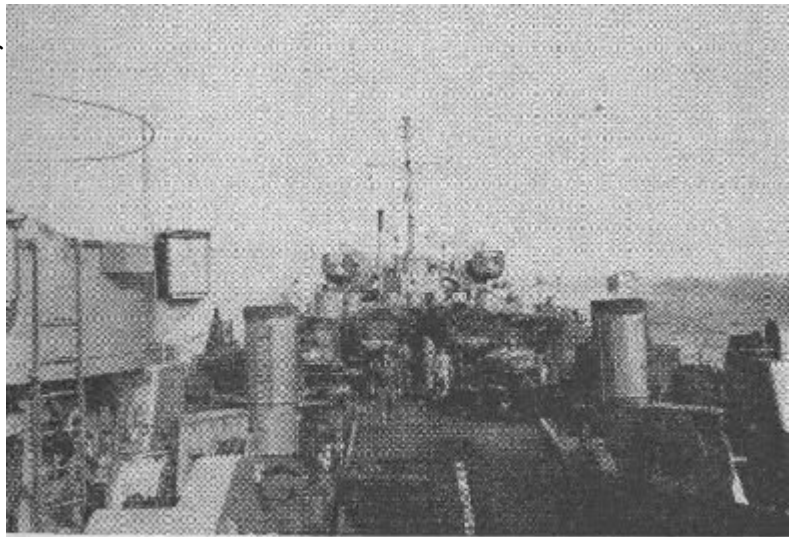
On July 18th the Battalion was ordered to leave Packington Park for the Marshalling Area. This was in a field located on the edge of the Salisbury plains where a bivouac was set up on the hill overlooking a valley at Pheasant Inn. The work of completing the preparations for going overseas was rushed in earnest for time was now growing short. The Battalion had "managed" to secure a movie projector and a generator and it was here that the movie "Going My Way" was shown with some modifications. Due to some inherent bug in the projector Bing Crosby sounded like Mickey Mouse all four times it was shown. A little bit of spice was also added one afternoon when a P-38 came over attempting to shoot down a barrage balloon which had evidently broken loose at one of the ports.

A little over a week was spent in the camp at Pheasant Inn, the Battalion departing from that place on the 29th of July. The outfit was now equipped and ammunition issued. The next stop was the Concentration Area D-6 where the plan of loading for the cross-channel movement was laid out and the last minute preparations including a warm shower were arranged. The Battalion was now ready and waiting. It was amusing to the members of the 610th to find that the 773rd TD Battalion which had departed from Camp Atterbury so long before us were running the Concentration Area and we would actually be in France before them.

The Battalion was ordered to load at the "bards" in Weymouth, England, on the 30th of July and were soon breaking up into their separate ship lots. Some boarded LST's and some loaded on LCT's and the LST's pulled out into the harbor to spend the night dropping their ramps so that the men could go swimming in the cold channel waters. The smaller boats, the LCT's, took off on the cross-channel move as they were slower than the larger ships. On the way down to the bards the convoy passed a large column of German prisoners who had just

been unloaded from the boats they were to embark upon. The LST's pulled out early on the morning of the 31st of July, and again had an uneventful trip. The unpredictable channel was as smooth as glass and everyone stayed above decks to watch the occasional supply vessels which were passed, shuttling the supplies over to France. Each vessel bore a large barrage balloon and the position of all the vessels could be spotted by the balloon above the ship.

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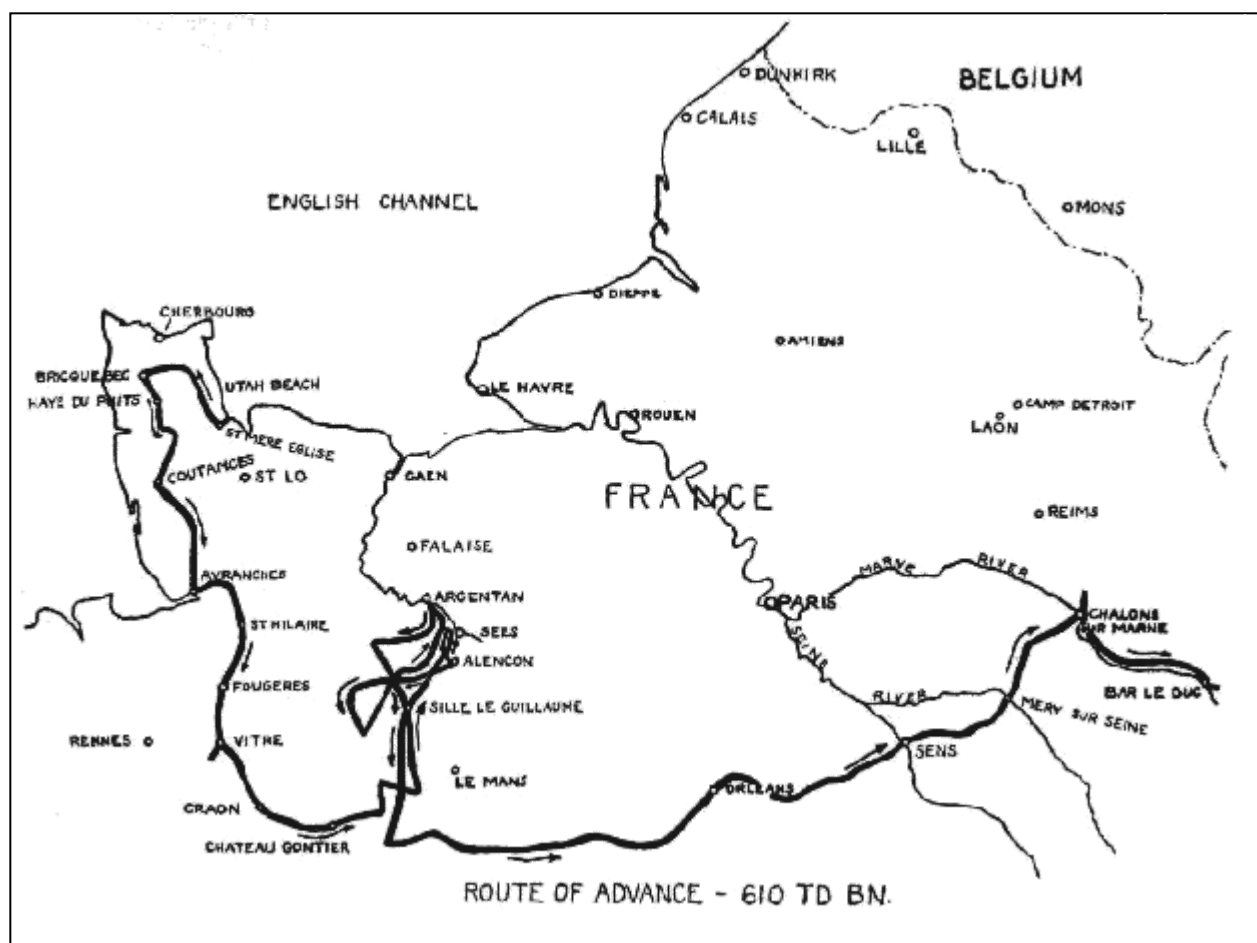
LST'S ON THE ENGLISH CHANNEL  
*Part of the convoy carrying the 610 TD Bn. to France.*



## CHAPTER VIII

### Argentan

The boats on which the Battalion was loaded pulled onto the beach at dusk the evening of the 31st of July. The beach had been cleared by this time but the hulks of many ships were seen in the water, the effects of gunfire could still be seen on shore, and the water was still filled with debris from the original landings. Preparations were made to disembark and everything set except the tide which had not as yet reached its ebb. The scene was very had not as yet reached its ebb. The scene was very peaceful with not even an air alert to disturb the serenity. Low tide was reached at about 0200 on the 1st of August and the boats began discharging. The first person ashore was Major Jeffery, from an LCT. The vehicles were taken onto the beach, lined up and a blackout move begun at once. Some confusion resulted for no one seemed to know who gave the orders to move the convoy or where it was going but they all tagged along over the road and soon pulled into a large field where the miscellany of vehicles was straightened out and the Battalion assigned a field of about 10 acres in which to assemble. At first it was believed that everyone had disembarked but when "B" Company did not arrive it was learned that their ship had been stopped from discharging its cargo by a large depression in the beach where the ship had stopped. As a result they remained on board during the night and waited for the next tide, joining the rest of the Battalion at noon the following day.



Signs of fighting were visible wherever one looked. What few French girls were seen bore the evidence in frocks made from parachutes, while the edges of the fields were all filled with the mute evidence of previous

occupation. In the same field as the Battalion, was the skeleton of an ammunition truck, was the skeleton of an ammunition truck which had received a direct hit and exploded. Coming in on the same convoy with the Battalion were elements of the 2nd French Armored Division. No clearance could be obtained and it was then learned that the Battalion would move as soon as the French division had cleared the road. The outfit remained there for the next night and then a movement order was received sending the Battalion to La Valdecie, France. The movement was begun the following morning, passing through several historic ruined towns, among which were St. Mere Eglise, Montehourg, Valogne, and Bricquebec, to the small village where the bivouac was set up. The above named towns had received the brunt of the invasion attack and were a complete ruin. A temporary camp was soon set up and the Battalion staff set about scouring the country to dig out all the information possible concerning the employment of the Battalion and the assignments and administrative channels to be used. It was discovered that we belonged to the Third Army and that was about all that was definite. The attachment varied from day to day between the XX and the XII US Corps. One of the first things that the Colonel ordered was getting rid of the surplus equipment which was being carried. A large tent was erected in the apple orchard and duffle bags and hand luggage were stored here.

No definite information had been gleaned but on the 7th of August orders were suddenly received from Maj. Walker of the AT section of XII Corps to move the Battalion to the vicinity of Naftal. The order was received at 1800 hours and the Battalion was to move at 1830. To understand this situation clearly it must be remembered that General Patton had broken out of the Cherbourg peninsula and his fast columns were deep in the Brest peninsula at this time. The Germans had launched a counter attack in the vicinity of Mortain to cut off the neck of the Third Army advance. The information was that two Panzer divisions were attacking at this point in the direction of Granville and the Battalion was ordered down to help meet this attack. This attack was finally stopped by the magnificent stand of the 30th Inf. Division at Mortain and the tanks were reported destroyed by the RAF flying their new rocket equipped Typhoons. This information was not known at that time and the Battalion moved out as scheduled leaving a guard with the baggage.

The first part of the trip was a normal blackout move but the route was soon changed owing to a priority disagreement between the First and Third Army and the column rerouted by way of Avranches. The head of the column approached this town at about midnight on the evening of the 7th of August. To the South the sky was brilliantly illuminated and tracer shells of all patterns arched their patterns into nothingness. The roadher patterns into nothingness. The road suddenly dipped into the town and the column found itself in the middle of Avranches with what seemed to be the entire German Luftwaffe trying to knock out the bridge in the center of the town. The Rcn Platoon of Lt. Wingerter was leading and behind them came the CP group. Right at the bridge a road turned to the left but the column continued across the bridge and on up the hill on the far side. At the instant the CP was on the bridge the first bomb of the stick exploded. This cut the column in two but the leading portion continued up the hill and around a corner where there was some defilade and also room to get to the side of the road. The vehicles had hardly screeched to a stop when the sound of many shovels and pick mattocks was heard digging furiously. No one had to be told to dig a hole that night. In the column that had been stopped to the rear, the message center vehicle had slipped into a freshly smoking bomb crater and blocked the road. A bulldozer soon helped to pull the vehicle back on the road but not before the column had been strafed a few times. In one of these flurries Sgt. Simonc came into contact with the ground which, unfortunately, was covered with a little more than dirt. These French put their manure piles in the darndest Places.

As soon as the first column had stopped Lt. Wingerter had returned to the bridge to find out any information from the MP who stayed there throughout the attack. The road led to the left before crossing the bridge and before the column returned from on the hill the Engineers had repaired the craters and the road was passable. The column was reformed though not in its original order and continued on toward Brecy. Here the column turned South and was soon stopped on a high bridge outside the town. While the column sat here a two-motored German bomber soared not 200 feet overhead but luckily was looking for the heavy artillery located in the vicinity and paid no attention to the column. Not a light showed and not a gun was fired until the plane had safely passed overhead when, in the release of the tension, some gunner with his hand on a .30 machine gun, sent a whole belt of tracer streaking skyward. The Corps' liaison officer met the column on the road and gave the change in the orders. The Battalion was now ordered to the vicinity of Craon, France, where it was to meet the 80th Infantry Division. It was discovered that in the bombing

at Avranches the Battalion had suffered its first battle casualty when T/5 Bird was killed. The Battalion had also suffered three casualties and lost a 1/4 ton and a motorcycle. Orders from the XX Corps then moved the outfit to Beau Soleil (15 miles East of Laval) where the 80th Division was now located. The Battalion departed from Craon at 1000 and on the way again tangled with the French Armored Division at Chateau Gontier. They had been stopped at a bombed bridge when one of their recovery vehicles was jammed at the bridge approach. The stay in the town was delightful, however, as the French townspeople walked up and down the column passing out their own brand of cognac.

The rest of the trip was uneventful and the outfit occupied a bivouac in the field South of the village of Vaiges. It was here that the first prisoners were taken when the FF1 turned over three Germans of the 17th Reserve Panzer Division. Two companies were attached to Regimental Combat Teams of the division and moved out to attack the towns of Evron and Ste Suzanne. The attacks were uneventful. The remainder of the Battalion was attached to the third combat team and late the night of the 10th of August, moved out for the town of Chasseraille. The trip was made in blackout along an extremely dark road. Word had been received that there were five Panther tanks in the vicinity and the guns were disposed to furnish a perimeter defense but nothing happened. The next day the companies and the Battalion CP moved North to the vicinity of Rouez. A company set up for indirect fire while the other companies were still with the combat teams. This bivouac of the CP will be remembered for the horse trough in the corner of the field where an extremely cold bath was taken by most all personnel. Rouez was located just South of Sille Le Guillaume or more familiarly called "Silly William." This town was taken by the division against extremely light resistance.

A big attack was in the making with the division going in pursuit of the rapidly withdrawing enemy. The Battalion was broken into three columns advancing over three different routes. The attack jumped off as planned with the only delays being occasioned by mines and blown bridges. The East column, with which the CP moved, gradually worked its way North and began running into elements of the 90th Division. The delays were many and occasioned some road jams that would cause a maneuver umpire to lose his mind. Just North and West of Alencon the Battalion entered a deep and rugged forest through which a fight had just raged. It was the 2nd French Arm'd which had fought through here and elements of that division now began to double the column. At one place a shot sobled the column. At one place a shot sounded off in the woods and every gun in the French column turned toward it. Luckily no more shots sounded or the Battalion would have been blown off the road by the muzzle blast. The cause of the congestion soon resolved itself. The East column had advanced more rapidly than was expected and the troops ahead had not yet cleared. The column was ordered to turn around when the chance presented itself and, advancing to a crossroads just West of Sees, turned and retraced its steps through the wood.

The next morning word was received to return to the Division CP at Villaine La Juhel. From here the division moved to a bivouac South of Anon. There were still isolated groups of enemy in the vicinity who were causing no end of trouble by remaining roads every night after they had been cleared. The Battalion did not stay here long but moved to a separate bivouac in the vicinity of Evion which had been taken not so many days before by the division. An alert for movement was issued with the expectation that the movement would be to the vicinity of Chateau-dun to join the spearhead of the advancing Third Army. All companies were prepared and the Battalion placed on a six-hour alert. This mission was then canceled and the mission was given of moving to Rennes to join in the Brest campaign. Still no movement was made. The infantry, who were to ride on the half-tracks, arrived and everything again made ready. Finally orders were received to move, but this time back up to Alencon, whence the Battalion had just come. It was an uneventful march along the old route and past the same dead Germans who were there the previous week. The bivouac that first night was located at Mortree.

The battle of the Argentan-Falaise gap began to resolve itself. The British had at long last broken out of Caen while the American First Army had moved out of Vire and were advancing to the Northeast and North. The Third Army was located on the East flank of the resultant pocket. Huge stocks of German supplies, men and equipment were thus encircled by the Allied armies. The Division moved its CP to Almeneches on the 17th of August, with the Battalion accompanying it, and remained there throughout the rest of the battle. The congestion in the enemy sector furnished an ideal artillery target and the next few days were filled with the noise of the

shells searching out the enemy columns. Verbal orders were issued on the 18th for the attack. The initial assault was to be made by the 318th Infantry to which C Company of the 610th was attached. A Company reinforced the fire of the division artillery while B Company was in reserve. At this time the Division was attached to the 1st Provisional Corps and fought with the 90th Inf. Div. on the right and the 2nd French on the left. The escape route of the Germans at this time was running between Falaise and Aroentai and word was received on the 18th that the Polish Brigade fighting with the British had reached Trun which considerably narrowed the corridor. The initial attacking forces of the 80th did not get far before being pinned down by heavy automatic weapons and tank fire. The advance was mostly limited to the main highway leading East from Argentan.

The attack was resumed on the 19th and the 318th made slight progress until 1735 that night when they were pinned down again. At this time the 317th passed through the 318th and launched an assault being accompanied by C Company. The attack held up at 2300 that night and prepared to continue in the morning. Early on the morning of the 19th Colonel Herold had taken the CP group forward to hill 171. A delay developed at a ford crossing the small stream to the South of the Argentan highway, where some elements of B company had succeeded in crossing. The Colonel went to the ford and remained there throughout the greater portion of the day assisting in getting the tanks and other elements across. This position was exposed to direct observation from the enemy held hill to the immediate front and some fire was directed at the crossing throughout the day. At about 2030 hours a round of 88 mm hit in the midst of the CP group wounding Lt. Col. Herold, Major Greenhaw, T/Sgt. Senger, S/Sgt. Dreissel, and the rgt. Senger, S/Sgt. Dreissel, and the radio operator T/5 Lingo. Capt. Schadt, with a portion of his medical detachment in the next field and took immediate care of the wounded, having them evacuated within five minutes. The Colonel died that night at 0130 hours in the evacuation hospital. During the day's action "B" Company established a record by being the first to report destroying enemy tanks. They reported three MK VI tanks destroyed by direct fire while C Company accounted for two 88 mm guns of unspecified type. A Company firing with the artillery had registered in on a house which was discovered to be occupied by enemy troops, so after targeting in, they proceeded to fire for effect on the target. All together "A" Company expended 700 rounds in harassing missions.

After the first day's action, the 1st Provisional Corps had given way to the V Corps, First Army, and the remainder of the action was fought under their control. The 3rd Platoon of C Company engaged enemy tanks to their front early on the morning of the 20th of August and reported four destroyed at 0835 hours. C Company moved with the 317th to its objective N.E. of Argentan and commanded all roads leading into the town. B Company, with the 318th Inf., occupied the towns of Crennes and Argentan. Major Jeffery assumed command of the Battalion upon the death of Lt. Col. Herold.

The peak of the battle was over and at 1800 hours, on the 21st of August, the command over the area occupied by the 80th Infantry Division north of The Argentan-Exmes road, passed to the British. After a day of rest the Commanding General of the Division ordered a maneuver to be held over the ground that had been fought over, using the same situation and orders as had existed. This exercise was to promote the coordination between the various combat arms. On the reorganization of the Battalion Staff, Captain Kantola became the Executive Officer, Captain Stewart assumed the job of Plans and Operations formerly held by Major Greenhaw while Captain McGrann remained as Intelligence Officer.

## CHAPTER IX

# THE MOSELLE RIVER

The Battalion was relieved of attachment to the V Corps, First Army, on the 26th of August and attached to the VII Corps, Third Army. Orders were received to move to a new assembly area in the vicinity of St. Flavy, France, and the outfit moved out at 1445 hours. This was a lovely ride through the most beautiful part of France. The natives along the route cheered the columns all the way and arms began to ache from returning the waves and saluarms began to ache from returning the waves and salutations along the way. The briefest stop was the signal for much bartering for bread, cognac, and wine, and as the convoy moved the French enthusiastically tossed apples, tomatoes, etc., into the vehicles. A steel helmet was a necessity for a hard apple thrown at a speeding vehicle can be a deadly missile. The route followed led South of the main Le Mans highway and paralleled that highway to the East until Orleans was reached bright and early on Sunday morning. The road was very poorly marked and once on that ride, when the head of the column had taken off on a tangent, a bit of excitement was caused when a listening radio picked up a message in unmistakable German. The radio had a range of only five miles so it was felt wise to determine exactly where the column was heading. It was some weeks later that a force of 20,000 Germans surrendered to a lieutenant of the 83rd Division in this same town of Orleans. The town was not badly damaged and after a brief stop for breakfast the column proceeded on toward Sens. Arriving there in the early afternoon a brief halt was made to refuel and receive directions and the column again took off for its destination. The Battalion pulled into the area assigned just East of St. Flavy at 1900 hours on the 27th of August. The trip was 347 miles and was accomplished in about 28 hours.

A Field Order had been received on the road which placed one Company on the road which placed one Company in support of the 3 17th and 3 18th Inf. At this time the 319th was on detached service in Chartres. The Battalion, accompanying the Division, moved forward and crossed the Seine River at Mery Sur Seine. The bridges were blown out but fords were easily constructed and not many mines were encountered. The CP of the Battalion was located at Villesebeus on the 28th of August. While pulling into the area Sgt. Jull started to signal to some German planes overhead when he inadvertently stepped on an electric lantern and couldn't get the switch turned off but nothing happened except a short lecture from the Division billeting officer on the inadvisability of flashing lights at German planes.

The division was now disposed about Chalons Sur Maine and orders were issued to attack that place on the 29th of August. The Battalion had been knocking out some machine guns and 88 mm guns and it was fully expected that some trouble might be encountered in crossing the Maine River. Early on the afternoon of the 29th, word was received that the town had fallen at 0900 that morning. An interesting sidelight on this battle was revealed in some papers captured by the division much later. These stated that the 5th Parachute Division was being reactivated here and that the division staff was out on a reconnaissance preparatory to occupying a defensive position. The German staff was hit by the advance element staff was hit by the advance elements of the 80th division and wiped out. This was the first encounter with the 5th Para division. The Battalion was to oppose them on three more occasions until they finally were knocked out for good in the Ardennes. "A" Company was successful in capturing a train which had just pulled into the yards at the town and was filled with PX rations for the German troops. A train full of parachutes was also captured here and, believing them valuable, were turned over to Third Army. It was afterwards discovered that practically all personnel of Third Army headquarters succeeded in getting one of the chutes to be sent home as war trophies. Chalons Sur Maine was about the first large town that had been liberated with the help of the Battalion and some of the Battalion reconnaissance were the first through the town. As soon as any type of Armor entered the town the French considered that the Army had come to stay and really began to celebrate. They first tried to shake the hand of every soldier, kiss them, and some times pass out wine and cognac but when they realized that there was a job still to be done they, with the help of the FF1, began rounding up and dealing sharp justice to remaining troops and collaborators. As the CP

group moved through the town, to the town of Lo Veluve, the column was strafed by three ME 109's but without damage. The planes were found shortly afterwards on a nearby field shortly afterwards on a nearby field. Evidently a last flight for the "Fuhrer."

The companies continued moving with their respective combat commands to the East. The CP was alerted for movement but numerous delays occurred and the group did not get under way until 0400 hours on the 31 st of August. The division was advancing East on three routes with the mission of seizing Bar-Le-Duc and Commercy and prepared to push on and take St. Mihiel. The companies moved out on schedule while the CP followed much later. The column passed through two towns which had just been sacked by SS troopers in one of which a small boy had been killed in the nave of the village church. The CP closed into Laheycourt at 0400 hours on September 1st. The stop was not long for the next day elements of the division crossed the Meuse River at Commercy. The CP moved up and occupied a bivouac just to the East of the town. The 4th Armored Division was scattered all over the fields in the vicinity. It was also here that the first rain since the Battalion landed in France arrived. Most everyone was caught unprepared sleeping in the open as they had been accustomed.

The movement slowed down somewhat during the next few days. C Company had one platoon (Lt. Atkinson's) take over the town of St. Mihiel on the 2nd of September, while the CP moved into the woods at Girauvoisin on the 3rd. On the 4th C Company reconnoitered for crossings of the Moselle River for crossings of the Moselle River between Pont A Mousson and Dieulard while B Company with the 319th Inf. were located at Bouvron with the mission of capturing Nancy.

The field day was over and some hard, tough fighting lay ahead. Considering the rapidity of the advance during the past few weeks it seemed like a miracle that so much ground was gained. The supply lines were long and gasoline had become the big problem. The Third Army had finally run out of it and the advance was stopped just short of the Moselle River. The Battalion, thanks to the efforts of Corporal Bruff, the Gas non-corn, had been resupplied with German gasoline and had full tanks. This was the German proclaimed "miracle in the west" when the Third Army was stopped at this time. If the Army could have kept going it was doubtful if it could have been stopped short of the Rhine River. The Battalion CP kept edging forward with that of the division and was located in Limonville on the 4th of September. B Company had one gun destroyed and three men wounded in the vicinity of Toul. Another section of the 2nd Platoon was caught in an artillery barrage on the 6th of September and T115 Palmieri and Lt. Harry B. Watkins were killed, while seven men were wounded and one gun and half-track were destroyed. "A" Company reported firing 55 rds HE, accounting for at least six machine guns and one OP.

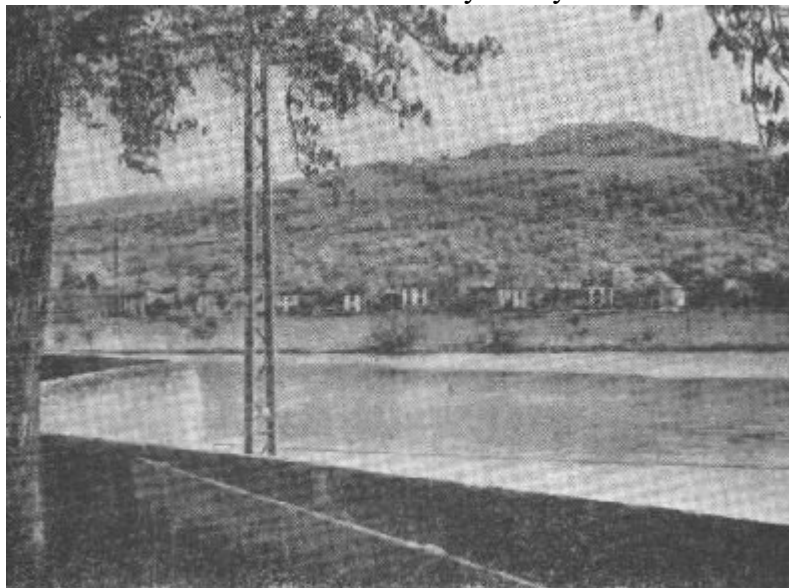
On the morning of the 8th of September, a counterattack was launched against the positions of the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company, a mile and one-half South of Saizerais, on the West bank of the Moselle River. The infantry had fallen back from the positions, failing to warn the gun crews which suddenly received heavy mortar and machine gun fire. Not having time to couple up the guns the platoon was forced to fall back and abandon their guns. The attack was successfully stopped about a kilometer back but the "Jerries" were trying to use the 3" guns, so one was knocked out by our own artillery fire while the 702nd Tank Battalion knocked out the others. Two of the half-tracks were recovered and repaired but the enemy got away with three jeeps and one entire gun crew was reported missing. The 2nd platoon of "A" Company had, in the meantime, observed some enemy activity on the opposite hill. Quite a large number of enemy personnel were gathered around and appeared to be working out a school problem. The platoon held its fire until the maximum number of people had gathered inside and then



LIBERATION OF CHALONS SUR MARNE

fired a volley. A few enemy were observed staggering out of the building so ten more rounds were dropped in, completely neutralizing the position. "C" Company was located on a bald knob opposite Pont A Mousson, overwatching the attempted crossing at this point. The infantry had made one attempt to cross in assault boats and had succeeded in getting a company across. The rest of the assault force was driven back and the company that had crossed was lost. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company had done some firing against Fort Villey Le 5cc, located just East of Toul. The results of the fire were disappointing in that the shells made scarcely an impression on the heavy steel cupola of the fort. The Germans had elected to defend the fort from the outside or it would have been quite difficult to dislodge them. During the past week the maintenance crews of the Battalion had succeeded in changing all of the tracks on the vehicles without loss of combat efficiency of any unit.

On September 11th, "C" Company spent the day preparing gun positions on the high ground S.E. of Jezainville, preparatory to covering the crossing of the infantry. The attack crossing of the infantry. The attack across the Moselle River succeeded on September 12th. The Crossing was covered by smoke laid down by the mortars and assault guns of the 702nd Tank Battalion. "A" and "C" Companies shuttled by platoons across the river and occupied the towns of Landremont and Millery. The Battalion CP was located in a wood three miles South of Mamey amidst the ruins of the last war's positions. The enemy launched a counterattack against the 80th Division bridgehead at 0400 hours on September 13th. The attack hit the 3rd Platoon of "C" Company in the town of Ste. Genevieve. The infantry pulled back but the 3rd Platoon maintained their positions against the



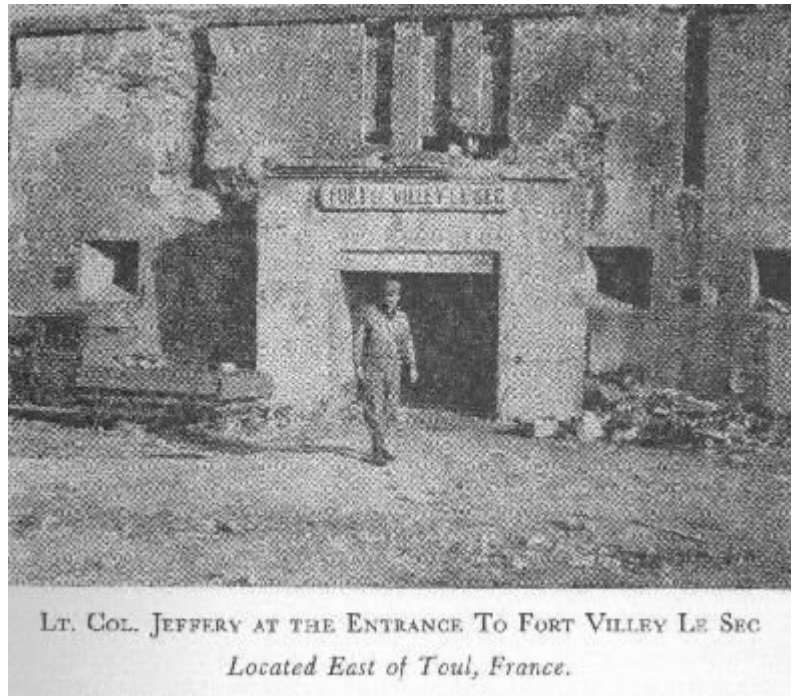
PONT A MOUSSON WITH MOUSSON HILL IN THE BACKGROUND  
The Battalion crossed the Moselle River just south of this area.

tank and infantry assault by destroying two of the tanks and killing numerous enemy personnel. Lieutenant Richard Merrill was wounded in the action and died of his wounds on October 5th. Captain Duchossois, on reporting the action to the CP, stated that platoon would maintain its position and requested that some infantry be brought up to help them. In the same counterattack tanks also advanced against the road block established by the 1st Platoon of "A" Company south of Loisy. The tanks were heard approaching but it was too dark to identify them so the platoon held its fire. At this juncture the tank shot flares outlining the positions and attacked them with machine gun fire. The platoon knocked out one of the tanks but was forced to pull out. The tanksut was forced to pull out. The tanks continued on down the highway leading South, where they were taken under fire by the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company who destroyed two of them. During the action the Battalion lost three men killed, fourteen wounded and had one 1& 1/2-ton truck and one 1/4-ton truck destroyed, but had accounted for five Mk IV tanks and four machine guns. In addition to the loss sustained by the enemy, they had also failed to obtain their objective which was the destruction of the bridgehead. The division was in quite a turmoil over the action as it had lost all communication with the forward troops and the only remaining link was the radio network of the 610th.

The enemy again launched a counterattack on the 15th of Septeinher, this time against Mousson Hill. This was on the East Side of the Moselle River and was a large hill overlooking the town of Pont A Mousson. The 3rd Platoon of "A" Company was in this vicinity and was subjected to a terrific barrage of machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire. The 1st Section advanced with the infantry to the top of the hill hut the 2nd Section was unable to do so. Destroying two of their guns, the half-tracks and some of the crews made a dash for the top of the hill and were successful. The remainder of the personnel were forced to cross the river to escape. They were successful in finding some boa were successful in finding some boats with which to cross and helped evacuate the wounded infantry though suffering some casualties.

Another counterattack was launched against Ste. Genevieve at 0400 hours. The Jerries were reacting strongly to the crossing of the Moselle. The enemy infantry advanced through the early morning haze and fog against "C"

Company's 3rd Platoon. The Company Headquarters Section destroyed two of the tanks with bazooka fire while two more were destroyed with the three-inch guns. Captain Duchossois of "C" company was seriously wounded in this action. Another tank attack was launched at 1600 hours against the bridgehead. The column of tanks was observed approaching and dispositions to meet it were made. The battalions' positions were ideal to meet the attack and eight of the attacking tanks were destroyed before the artillery got nervous and dispersed the rest of the column with its fire. "B" Company meanwhile had been advancing through the Forêt De Haye toward the outskirts of Nancy. They had been relieved of this mission and rejoined the action across the Moselle, going into position in the vicinity of Loisy to hack up the Antitank defense. During the day's action the Battalion lost one man killed, three wounded and had lost two guns but had succeeded in knocking out 12 enemy tanks. Major Walker, the Anti-tank officer of XII Corps, was a visitor at the Battalion CP that day and was evidently much impressed with the activity. During the lulls in the activity he made some mention of the new Tank Destroyers armed with the 90 mm gun, but no information could be gained as to when they would arrive in the Theatre or who was to receive them.



LT. COL. JEFFERY AT THE ENTRANCE TO FORT VILLY LE SEC  
*Located East of Toul, France.*

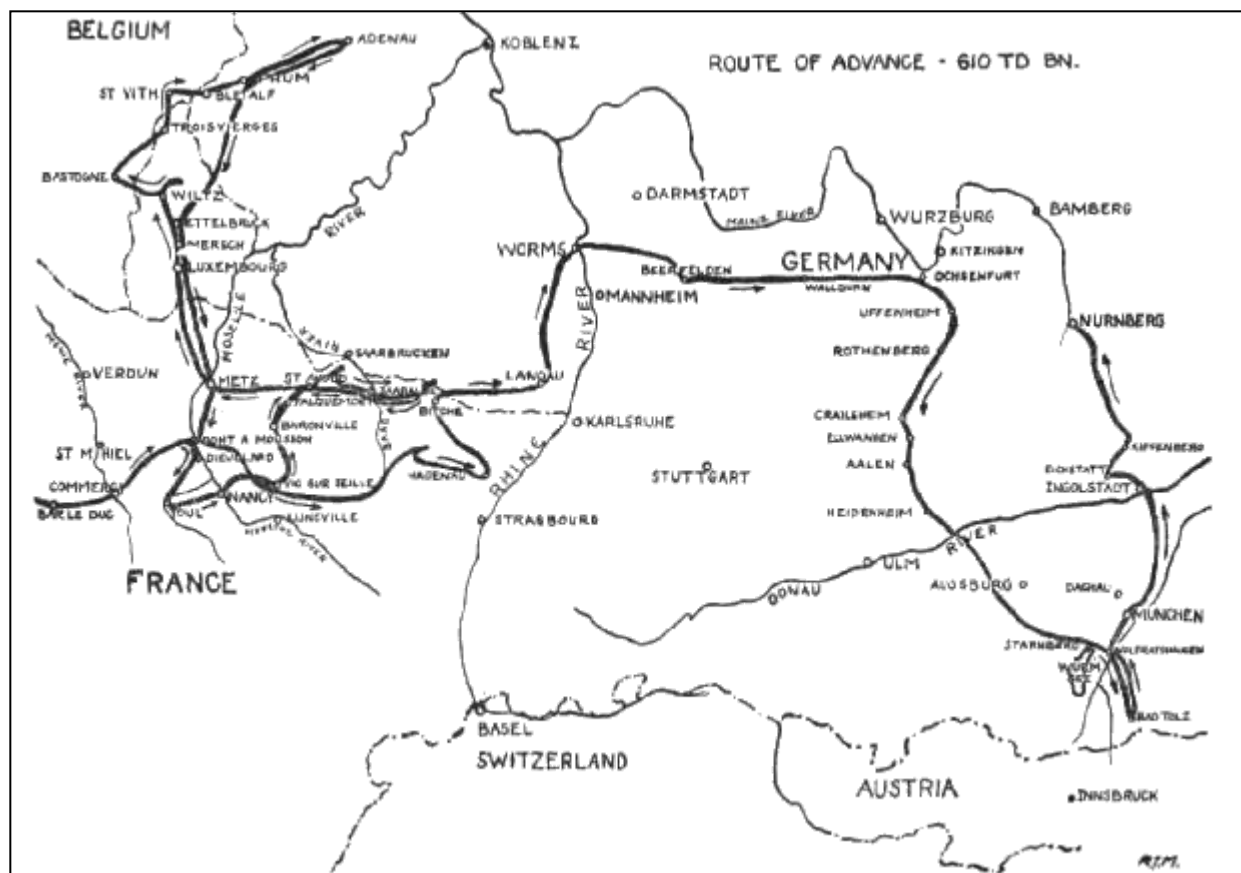
The counterattacks against the battalions' positions continued on the 16th, this time against "B" Company at Loisy. The attack was repulsed with five tanks destroyed at a cost of one gun damaged and five men wounded. The Battalion CP had moved down to the river bank just North of Dieuolard on the 18th. During the last three days the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company was still marooned atop Mousson Hill and was being supplied with ammunition, food, and medicine by Liaison planes and a few missions of P-47's which flew in belly tanks of supplies. The Battalion CP moved to Jezainville on the 19th while the platoons were busily engaged in knocking out mortars, machine guns, and mortars, machine guns, and personnel. The bridgehead was now firmly secured and the counterattacks had tapered off though there was still stiff fighting going on.

On September 25th the Battalion was suddenly notified that it was to be relieved by the 808th TD Battalion. The 610th was pulling out of action to be reconverted to a self-propelled battalion and was to be armed with the new 90 mm gun, the M36. While exchanging positions with the 808th, the 3rd Platoon of "C" Company received some mortar fire and two men were wounded. The Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 80th Infantry Division on the 25th of September and its days as a towed tank destroyer battalion were over. During its combat action as a towed battalion it had destroyed 31 enemy tanks, five vehicles, eight artillery pieces, seven OP's and had captured 85 prisoners. On the other side of the ledger, the Battalion had lost 16 men killed 35 wounded six guns destroyed, and had lost five half-tracks one 1½-ton and four ¼-ton trucks. It had fired from its three-inch guns 1,341 rds of HE, 245 rds APC, and 16 rds of smoke.



# CHAPTER X

## THE SAAR RIVER OFFENSIVE



Upon relief from the 80th Infantry Division the Battalion moved to an assembly area four miles East of Toul, on the Toul-Nancy Highway. The Battalion was bivouacked in a woods where camp was soon set up and preparations made to receive the new equipment and the necessary readjustments in personnel accomplished. The Battalion was to return to approximately the same Table of Organization as had existed back at Atterbury, which added a Reconnaissance Company. The Battalion would have one more Company but less personnel as the gun companies were again cut down. The T/O for a M36 Battalion had not as yet been determined and as it was to be the first outfit to be so equipped had to do the experimental work on stowage, etc., which was of such great importance. Probably no other battalion ever existed with the equipment as found in the 610th. The Companies were given their choice of any surplus equipment in the outfit and as a result some companies took half-tracks for their armored cars while others stuck to the M20's. It was discovered that although the Battalion was not in actual combat casualties could occur. A jeep out picking up wood was blown sky-high when it struck a mine in a forgotten mine field. One man was killed and another seriously wounded. Upon investigation a field of 50 Tellermines was unearthed. The bivouac was located in the midst of the Army ammunition dump and there was quite a bit of air activity but the Battalion was never attacked. One large flight (for the Germans) of about 50 planes flew over one night and was taken under fire by some 90 mm AA guns in the vicinity which apparently did no damage to the planes but did spray the area with flak.

This bivouac was occupied for about a month during which the personnel waded in h during which the personnel waded in a sea of mud. The M36's tearing around on the drivers' course, combined with the rain, only added to the situation. It was while the Battalion rested here that Captain Schadt, the medic, left for the hospital and did not return. His place was ably filled by Captain Ezerman, the dentist, but word was received that he would leave as soon as a medical doctor could be found as the Battalion was not authorized a dentist. Another loss to the Battalion occurred when Mr. Porter also left for the hospital. The Battalion gained one officer here when 1st Sergeant Hutson accepted his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. This was the Battalion's first battlefield commission.

On the 21st of October a test fire was conducted with a platoon of guns firing at an old French fort located just North of Toul. The firing was not of much significance but a great many notables came out to see the guns operate. The Battalion came under the operational control of the 9th TD Group on the 26th of October. The Battalion moved to a new area South of Leyr, on the 28th. The Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 7 75th and 738th FA battalions. This presented an excellent opportunity to break in the guns, with all personnel participating, and at the same time do some damage to the enemy. The platoons fired Interdictory and HaThe platoons fired Interdictory and Harassing missions on roads, towns and bridges with only one report on the results of the fire when "C" Company was credited with destroying an enemy battery on a counterbattery mission. The indirect fire mission was canceled on the 6th of November when the destroyers had to be taken to Ordnance shops in the vicinity of Nancy for the installation of grousers on the tracks. It was while the Battalion was still in bivouac at Leyr that Captain Ezerman left for the 4th Armored Division. The new Doctor was Captain Yocum, formerly with the 5th Infantry Division.

The Battalion, still attached to the XII Corps and to the 9th TD Group, moved out of Leyr on November 11th. "A" Company moved two miles East of Vie Sur Seille, "B" Company North of Bezange, "C" Company North of Lemoncourt while Recon Company and the CP moved to Vie Sur Seille. The Battalion was in Corps reserve and as a result had to maintain liaison with the 80th, 26th and 35th Infantry Divisions. It was reported that the 21 st Panzer Division was operating in the Corps sector and the Battalion was to be prepared to repel a counterattack at any time or place. This was another of those situations where a large gap existed in the lines on the South flank of the Corps. The area was screened by Cavalry and everyone hoped that the Germans were in no position to take advantage of the opening. "C" Company moved to Morville les Vie on the 13th of November, while the Pioneer platoon of Recon Cornpany relieved an Engineer detachment guarding a bridge on the outskirts of Salonnnes. The CP of the 26th Division was also located in Vie Sur Seilles at this time and "B" company moved into the town on the 16th.



ENTRANCE TO THE BATTALION BIVOUAC  
Along the Toul-Nancy Road during the time the Battalion was converting to self-propelled guns.



TRADED OUR TOWED GUNS FOR DESTROYERS

The CP will long remember this town for it was set up in about the only intact house remaining in the town, the home of Dr. Al Decker.

The Corps attack had been progressing and the Battalion CP moved to Baronville on the 19th of November. "A" Company was located at Conthil, while "B" and "C" Companies were located at Destry. The new mission was to support either the 26th or 35th Divisions in passing through the Maginot line. As the attacks of the divisions progressed the companies and the staff kept reconnoitering for successive positions from which to support the attack in case of a break-through. It entailed constant reconnaissance and the preparation of thousands of plans. At this time the 9th TD Group was under the command of Lt. Col. Darling with whom the Battalion had participated in Tennessee Maneuvers.

As is usual in the Army after having made all preparations to Support either the 26th or 35th Divisions, the Battalion was actually sent to support the attack of the 80th Division. It was rumored that this was because General McBride had asked for the Battalion. Orders were received on the 22nd to move to the 80th Division operating on the left flank of the XII Corps in the general area of Falquemont. "B" Company was placed in direct support of the 319th Inf. and moved on the 24th to the area South of Falquemont, "C" Company with the 318th moved to Charbonnages while "A" Company, with the 317th, moved to Emchville. All companies, with their respective combat teams, moved up to the general line of the Maginot Fortifications and preparations were made to breach the line. The CP moved to Cites des Charbonnages on the 25th of November, while "C" Company had one officer wounded by artillery fire and Reconnaissance Company had one man killed and four wounded by artillery. The attack was progressing very satisfactorily. The Germans had added barbed wire, mines, and anti-tank ditches to the Maginot line but it was becoming evident that they were not manning the fortifications but were using them as shelters for men and supplies while the main defense line was outside of the forts. The Battalion score on pillboxes neutralized began to mount. A few rounds of 90 mm soon induced most of the defenders of these emplacements to surrender. On one occasion, after a few rounds, 80 prisoners walked out and surrendered to the infantry. The 25th of November saw 13 such pillboxes knocked out.

The belt of Maginot fortifications was breached without serious difficulty on the 25th of November. On this day "B" Company took a shot at a tank located in St. Avoird and the infantry gave them credit for destroying it but the tank was never found so credit was not claimed. A backfire, which ignited the motor, caused the loss of one of the Battalion's destroyers. "A" Company entered the town of Farebersweiler on the 28th of November but was forced out by an enemy counterattack. They later re-entered the town with Infantry and tanks, destroying 3 Mk V tanks in the action. The Battalion CP at this time was located in the old French barracks in St. Avoird which had been occupied by German Army Headquarters. "A" Company was again forced out of Farebersweiler on the 29th and had two men killed. The enemy resistance increased as the Seigfreid positions were approached with the battle now being fought in the no-man's-land between the two belts of fortifications. Orders were received on the 2nd of December to support the advance of the division to the East with "C" Company attached to the 318th CT. and the rest of the Battalion in reserve. "A" Company covered the advance of "C" Company into Pfarrebersweiler on the 4th of December. The 1st Platoon of "C" Company, while advancing into the town, was taken under fire by three AT guns located in the woods East of Thedingen. Their first shot damaged one destroyer hut the rest of the platoon immediately laid down a heavy fire and were successful in destroying two AT guns and one SP gun.

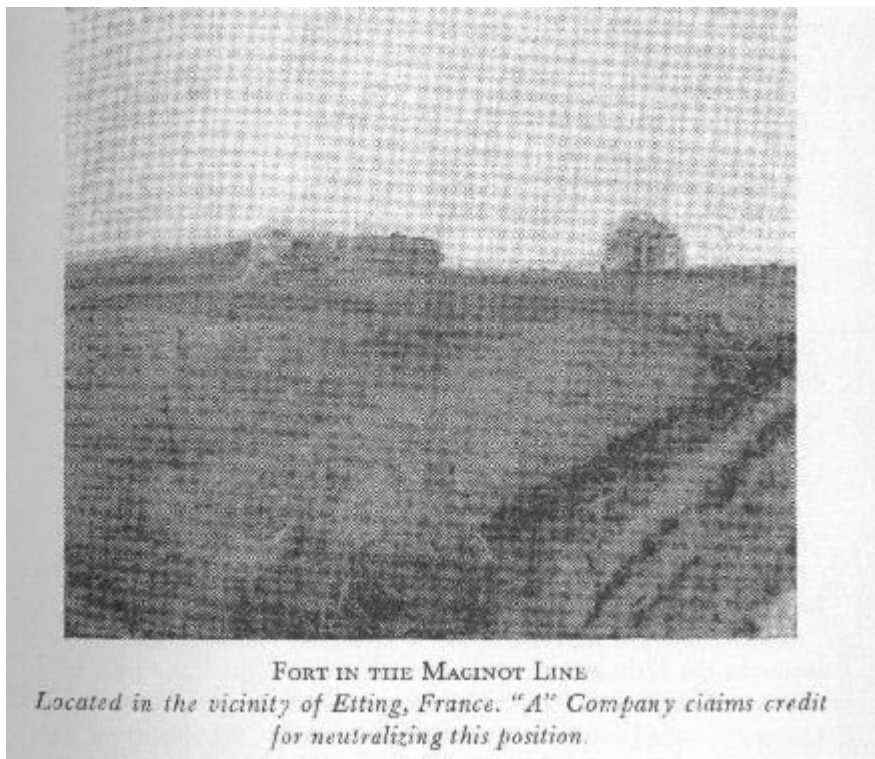
The CP group had meanwhile been some excitement in St. Avoird. There was one gun located North of the town which had been shelling the area fairly regularly, landing in the group of buildings in which the CP was located. In addition word was received that "time bombs" were located in the vicinity and a thorough search was made of the building until everyone was satisfied that the building was clear. The search was repeated every time a new bomb was turned up in the town. On the night of December 4th, the shelling had started as usual at 2200 hours and being particularly close a number of the personnel had retired to the bomb proof cellar. A particularly close sounding explosion at 2300 hours convinced everyone that the Germans had found the range, when a cry for help from outside brought the whole group outside to investigate the whole group outside to investigate. It was then discovered that the building just across the street had ceased to exist. It was estimated afterwards that the time bomb which had exploded there contained approximately 1500 pounds of explosive. All personnel of the

CP immediately started in on the rescue work; calling for ambulances, engineers, and helping to clear the debris themselves. It was necessary to have light to work by so trucks were driven up to the building and the lights turned on the debris to assist in the removal of the injured. The CP proper immediately abandoned the building in which they were located, moving into the field back of its location. The Pioneer Platoon of Recon Company, which was in the same town, was called in and worked all night removing the dead and injured. Promptly at daybreak the seas started for a new CP. This time, and from then on, the CP's were located in small buildings and ones that were occupied, for it was felt that no Heinie would live in a house if he expected it to blow out from under him at any minute.

Having taken the 80th Division through the Maginot line the new mission of the Battalion was to support the attack of the remainder of the XII Corps. In line with this new mission on December 6th "A" Company was attached to the 26th Inf. Division, "B" Company to the 35th Inf. Division and "B" Company to the 35th Inf. Division and the Battalion minus to the 9th TD Group. The Battalion CP was moved to Willerwald. "A" Company moved to Bissert and then to Etting on December 7th, while "B" Company moved to Hambach, where they were attached to the 654th TD Bn. with a platoon attached to each of its gun companies. The 35th Division was at that time attacking Saarguemines. "A" Company had one platoon attached to the 328th Inf. and one attached to the 104th Inf. while the 3rd was in reserve. The platoons expended 22 rds APC and 62 rds HE, neutralizing five forts and three pillboxes.

The Battalion minus, moved to Harskirchen on the 8th, on orders from Group. On the 9th "A" Company moved its platoons to Achen from which position the 3rd Platoon fired at the cross-roads in Gros Rederching. "B" Company's 3rd Platoon with the 35th Division, moved to positions vicinity Lois de Betting while the 1st Platoon moved to Neufgrange. "C" Company was placed in support of the 328th Inf. and moved one km. South of Witttring. On the 10th of December "A" Company's 1st Platoon moved NW. of Singling and destroyed a Mk V tank at a range of 4200 meters. This was quite a shot and the Battalion received a write up in the New York Daily News the action, though by the time it got to the paper it was three tanks. The 3rd Platoon, from position S.E. of Woelfling, also destroyed three tanks, two Mk VI's and one unidentified. "C" Company moved to Weisvidentified. "C" Company moved to Weisviller and reported one enemy tank destroyed. One of the tanks knocked out by the 3rd Platoon was in a hay barn and was difficult to shoot at so the platoon first knocked down the barn with HE and then took care of the tank.

The 26th Inf. Division was gradually being relieved in place by the 87th Division, who were new to combat and getting a pretty thorough indoctrination in some pretty rough fighting. The Bn. CP moved to Herbitzheim on the 11th. "A" Company's 3rd platoon from positions one km. North of Gros Rederching took four enemy tanks under fire and reported two as destroyed and two as probables. "C" Company, with the 328th Inf. had its 1st Platoon West of Woelfling and destroyed one enemy tank. As its destroyer drew back it was taken under fire by an over-watching 88, and the driver was killed and three men wounded. The Bn. CP moved to Etting on December 13th, occupying the home of the village priest. Some slight advances were being made by the platoons as they fought their way into the outer fringes of the Seigfreid line. On the 15th the CP moved to Gros Rederching with the CP of the 87th Inf. Division. The 2nd Platoon of "B" Company (who had reverted to battalion control on the 14th), moved one km. S.W. of Rimling, covering the road net North and East of the town while "C" Company had the 1st and 3rd Platoon in the vicinity of Obergailbach. From here they destroyed one



FORT IN THE MAGINOT LINE  
 Located in the vicinity of Etting, France. "A" Company claims credit  
 for neutralizing this position.

Mk VI h. From here they destroyed one Mk VI tank and a number of personnel. The 2nd Platoon fired at three tanks N.W. of Obergailbach, destroying two, one of which was a Mk VI. The 3rd Platoon of "A" Company fired at two tanks W. of Eppingen, destroying one on the 16th of December. The Company, with the exception of one section, was relieved of its mission in supporting the 345th Inf. and withdrew for a maintenance period. First Section of the 2nd Platoon was left in the vicinity of Rimling to reinforce the 87th Recon Troop. "C" Company fired at three enemy vehicles East of Peppernum but poor visibility prevented observation of results. The 3rd Platoon destroyed one Mk V tank and a machine gun in Walsheim on the 17th of December. The 2nd Platoon fired at a tank from vicinity of Erchingen on the 18th, but results were not observed. The Company moved on the 19th to the high ground in the vicinity of Walsheim, affording better fields of fire. Two tanks which had previously been reported as probables on the 15th of December were confirmed as kills.

While the CP was located at Gros Redercliiing there had been some harassing artillery fire at the town. The rounds were coming in singly at about five minute intervals with meal time as the favorite time for the fire. No apparent damage was done though it was hard to get business transacted with the Division as they had moved underground when the shelling first started. The Battalion CP, either through ignorance or familiarity, choose to ignore the shelling, even when the Division (a new one), issued a memorandum warning all units to set up CP's in cellars. "A" Company was sent to relieve "C" Company on December 20th, but shortly thereafter the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 87th Infantry Division. Previous to that time a large scale attack by the Third Army had been forming up and the Battalion had expected to be again reassigned to the 80th Inf. division. The plans had gone so far that liaison was already established with the division. Another battalion, the 704th, had been sent in to relieve the 610th temporarily and had even arrived, but were stopped on the road in front of the CP and sent back to the 4th Armored Division in a hurry. The 691st finally came in to relieve the Battalion in place and the Battalion assembled in temporary areas preparatory to the next change.

The date was now December 20th, 1944, and disturbing events had been taking place in the North. The Von Rundstedt offensive had been launched on the 16th of December, and every intelligence report found a deeper penetration of the Allied lines. The Third Army offensive had been canceled and the assembled troops were rushing north in General Patton's lightning thrust at the southern shoulder of the "bulge." The 4th Armored had rushed North; it was suspected that the 80th Division was also going and the Battalion awaited its word to move.

# CHAPTER XI

## THE ARDENNES OR "BULGE"

The Battalion finally received its orders to move to the vicinity of Leudelange, Duchy of Luxembourg, and left at 0600 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December. The 9th TD Group also moved with the Battalion. It seemed as though the entire Corps was on the move as the traffic on the road North was extremely heavy. The route led through St. Avold, strangely quiet now, and on through Metz to the Duchy of Luxembourg. Arriving at the XII Cor to the Duchy of Luxembourg. Arriving at the XII Corps Information Center at Leudelange, the Battalion was informed that it was to be attached to the 80th Infantry Division and given orders to go to Luxembourg City and contact the Division CP at that place. Contact was soon made with the division and the employment of the Battalion determined. The gun companies were still on the road so reconnaissance elements were sent to meet them and lead them to the various combat commands. "A" Company, with the 317th Inf., moved to Heimsang, "B" Company, with the 318th, moved to Mersch, while "C" Company, with the 319th, moved to Kehlen. The mission of the Division was to launch an attack at once against the southern shoulder of the German penetration. The German penetration at this time had just about reached its limit. The attack was to block any attempt to widen the corridor as well as to protect the City of Luxembourg from the North. The battleground was still enmeshed in "German Weather," meaning that the skies were overcast and the temperature was cold.

"C" Company had been prevented from conducting any maintenance recently while the other companies had been able to catch up on this important function so arrangements were made to relieve this Company with "A" Company, who were originally in reserve. Before being relieved by "A" Company they did account for an artillery piece and worked over two buildings housing enemy personnel. "B" Company housing enemy personnel. "B" Company moved to the high ground S.W. of Ettelbruck and did some firing at enemy personnel. The Battalion CP moved to Mersch on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. It is interesting to note on this move North that the Battalion had disengaged from contact with the enemy at 0600 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, and after moving a hundred odd miles North, jumped off on an attack at 0600 the following morning. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> "A" Company supported the attack of the 2nd Battalion of the 319th Inf. on Tadler. The 2nd Platoon, from positions North of Heiderscheid, destroyed seven enemy tanks (2 Mk VI), three half-tracks, one AT gun, one machine gun, and one ammunition dump. "B" Company, in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, destroyed a horse drawn artillery piece and an unknown number of personnel. "C" Company, initially in mobile reserve, was attached to the 317th Inf. and moved to Neiderfeulen. The shooting continued good on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with "A" Company destroying a cargo vehicle and a half-track while "C" Company knocked out three tanks (1 Mk VI) but lost three men killed and fourteen wounded.

Christmas was being celebrated by "A" Company's 1st Platoon destroying a Mk V tank and a CP South of Goesdorf, and the 2nd Platoon chalking up another Mk IV, a half-track, and a truck North of Ringel. "B" Company reported one tank as a probable and were also shooting at MG's and bicycle troops. The Battalion had been issued its Christmas ration of Turkey and trimmings and insofar as it was humanly possible, this ration was served to all personnel. The weather was extremely cold and in order to give the men in the companies some rest the platoons were being rotated every day so that the men could get back under shelter and get dry and warm. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, "A" Company had one man killed while "B" Company destroyed one tank, two AT guns, and at least a platoon of Infantry in the vicinity of Kehmen. They had one destroyer damaged by artillery fire and also had one officer and three men wounded.

During the past few days the weather had cleared off and the heavy bombers were finally able to get out and go to work on the enemy troops and equipment in the "bulge." The bomb release streamers seemed to be directly over the Battalion's positions and the sky was literally filled with planes. The German planes had been playing around even during the overcast weather and were out every night but inflicted no damage on the outfit. There were a few occasions when American planes had attacked elements of the Battalion and it was never determined exactly whether they were flown by German pilots or not. On the 27<sup>th</sup> "A" Company did some bring, causing

unknown damage to the enemy, but they had two men wounded by artillery fire. The 1st Platoon helped to repulse a counterattack on the 29th while two more men were wounded on the 30th of one man was wounded on the 30th of December. On the last day of the year "A" Company lost an officer and one EM wounded by artillery fire in the vicinity of Ringel. The CP of "B" Company was hit by artillery at 0200 on the 1st day of January, killing one man and wounding Captain Tice and one other man. The 1st Platoon of "C" Company moved to the high ground East of Ettelbruck and fired at a tunnel from there. Captain Duchossois, who had returned to the Battalion from the hospital by this time, took over the command of "B" Company.

On January 1st, 1945, "A" Company had one M36 damaged by a mortar shell which landed on the motor deck. Lieutenant Snyder of Recon Company was wounded by fire on the 2nd of January. The Sure River was crossed by the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company on January 4th. During the crossing of the river one M36 received a direct hit by an artillery shell through the open turret of the vehicle. Three men were killed, one wounded and the driver blown uninjured out of the vehicle. "A" Company also confirmed as a kill the tank reported as a probable on the 25th of December. The Germans reacted to the Division's crossing of the Sure River on January 7th, Then they launched a counterattack against "A" Company's positions in the vicinity of Nocher. The 2nd Platoon used 60 mm illuminating flares to light up the target and sib. houette the attacking force. They destroyed two enemy tanks in this action. The Battalemy tanks in this action. The Battalion CP which was located in Neiderfeulen at this time, was being paid a lot of unwelcome attention in the form of artillery fire but no damage was inflicted.

Another counterattack was launched at "A" Company's positions in the vicinity of Dahl at 0500 on the 8th of January. This attack was also supported by tanks. The company again used the flares and the 1st Platoon knocked out a Mk VI tank while the 2nd Platoon destroyed two Mk VI's and three Mk V's. During this action one of the destroyers received a hit through the motor and the crew abandoned the vehicle, believing it about to burn. Finding that it did not ignite, DePhillipus and Weinburg remanned the weapon and were successful in destroying two of the Mk VI tanks at a range of less than 100 yards. One of the 2nd Platoon probables of the day before was confirmed as a Mk VI destroyed. "A" Company had one man killed in the action.

On January 9th, "A" Company had one man wounded by artillery fire. The 2nd Platoon (Lt. Enich's) now had but one gun operational and were pulled back to Goesdorf in reserve. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company was relieved of attachment to the 31 7th Inf. and attached to the 3 19th in preparation for the attack which was to be launched to the East to clear the area of enemy troops and to prevent troops from entering the area in front of the 318th's attack. At this time the 26th Inf. Division of III Corps was on the left flank attacking Wiltz where the 28th Division CP had been located before the "bulge" began, while the 5th Division was on the right attacking in the direction of Diekirch. The disruption of the last two counterattacks seemed to break the back of the Germans' offensive spirit though he was still clinging desperately to what ground he had. Both "A" and "B" Company continued firing at enemy installations and personnel during the next few days.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery had been suffering with a bad eye for the past few weeks and it was around the 14th or 15th of January that it finally became bad enough to require some additional medical treatment. It was expected he would be gone several days but word was received soon after that he had been evacuated and probably would not return to the unit. Major Kantola assumed command of the Battalion.

The 1st Reconnaissance Platoon was drawn back to Reconnaissance Platoon was drawn back to constitute a part of the Task Force developed to repel any sabotage or paratroop attack of the enemy. The companies continued firing into the enemy held towns for the next few days, utilizing time fuses to secure air bursts. One destroyer of "A" Company hit a mine in a field North of Dahl and trouble was experienced in repairing it as it was subjected to direct fire. This was on the 17th of January and the company also had three men wounded by artillery fire. The Division had been operating with only two regiments as the 318th Inf., commanded by Colonel MacVickar (formerly of 9th TD Group), had been sent to accompany the 4th Armored Division on the relief of the 10th Airborne at Bastogne. The 1st Platoon of "A" Company supported the attack of the 319th East of Dahl on the 18th of January but met unexpectedly heavy resistance and was forced to draw back. "A" Company also had a destroyer slide off an icy road into a gulley, and because of the bad road conditions could not recover the vehicle. The attack on the towns of Nocher and Harderbach continued on the 19th. A Mk VI in the vicinity of Nocher was confirmed as destroyed.

The 1st Platoon of "B" Company fired at an enemy tank in the vicinity of Masseler on the 21st of January with undetermined results. The entire company then fired a ten minute preparation on a hill West of Masseler. "C" Company was supporting the advance of the 31st Infantry was supporting the advance of the 318th from positions in the vicinity of Burden. The 318th was attempting to clear the area South and West of the Sure River still controlled by the Germans. Task Force Talbot came into existence on the 23rd of January with "A" Company's 3rd Platoon attached moving to Eschweiler. "B" Company moved to Wiltz and then on to Pintsch while "C" Company assembled in the vicinity of Heiderscheid preparatory to moving to Buderscheid with the 318th Regt. The forward CP of the Battalion moved to Wiltz on the 24th of January. The 3rd Platoon of "B" Company fired at three enemy tanks two km North of Buntsche with an air OP reporting a Tiger Royal destroyed but this kill was never confirmed. The 2nd Platoon of "C" Company was located at Erpeldange and had one man wounded.

"A" Company was relieved of attachment to the 319th Inf. Regt. on the 27th of January and assembled in the vicinity of Dahl. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company was at Siehenaler and the 2nd at Bockholtz. The 2nd Platoon of "C" Company moved to Willerwiltz and then to Bockholtz and had two men wounded by small arms fire in the attack on the town of Hosingen. The Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 80th Infantry Division on the 28th of January. It was to mark the end of the Battalion's association with that division, which had been long and mutually satisfactory.



## CHAPTER XII

# BELGIUM AND THE SCHNEE EIFEL

The Fourth Infantry Division (Ivy Division) had been operating to the right of the 80th in the vicinity of Diekirch. After the terrible battle for the Hurtgen Forest in which the 4th took part they had been sent to this relatively quiet sector for a rest and to be reequipped. The Rundstedt offensive caught them at this position and owing to their magnificent stand at Diekirch the Germans were unable to capture and at Diekirch the Germans were unable to capture the city of Luxembourg. The 4th had now been ordered to move North into Belgium where the 610th was to join them. The battalion left Wiltz at 1600 hours enroute to Hachiville, Duchy of Luxembourg, arriving there at 2300 hours. Again it seemed as though the entire Army was on the move for the battalion spent hours at the town of Bastogne waiting to get on the road leading North. The night was clear and cold and the battalion bedded down for the night in temporary quarters before moving out to join their respective Regiments in the morning. Twenty "buzz bombs" or V-1's were counted sailing over the positions that night.

"A" Company was placed in direct support of the 8th Infantry Regiment on the 29th of January moving its 1st platoon to Maspelt, Belgium and the remainder of the company going to Burg Reuland. "B" Company was in mobile reserve with one platoon guarding the Division Cp while "C" Company was in direct support of the 12th Infantry and moved to Lengeler. The first night with the 4th Division had been spent in a corner of Luxembourg but the battalion was now all in Belgium. On the 30th the 1st platoon of "A" Company was at Lommersweiler with the rest of the company moving in the next day. The 1st and 3rd platoon of "B" Company were in Oudler while "C" Company's 1st and 3rd platoon were in Elcherath and the 2nd in Burg Reuland, where the forward Cp of the battalion was located. On February 1st the 1st and 3rd platoons of "B" Company moved to Burg Reuland while "C" Company had two platoons in Elcherath and the 2nd at Auel. "A" Company moved to an assembly area 2km. South of Schon berg on the 2nd. Captain Duchossois had established liaison with the 22nd Infantry who were about to come into the line and to which "B" Company was to be attached. "C" Company moving forward with the 22nd Regt. had fired at tanks and SP guns located North of Brand..scheideid and reported one destroyed. The battalion CP moved to Lommersweiler while Recon and Headquarters Company moved to Burg Reuland. The division front had narrowed until it was only four kilometers across at this point and the installations were really crowded into that small space.

The 4th Division was fighting over familiar territory at this time as they had taken and occupied this position the previous September. The Division objective at this time was the town of Brandscheid just over the German Border and reported to be a strong point in the Seigfreid line. On the 3rd of February "C" Company was located at Bleialf, Germany, with the 12th Inf. The Battalion CP moved to Amelscheid, Belgium on the 4th of February. This town was just short of the German frontier.

On the 5th of February, 1945, Lieutenant-Colonel Bergstrom, formerly Executive Officer of the 7th TD Group reported for duty with the Battalion and assumed command. Major Kantola resumed his former duties as Executive Officer of the Battalion while Major Stewart took over his old position as S3. The 22nd Infantry launched its attack to capture Brandscheid on the 6th of February. The assault was made by a coordinated infantry-tank-tank destroyer team and well illustrated the efficacy of such an attack. "B" Company was credited with neutralizing 19 pillboxes and destroying one Mk V tank in the action. After capture, the town was to pass to the 90th Infantry Division who were on the right. Their elements came in to relieve the Task Force of the 22nd Regt. after dark and owing to some gaps existing in the outpost line about 500 German infantrymen came in with them. Soon there was quite a small arms fight raging in the town and quite a bit of confusion as to who was shooting at whom.

The combined forces were able to keep the town and inflict severe casualties on the attacking force but "B" Co. lost one man killed and four wounded while one destroyer was lost to bazooka fire, two to enemy mines and one

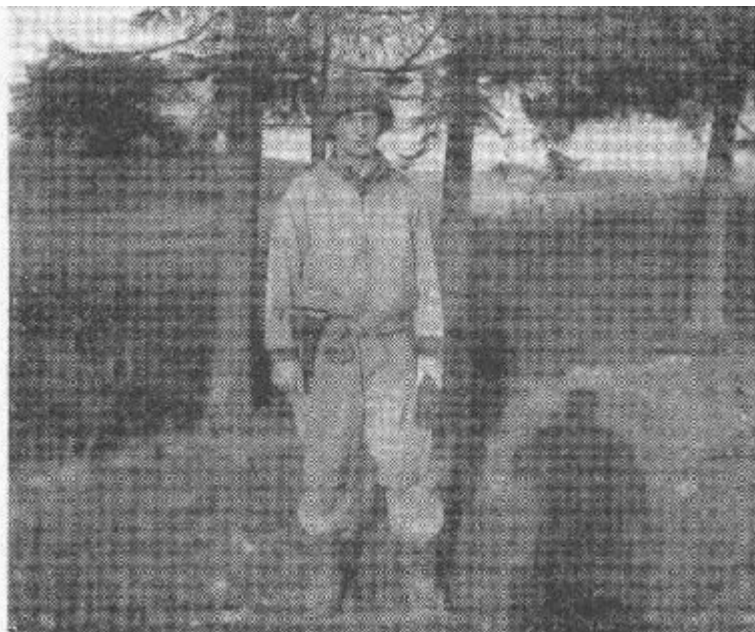
destroyer backed in a huge bomb crater while attempting to turn and all efforts to get it out were unavailing. That destroyer is still there as far as is known as the Ordnance was also experiencing difficulty in retrieving the vehicle. This day also marked the Bae vehicle. This day also marked the Battalion's one hundredth day of being in contact with the enemy. "C" Company received confirmation of two tanks reported as probables on the 3rd of February.

The Battalion CP moved to Bleialf, Germany, on the 7th of February. This was the first time that the CP had been located in Germany proper, and all elements of the Battalion were now in Germany. The 1st and 3rd Platoons of "A" Company moved to Wascheid and the 2nd Platoon was located at Jaglida. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company was located in Sellerichohe while the rest of

the Company was at Obermehlen. They reported firing at a direct fire weapon which was probably destroyed and lost one destroyer to direct fire with two men wounded. "B" Company was now down to five destroyers and "C" Company was moving to Scllerichohc to relieve them. The 2nd Platoon of "A" Company moved to Wascheid and the 3rd Platoon West of Hermespond on the 8th of February. The 3rd Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Hammes, moved to the crest of a hill 700 yards East of Neidermehlen to support the advance of "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry. Primary firing positions had been selected to cover the town and its approaches. At about 0930 a Mk V tank was observed approaching the town about 1100 yards away. Waiting until the range had been reduced to 800 yards the 1st gun of the 1st Section, commanded by Sgt. Flaherty with Cpl. Ailey as gunner, fired four rounds. The 4th round hit the tank in the left sponson just below the turret, setting it on fire. The unit remained in this position until word was received that the 1st Battalion was receiving heavy tank fire so the 2nd Section moved to a position to assist its advance. The second destroyer, commanded by Sgt. Bert Corbin, observed three German tanks and opened fire on the first at a range of 2500 yards. The first shot set the Mk V tank on fire and the entire crew perished. At this the other two tanks disappeared over a hill. "A" Company was in the vicinity of Hermespond on February 9th and destroyed one tank and a MG. "B" Company, North of Neidermehlen, reported destroying two tanks East of the town and probably accounted for two more. One man was slightly wounded and Lieutenant Garis, who was assigned to Recon Company, but was now working with "B" Company, was killed when caught outside of an Infantry CP by artillery fire.

The 1st Platoon of "A" Company did some excellent firing at a church steeple housing a German OP, on February 10th. Della Paolera was showing off his gun to an infantry captain who was doubtful of all the things claimed for it. Just to show him, the gunner put his first round through a window in the steeple which had been indicated by the Captain, at 3800 yards, and then put a round on each side of the window. The officer was afterwards heard telling his colonel that "these d --- -TD's shoot that gun like it was an M1." The 2nd Platoon destroyed two tanks S.E. of Hermespond while the 3rd Platoon were shooting at vehicles and personnel. One man was wounded. The 2nd Platoon of "C" Company also accounted for one Mk V tank NW. of Prum.

The Division had been on the offensive and its lines had advanced to the general line of the Pruin River. The Division was ahead of the two flanking outfits, the 87th on the left and the 90th on the right, so orders were received on the 11th of February to hold that position. A salient existed in the South which the armor was having trouble reducing because of the weather. The companies reverted to Battalion control but were still responsible for the anti-tank defense of the sector. The four kilometer front had now expanded until it was more in keeping with what had previously been experienced. The 1st Platoon of "A"



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL EINAR M. BERGSTROM  
*Commanded the Battalion from February 5, 1945 till the end of the War*

Company was located at Olzheim, the 2nd Platoon of "B" Company at Steinmehlen while "C" Company was located at Gonderbrett, Sellerichohe and N.W. of Prurn. There was only minor activity in the sector in the next few days during which "A" Company had two men wounded by artillery fire. Due to the static nature of the operations and the serious shortage of artillery ammunition, the Battalion was directed to place a platoon (equivalent to a Field Artillery Battery) to reinforce the fires of the 29th and the 4th FA Battalions. The companies were given the mission with the exception of "B" Company, which had too few destroyers, and rotated their platoons on this mission. The platoons were firing Harassing and Interdiction fire on targets as assigned by the Fire Direction Center of the Artillery. These fire missions were commenced on the 16th of February. There was a slight shifting of aetis on the 18th of February when the Division took over part of the sector of the 90th Div. on the right. "B" Company reconnoitered for positions to cover this new sector relieving elements of the 773rd TD Bn.

The indirect fire missions had to be suspended on the 18th because of the shortage of ammunition in the Battalion. It was agreed with the artillery that the Battalion had not suffice that the Battalion had not sufficient transportation to keep the guns supplied with the large amount of HE ammunition required and the supply echelons of the artillery were to furnish the ammunition. It was tactically unsound for the companies to fire their basic load of ammunition. The artillery finally came through with an additional supply on the 19th and the indirect fire missions were resumed. The 1st Platoon of "A" Company which was located in Hermesband took part in a fire fight with small arms, on the 20th, and helped repulse a 25-man patrol, capturing three PW's. They used their .50 and .30 caliber machine guns. The company and the battalion complained about the use of the destroyers in the town of Hermesband as there was no field of fire and they only served to attract artillery fire. The classical answer to this complaint was in effect "if the TD's come out of Jlermesband the infantry will come out too. Your platoon is there for the morale effect on the infantry."

In addition to the reinforcirr fires the platoons were firing for the artillery, the other elements of the Battalion were also shooting to good effect in support of the defense of the infantry. The platoons were shooting quite a bit of HE ammo with time fuses, against exposed enemy personnel. This enabled them to secure air bursts which were very destructive. Previously, and especially with the towed three-inch gun, no fuses of this type were avach gun, no fuses of this type were available and when an air burst was desired the gunner attempted to ricochet the shell off the ground with a slightly delayed fuse which would cause it to burst just above the ground. This method of firing was very unpredictable as the exact bounce of the shell, if it did bounce, was hard to judge. The 3rd Platoon of "C" Company had a destroyer slightly damaged by artillery fire on the 24th of February but the idlers and bogie wheels were replaced on the spot by company personnel. A jeep from "C" Company ran over a



THE SEIGFRIED LINE  
Road Block and anti-tank obstacles of the Seigfried Line located in the Schnee Eifel.



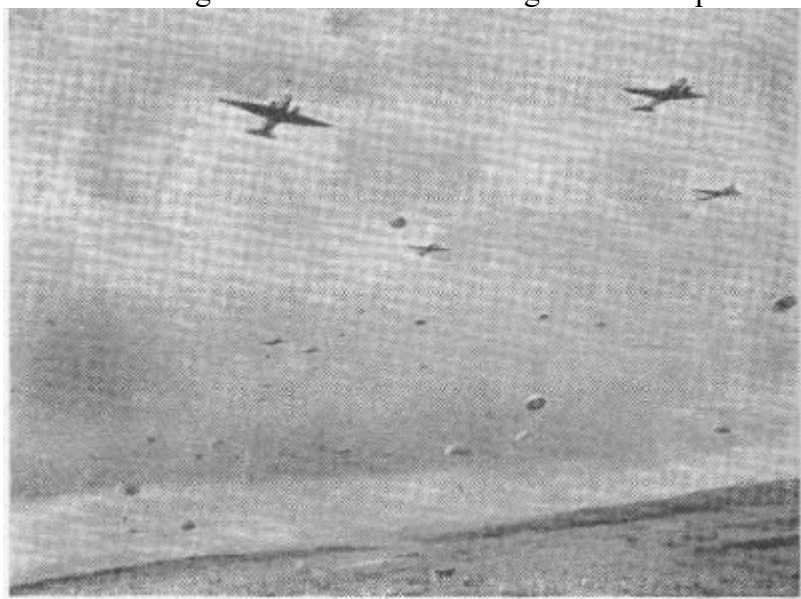
TWO TANKS DESTROYED BY THE 610TH TD BN.  
On the road leading to Prurn, Germany. The Destroyers were located on the ridge in the background.

box mine at "Five Corners" on the 25th, being completely demolished. One man was killed and another wounded.

The two flanking divisions had come up to the line of the Prum River by this time and the order was received for the Division to again go on the offensive. The 87th Division was still on the North while the 6th Armored Division had replaced the 90th Div. on the South. "A" Company was attached to the 8th Inf. for the attack but continued their indirect fire missions. A liaison plane reported they destroyed a German Regimental CP and also a rocket installation. "C" Company was attached to the 22nd Inf. for the attack. A report was received that a man, wounded on the 22nd of December, had subsequently died of his wounds. The attack across the Prum River jumped off on the 28th of February. "A" Company was in the vicinity of Holhernaile. "B" Company was attached to the 12th "B" Company was attached to the 12th Regt.. at 1930 hours while "C" Company, with the 22nd Regt., moved to Walcherath. The 3rd Platoon of "C" Company crossed the Prum River at noon, later being joined by two

companies of tanks. On March 2nd the 2nd Platoon of "A" Company moved to the high ground S.W. of Weinsheim and destroyed an AT gun and a machine gun. The 3rd Platoon East of Dausfeld accounted for one AT gun and probably destroyed a tank. On March 3rd, the 1st and 2nd Platoon moved to Weinsheim and the 3rd to Dausfeld. They supported the tank and infantry assault accounting for 2 Mk V tanks and a gasoline dump.

A few days previous to the crossing of the Prum River the 11th Armored Division had moved up behind the 4th Division to be in a position to exploit the crossing in the excellent tank country lying beyond the river. The presence of this other division in the sector increased the density of troops presenting a very favorable target to the German artillery but it couldn't be helped. The roads on the West of the Prum River being in the no-man's-land of the German-Belgian frontier were extremely bad and especially so after the very heavy traffic and fighting of the last few months. When the frost went out of the ground in the early spring the roads had become so bad that all vehicular traffic was at a standstill and the Division and the Bastandstill and the Division and the Battalion were receiving their supplies by air.



AIR DROP AT BLEIALF, GERMANY

*Supplies being dropped for the 4th Infantry Division and the Battalion.*

The CP of "B" Company moved to Budesheim on the 5th of March with the 3rd Platoon supporting the infantry, going to Oos and firing at enemy personnel. "C" Company was South of Duppach, doing some firing and later moved into the town. A jeep of Recon Company struck a box mine killing one man. The front had finally opened up with the 11th Armored across the River in the Division sector and it was reported the 4th Armored Division was running wild to the South and had already reached the Rhine. The Battalion CP, after a one-night stand in Prum, crossed the Prum River and moved to Schwirzheim. "A" Company was located at Willwerath with "B" Company at Roth and "C" Company located at Duppach. Recon and Headquarters Company were located in Weinsheim. After another one night stand for the CP in Schwirzheim, the CP in Schwirzheim, the Battalion CP moved to Kalenborn, while "A" Company was relieved of attachment to the 8th Regt. and attached to Task Force Rhino on March 7th. The Division was trying to maintain contact with the fleeing Germans and set up this fast mobile task force for the pursuit. "B" Company's 1st Platoon moved to the edge of the woods 1¼ km. East of Roth with the 2nd and 3rd Platoons at Neider Bettingen while "C" Company moved to Ober Bettingen and then to the vicinity of Hillesheim. "A" Company assembled with Task Force Rhino which was under the command of Brig. Gen. Rodwell and consisted of the heavy armor elements of the 70th Tank Battalion, Infantry, and the other normal attachments in addition to "A" Company. This Force proceeded to Kerpen, Oxheim, Ahutte, Flesten, Haffeld, Reifferscheid and thence to Adenau, the division objective. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company moved to Walsdorf while "C" Company moved to Hillesheim, Recon Company to

Roth and Headquarters Company to Oos. The Division order was to hold when Adenau had been taken while the 11th Armored, the 6th Armored, and the 87th Infantry Division squeezed out the Division and moved on to the Rhine River. There was no serious opposition left West of the Rhine River and the prisoners were being gathered in by the thousands. "A" Company was located at Honerath on the 9th of March while the other elements of the Battalion remained in place and took care of some much needed maintenance. This was the first break they received in 130 days of continuous contact with the enemy. The Battalion CP moved to Ober Bettingen on the 10th of March while the companies were relieved of their attachments and reverted to Battalion control. "A" Company assembled in Basberg, "B" Company in Auel, "C" Company in Steffeln, and Recon Company in Ober Bettingen.



PRISONERS BY THE THOUSANDS  
*PW stockade located at Oos, Germany, after resistance West of the Rhine had collapsed.*

## CHAPTER XIII

# ALSACE AND THE RHINE

Field Order No. 26 was issued on March 11th, moving the Battalion with the 4th Infantry Division to the vicinity of Luneville, France. Word was received at 1530 that "B" Company was to move out to this destination immediately and the Company crossed the JP at 1730 hours. The route of march led through Mersch, Luxembourg, at which place the Battalion was to spend the night and Lt. Giishkat went down to arrange for billets and Lt. Giishkat went down to arrange for billets at that place. The Battalion moved out at 0400 on the 12th of March, enroute to Luxembourg. The route was through the heart of the "bulge" country and the evidence of the terrific carnage caused by the bombers during the offensive was scattered along the road.

The Battalion closed into Mersch, Luxembourg at about 1300 hours that afternoon and after settling in the old castle in the midst of the town and having a delayed lunch the personnel of the Battalion scattered throughout the town renewing the acquaintances that had been made there when the Battalion fought through this country.

Arrangements were made to have one of the local theatres opened that night and after much trouble Cpl. Garson succeeded in obtaining a film to be shown that night. Orders were issued that a curfew was to be placed on the town that night for the Battalion had to be on the move in the morning but there was no trouble in the town so the regulation was relaxed. "B" Company, which was about twelve hours ahead of the Battalion, had stayed in the same quarters the night before and had moved on at 0600 that morning.

The Battalion departed from Mersch at 0500 the next morning and traveled South through Luxembourg City, Thionville, Metz, and Pont A Mousson. Arriving at that point the 3rd Division MP's stopped the column and informed it that the destination and route had been changed from Luneville, France to Vescheim, France. The new route led through the heart of the area around Pont A Mousson for which the Battalion had fought so stubbornly so many months before. The battleground was now being used as an artillery range by the French Army and was very peaceful, but the mine fields were still there, marked by the carcasses of dead cattle which had wandered into the fields. "B" Company had been picked up ahead of the Battalion but the MP's had missed the billeting party. Information was soon obtained that the Battalion was to be attached to the VI Corps Seventh Army, and were en-route to join the 42nd Infantry Division, (The Rainbow Division). "B" Company arrived at Vescheim at 0500 on March 13th, and were immediately given the mission of relieving the elements of the 645th TD Battalion who had remained in position when the 42nd Division relieved the 45th Inf. Division. Shades of Camp Berkeley.

The Battalion began to dribble into the Alsace area after a very tiring road march and were picked up at the last MP Control Post and routed to an assembly area awaiting the selection of billets. These were soon arranged and the Battalion settled for the night in the towns of Vescheim, Bust, Scalbach, and the CP in Wintersburg. The Battalions' dispositions were learned that night and the companies moved out on the morning of the 14th of March. "A" Company was in direct support of the 222nd Regt. in direct support of the 222nd Regt. and stayed at Bust while "B" Company, minus two platoons, was placed in battalion reserve and moved to the vicinity of Wingen. The 1st Platoon was attached to Task Force Colman moving two km. S.W. of Lichtenberg and the 2nd Platoon was attached to the 117th Cay. Rcn. Sqd. moving 1 1/2 km. South of Meisenthal. "C" Company was with the 242nd Regt. and was located at Schalbach while Recon and Headquarters companies were located at Vescheim.

This was to be the 42nd Division's first attack as a division and of course all the usual planning and doubts of the division had to be contended with. The Battalion by this time was quite used to the hysteria of a new division going into action and conducted themselves accordingly. The attack was to be made through some of the most difficult terrain the Battalion had as yet encountered. This was through the foothills of the Vosges mountains and from its appearance movement by motor vehicle through that terrain seemed out of the question. The division had arranged for its supplies to be carried in by Mules brought with the 7th Army from Italy but they still

expected the Battalion to get their 31-ton M 36's over that terrain so the Battalion was resigned to performing the impossible. The Battalion CP moved to the old CP of the 645th TD Battalion at La Petite Pierre where the division CP was located. On the evening of the 14th Lt. Col. Morse of the 69g of the 14th Lt. Col. Morse of the 692nd TD Bn. came to the CP with the welcome news that his battalion was to relieve the 610th. The 610th had been sent down to take over from the 645th until the 692nd could get down from Cologne to join the Division to which they were to be attached while it was expected that the 610th would go back to the 4th Division.

The Battalion forward CP moved to Wingen on March 15th. "A" Company supporting the 222nd, had its 3rd Platoon in Wimmerau. The 2nd Platoon of "B" Company, with Task Force Colman, was caught in artillery fire, damaging two destroyers of the 1st Section and wounding one man. The 1st Section later joined the 2nd in an assembly area S.E. of Meisenthal, while the 1st and 3rd Platoons of "C" Company moved Southeast of the town.

The Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 42nd Infantry Division on March 17th and reverted to the control of the Seventh Army and was attached to the 4th Division. The companies were told to assemble for a rest period and moved out, "A" Company moving to Bust, "B" Company to Berling, and "C" Company to Schalbach, Recon Company to Veseheim, Headquarters Company to Pfalzweyer and the Battalion CP to Metting. The time for the next few days was spent in working over the equipment and in drawing supplies from the Seventh Army. The Third Army is famous for its tactical accomplishments on the field of battle, but the Seventh can also be noted for that the Seventh can also be noted for the excellence of its supply. This was the first time that the Battalion had been able to draw badly needed items of clothing and equipment. The 4th Division had been having a rest while the Battalion had been with the 42nd Division. The 70th Tank Battalion and the Division Artillery had, like the 610th, been sent out on a reinforcing mission and rejoined the division at the same time as the 610th returned.

The Battalion was originally ordered to join the 4th Division at its bivouac but permission was given for the elements to remain where they were when informed of the serious condition of the vehicles and the necessity for immediate maintenance. The Battalion was ordered into bivouac on March 20th. "A" Company in Ringendorf, "B" Company in Ettendorf, "C" Company at Minversheim, Recon Company in Wickersheim, and Headquarters Company and the Battalion CP at Ringendorf.

In addition to conducting maintenance as to conducting maintenance a temporary range for firing the weapons was obtained. The Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 4th Division on March 23rd and attached to the VI Corps for operations, with no movement involved. On March 26th it was again relieved of attachment to the VI Corps and attached to the XXI Corps-no movement involved and again attached to the 4th Infantry Division. It seemed that someone was fighting the war on paper. The Battalion was at last alerted for movement on March 27th. During the interim some firing had been conducted with the 90's and tracks had been replaced on twelve destroyers which were badly in need of them. This was the second rest period which the Battalion had enjoyed in combat and was to be the last.

The Battalion moved out of Ringendorf on the 27th, enroute to a new bivouac. The route led through Hagenau, Neiderbronn and to Bitche where the real fortifications of the Siegfried line were observed. Every indentation of the ground in this area marked an aperture for a pillbox and there was so much concrete underground that it is something of a wonder that grass could grow in the fields. From Bitche the route led on to Landau where the new German National flag was to be seen (a white bed sheet hanging from every window). The column began to slow down and it was discovered that an armored division was crossing the road to the front. Traffic was extremely heavy the closer Traffic was extremely heavy the closer the Battalion approached to the Rhine bridgehead and the companies had to infiltrate to the vicinity of Forst where they bivouaced for the night. The CP group had pulled off the road to a nearby town and spent the remainder of the night in the office of a winery which was located there, moving on to Forst in the morning. Troops and tanks were moving through the town all the next day on their way to the Rhine and as soon as the 10th Armored crossed the 4th Division was to follow them.

The Battalion was alerted for movement on the 29th of March and moved out in something of a hurry at 1700 hours. The traffic was still quite dense as the troops converged toward the bridge at Worms and the elements slowly worked their way forward. A billeting detail had proceeded to the far side of the bridge to pick up the

elements as they crossed and lead them to their billets (a precaution learned in maneuvers long ago) . Just to the West of Worms the heavy artillery was emplaced, shooting across the Rhine toward Heidelberg and almost blowing the vehicles off the road every time they let go. The Battalion finally crept its way across the pontoon bridge located at Worms, in the light of searchlights aimed at the low hanging clouds, and took off for its billet moving to the town of Kirschhausen where the entire Battalion bivouaced that night. The Battalion CP, which had crossed the bridge ahead of s which had crossed the bridge ahead of schedule, had missed the billeting party and not knowing that the destination had been changed made its way to the very deserted town where it was originally scheduled to go. The town, though deserted, was reassuringly flying the white flag and, discovering the change in plans, the CP retraced its route and rejoined the main body.

Orders were received the next day to move again so the Battalion loaded up and moved, "A" and "C" Company moving to Unter Sensbach, with "B," Rcn. and Headquarters Company moving to Ober Sensbach and the Battalion CP in a farmhouse 1 1/2 km south of the latter town. This was on March 30th. The Battalion was still attached to the 4th Division and the XXI Corps attacking East with the 4th on the left of the Corps zone and the 63rd Division on the right. The Battalion did not move on the 31st hut had received alert orders to move to the vicinity of Walldurn, Germany. The Battalion was given the responsibility of furnishing the AT defense on the South flank of the division. The 63rd was supposed to be covering that area hut no one had seen hide nor hair of them so the Battalion screened that flank "just in case." The Battalion was given an area in which to assemble just East of the town of Walldurn and as soon as all elements of the division had passed their screening positions the companies moved into that bivouac. The screening elements had moved into several tning elements had moved into several towns not previously occupied by American troops and thus had their pick of many fine souvenirs. The Battalion spent two days in the field at Walldurn in a cold rain and observed the last remnants of the Luftwaffe pecking away at what they could find of the invading Army. Recon Company took a flying shot at a German jet plane one afternoon which buzzed the bivouac, but with no apparent results, though it must have stung someone for the German planes tried to fly through the pup tents that night looking for the positions. "C" Company was attached to the 101st Cavalry Group on April 2nd, and while moving to join them was strafed on the road by eight ME 109's which made three passes at the column but inflicted no damage. One platoon moved to Vilchband in support of the 166th Cavalry Squadron.

The Battalion CP and "B" Company moved to Poppenhausen on April 3rd. "C" Company had the 3rd Platoon at Butthart, the 1st at Tufenthal and the 2nd in Vilchband. Hq and Rcn Company were at Krensheim while the 2nd Rcn Platoon moved to reinforce "C" Company and two platoons of "B" Company were attached to the 12th Infantry Regiment. On April 4th "A" Company remained in divisional reserve and "B" Company's CP moved to Butthart. The 3rd Platoon of "B" Company supported the attack of the 12th Infantry, moving into Tiefenthal and then to Simmeringen. "C" Company, supporting the Cavalry, had its 1st Platoonrting the Cavalry, had its 1st Platoon also in Tiefenthal, with the 2nd Platoon at Vilchband. The 1st Recon Platoon was relieved of supporting "C" Company and moved to Krensheim. On April 6th, the 1st Platoon of "B" Company moved to Osfeld and then to Harthausen while the 2nd Platoon moved to Nassau and Bernsfelden. The 1st Platoon of "C" Company was located at Stalldorf with the 2nd Platoon in Sachsenheim. The 1st Platoon of "C" Company was relieved of attachment to the Cavalry on the 7th of April and withdrew to Butthart while the 3rd Platoon moved to Gelsheim. "B" Company reported knocking out a machine gun and an OP on the 8th of April while the 3rd Platoon was relieved of attachment to the 101st Cay. Group and attached to the 4th Rcn Troop. The 2nd Platoon of "B" Company was attached and moved to join the 12th Reqt. at Schaftersheim on the 9th of April. The 1st Platoon moved to Weikersheim and then to the area North of Honsbronn while the 3rd Platoon of "C" Company moved to Osthausen.



# CHAPTER XIV

## CENTRAL GERMANY

Ever since the Battalion had been on the East side of the Rhine the German air corps had been more active than ever before with almost nightly forays against the American installations. They were still not in enough force to be able to challenge the Allied supremacy in the air but every night as dusk approached and the American air cover headed for home the German planes made their appearance. While the Battalion CP was located at Popparance. While the Battalion CP was located at Poppenhauseu eight German planes (4 JU 88's and 4 ME 109's) were playing around at about seven o'clock one night. The planes made the mistake of taking a run up the valley in which the Division CP was located and quite a bit of the division artillery with its AA protection. In the ensuing AA barrage four of the attacking planes were shot down.

On the 11th of April the 1st Platoon of "A" Company replaced the 3rd Platoon of "C" Company with the 4th Rcn Troop and "A" Company moved to the vicinity of Wolkshausen. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company moved to Baldersheim with the 2nd Platoon at Iclingen. One destroyer was damaged by a Panzerfaust. On April 12th the Battalion CP moved to Gaurretersheim while "B" Company moved to Rottingen and then to Bierbehren. The 2nd Platoon of "B" Company was located at Schrimbach while the 3rd Platoon moved to Wallmannshofen and then to Weidenhof. "C" Company was placed in Division reserve on April 13th and moved to Reidenheim. The Battalion CP moved to Aufstetten while Headquarters Company moved to Hottingen. The 1st Platoon of "A" Company was relieved of attachment to the 4th Rcn Troop on April 14th and the entire Company moved to Baldersheim. The 1st Platoon of "B" Company, with the Company CP, moved to Equarhofen with the 2nd Platoon moving to Neustadt and then to Adelshofen. The 3rd Platoon moved to Langensteinach with "C" Company moving to Weikersheim. The "C" Company moving to Weikersheim. The 3rd Platoon of "A" Company was attached to the 8th Infantry on April 15th with the remainder of the Company in division reserve at Welbhausen. "B" Company with the 12th Infantry had its CP and 1st Platoon in Gickelshausen and the 3rd Platoon SW. of Endsec. "C" Company moved to Dinzendorf and Recon Company moved to Reinsbronn while Headquarters Company was located at Schirmbach and the Battalion CP at Erdbach.

On the 16th of April the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company moved to Aufelden while the 1st Platoon of "B" Company was at Gattenhofen, the 2nd Platoon East of Bettwor and the 3rd Platoon at Hatershofen. One M 36 of "C" Company was damaged by an enemy mine. The Division was approaching Rothenberg, one of the famous old walled cities of Germany. The platoons of the respective companies kept changing their positions, often several times a day, and most all of them were doing some occasional firing at targets of opportunity, increasing the totals on Machine Guns, OP's and personnel destroyed. The Battalion CP finally reached Rothnnherg, on the 18th of April. "A" Company destroyed a cargo truck and an artillery piece on the 19th. It had its 1st Platoon at Steinberg, the 2nd at Dombuhl, and the 3rd at Dornhach. "B" Company CP was located at Ober Ostheim and reported the company knocked out an AA gun. Recon Company and the Battalion CP moved to Bockenfeld. On April 20th, "C" Company CP moved. On April 20th, "C" Company CP moved to Untcr Burgnerzell with the 1st Platoon at Mark Lustenau, the 2nd at Reichenbach and the 3rd at Veitswend. They were credited with destroying one vehicle, one machine gun and a Storch Liaison plane. This was the first plane that the Battalion could claim as having destroyed. "B" Company was relieved of its attachment to the 12th Infantry and attached to Task Force Rodwell.

The CP of "A" Company moved to Waldann on April 21st with the 1st Platoon at Krettenbach, the 2nd at Rechenberg, and the 3rd at Weidenbach. One destroyer was hit by a Panzerfaust but continued in operation. The Company reported destroying two AT guns and one vehicle. "B" Company moved to Radenweiler with Task Force Rodwell while the CP of "C" Company was located in Ingersheim. Reconnaissance Company was located at Gersbach with Headquarters Company at Volkershhausen and the Battalion CP at Selgenstadt. The 2nd Platoon of "A" Company reported destroying a tank or SP gun, one AT gun, machine guns, and a number of enemy

personnel on the 22nd of April, in the vicinity of Eggerott. "B" Company was located at Eisenschmelzwerk, "C" Company at Adelsmannsfelden, with Recon, Headquarters Company and the Battalion CP at Stimpfach.

The city of Ellwangen was situated on the left flank of the division sector and it soon became evident that it was going to be a tough nut to crack. A Replacement Battalion of SS troops were located here and it was reported that the Burgermeister was a Gestapo man who refused to surrender the town. "A" Company supported the attack of the 8th Regiment on the town with the 1st Platoon initially 500 meters East of Ellwangen. The 2nd Platoon was at Alfingen and the 3rd Platoon at Schwabsberg. In the ensuing fight they destroyed one 88 mm and four 20 mm guns, one half-track, five trucks and an untold number of personnel. "B" Company, with Task Force Rodwell, moved to Unter Rombach and the 1st Platoon destroyed one tank, a truck with trailer, and an enemy jeep. "C" Company was at Derwangen while Headquarters and Recon Company were at Neuler and the Battalion CP at Souzdorf. "A" Company moved to Unter Kochen on April 24th losing one destroyer which struck a mine while "B" Company was located South of Oggenhausen, "C" Company at Zang, and Recon and Headquarters Company at Unter Kochen. The Battalion CP was located at Ober Kochen.

The 4th Division's advance had brought it to a position just to the North of the Danube River on the 24th of April when word was received that the 12th Armored Division had just captured a bridge intact over the River. The 4th was ordered to relieve the 12th Armored of the bridge and moved down to cross the river on the 25th. The River resembled any muddy creek back home and was neither "blue nor beautiful." The Battalion CP was located at Glott on the East side of the Danube while "A" Company was at Lauingen, "B" Company at Gundeleingen and "C" Company at Brenz. "A" Company moved to Zusmarshausen on April 26th, destroying one AT gun and a truck. "B" Company was relieved of attachment to Task Force Rodwell and attached to the 12th Regt., moving to Weden. "C" Company was in reserve with the 22nd Regt. in the vicinity of Gundremmingen. All elements of the division kept edging forward and on the 27th "A" Company had the 1st Platoon on the airfield, 1 1/2 km. S.E. of Kleinatingen while the 2nd Platoon was located at Buch. This platoon was non-operational because of the bad condition of the tracks on the destroyers. The Battalion CP was located at Auerbach. "B" Company moved to Isobingen on the 28th of April. This town was practically a suburb of Munich, which had not as yet fallen, though its capitulation was expected momentarily. The only resistance being met here was from the AA batteries located about the town. The Battalion CP was located at Grossaitengen. From the positions now occupied by the Battalion the first glimpses of the Austrian Tyrol could be had to the South and East. This is the northern fringe of the Alps mountains.

On the 29th of April "A" Company moved to positions 1 1/2 km. S.E. of Dunzelbach. The CP of "B" Company was located in Kathgeisering with the 1st and 3rd platoons while the 3rd Platoon settled in Eching. "C" Company moved to Purk with the 1st and 3rd Platoons at Schongeising and the 2nd Platoon at Wildenrath. Reconnaissance Company located at Prittriching had all three platoons relieved of attachment to the respective gun companies and was attached to the 12th Infantry moving to the vicinity of Turkenfeld. The Company was given the mission of reconnaissance in front of the 12th Infantry. The division was advancing with two regiments abreast and the 4th Recon Troop had not sufficient personnel or equipment to cover the two-regiment front. The enemy resistance was negligible at this point and a fast reconnaissance element was needed to keep contact. The Battalion CP was located at Prittriching.

"A" Company moved to Moorenweiss on the 30th of April while "B" Company moved to Starnberg at the northern tip of the Wurm See. "C" Company ended the day with the 1st and 3rd platoons at Baierbrunn with the 2nd Platoon at Strasslach. One man was wounded. Reconnaissance Company was located at Starnberg while the 1st Platoon, advancing in front of the infantry, moved to Bachhausen, Kempenhausen, and then to Wolfratshausen. The 2nd Platoon traveled by way of Haarkirchen and the 3rd Platoon by way of Schaftlarnzell, ending the day at Wolfratshausen with the Company CP. The Company destroyed three enemy vehicles, one AA gun and captured 350 prisoners during the day's action. The 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon (Lt. Wingerter) distinguished itself during the above action. It was reconnoitering in front of the right flank of the regiment and entered Wolfratshausen at 1900 hours to find that one bridge over the Isar River had been blown half an hour before they reached the town. Reconnoitering up and down the river bank they discovered a second bridge with a German Major just about to blow it. The enemy major was caught

by surprise and forced at gun point to cut the wires leading to the demolition charges he had placed. The capture of this bridge expedited the advance of the Corps and within twelve hours of its capture two Combat Commands of the 12th Armored were crossing the river at this point. Headquarters Company and the Battalion CP were located at Pfaffenhofen. The Battalion had really been on the move during the month of April. It was recorded at the Battalion CP that with but two exceptions the location was moved two exceptions the location was moved every day and the average move was ten kilometers.

On May 1st "A" Company was attached to the 101st Cavalry Group, moving to Thanning. "B" Company CP was located in Egling, Rcn CP at Ascholding and the Battalion CP at Wolfratshausen. The 2nd Recon Platoon was at Egling and reported capturing 302 prisoners, among which were a lieutenant general, one colonel, and three majors. The prisoners were now coming in faster than they could be taken care of. The CP and the 2nd Platoon of "B" Company were located at Hauserdorf on May 2nd with the 1st Platoon at Reichersheuer and the 3rd at Finsterwald. They reported knocking out one AT gun. Recon Company had the 1st and 2nd Platoons at Greiling and were moving to the South of Berg to join the 4th Recon Troop. On May 3rd "A" Company closed into Ostr Warngau while "C" Company was one km. West of Unter Hogen, later moving to Linden. Recon CP and the 1st and 2nd Platoons were at Reichsbeuern and the 3rd Platoon at Kaltenbrunn.

The 4th Division was now located at the southern tip of Germany driving South toward Austria with a tentative objective of Innsbruck. On May 2nd the German armies in Austria and Italy had surrendered to General Mark Clark in Italy and the only opposition now being met was either troops who had not yet heard of the surrender or those few who disregarded the orders of their leaders and attempted to fight on without them. And attempted to fight on without them. At noon, on May 4th, both Reconnaissance Company and "A" Company reverted to Battalion control with "A" Company moving to Egling and Recon Company moving to Foggenbeuer. The division was halted in place and the 101st Airborne Division moved into the area to take over. Instead of continuing the attack to the South the Airborne struck East, eventually winding up in Hitler's strongpoint-Berchtesgaden. Word was received to have billeting parties ready to move. The Battalion pulled out for Ingolstadt, Germany, on the 7th day of May, setting up in the outskirts of the town. The Battalion was here on the 8th of May when the long awaited word was received that the German armies had capitulated and that the war in Europe was over. The news had been so long expected that the actual announcement was in the nature of an anti-climax. On the same night an unidentified plane came over the pontoon bridge located across the Danube at Ingolstadt and the AA batteries in the vicinity took it under fire. It was reported to the AA that the plane was a JU 88 and as numerous German planes had started to fly around presumably fleeing from the Russian armies on the Eastern front, the plane was taken under fire. After the barrage the plane swung over the little town in which "A" Company was located and one platoon (Lt. Enich's) having a wonderful field of fire at a presumably enemy plane, opened up with its 50's. The plane crashed about a mile away and the survivors were picked up by "B" Company. Out of the wrecked "Mosquito bomber" stepped two British pilots.

## CHAPTER XV

### KREIS EICHSTATT

Immediately upon the cessation of hostilities in Europe on May 8th, 1945, the 610th TD Battalion took over occupation duties in the vicinity of Ingolstadt, Germany. The Battalion was given the responsibility of the northern half of the Kreis Eichstätt and with the exception of Reconnaissance Company, which took over the MP duties in the town, had no responsibility in the town of Ingolstadt. The Battalion CP moved to the town of Ingolstadt. The Battalion CP moved to the town of Kipfenberg on the 9th of May to be in the center of the sector. The companies immediately started to work posting the towns and establishing guard and control posts where they were deemed necessary. An inventory of all German material in the sector was made, turning up on the outskirts of Ingolstadt an underground ammunition loading factory and also a large equipment warehouse. This warehouse was full of radio equipment, saddles and a miscellany of chemical warfare supplies, all in bad shape where the liberated DP's had looted and destroyed what they could not carry away. Just outside of the warehouse was an ordnance material lot with artillery pieces, trucks and trailers dispersed about the area.

The Battalion sector was divided into four segments with "C" Company being responsible for the area around Denkendorf where the Company was situated. "B" Company moved to Bohmfeld, covering the southern portion of the sector East of the Altmuhl River with "A" Company initially located at Pfahldorf, covering the area West of the river. The Headquarters Company and the Battalion CP was located in Kipfenberg with the Company being responsible for the town. The Kreis Eichstätt is located in Bavaria and the very picturesque countryside is dotted with castles, some in disrepair and some quite modern. The most pressing problem facing the Battalion initially was the large numbers of Displaced Persons and of Allied Prisoners (mostly Russian) who remained in the area. These people had to be housed, fed, and policed, while arrangements were being made to have them collected into large centers and arrangements made between the interested governments in returning them to their homes. The Battalion CP moved to the Courthouse in Kipfenberg on the 14th of May.

who passed their post and turned in many SS troopers who were attempting to get home. The burgermeisters of each village were required to fill out information papers and any with a Nazi background were replaced with some one of more acceptable political background.

On June 9th word was received that the Battalion was to be detached from the 4th Infantry Division who were classed as a Category II unit and were to return to the States to be redeployed to the Pacific theatre. The Battalion was attached to XII Corps Artillery and then changed attachments to the III Corps. No movement accompanied this change. On the 14th of June word was received that the Battalion was to be attached to the 14th Cavalry Group which was located in Nurnberg, Germany. Advance elements were sent to select bivouac area in the vicinity of Nurnberg and the Battalion left Kipfenberg on the 17th of June, moving to the town of Nurnberg.



KIPPENBERG, GERMANY

*Location of the Battalion CP during Occupation in the Kreis Eichstätt.*

On May 17th Recon Company was attached to the 4th MP Company working under the Provost Marshal. The Company moved to Weissenberg. The Military Government Detachment in Eichstätt was extremely short handed and requested the services of one officer from the Battalion and Captain Duchossois was sent on this mission on the 18th of May. Lt. Snyder returned from the

hospital on the 22nd of May while Captain Carr left for the hospital on the 23rd and did not return to the Battalion. Lt. Snyder assumed command of Recon. Company. The companies were quite busy in supervising the completion of the identity cards issued to every German civilian and in addition doing guard duty on the road blocks which were set up in various parts of the Battalion zone with "C" Company receiving the brunt of the work with the road block established on the autobahn. All road blocks examined all soldiers who passed their post and turned in many SS troopers who were attempting to get home. The burgermeisters of each village were required to fill out information papers and any with a Nazi background were replaced with some one of more acceptable political background.

On June 9th word was received that the Battalion was to be detached from the 4th infantry Division who were classed as a Category Ii unit and were to return to the States to be redeployed to the Pacific theatre. The Battalion was attached to XII Corps Artillery and then changed attacCorps Artillery and then changed attachments to the III Corps. No movement accompanied this change. On the 14th of June word was received that the Battalion was to be attached to the 14th Cavalry Group which was located in Nurnberg, Germany. Advance elements were sent to select bivouac area in the vicinity of Nurnberg and the Battalion left Kipfenberg on the 17th of June, moving to the town of Nurnberg.

# CHAPTER XVI

## NURNBERG

Upon arrival at Nurnberg the Battalion moved to a field situated along a pond in the northern limits of the city and set up a bivouac in the field. The town was badly damaged by the air corps and houses were at a premium with a large number of troops being billeted in the town. The 284th Eng. Battalion was located in a series of apartment houses a short distance away and it was hoped that they would move in time to let the Battalion occupy their area. In the interim as summer had arrived the men enjoyed their vacation in the woods and constructed a first class ball diamond on the soccer field. The Battalion was responsible for the greater part of the city of Nurnberg proper and had to establish a number of guard posts and furnish quite a few details as well as patrol the town. Practically every important building in town was taken over, the most important being the Opera House, which was being used by the American Army for Special Service shows. "B" Company not only had to furnish guards for the building but also to act as ushers for the many shows that were staged there.

Two weeks were spent in the field before the Engineers vacated their quarters and the Battalion was able to move inside. On the day that the move was made the first rain fell. Word had been received, mostly as a rumor, that the 610th was a Category I outfit and as such would remain in Germany as Army of Occupation. As a result, when the time came to move indoors all personnel made themselves as comfortable as possible, with the expectation of a long stay ahead. Captain Duchossois returned from detached service at Eichstätt, Germany on the 28th of June, just in time to take over the construction and operation of the Grand Hotel in Nurnberg as a transient Officers' Mess. Major Kantola had been sent down to take charge of the SS Caserne which was being operated as a DP camp. The battalion went full out on its athletic program with intercompany softball games taking the limelight while the Battalion put a team in the field which was operating in the top of the league.

The Battalion was now officially a Category I outfit and the subject of redeployment of the high point officers and men was being considered. Even before this discussion became official the 9th TD Group which was classified as a Cat. I outfit for redeployment had claimed one of the Battalion officers when they arranged the transfer of Lieutenant Krisak, the Battalion Communications Officer, to the Group. This was on July 2nd. The TD Battalions remaining as Occupation Troops in Germany were to be equipped with the M18's, 76 mm guns and the M 36's were turned into Ordnance on July 4th. In turn the Battalion received 25 M18's from the 704th TD Battalion on July 10th.

Arrangements had been made for the Battalion to ship the high point men and officers to the 648th TD Battalion located at Zirndorf. This transfer was accomplished on July 11th with 41 men and 10 officers from the 610th transferring to the 648th TD Battalion which was classified as a Cat. IV unit, while 44 men and six officers of the 648th reported to the 610th. Lt. Col. Bergstrom was one of the officers transferred from the 610th while Lt. Col. Stevens of the 648th, took over command of the 610th. In addition to the foregoing three officers of the Battalion, Lts. Enich, Staib, and Hearn were transferred to a tank battalion which was scheduled to be returned to the States.

The guard proposition in a city the size of Nurnberg was quite a large affair and usually required the placing of one-half of the Battalion on guard at one time. There was a constant struggle on between the Battalion staff and the 14th Cavalry Group and later the 26th Infantry Regiment to reduce the number and size of the guard, but as fast as one guard was released orders were received to put a guard on a new post. Major Roninger, the Battalion Executive Officer, had relieved Major Kantola of the SS Caserne (now called the South Caserne) while, with the advent of the War Crimes Commission in Nurnberg, the Battalion had lost the Grand Hotel as a transient hotel. This was taken over by the War Crimes and the Battalion had to relieve the 14th Armored Group of the Transient Billeting and Mess in Nurnberg. This entailed the reconstruction of four buildings to serve as billets

while the Kunstler Haus in downtown Nurnberg, was set up to feed transients and an Officers' Club established on the second floor.

The 26th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division had replaced the 14th Cavalry Group as the higher headquarters of the Battalion the higher headquarters of the Battalion, on July 23rd. The regiment had a large number of men but were also faced with the necessity of guarding the War Crimes prisoners and in addition the large number of SS troops who were brought in to clean up the city itself. On the 22nd of July the Battalion participated in operation "Tallyho," in which every road in Germany was blocked and a check made on all travelers within and without the towns. The Battalion was responsible for picking up over four hundred prisoners for crimes ranging from not carrying identification papers to being members of the wanted list of the Nazi organization.



A VIEW OF NURNBERG, GERMANY



LT. COL. LILBURN H. STEVENS  
And the Battalion Standard

Nurnberg was an ideal location for a Battalion to be placed as all the facilities which could be desired were located within the town. The Opera House furnished a constant flow of entertainment under the guidance of Lt. Snyder and Sgt. Weiss, while the Third Army Track Meet was held in the Zeppelin Weise Stadium. This was the location of the rallies of the Nazi party. The running of the athletic programs was under the supervision of the old friends of the Battalion, the 774th TD Battalion under Lt. Col. Sturgis. The Red Cross took over the running of the swimming pool located a half mile from the Battalion's billets in the Linde Stadium, and the ten o'clock break in the morning for coffee was always welcome.

It was quite a difficult job to conduct training and the Information and Education program which had been laid out by higher headquarters but under the able guidance of Lieutenant Whisler, an intensive effort was made.

Life in Germany began to settle down into the old routine of garrison duty, with inspections, school, and some drill thrown in to add to the variety of life, when the sudden end of the war in the East changed the situation. The Battalion, originally under the XV Corps, was now operating under the XVI Corps and rumors began to circulate that the Category had been changed to IV and that the Battalion would be sent back to the States for deactivation. Some credence to this rumor was attached when the 70th Tank Battalion moved into the area to take over some of the guard duties of the Battalion. Word was finally received from the XVI Corps that the unit had changed Category and that it would be relieved of duty in Nurnberg and would travel to the staging area on or about September 24th. Immediately upon receipt of this word arrangements were started to turn in the complete combat equipment in the possession of the Battalion. This was finally accomplished in time for the

movement to the Assembly Area.

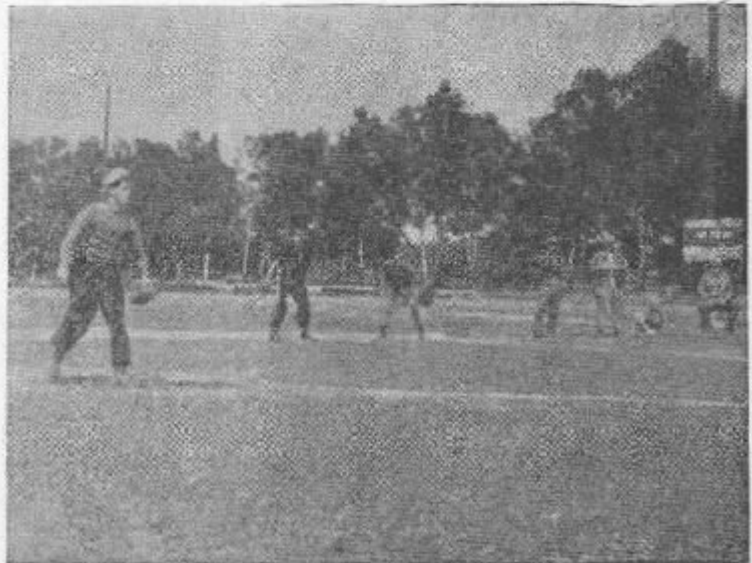
ACTIVITIES IN NURNBERG



GRAND HOTEL



LINDE STADIUM POOL



SOFTBALL ON MEMORIAL FIELD



## CHAPTER XVII

### GOING HOME

The 610th was relieved of occupation duty in Nurnberg On September 27th, and departed for the Assembly Area at midnight, September 27-28. It traveled by motor convoy as all equipment other than combat vehicles were to be turned into Ordnance in France and sufficient transportation was borrowed from other units to carry all personnel. The original bivouac area for the first night had been announced as Metz, but the unit was diverted just outside of Saarbrucken and rerouted to Nancy. It was just like old home week upon arrival at Nancy for the Transient bivouac was located only a few miles up the road from the old bivouac, where the outfit spent a month being converted. The next day's trip took the Battalion to the town of Crepy, north of Reims, where Camp Detroit was located. Arrangements for preparing rosters and completing all requirements for the sea voyage were started and the Battalion settled down in the tent city to wait. Originally it was believed that the shipping date would be about a week away but remembering the promises made at Camp Kilmer, coming the other direction, no one was too surprised when the sailing was delayed. There was absolutely nothing to do at Camp Detroit but gripe about the food, the weather, and the French. Passes were soon released and the greater portion of the Battalion made trips to some of the pass towns. These included Paris, Brussels, Luxembourg, and some even were lucky enough to make the trip to Switzerland.

The delays continued, meanwhile a constant revision of the personnel of the Battalion was being made, as high point men were sent to other battalions and some low point men sent in. Then the whole schedule would be reversed and the high point men would be shipped in while the low pointers left. It soon became so confused that the personnel rosters were just a jumble and no one could predict much of anything. Just before leaving Nurnberg the Battalion had lost a large percentage of its original personnel when they were transferred to the 8th Armored Division for shipment. It was believed that these men got on the boats before the big delay occurred. In addition, the men which the 610th had sent to the 648th had also come back as that unit was still sitting in Zirndorf waiting for orders. Some few units did get shipped from Camp Detroit during the Battalion's wait there, but they were few. Finally orders did come late in November, and the Battalion energetically prepared its final equipment for turning in. Arrangements for the last meal were made at the transient mess of the camp and only a few hours before train time it was learned that the shipment had been canceled. With heavy hearts and low opinions of those responsible, the outfit redrew enough equipment to keep it going. Colonel Stevens was also at the end of his rope and after his protestations were made at post headquarters and to some much higher quarters, a date four days after was set for shipment. The same routine of preparing for shipment to the Staging Area was repeated, only this time the Battalion succeeded in boarding the train at Laon for shipment to Le Havre. After an all-night ride in the indescribable Class Three coaches the Battalion arrived at Camp Philip Morris and set up in the fairly comfortable quarters to await the boat. The most pressing problem at the time was preparing conversion charts for the money which each man held so that he could land with good old American coin in his pocket.

The Battalion was still at Camp Philip Morris for Thanksgiving Day, though all preparations were complete and all that was awaited was the boat. Again there was one false alarm when an alert was given for shipment and all preparations made. This was followed closely by the news that the ship had developed boiler trouble and would wait another day. The outfit was not disappointed again and boarded the ship (The Cranston Victory) in the afternoon of November 27th. The ship pulled away from the pier at Le Havre shortly before dusk of that day and the momentous trip was begun.

The Cranston Victory was, as its name implied, a reconverted merchantman and was surprisingly fast and fairly comfortable. The trip was marked by the usual number of men being sea-sick as the sea was fairly stormy, but the trip was made in good time and without incident. The ship pulled into the Port of Boston at about 0200 on

the morning of December 6th and pulled up to the pier to disembark the Battalion at 0800. The personnel loaded directly on to railroad cars from the boat and the trip to Camp Myles Standish was begun. Arriving there the Battalion was begun. Arriving there the Battalion was walked in a pouring rain to a Theatre for a short orientation and the procedure for shipping to discharge centers explained. The Battalion was deactivated very shortly thereafter-officially on December 7th. The men were divided into groups according to the Separation Center to which they were to be shipped and on December 7th the trains began rolling out of Myles Standish, returning the men to their homes. The 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion was now history.

### RECAPITULATION

Upon the separation of the 610th TD Battalion from the 80th Infantry Division the Commanding General of the Division sent the following letter to the Battalion through channels. The letter bore indorsements from Major General Gaffey of XII Corps, General Patton of Third Army, Major General Middleton of VIII Corps and the then Brigadier General Blakeley of the 4th Infantry Division:

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 80 U. S. ARMY

17 February 1945

Subject: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 403, U. S. Army.

(Through: Commanding General, XII Corps, APO 312,U.S. Army)

1. I desire to express to you, and the officers and men of your Battalion, my admiration and gratitude for the outstanding work of your organization during the period of its attachment to this Division.
2. By its vigor and skill in combat, and its speed and flexibility in the performance of all assigned missions, the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion rendered invaluable assistance to the tactical operations of this command.
3. Your participation in the action at Argentan, France, and again during the crossing of the Moselle River, was particularly competent and aggressive.
4. Please accept my commendation for a job well done.

(Signed) H. L. McBride,  
Major General, United States Army  
Commanding

The following Table is a recapitulation of the damage which was inflicted upon the enemy by the Bat which was inflicted upon the enemy by the Battalion in combat. It may be well to state here that this summary is not considered accurate in the sense of the word but is a summation of the information which was submitted to Battalion Headquarters. The information on the tanks destroyed is accurate and only tanks are claimed as destroyed that were actually observed on the battlefield as rendered invaluable to the enemy. The report on the tanks probably destroyed is incomplete as this column of tabulation was dropped from the records whenever the outfit moved out of a sector and had no opportunity to determine the actual status. The column on enemy destroyed is not even a good approximation of the enemy actually killed, while the PW total is composed of those prisoners actually handled. Most of the prisoners which the gun companies actually captured were turned over to the Infantry for processing and large numbers of prisoners surrendered to the Infantry after the guns of the Battalion had forced them to surrender.

	Tanks	Vehicles	Pill-boxes	Machine Guns	Art'y Pieces	OP's	Enemy Killed	POWs

<b>Killed</b>	<b>POWs</b>							
<b>A</b>	41-1	15	9	19	15	4	635	336
<b>B</b>	15-4	5	25	3	8	7	420	77
<b>C</b>	40-1	2	7	16	18	6	560	60
<b>Rcn</b>	0	3	0	0	1	0	6	764
<b>HQ</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	83
<b>tot</b>	<b>96-6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1622</b>	<b>1320</b>

(The number after the dash on the tanks Destroyed indicates a probable.)

This total of tanks destroyed in action is thought to be the second highest total in Third Army with only the 773rd TD Battalion being credited with approximately 106 tanks destroyed at last report, surpassing the total. The greater portion of the 71 of tanks destroyed in action is thought to be the second highest total in Third Army with only the 773rd TD Battalion being credited with approximately 106 tanks destroyed at last report, surpassing the total. The greater portion of the 773rd's total was obtained when the enemy tank column at Argentan side-slipped the Battalion's positions to be taken under fire by the 773rd.

To the debit side of the ledger, the following Table, adds the casualties suffered by the Battalion in combat:

	<b>KILLED</b>		<b>WOUNDED</b>		<b>MISSING</b>
	<b>Officers</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>EM</b>
<b>A</b>	0	12	2	23	11
<b>B</b>	2	6	2	25	0
<b>C</b>	1	11	4	22	1
<b>Rcn</b>	0	2	1	5	0
<b>HQ</b>	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Tot</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12</b>

## CHAPTER XVIII

# REPORTS ON COMPANY ACTION

(Editor's Note-Before the dissolution of the Battalion on December 7th, the Companies had been asked to submit their own reports on combat action, to be included in the published History of the Battalion. Not all of the companies took advantage of the opportunity so this Chapter will carry those reports received.)

### COMPANY "A"-FIRST PLATOON (By 1A"-FIRST PLATOON (By 1ST SERGEANT RUDY POHLE)

When our 1st Platoon entered Bouy, France, on August 27th, it was the first time that the platoons worked alone. It seemed strange to see only four guns around instead of the twelve which we were accustomed to seeing. Taking Bouy was a real prize for us, especially after taking off and looking the town over. First we found a German Officer's warehouse and then at the rail depot there was a string of flat cars with brand new 88's on them and also some boxcars of foodstuffs and cigarettes. Our second destroyer, then commanded by Ted McClurg, boasts of a record in distributing those German cigarettes to the French. They took something like 10,000 cigarettes with them-throwing them to the people on their trip across the rest of France. Here at Bouy we also witnessed for our first time "Nazi-loving" girls getting their heads shaved.

After two days we were on our way again passing through Revigny, Chalons, and finally ending up in Bar Le Duc on the night of the 31st of August. There our platoon captured its first prisoners-it all happened while Joe Lusardi was on guard. Seeing four Germans walking toward him in the dark was an uncomfortable feeling so he called for help. Immediately the rest of the platoon was up and at 'em. Those Heinies didn't know what happened when 1st Platoon men came dashing from all sides at Joe's signal.

When it came time to leave Bar Le Duc some of the boys had wandered off and had to be left behind. Rudy Pohle caught the convoy on a borrowed bicycle but Platoon Sgt. Willard Moter had to be sent back to collect the rest of the stragglers. Sgt. Moter and Joe Morvan succeeded in capturing 31 German prisoners who had sought refuge in a barn.

On September 7th the Platoon went out on its first real mission just outside of the little town of Saizerais-West of the Moselle River. Here the 318th Reg't of the 80th Division was to take some woods, first crossing about 2000 yards of open field. After several attempts it was discovered that the Germans had some machine gun nests set up in the edge of the woods. Friendly artillery was useless as the positions were too close to the forward infantry positions so the first section was finally called up to do the job. The two guns of the section were put into action so fast that they would have made any Camp Hood record book look sick by comparison. McClurg's gun, with Johnny Ring at the sights, did the first firing, knocking out several of the harassing machine guns, with Sgt. Brown's gun also ready for action.

That night the Platoon took defensive positions just in case the "Jerries" tried a counterattack. The attack didn't materialize but the positions were spotted and when daylight came the artillery really laid it on. It was not as bad as it seemed it on. It was not as bad as it seemed but it was the first shelling that the Platoon had been under. They wasted little time in getting out of there.

During the next few days the Platoon observed the Air Corps pave the way for the coming bridgehead. On the afternoon of September 12th, the Platoon was ready to follow the infantry across the bridge over the Moselle but were delayed several times by enemy artillery hits on the bridge. They sweated out the crossing until 1900 that

night when they crossed the river, the 1st section going to the left flank at Loisy while the 2nd section took up positions covering the front. Everything went along normally with a few shells falling in the vicinity of the bridge until 0300 hours when all "hell" broke loose. The Jerries were counterattacking to drive the platoon across the River. The Heinies attacked with several tanks and came in yelling for all they were worth. The main thrust was at Loisy where the 1st section built a hasty road block with trees and mines, but the tanks went around it and the only casualty was a cow who wandered into a mine. Brown and McClurg's crews were forced back as they could not fire in the dark. The Germans drove down to the 2nd section's positions who were forced to abandon their guns. Four men of the 2nd section were captured here. Al Sangster, Chuck Everett, Charlie Barone, and Cloyce Speaker, who were liberated after surviving months as prisoners of war after surviving months as prisoners of the Germans. As daylight came friendly troops drove the Germans back. The platoons stayed in about the same place until the 24th of September, when the 808th TD Battalion came in to relieve them.

On the reconversion of the Battalion the Platoon suffered a big shake-up with Joe Lusardi taking Samuelson's place as Security Sergeant, Johnny Ring took over the 3rd gun, with Kenny Kroll going to Headquarters Company. Rudy Pohle took Ring's place as gunner of the second gun, Freddie Cronce took Spreader's place as driver of Fontaine's gun, and Lt. Marshall replaced Lt. Kennedy as Platoon Leader.

After two weeks of indirect firing in the vicinity of Nomeny the Platoon moved with the 26th Division about two miles South of Conthil, France. The field was extremely muddy and Walter Campbell's destroyer bogged down when a track slipped into a small stream. The vehicle was tilted at such an angle that gasoline spilled out of the tanks. Bouchard tried to start the engine to help the tow vehicles pull it out but at the first backfire the loose gasoline caught fire and the men spent fifteen minutes putting out the fire. The Platoon stayed in this area until the day after Thanksgiving when they pulled out to join the 80th Division in its drive toward Germany. They were finally stopped at Farebersweiler, by fierce German resistance.

The Platoon stayed in this vicinity until the 29th of November this vicinity until the 29th of November when they pulled into the edge of town to do some firing at the retreating Germans. The Platoon then parked on a hill when apparently some German troops sneaked back to one of their anti-tank guns and fired several rounds at McClurg's tank. Tom Ackley received several shrapnel wounds which were very light for he returned that evening. After the crew abandoned the tank the firing ceased and Pattee and McClurg went back to the destroyer to drive it away. As McClurg went up the side he was hit with some 20 mm and was evacuated. Pohle took over the gun with Ackley as driver. That evening, after the Platoon had pulled to the rear, Bob Hanbury slept in the destroyer with the "Tiny Tim" running and was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning.

The platoon returned to Farebersweiler on December 4th, covering the 6th Armored Division as it rolled through and then pulled back to Seingbrush from where they moved to Bissert where they moved to Bissert to join the 26th Division. They supported that Division in passing through the Maginot fortifications on December 8th, where Ackley and Della Paolera did some good shooting at emplacements. The Platoon then supported the 87th Division outside of Gros Rederching where Tony Pinto did some excellent shooting in knocking out a tank at 4200 yards.

In December the Platoon went up to join the battle of the "bulge" and entered the town of Mertzig on the 23rd, after Ackley knocked out an anti-tank gun by hitting the barrel and splitting the tube. From there they proceeded to Heiderscheid and then took the town of Tadler. The 2nd section was fighting for Kehmen where Pinto accounted for a few tanks. On December 24th the Platoon rushed back to Heiderscheid to help fight off a counterattack. On Christmas day they were back in Tadler again where Ackley knocked out a tank. The next day Joe Lusardi was killed by a mortar fragment. They stayed in the same positions until the 6th of January. Lt. Marshall was seriously wounded on January 1st, being replaced by Lt. Snell.

The Platoon crossed the Sure River on January 6th, climbing the steep hill to Goesdorf and Dahl. On the road to Dahl was witnessed the worst artillery barrage we had ever seen. The target was the town and for minutes after it stopped nothing could be seen but a cloud of smoke where the town was situated. The Jerries counterattacked as situated. The Jerries counterattacked at Dahl at 0300 that morning preceding the attack with another vicious artillery barrage. They had been beaten off by the time daylight arrived. Another attack was launched by the Germans on January 8th, with the German infantry attacking one side of town while the tanks circled to come in the opposite side. The second platoon accounted for eight of the tanks but lost a destroyer and called for one

from the 1st Platoon. This destroyer was just moving into position when a Jerry tank poked its nose over the hill and Tom Ackley nailed him with the first shot. The tank rolled back about 200 yards and then exploded. On January 9th, Lieutenant Ryan took command of the Platoon.

The Platoon stayed in Dahl until January 18th, when they pulled out to attack Masseler. This was by far one of the most miserable attacks ever made. It was snowing heavily, cutting visibility to zero and the TD's were along merely for morale support for the doughboys. After covering part of the ground the attack was called off and the force returned to Dahl. While turning around the TD of Johnny Ring slid down a hill about 200 yards and had to be abandoned until tracks could be dug to get it out of the snow.

The Platoon left the 80th Division on January 28th, and joined the 4th at the town of Burg Reuland, Belgium. From here they started through the Seigfreid line going through with little trouble. The Platoon hrough with little trouble. The Platoon took Wascheid and then travelled over the famed "Sky-Line Drive" leading into Prum. Della Paolera did some good shooting here, knocking down a steeple used by German artillery observers. They relieved elements of the 607th TD Battalion in Oldsheim on February 11th. The 1st Platoon relieved the 2nd Platoon in Hermespond on February 14th, with the 2nd section going into the town while the 1st section remained in a hunting lodge on the hill. On the 19th a German patrol attacked the cabin, firing two panzerfausts at the building of which one went off, shaking up the personnel quite a bit.

On March 8th, the Platoon went with a Task Force to Adenau and on the following day took Reifferscheid which was its objective, and then returned to the vicinity of Prum from which they started on a road march South to join the Seventh Army. On March 13th, the Platoon reached Bust and remained here for a rest until moving to Ringendorf on March 20th. From here the Platoon moved on March 27th eventually crossing the Rhine.

The next action for the Platoon occurred on April 19th in the attack on Ellwangen, Germany. Here both Ackley and Della Paolera did some good shooting at an old fort housing snipers while the Platoon was also busy with its 50 caliber guns firing at personnel. The Platoon reached Ostr Warngau on May 2nd when they were relieved by the French and then moved to Arnsberg where they took hen moved to Arnsberg where they took up occupational duties.

### **COMPANY "A" 3rd PLATOON (By S/SGT. EDWARD MITREUTER)**

Sept. 7th-Two guns of the 3rd Platoon (O'Donald's and Koons') eliminated enemy machine guns and 20 mm guns before advancing into a wooded area.

Sept. 8th-During the morning of the 8th, the Platoon encountered a heavy mortar barrage while in position, followed by a counterattack. O'Donald's gun was hit and after the forward infantry positions were overrun Sgt. Carl Mauranas' gun crew were captured with the exception of Pvt. Clifford Hook, who was killed. Lt. Staib ordered a withdrawal to the edge of the woods. Two guns of the Platoon were destroyed in the action. During the attack Nickelsburg and Butchik went for help in a jeep while enemy mortar shells followed the vehicle up the road, wounding Nickelsberg who continued to drive with one hand.

Sept. 12th-The 3rd Platoon, operating with five man gun crews in one section, crossed the Moselle River, helping to secure the bridgehead. Enemy artillery fire was heavy. An enemy counterattack followed in the morning, but was driven off while Klein and Lemmo were wounded.

Sept. 13-The Platoon received some replacements who quickly received their baptism of fire from enemy machine guns and mortars but took their objective-Mousson Hill. A counterattack was launched just beforill. A counterattack was launched just before dawn in the morning. Nick Kurzon was wounded in the groin while helping to turn the gun in position. They were pinned down by small arms fire but Lt. Staib ordered them to move out. Sgt. Walenduk crawled out and stuck an incendiary grenade down the gun tube while T/5 Bill Helmers retrieved the half-track from where it was hidden in the woods and provided cover for the men. Part of the Platoon was cut off by the attack and went to the bottom of the hill to join forces with the Anti-tank unit there but they had already left. Under the leadership of Platoon Sgt. Edward Fyfe the group reached the River

where one group crossed near a German MG position. The other group, under Harold Redfern, avoided the ambush and Sgt. Walenduk, T/5 Helmers and Pfc. Fornier were responsible for obtaining boats from the other side of the river by swimming for them and helped evacuate the group. Jacovino and Guerriero were responsible for saving two critically wounded men by carrying them on improvised litters. The rest of the Platoon was with Lt. Staib on top of Mousson Hill where they were cut off and had to be supplied with food and ammunition by plane. "Frenchy" Vercillin was killed on this hill by a mortar shell.

Dec. 23rd-On a cold December night the 2nd Platoon and Sgt. Walenduk's destroyer of the 3rd Platoon, went on a night attack with the infantry and a platoon of tanks. Their mission was to penetrate enemy lines and cut supply routes by their surprise attack. Arriving at the outskirts of the town Sccaco knocked out a tank that the enemy used as a road block while Sgt. Lee led the procession into town, kicking enemy mines off the road with his foot. The destroyers were kept busy that day moving from one edge of the town to the other firing at enemy columns. The shooting quieted down after a bit, all except the artillery. During the early hours of morning an enemy bomber dropped two bombs near the main road junction. One of the bombs hit a mortar emplacement, throwing dirt and rocks over Sgt. Walenduk's destroyer. Pfc. Ed. Hoiiohan, standing on guard, was thrown by the concussion into a pile of manure in the barn. The next morning a report was received that an enemy column was approaching the town. The crew manned the destroyer and the column was soon upon them. Mitreuter, the gunner, tracked his prey, thinking what a gunner's dream the target was until he tried to fire the big gun. The gun would not fire though the crew tried every means they could think of, even going as far as trying to hammer on the shell. Even the 50 caliber machine gun had been ripped apart by the explosion of the bomb the night before. With tears in their eyes the crew abandoned the destroyer and joined the infantry to help beat off the attack. The rest of the 2nd Platoon and the infantry beat off the attack and during the days that followed the only action was from artillery and screaming meemies shelling the town.

During the attack of December 23rd, both Cpl. Gunner Pat Cummins and Cpl. Gunner John McCormick were credited with an enemy tank each. About the same time the half-track of Mike Krytch's hit a mine. Some one in one of the destroyers yelled "there goes Lt. Staib," but later it was found that it was only a bed roll flying through the air. Three destroyers of the 3rd Platoon had their Christmas dinner (C and K ration) in the woods during an attack, but later joined the Company at Heiderscheid. During the stay here Pat Cummins was hit during a screaming Meemie barrage, while Sgt. Tom O'Donnel was hit with a mortar fragment while on guard in the town of Tadler. It is believed that the hand grenades he had on his belt saved his life that night.

January-"A" Company, with the 3rd Platoon in the lead, went on an attack to take Dahl. During the attack one destroyer received a hit in the turret, killing Charles Masterson, Pete Kravetz and Frank Chrzanowski. The driver, T/5 Collins was thrown out of the drivers' seat only slightly wounded. The road up the mountain leading to Goesdorf was a sheet of ice and only the drivers dared to stay in the vehicle while the crew members threw twigs, branches, and rocks under the tracks to give them some traction. The Platoon took Goesdorf and proceeded to Dahl where the enemy artillery fire was intense and an enemy counter attack was repulsed. The 3rd Platoon was then called back to help repel a counterattack at Goesdorf.

A few days later Sgt. McCormick's destroyer went on an attack to Buchholtz and found the town loaded with booby traps while Sgt. Kroner's destroyer went on an attack toward Nocher while the other destroyers remained at Goesdorf. The 3rd Platoon accompanied a Task Force to Asweiler and then returned to Goesdorf and from there moved to Bastogne. One of the destroyers on the way broke its starter and while maneuvering to have a half-track pull the vehicle Sgt. McCormick was pinned between the vehicles and seriously injured. Sgt. Mitreuter took command of his destroyer. Cpl. Ed Bocan was wounded in the head from an air burst in the vicinity of a hunting lodge at Hermespond. The 3rd Platoon set up a defense of Oldsheim. During the attack on Gondelsheim the 1st destroyer of the 3rd Platoon was hit and had to be abandoned for the time being. It was retrieved the next day.

The Company accompanied the Task Force on the attack on Adenau with the 70th Tank Battalion. They then moved South and after crossing the Rhine moved with the Company in its attack. Another Task Force was sent to Ansbach where Batowski and Allen were wounded by a panzerfaust while in the attic of a home in the town.

During the march with the Task Force an attack was launched by a German Liaison plane (Storch) armed with a rocket device. The rocket hit the tank in front of the first destroyer of the platoon killing some infantrymen who were riding the "deck." The plane was brought down by the first section of the 3rd Platoon with Lieutenant Staib manning one of the guns. At Schwabsberg the 3rd Platoon was credited with destroying one 88 mm gun, four 20 mm guns, two half-tracks, five trucks, and a number of personnel. Cpl. Ed Wrightson was credited with destroying two vehicles with one round of HE.

## COMPANY "B"

### LES MESNILS, FRANCE

The 1st Squad of the 2nd Platoon had their gun dug in by a Tank bull-dozer on a road block position. The security detail had been set up including a squad of the 317th Infantry. The members of the gun crew had their fox holes dug and prepared to bed down for the night. Pvt. Charles Calabro, afterwards Cpl. Gunner, set about making his bed also covering himself with his raincoat as there was a light rain falling. He had been asleep for some time when he felt the raincoat and blankets being dragged away from his face. He awoke to find a strange face bending over and staring at him. It didn't take Charlie long to realize that this was no American soldier and as he was struck with a blunt instrument he arose to defend himself. There were other shouts from the infantrymen and as the situation began to clear it was discovered that a five-man patrol had infiltrated the TD position. In the meantime Calabro was struggling with the German antagonist and dazed from the blow on the head he still managed to get hold of his carbine and fired one shot hitting the man. His carbine then jammed but clubbing the gun he hit the German who staggered off. By this time the entire position was alerted and were able to disperse the remaining members of the patrol. Calabro's antagonist didn't get far for his dead body was found just off the road about 100 yards from the scene of the melee. Calabro was speechless but when he was able to come up for air his crowning remark was "Brooklyn was never like this."

### BRANDSCHEID

In an action to take the town of Brandscheid deep in the Seigfried line fortifications the first TD of the 3rd Platoon with Lt. Edward Newsom the 3rd Platoon with Lt. Edward Newsom commanding had a most unusual encounter. The morning of February 7th after an enemy counterattack lasting an hour and a half the enemy had managed to infiltrate back to the pillboxes they had been driven from the day before. In a shifting of positions to meet the situation Lt. Newsom's TD with T/4 Masse driving was obliged to back up to improve its field of fire and to draw enemy fire away from the severely handicapped doughboys. The tank preceding Lt. Newsom's TD was backing up steadily and as a result Masse was forced to continue his TD in reverse. All of a sudden the crew had the sensation of falling in space. They had not crossed any body of water before but here was the TD half full of water and filling fast. Masse and his assistant T/4 Weeks were quick to realize their vehicle's predicament and made speed to get out from under. Cpl. Franklin and T/5 Turner, the two other members of the crew, were already in the process of leaving when Masse and Weeks shoved their heads up through the turret. After some navigating the boys, along with Lt. Newsom, were able to make dry land. The destroyer had backed into a huge crater which had been gathering water from the rain and snow. The destroyer had never been recovered at last reports. Aside from their narrow escape the situation was not without its humor as the appearance the crew presented after their immersion as they ran for shelter to a nearby building. The crew even admit that they might have been in need of the bath.

### PRUM

On the road to Prum in an operation designed to take that town the lead TD of the 1st Platoon with Sgt. John Ryan commanding was forced by enemy tactics to cut off the road and travel a field to another road when they became bogged down. A tank at the head of the column (from the 70th Tank Battalion) received enemy fire and was disabled. When Sgt. Ryan saw this encounter and reviewed his own predicament he gave his crew orders to bail out. The last man to leave, Sgt. Fazio was no more than 50 yards away from the destroyer when it suffered a direct hit and was set on fire. Sgt. Fazio along with Sgt. Ed Sella, Cpl. Ike Eisenstein, and T/4 John Pryzbylski ran to the rear while under artillery fire for what protection they could find. Lt. Saunders, the platoon leader, who had also been riding in Sgt. Ryan's TD took over the remainder of his platoon and gave orders to reassemble at a



point free from enemy observation.

## CHAPTER XIX

# AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

**Captain John P. Tice**, 0375254, Infantry, Company B, 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an enemy in Germany.

On 25 April 1945, when fierce enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire forced our infantry and armor to seek cover, Captain Tice our infantry and armor to seek cover, Captain Tice fearlessly went forward to ascertain hostile gun positions. Pinned down by an enemy machine gun, he armed himself with grenades and a carbine, outflanked the position and silenced it. When a second hostile gun opened fire on him, with two accurately thrown grenades he forced the two-man crew to flee their position and then killed them. Then he directed tank destroyers into firing positions and under their barrage went to the aid of a wounded soldier lying in the field of fire. Capt. Tice's dauntless courage and outstanding devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.



CAPTAIN JOHN P. TICE

**Sergeant Delbert D. Lee**, 17040205, Company A, 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in Luxembourg. On 7 January 1945, Sergeant Lee commanded a tank destroyer supporting the defense of Dahl, Luxembourg. He knocked out two enemy tanks with direct fire from his destroyer and was wounded in the action. Refusing to be evacuated, he led his crew into action the following day against a number of enemy tanks, destroying three of them and forcing the remainder to withdraw. When a group of enemy infantrymen attacked his destroyer, this intrepid soldier dismounted and engaged them with an automatic rifle, killing several and routing the others. Then when pinned down by enemy machine guhen when pinned down by enemy machine gun fire he fearlessly crawled to within fifteen feet of the position and killed the crew with hand grenades. Sergeant Lee was killed by artillery fire while returning to his vehicle, but his courage and supreme devotion to duty will live on as an inspiration to his comrades.

**Private First Class Lester J. Lynch**, 31241406, Company C, 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism with military operations against an armed enemy. On 15 September 1944, during a counter-attack by the enemy, one of a platoon of advancing Sherman tanks was hit and set on fire. Private Lynch, 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, left the comparative security of his dug-in position beside his tank destroyer gun and courageously went to the aid of the crew members trapped in the burning tank. He climbed into the tank and extricated two wounded and dazed men moments before the ammunition in the tank exploded. Private Lynch coolly administered first aid to the men he had rescued and then braved intense enemy sniper fire to evacuate them to an aid station. His conspicuous bravery and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

PFC. LESTER J. LYNCH RECEIVES  
FIRST DSC AWARD IN BATTALION

Lt. Col. William L. Herold\*  
 Lt. Quintus C. Atkinson V  
 Lt. erold\*  
 Lt. Quintus C. Atkinson V  
 Lt. William J. Dugas  
 Lt. Mitchell Enich  
 Lt. Robert L. Hearn  
 Lt. Edward B. Newsom  
 S/Sgt. Henry Van Aalsburg  
 S/Sgt. Henry A. Moser\*  
 Sgt. Frank B. Nunn

\* Posthumous

Sgt. Stephen F. Sikorski  
 Sgt. Harold Weinberg  
 Corp. Frank De Phillipus  
 Pfc. Paul Brindger  
 Pfc. Joseph J. O'Heiko  
 Pvt. Angelo V. Raccio\*  
 Pvt. Henry Smooke  
 Pvt. Edmund D. Sullivan\*

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Lt. Col. Einar M. Bergstrom  
 Maj. Donald A. Stewart  
 Capt. Richard L. Duchossois  
 Capt. John P. Lord  
 Capt. Joe Lowe  
 Capt. John B. Stitt  
 Capt. John P. Tice  
 Lt. Quintus C. Atkinson, V  
 Lt. Mitchell Enich  
 Lt. Clyde Hutson  
 Lt. Marshall J. Lepine  
 Lt. Richard J. Merrill\*  
 Lt. Louis J. Phillips  
 Lt. Peter W. Saunders  
 Lt. Gerald B. Savland  
 Lt. James H. Shields  
 Lt. Elmer R. Staib  
 Lt. Joseph C. Snyder  
 Lt. Anthony Tirri  
 Lt. Harry B. Watkins, Jr.\*  
 Lt. Daniel Ryan

Sgt. Arthur P. Stout  
 T/4 Robert W. Dittloff  
 T/4 William Haluschak  
 T/4 Joseph Kochanowski  
 T/4 Samuel J. Limanni  
 T/4 Dwight F. Rypma  
 T/4 Joseph F. Satriale  
 Cpl. Jess L. Brough  
 Cpl. Alfred D. Finno  
 Cpl. Abe De Heer, Jr.  
 Cpl. Hans W. Hermansen  
 Cpl. Eugene L. Mantie  
 Cpl. Andrew R. McClellan  
 Cpl. Theire J. Peters  
 Cpl. Anthony J. Pinto  
 Cpl. Jack F. Scacco  
 T/5 Raymond L. Collier  
 T/5 Leo R. Cote\*  
 T/5 Jess W. Duncan  
 T/5 John W. Forester  
 T/5 Clayton W. Leavitt\*

Lt. Joseph H. Whitney  
 Lt. Emery G. Wingerter  
 T/Sgt Loyd A Chipman  
 S/Sgt. Lawrence H. Bondurant  
 S Sgt. Lemuel R. Elliott  
 S Sgt. Alva F. Markley  
 S Sgt. Eldred R. Manary  
 S Sgt. Woodford C. Nabers  
 S Sgt. William P. O'Neill  
 Sgt. Edwin R. Ailey  
 Sgt. Manary  
 S Sgt. Woodford C. Nabers  
 S Sgt. William P. O'Neill  
 Sgt. Edwin R. Ailey  
 Sgt. Robert E. Beavers  
 Sgt. Walter Burnett  
 Sgt. Eldred E. Cunningham  
 Sgt. Gilbert R. Getz  
 Sgt. Adolph Herpich  
 Sgt. Richard G. Kern  
 Sgt. Edward A. Mainville  
 Sgt. Cooper S. Nichols  
 Sgt. Charles K. Rash  
 Sgt. John M. Ring  
 Sgt. John B. Ryan  
 Sgt. Claude L. Smith

\* Posthumous

T/5 George E. Nunn  
 T/5 Donald Vetrone\*  
 Pfc. William Argento  
 Pfc. Woodrow C. Besore  
 Pfc. John Colton, Jr.  
 Pfc. Warren H. DeCoste  
 Pfc. Julio Paccioletti  
 Pfc. Italo L. Perna  
 Pfc. George Riker, Jr.  
 Pfc. Leonard J. Rosano  
 Pfc. John F. Slovak  
 Pfc. Joseph W. Thompson  
 Pvt. Ted J. Howard\*  
 Pvt. Edward D. Johnston  
 Pvt. Lawrence Kenyon  
 Pvt. Francis D. McDowell  
 Pvt. Harold W. Redfern  
 Pvt. Isaac O. Sensenig\*  
 Pvt. Ernest J. Spearsancis D. McDowell  
 Pvt. Harold W. Redfern  
 Pvt. Isaac O. Sensenig\*  
 Pvt. Ernest J. Spears  
 Pvt. Joseph Wasas  
 Pvt. Charles M. Winn

### **OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Lt. Col. Einar M. Bergstrom  
 Lt. Emery G. Wingerter

### **CROIX DE GUERRE (SILVER STAR)**

Lt. Elmer R. Staib  
 Lt. Emery G. Wingerter

### **PURPLE HEART MEDAL**

Maj. Herman H. Greenhaw  
 Capt. Richard Duchossois  
 Capt. John B. Stitt  
 Capt. John P. Tice  
 Capt. William S. Yocum  
 1st Lt. Mitchel Enich  
 1st Lt. John S. Hammes  
 1st Lt. David Juers  
 1st Lt. John W. Kennedy  
 1st Lt. Sammie W. Marshall  
 1st Lt. Edward B. Newsom  
 1st Lt. James H. Shields  
 1st Lt. Irvin C. Snell  
 2nd Lt. Anthony Tirri  
 T/Sgt. Robert V. Senger

T/5 John E. Collins  
 T/5 Orel J. Defayette  
 T/5 Jess W. Duncan  
 T/5 John W. Forster  
 T/5 Owen F. Gamertsfelder  
 T/5 Wilfred H. Hawxhurst  
 T/5 John M. King  
 T/5 Emil M. Krak  
 T/5 Frank J. Lemmo  
 T/5 Henry Lummen  
 T/5 Charles J. Mercurio  
 T/5 Ralph R. Meyer  
 T/5 William Miller  
 T/5 Louis Morzenos  
 T/5 Nunzi C. Lattanzja

S/Sgt. Paul A. Asploff  
 S/Sgt. Mike J. Bienna  
 S/Sgt. Loyd A. Chipman  
 S/Sgt. Jay Lee Cruze  
 S/Sgt. Loyd A. Chipman  
 S/Sgt. Jay Lee Cruze  
 S/Sgt. Sylvester C. Driessel  
 S/Sgt. John C. Hall  
 S/Sgt. Robert E. Hardesty  
 S/Sgt. William F. Judnick  
 S/Sgt. William D. Powell  
 S/Sgt. John R. Sleper  
 Sgt. Howard R. Adams  
 Sgt. Walter S. Alban  
 Sgt. Robert E. Beavers  
 Sgt. Walter T. Campbell  
 Sgt. Charles H. Carter  
 Sgt. Raymond L. Collier  
 Sgt. Leon R. Condren  
 Sgt. Leroy B>Hecker  
 Sgt. Adolph Herpich  
 Sgt. Richard G. Kern  
 Sgt. John D. Koon  
 Sgt. Walter R. Lenart  
 Sgt. Turner C. McBey  
 Sgt. Theodore W. McClurg  
 Sgt. John D. McCormick  
 Sgt. Eldred R. Manary  
 Sgt. William G. Miller  
 Sgt. Joseph E. Morvan  
 Sgt. Cooper S. Nichols  
 Sgt. Ray R. Nichols  
 Sgt. Thomas T. O'Donnell, Jr.  
 Sgt. Charles K. Rash  
 Sgt. James R. Reynolds  
 Sgt. Willfred Rickett  
 Sgt. John M. Ring  
 Sgt. John B. Ryan  
 Sgt. Thomas C. Salerno  
 Sgt. Royal A. Samuelson  
 Sgt. Jack F. Scacco  
 Sgt. Daniel J. Simone  
 Sgt. Claude L. Smith  
 Sgt. Arthur P. Stout  
 Sgt. Chester V. Walenduk  
 T/4 Normen F. Bouchard  
 T/4 James W. Bradshaw  
 T/4 James E. Byrd  
 T/4 Charles L. Cavanaugh  
 T/4 Charles E. Deagel  
 T/4 Anthony W. Genovese  
 T/4 Cletus R. Haughawout  
 T/4 William G. Hellmers  
 T/4 Joseph Hochman

T/5 Felix Neault  
 T/5 David J. Richardson  
 T/5 Mervin J. Rossow  
 T/5 George W. Sausville  
 T/5 Paul M. Simon  
 T/5 Mervin J. Rossow  
 T/5 George W. Sausville  
 T/5 Paul M. Simon  
 T/5 Peter Viviano  
 T/5 Charles E. Webb  
 T/5 Charles M. Winn  
 Pfc. Harry E. Apgar  
 Pfc. Martin Botowsky  
 Pfc. August J. Bommely  
 Pfc. Ralph W. Bond  
 Pfc. Herbert Brown  
 Pfc. George J. Burgert  
 Pfc. Richard G. Butler  
 Pfc. Joseph F. Costellitto  
 Pfc. Cecil L. Combs  
 Plc. Henry L. D'Amato  
 Pfc. Frank DeFilippis  
 Pfc. John P. Demeule  
 Plc. Camillo Diliegro  
 Pfc. Jimmie P. Duncan  
 Pfc. William J. Fournier  
 Pfc. Owen F. Gamertsfelder  
 Pfc. Calvin D. Green  
 Pfc. Walter R. Girouard  
 Pfc. Edward J. Hines  
 Pfc. Henry S. Hynek  
 Pfc. Robert E. Kampf  
 Pfc. Mason L. Kelley  
 Pfc. Louis Kulscar  
 Pfc. Michael Lamonica  
 Pfc. Samuel J. Limanni  
 Pfc. Lester J. Lynch  
 Pfc. Anthony Mangiaficio  
 Pfc. Charles P. Masterson  
 Pfc. Zefferino S. Pavoni  
 Pfc. Chester F. Radziwon  
 Pfc. Harold W. Redfern  
 Pfc. Gordon A. Refruse  
 Pfc. Louis R. Serino  
 Pfc. Antomin Soucy  
 Pfc. Ernest J. Spears  
 Pfc. Edward A. Strain  
 PEe. Gaston C. Strobino  
 PEe. Richard P. Smith  
 Pfc. Thomas W. Turner  
 Pfc. James H. Weeks  
 Pfc. Herbert D. Wilder  
 Pvt. David J. Allen  
 Pvt. George Andre

T/4 Joseph Kochanowski  
 T/4 Joseph C. Kroupa  
 T/4 Delbert Lane  
 /4 Joseph Hochman  
 T/4 Joseph Kochanowski  
 T/4 Joseph C. Kroupa  
 T/4 Delbert Lane  
 T/4 Andrew J. Mechak  
 T/4 Arthur J. Plathe  
 T/4 John Przybylski  
 T/4 Leonard J. Rosano  
 T/4 Joseph F. Satriale  
 T/4 Jerry J. Sprella  
 T/4 Liborio Ventimiglia  
 Cpl. Benjamin F. Abromowski  
 Cpl. Harry Black  
 Cpl. Charles F. Calabro  
 Cpl. William Cholodenko  
 Cpl. Edward J. Conklin  
 Cpl. Patrick P. Cummings  
 Cpl. David N. Garrison  
 Cpl. Edward F. Greig  
 Cpl. Hans W. Hermansen  
 Cpl. Louis Kaiserman  
 Cpl. Bernard Klein  
 Cpl. Clyde C. Lanich  
 Cpl. Martin J. Lennon  
 Cpl. Robert Light  
 Cpl. Andrew R. McClellan  
 Cpl. Eugene L. Mantie  
 Cpl. Walter J. Montini  
 Cpl. Anthony J. Morola  
 Cpl. Anthony J. Pinto  
 Cpl. Oliver K. Smith  
 Cpl. Henry Smooke  
 Cpl. Joseph Tortorella  
 Cpl. Albert J. Toth  
 Cpl. Joseph Wasas  
 T/5 Stephen Bolos  
 T/5 Gene W. Clark

Pvt. Edward Bocan  
 Pvt. Anthony A. Casale  
 Pvt. Canto Cioffi  
 Pvt. Roland M. Clark  
 Pvt. William T. Comerford  
 Pvt. Abe De Heer, Jr.  
 Pvt. Roland M. Clark  
 Pvt. William T. Comerford  
 Pvt. Abe De Heer, Jr.  
 Pvt. Dorman S. Farmer  
 Pvt. Joseph F. Giamatti  
 Pvt. Timothy J. Hartes  
 Pvt. Leon F. Hawkins  
 Pvt. Robert H. Hensel  
 Pvt. James J. Holland  
 Pvt. Eugene E. Jackson  
 Pvt. Jessie J. Jennings  
 Pvt. Stanley Kaplan  
 Pvt. Jack Kleinfeld  
 Pvt. Donald J. Koster  
 Pvt. John J. Larkin  
 Pvt. Russell Lied  
 Pvt. Charles Lowe  
 Pvt. Delbert W. McConnell  
 Pvt. John M. McDonough  
 Pvt. Herbert McKinney  
 Pvt. Paul F. Muellenbach  
 Pvt. Bert Nickelsberg  
 Pvt. Louis J. Norello  
 Pvt. Julio Paccioletti  
 Pvt. Lewis H. Schrimsher  
 Pvt. Robert Tilt  
 Pvt. Edward Tomsis  
 Pvt. Robert S. Tuller  
 Pvt. Woodrow P. Wheeler  
 Pvt. Cecil C. White  
 Pvt. Charles J. Wolkamp  
 Pvt. Bernard Zaloski

#### **AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (Oak Leaf Cluster)**

Lt. Mitchell Enich  
 Lt. Orval J. Scales  
 S/Sgt. Eldred R. Manary  
 Sgt. Raymond L. Collier  
 Sgt. Theodore W. McClurg  
 Sgt. Wilfred L. Rickett  
 T/4 Norman F. Bouchard  
 T/4 Anthony W. Genovese  
 T/4 John Przybylski  
 T/4 Leonard J. Rosano  
 Cpl. Thomas E. Ackley

Cpl. Martin W. Lennon  
 Cpl. Oliver K. Smith  
 T/5 Harry E. Apgar  
 T/5 John M. McDonough  
 T/5 Melvin J. Rossow  
 Pfc. Samuel J. Limanni  
 Pfc. Joseph P. Salustri  
 Pfc. Herbert L. Wilder  
 Pvt. Robert S. Tuller  
 Pvt. Richard P. Smith

Pvt. L. Wilder  
Pvt. Robert S. Tuller  
Pvt. Richard P. Smith

## CHAPTER XX

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Johnson, Jesse H	R. F. D., Hanceville, Ala.
Johnson, Junior L	Box 21, Dellslow, W. Va.
Johnston, Edward D	3601 W. 11th St., Little Rock, Ark.
Johnston, Leslie E	64 Pearl St., Wellsboro, Pa.
Jolly, Alfred A	1283 Pleasant St., Worcester, Mass.
Jones, Harlon ....	. Fryeburg, Me.
Jones, Sidney S.	10 Prospect Place, Somerville, Mass.
Jones, William F	1152 Lancaster St., Route 4, Galesburg, Ill.
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Juers, David	2315 N. Marmora Ave., Chicago, Ill.
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Justensen, Russell D	Valley Rd., R. D. 4, Preakness, N. J.
Kaiserman, Louis	105 Throop Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Kalisch, Leo F	1264 Reaney Ave., St. Paul 6, Minn.
Kampf, Robert E	1845 N. Church St., Decatur, Ill.
Kanetzke, Clifford R	2627 Olive St., Racine, Wis.
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Kaplan, Samuel	1240 Evergreen Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Kaplan, Stanley	62B Elm Plains, Windsor Locks, Conn.
Karos, George	157-49th St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Kazmer, Eugene A	162 Summit Ave., Bloomfield, N. J.
Kelley, Donald E	R. R. 1, Box 257, Rolling Prairie, Ind.
Kelley, Louis T	636-2nd Ave., Bethlehem, Pa.
Kelley, Mason L	103 Draper St., Dorchester, Mass.
Kelley, Robert W.	S Irving Place, Paterson, N. J.
Kelsch, Robert G	185 Marietta Ave., Passaic, N. J.
Ketschek, Frank L	2160 Washington Ave., Route 1, Pleasantville, N. J.
Kemsey, Joseph	202 Grant St., Greensburg, Pa.
Keniston, Harold R	25 Williams St., Waltham, Mass.
Kennedy, Charles A	718 Beniteau 7, Detroit 14, Mich.
Kennedy, Halbert W	Unknown
*Kennedy, John W	Unknown
Kern, Richard G	Route 1, Deshler, Ohio
Ketterman, Oscar	R. F. D. 2, Flint Stone, Md.
Kimber, Frederick R	Unknown

Kime, Robert K	231 E. Calvert St., South Bend 14, Ind.
Kindle, John J	1634 Main St., West Warwick, R. I.
King, John M	Eleanor, W. Va.
Kiznic, Michael	Unknown
Klaeffling, Hans J	1607 Lawton Ave., Columbus, Ind.
Klein, Bernard	1730 Harrison Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Kleintop, John H	869 Edgemont Ave., Palmerton, Pa.
Knowles, Chester	Dryden, Me.
Kochanowski, Joseph	Avonmore, Pa.
Kochera, George	Mountain Home, Pa.
Kochurka, Louis	108-19th Ave., Newark, N. J.
Koon, John D	Route 2, Box 205, Leesville, S. C.
Kormos, Michael	59 Center St., Clifton, N. J.
Koshara, Edward A	301 Painter St., Everson, Pa.
Koster, Donald J	3901 Youngs St., N. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
Krak, Emil M	16 Lincoln Place, Clifton, N. J.
Kral, Frank J	3297 West 33rd St., Cleveland, Ohio
*Krisak, Arthur NI	122 Manilla St., Syracuse, N. Y.
Kraeschel, Harry G	809 Parker St., Newark, N. J.
Kroll, Kenneth D	20 Holmes St., Nutley, N. J.
Kroner, Herbert A	R. R. 1, Moberly, Mo.
Kroupa, Joseph C	Unknown
Kruspol, Sam	5997 Park Place, Hammond, Ind.
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Kubej, Joseph J	443 Fairfield Ave., Johnstown, Pa.
Kuberski, Edward	Unknown
Kuchta, Richard A	Fairbanks, Minn.
Kulinski, Stanley A	5844 Garland St., Detroit 13, Mich.
Kulscar, Louis	725 Blaine St., South Bend, Ind.
Kuykendall, Edward H.	1909 Hulman St., Terre Haute, Ind.
Labbe, Renald J	129 Alfred St., Biddeford, Me.
Ladd, Clinton I	76 Frances St., Willimantic, Conn.
Laino, Raphael A	22 King St., Belleville 9, N. J.
Lambert, George F	1541 Metropolitan Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Laminack, James C	Unknown
Lamonica, Michael	383 Lincoln Ave., Glenrock, N. J.
Landau, Herbert H	1409 Brook Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
Landers, John H	545 Pleasant St., Worcester 2, Mass.
Landry, Maurice R	157 E. 124th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
Lane, Delbert E	338 Bryan St., Akron 3, Ohio
Lane, Homer H	Bud, W. Va.
Langa, Vincent A	1651 Belmont Ave., Toledo 7, Ohio
Langsner, Alfred	Unknown
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Lansing, John M	4230 Gano St., St. Louis, Mo.
Lansinger, Marvin	889 W. Riddle Ave., Ravenna, Ohio



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Larkin, Charles D	Lake City, Kansas
Larro, Charles H	38 Church St., Westfield, Mass.
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Lattanzia, Nunzi C	1621 Fourth Ave., Freedom, Pa.
Lauck, William S	4548 A Wichita St., St. Louis, Mo.
Lawkins, Edward G	159-04 Sanford Ave., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
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Lemmo, Frank J	4 Furnace St., Cold Spring, N. Y.
Lenart, Walter	Rock Creek, Ohio
Lenhart, Herbert T	1117 Teller Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Lennon, Martin 3	46 Rossmore Rd., 3. P. Boston, Mass.
Leon, Claude 3 1	37 N. Lincoln Ave., Fond du Lac, Wis.
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Lewis, Theo. M	P. O. Box 38, Rowlett, Texas
Light, Robert	Trimble, Ky.
Lingo, Hubert C	Morris Ave., Belford, N. J.
Linkenauer, Marvin E.	813 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, W. Va.
Limanni, Samuel J	124 Birch St., Willimantic, Conn.
Litten, Edward	Unknown
Lobacz, Ludwig J	48 Broone St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lockwood, James W	Flat, Texas
Loftin, Olin W	Box 531, Leesville, La.
Lough, Thomas	540 Belmont Ave., Haledon, N. J.
Lowe, Charles	1247 Wheeler Ave., Bronx 59, N. Y.
*Lowe, Joe	1401 South Henderson, Bloomington, Ind.
Lucera, Guy T	516 Market St., Pekin, Ill.
Lucas, Steve M	East St., Suffield, Conn.
Ludlow, Anthony G	122-19th St., Union City, N. J.
Lummen, Henry	403 Saginaw St., Saginaw, Mich.
Lynch, Lester J	9 Morse St., Norwood, Mass.
MacDonald, Robert W.	6 Dixwell St. Roxbury, Mass.
Maffitt, William J	303 W. Thompson St., Maryville, Mo.
Maine, Clayton E	68 Wolcott Hill Rd., Wethersfield, Mass.
Mainville, Edward A	Box 107, Plainfield, Conn.
Malecki, Stanley	305 Davis Ave., Kearny, N. J.
Malinowski, Max J	219 E. Mountain Rd., Westfield, Mass.
Malis, Stanley J	3010 W. 6th St., Chester, Pa.
Mamo, George	49 Providence Ave., W. Paterson, N. J.
Manary, Eldred R	843 N. Main St., Springfield, Mo.
Manges, Charles A	296-8th Ave., Tiffin, Ohio

Mangiafico, Anthony	98 Highland St., Paterson, N. J.
Mantie, Eugene L	81 Linden St., Passaic, N. J.
Manziona, Joseph A	54 Chester Ave., Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
Mangine, Philip	134 W. 167th St., Bronx 52, N. Y.
Manhoff, Bert R	568 5. 19th St., Newark, N. J.
Markley, Alva F	R. D. 1, Middle Point, Ohio
Marley, Virgil H	193 Austin St., Worcester, Mass.
Marlin, Norton W	R. R. 2, Conway, Mo.
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Marta, John A	1502 W. 7th St., Wilmington, Dcl.
Martyn, Clarence W	145-16th Ave., Newark 3, N. J.
Masengill, Edgar L	Dallas Center, Iowa
Masse, Armand P	39 Mumford St., West Warwick, R. I.
Massier, Ernest W	Ellis, Kansas
Matejka, Stanley B	3929 Storer Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio
McBay, Turner 0	Route 4, Texarkana, Ark.
McBride, Joseph H	Route 2, Indianola, Miss.
McCarthy, Thomas J	184 Minot St., Dorchester, Mass.
McClellan, Andrew R	328 Beech St., Arlington, N. J.
McClelland, William	103-IB Watson Dr., Turtle Creek, Pa.
McClurg, Theodore W.	201 E. Elm St., Urbana, Ill.
McCormick, Doyl	Route 2, Randolph, Ala.
McCormick, John D	273 Melrose St., Providence 7, R. I.
McDaniel, Elmer 0	Unknown
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McDowell, Francis D	Olivia, Minn.
McDowell, Herbert I	P. 0. Box 238, Bridgeville, Del.
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McGee, John J	630 Liberty St., Rockland, Mass.
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McGuire, Russell H	Route 5, Elizabethtown, Tenn.
McKenzie, John R	2241 W. Park Pl., Oklahoma City, Okla.
McKinney, James M	1204 W. 14th St., Owensboro, Ky.
McKinnon, John L	419 Kearny Ave., Kearny, N. J.
McLeary, Alvin S	160 Joseph Ave., Johnstown, Pa.
McMeekin, James E	135 Albion St., Brantford, Canada
McMullen, James E	Box 155, Colorado City, Texas
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Melvin, Glendon D	Route 1, West Frankfort, Ill.
Mercurio, Charles J	5244 A Wilson, St. Louis 10, Mo.
Merola, Anthony J	618 Elm St., Kearny, N. J.
Meyer, Raymond C	Route 2, Wabash, Ind.
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Milke, Charles J	83 Lafayette St., Paterson 1, N. J.
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Miller, Merle M	R. R. 5, Portland, md.

Miller, Nelson G	Box 4, Weston, Pa.
Miller, William	217 Creek Rd., Middlebury, Conn.
Miller, William R	Manchester Ave., N. H., R. F. D. 3, Paterson, N. J
Mindoza, Primitive B	Unknown
Mitchell, Claude J	Route 1, Iva, S. C.
Mitchell, William R	Unknown
Mitreuter, Edward J	574 S. 13th St., Newark 3, N. J.
Mochak, Andrew J	Montgomery Rd., Westfield, Mass.
Montembeau, Real J	15 Cottage St., Biddeford, Me.
Moose, Donald R	Box 351, Export, Pa.
Morin, Samuel	Route 1, Pushaw Rd., Bangor, Me.
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Moro, Arthur L	E. Main St., Mendham, N. J.
Morvan, Joseph E	90 Aiken St., Lowell, Mass.
Morzenos, Louis	37 Smith Ave., Pennsgrove, N. j.
Moser, Earl R	743 Walnut St., Fort Wayne 6, Ind.
Moter, Willard H	500 W. First St., Fort Worth, Texas
Moyer, Ralph R '	R. D. 1, Lowellville, Ohio
Mullen. Roland C	Route 2, Zebulon, N. C.
Mullenbach, Paul F	Box 481, Wheaton, Minn.
Murray, John C	176 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, N. J.
Muth, Joseph M	1220 Fitzgerald St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Nabers, Woodford C	Route 3, Baldwyn, Miss.
Natoli, Jack G	365 Sherman St., Passaic, N. J.
Neceskas, Frank G	3155 Broadway, Apt. 9, N. Y. C., N. Y.
Nelson, S. H	Roscoe, Texas
Neposchlan, Frederich .	5060 Mead, Dearborn, Mich.
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Nicholas, George G	R. F. D. 1, Narrowsburg, N. Y.
Nichols, Ray R	Earl, N. C.
Nichols, William, Sr	R. D. 3, Wellsboro, Pa.
Nickelsburg, Bert	1801 Archur St., Bronx, N. Y.
Nikles, Frank H	R. F. D. 1, Glen Gardner, N. J.
Novello, Louis J	2934 Crugar Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Nunn, George E	Niles, Kansas
Nyffeler, Arthur R	Unknown
Oakes, Martin	1293 E. Market St., Sunbury, Pa.
O'Brien, William J	1755 E. 46th St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y.
O'Dell, Clinton R	221 S.W. 2nd St., Newton, Kansas
O'Doherty, William G.	468-12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
O'Donnell, Thomas F. .	141 Gallatin St., Providence, R. I.
Ogle, Floyd A	Sumner, Mo.
O'Hara, Albert A	824 Charlotte St., Cincinnati, Ohio
O'Heiko, Joseph J	715 N. 8th St., Newark, N. J.
Oldenburger, George	Route 1, Aplington, Iowa
O'Neal, Irving J	526 Highland Ave., San Mateo, Cal.

O'Neil, William P	116 E. 129th. St., N. Y. 35, N. Y.
Orrell, Ted G	Route 5, Green Forest, Ark.
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Ozuniga, Wallace R	1115 Chihuahua St., San Antonio, Texas
Paccioretti, Julio	94 Common St., Walpole, Mass.
Pacilio, James	131 E. 15th St., Paterson, N. J.
Pacini, Jimmie	Delagua, Cob.
Pagani, Luigi	21 Tappan St., Kearny, N. J.
Paine, Manderville H.	R. D. 1, N. Jay, Me.
Pantano, Harry J	219-33rd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Paranzino, Rocco J	Box 330, Berlin, N. J.
Patin, Richard S	Box 341, New Roads, La.
Pattee, Harry L	451 Boltz St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Pattin, Edward S	Unknown
Pavoni, Zefferino S .	318 E. 19th St., Paterson, N. J.
Penn, Louis S	45 Cottage St., Hyde Park 36, Mass.
Perna, halo E	639 N. 6th St., Newark 7, N. j.
Peters, Theire J	Maple Ave., Cedars, Marshallton, Del.
Pfaff, Joseph	25-90-35th St., Astoria, L. I., N. V.
Pharis, Russell R	Box 174, Berryville, Ark.
Pharis, Wilmer A	Unknown
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Pierce, Bernard V	3615 Detroit Ave., Cleveland 13, Ohio
Pinkerton, Dee F	1441 W. 32nd St., Indianapolis, Ind.
Pinto, Anthony J	601 E. 48th St., Brooklyn, N. V.
Pio, Robert F	2102 1/2 Hanna St., East Orange, N. J.
Pisano, Louis	94 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark 4, N. J.
Plumlee, Raymond B	Star Route, Capps, Ark.
Pohle, Rudy E	178 E. 8th St., Clifton, N. J.
Poivan, James H	89 Water St., Paterson, N. J.
Polzer, Edward M	70 Pasadena Place, Hawthorne, N. J.
Pool, Max D	R. R. 2, Jasonville, Md.
Poremba, John C	210 Lexington Ave., Maplewood, N. J.
*Porter, Wilson R	Kingfisher, Okla.
Powell, Addis I	508 S. 11th St., Duncan, Okla.
Powell, Fred A	1160 Summitt St., Muskogee, Okla.
Powell, Robert E	Route 2, Box 120 A, Whiteville, N. C.
Pressman, George	276 Connecticut Ave., Bridgeport 7, Conn.
Prior, James J	228 E. 89th St., N. V. C., N. V.
Pronesti, Thomas A	178 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, N. V.
Przybylski, John	935 Woodstock Ave., Toledo 7, Ohio
Pulli, Nibs 0	414 E. 72nd St., N. V. C., N. V.
Quinn, Cletus F	411 S. Lansing St., Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Radziwon, Chester F	115 Labor St., Trenton, N. J.
Ramsey, Charles M	Unknown
Randazzo, Salvatore F.	286 Van Nortand Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

Rando, Cyril A	2428 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La.
Randol, George D	Route 4, Osceola, Iowa
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Rayon, Roy E	Talala, Okla.
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Refuse, Gordon A	45 Richmond St., New Bedford, Mass.
Rehrig, Paul H M	Main St., Parryville, Pa.
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Reynolds, James R	802 S. Main St., Maquoketa, Iowa
Richardson, David J	2031 Powell Ave., Bronx 61, N. V.
Rickett, Wilfred L	25 Thompson St., Manhattan, N. V.
Riker, Jr., George	123 N. Pompton Turnpike, Singac, N. J.
Riney, James F	1022 Keeler St., Bartlesville, Okla.
Ring, John M	125 St. Marks Ave., Brooklyn, N. V.
Riskin, Irving	860 Fairmont Place, N. V. C., N. V.
Ritchie, Paul J	3247 Euclid Ave., Kansas City 3, Mo.
Roach, Leland L	Brownville, Neb.
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Roman, Michael	130-7th St., N. E., New Philadelphia, Ohio
Rosano, Leonard J	72 Warren St., Paterson, N. J.
*Roninger, Louis E	Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.
Rosenbbum, Abraham B.	225 Riverside Dr., N. V. 25, N. V.
Ross, Charlie R	Berryvilbe, Ark.
Rossow, Mervin J	Loyal, Wis.
Roth, Herman F	2055 Bbackrock Ave., Bronx 61, N. V.
Rouse, Patrick J	Melville, La.
Rovics, Irwin A	6233 Northwood, St. Louis 5, Mo.
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Russell, Walter R	207 Broad St., Elizabeth City, N. J.
Ryan, Daniel J	7 Park Ave., Auburn, N. V.
*Ryan, Daniel P	146 Keystone Ave., River Forest, Ill.
Ryan, John B	426 Audubon Ave., Manhattan, N. V.
Rypma, Dwight F	316 N. Euclid Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Salerno, Thomas C	1131-39th St., Brooklyn 18, N. V.
Salustri, Joseph P	2170 Hughes Ave., Bronx 57, N. V.
Sample, Frank B	4 Jewel St., Delmar, Del.
Sanchez, Marsebo	Unknown
Sargeant, Harvey L	Unknown
Satriale, Joseph F	16 Park Ave., Hawthorne, N. J.
*Saunders, Peter W	446 Railroad Ave., South. Amboy, N. J.
Sausvibbe, George	R. F. D. 1, Bennington, Vt.
Savino, Vincent J	1319 Theiriot Ave., Bronx 60, N. V.
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Scacco, Jack F	229 Bay 11th St., Brooklyn, N. V.
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Scott, Clarence L	160 N. 6th St., Lehighon, Pa.
Sebolt, Wayne	Unknown
Sella, Edward W	29 Buschmann Ave., Haledon, Paterson 2, N. J.
Senger, Robert V	497 State St., Albany, N. Y.
Serao, Frank	183 Navy St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Serino, Louis R	247-5th Ave., Paterson, N. J.
Serpas, Vernon B	2618 Carandelet, New Orleans, La.
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Shapiro, George	2120 Cruger Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
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*Shields, James H., Jr	Route 1, Greenwood, Ark.
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Simmons, Remon	Mt. Herman, La.
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Simone, Daniel J	3510-14th Ave., Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
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Sleper, John R	Route 2, Titonka, Iowa
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Smith, Francis R	Box 8, Oakridge, Pa.
Smith, Frank E	McCall, Idaho
Smith, Oliver K	Unknown
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Smith, Wendell M	P. O. Box 85, New Berlin, Pa.
Smith, William W	1 Hilton St., Clifton, N. J.
Smooke, Henry	1461 White Plains Rd., Bronx 60, N. Y.
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Solak, Stanley J	4839 W. Eddy St., Chicago 41, Ill.
Soletzky, Harold	1280 Commonwealth Ave., Bronx 60, N. Y.
Soltisz, Joseph S., Jr	318-2nd Ave., Johnstown, Pa.
Soucy, Antomin	Box 41, Chisholm, Me.
Sox, Philip	1216 Ridge St., Hickory, N. C.
Spears, Ernest J	311 5. Prospect St., Bowling Green, Ohio
Spencer, Murdock F	Unknown

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Specht, Franklin E	36 S. Grove St., East Orange, N. J.
Sprella, Jerry J	590 N. 8th St., Newark, N. J.
Stachowski, Carl J	1001 Heston St., Toledo 7, Ohio
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Standish, Stanley E	62 Geneva St., Struthers, Ohio
Stanionis, Walter J	9 1/2 Worth St., Worcester, Mass.
Stecina, John S	S. Butler St., McAdoo, Pa.
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*Stewart, Donald A	638 Duane St., Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Stemmons, Wilbur F	R. F. D. 1, Box 295, Sand Springs, Okla.
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Stofko, Edward B	419 Power St., Johnstown, Pa.
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St. Pierre, Lawrence J	15 Blossom St., Worcester, Mass.
Strobino, Gaston C	1240 Madison Ave., Paterson 3, N. J.
Suydam, Sr., Lester	Quakertown, N. J.
Sutherland, Edward J	411 E. 39th St., Vancouver, Wash.
Sutton, Lewis M	R. F. D. 3, Muldrow, Okla.
Sweeny, Owen P	c/o John Hancock Ins. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio
Swisher, Lyle E	516 E. Oak St., Glenwood, Minn.
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Szymanski, Daniel S	1231 Avondale Ave., Toledo 7, Ohio
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Thelen, Raymond W	R. F. D. 2, Fowler, Mich.
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Thomas, Parker H	Middlefield St., Chester, Mass.
Thompson, Don H	1529 Picher Ave., Joplin, Mo.
Thompson, Joseph	Campbell Ave., Belford, N. J.
Tibbetts, Leonard V	1281 Prospect Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
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Tierney, Edward G	62 Sterling St., Worcester, Mass.
Tilt, Robert	1145 S. Norton Ave., Los Angeles 6, Cal.
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Tirri, Dominic R	82-2nd Ave., Paterson, N. J.
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Travis, Luallen J	R. D. 2, Platte, S. D.
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Vanderhoven, Robert	235 E. 19th St., Paterson 4, N. J.
Van De Vort, David K.	1020 McClain Ave., Scottsburg, Ind.

Van Hassell, Harold E..	267 De Mott Ave., Clifton, N. J.
Van Tueren, Albert	182 Columbia Ave., Passaic, N. J.
Van Wyck, John A., Jr.	863-13th St., Paterson 4, N. J.
Ventimiglia, Liborio J.	377 Central Ave., Brooklyn 21, N. Y.
Vinviano, Peter	412 Harrison St., Passaic, N. J.
Vrabel, John A	Rear 173 "D" St., Johnstown, Pa.
Wagner, Donald S	67 Graham Ave., Paterson, N. J.
Waksmundski, Joseph J.	16 Quincy St., Passaic, N. J.
Walenduk, Chester V	12 Rosseter St., Dorchester 21, Mass.
Walsch, David J	562 Tennyson Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
Wasas, Joseph	386 Broadway, Passaic, N. J.
Webb, Charles	1343 Dorr St., Toledo 7, Ohio
Weeks, James H	c/o Harry H. Weeks, New Preston, Conn.
Weinberg, Harold	466 Paulison Ave., Passaic, N. J.
Weiss, Mortimer	452 Ft. Washington Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
Wheeler, Clarence E	Bynum, N. C.
Wheeler, Woodrow P	76 Worth Ave., Hudson, N. Y.
Whelan, Robert C	421 Weatherly St., Borger, Texas
*Whitney Donald P	72 Winter St., Portland, Me.
Whitney, Joseph H	Tawas City, Mich.
Wilder, Herbert D	23 Prospect St., Manchester, N. H.
Willette, Lionel	427 Wood Ave., Bridgeport 5, Conn.
Williams, Elwin	Newman Grove, Neb.
Wilson, Paul E	4014 Nebraska, St. Louis, Mo.
Wilson, Randolph	Gen. Del., Haskell, Texas
Winchester, Louis W	Minco, Okla.
Windle, Joseph R	111 E. Cleveland Ave., Newark, Del.
*Wingerter, Emery G	70 Pickney St., Red Bank, N. J.
Winn, Charley M	R. F. D. 4, Bowling Green, Mo.
Wolaver, Horace B	Italy, Texas
Wood, Glen A	232 E. 4th St., Clifton, N. J.
Wortanen, Reine A	(see Anderson)
Wrightson, Edward J	874 Pleasant St., Worcester, Mass.
Wurst, Paul J	86 Highland Ave., Clifton, N. J.
*Yocum, Dr. William S.	738 Broadway, Gary, Ind.
Yoder, Charles W	Route 4, Goshen, Ind.
Young, Perry J	410 N. 25th St., Parsons, Kansas
Yount, Harold	Unknown
Zaloske, Bernard	32 Poplar St., New Milford, Conn.
Ziders, Irwin R	Laughlintown, Pa.
Zulpo, Joseph	Rosati, Mo.

\*Officers



