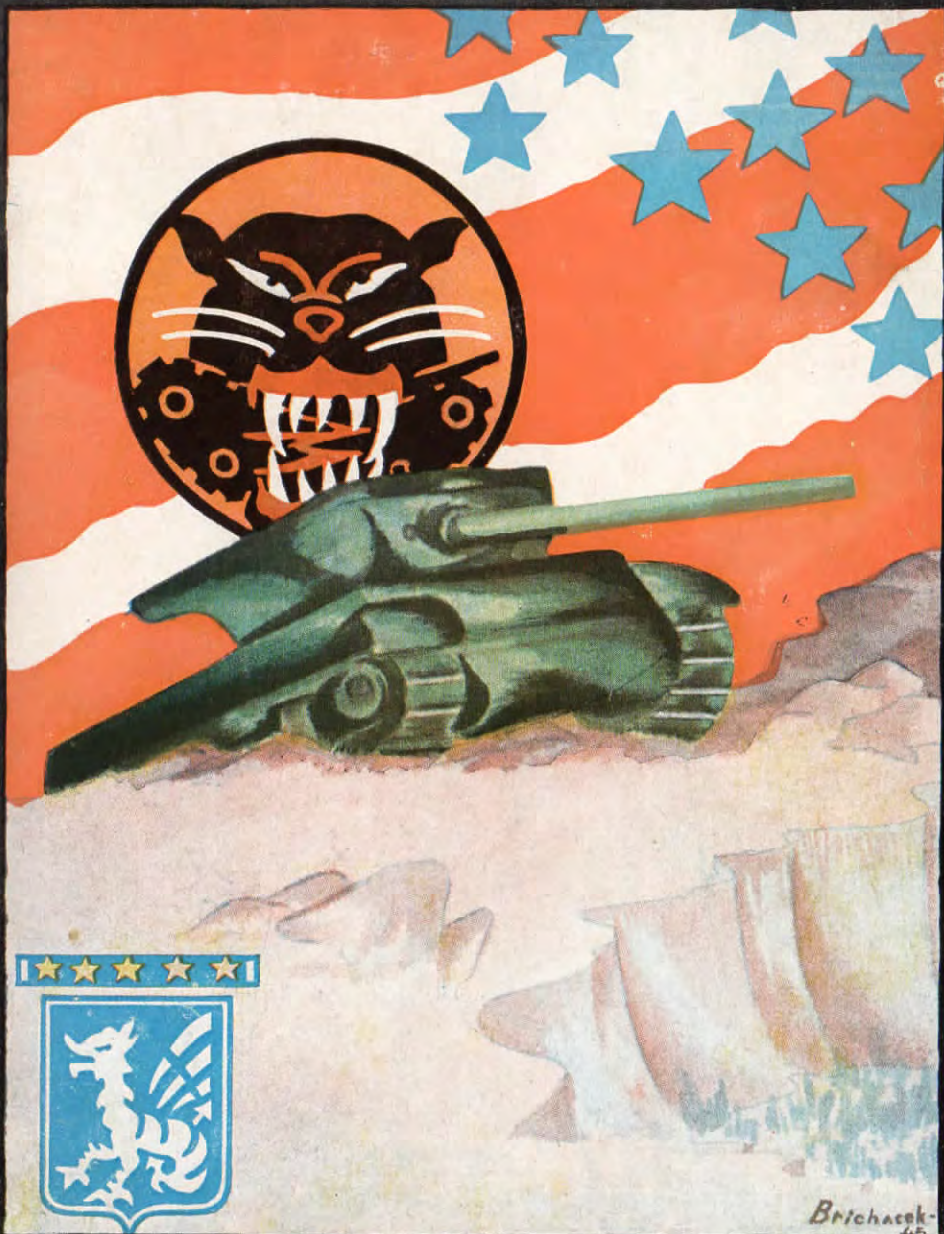


NORMANDY

FRANCE

RHINELAND



ARDENNES

893

GERMANY

THE 893^D TANK
DESTROYER
BATTALION



Lt. Col. HENRY C. KERLIN
C O M M A N D I N G



Officers and Men of the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion

In July 1941, you were, as the 93rd Infantry Antitank Battalion, assigned the mission under Brig. Gen. R. G. Tindall (then Lt. Col.) of experimenting with and evolving a table of organization, weapons, tactics and technique for a new type of unit to be used specifically for meeting and destroying enemy armor. You met this challenge with enthusiasm and aggressive action. You demonstrated the worth of your efforts so conclusively in the 1941 North Carolina maneuvers that on December 15, 1941, the first Tank Destroyer Battalions were designated as a permanent part of the U.S. Army. You had developed the most versatile striking force ever to enter combat.

You were assigned the mission of imparting your knowledge to newly activated Tank Destroyer units at Camp Hood, Texas. This you did by contributing many officers and hundreds of experienced enlisted men to these new units, and by your brilliant performance as the first Tank Destroyer School and Demonstration Troops.

In December 1942, you started training with combat as your mission. The story of your magnificent performance against the enemy is told in the pages of this book.

Your accomplishments stand out in the annals of the U. S. War Department as a bright and shining contribution to our Victory; a tribute to each of you and a goal for the future members of the 893d T. D. Bn. and for all future members of armored units to strive for.

HENRY C. KERLIN
Lt. Col. 893d T. D. Bn.
Commanding



EXPLANATION OF THE CREST

On June 5, 1940, the 34th Infantry Regiment of the 8th Division was inactivated. From the 2nd Battalion of the 34th Infantry Regiment, the 93rd Infantry Antitank Battalion was formed. In 1941, the 93rd Infantry Antitank Battalion was assigned the duty of experimenting and developing tactics of Tank Destroyers and so became the War Department Experimental Tank Destroyer Battalion, as such, but without changes in official designation. It participated in North Carolina maneuvers in 1941. On December 15, 1941, the 93rd Infantry Antitank Battalion became the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The blue background in the crest stands for the infantry unit which formed the new Battalion. The Wyvern is a legendary French animal. It's light armor, tough claws, fiery tongue and spiked tail represent the idea of aggressive power — power delivered from the front and rear. The wings symbolize speed. These characteristics typify the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Let's

We

Don't Forget

KILLED IN ACTION

RANK	NAME	DATE	PLACE
Pvt.	Almeda, Edward R.	27 Jul 44	France
Pfc.	Blatnick, Anthony	9 Apr 45	Germany
Cpl.	Bauer, Raymond J.	6 Nov 44	Germany
Tec 4	Bell, Jay	10 Mar 45	Germany
Pfc.	Bogan, John E.	31 Jan 45	Germany
Cpl.	Brown, Robert R.	1 Sep 44	France
Pfc.	Bunga, John	18 Jul 44	France
Tec 5	Byers, Lewis D.	16 Sep 44	Germany
Cpl.	Cable, Elmer H.	1 Sep 44	France
Sgt.	Campbell, Paul A.	19 Sep 44	Germany
Pfc.	Cannizzo, Charles	9 Apr 45	Germany
Tec 5	Canon, Herbert T.	5 Nov 44	Germany
Pvt.	Carduff, Joseph J.	2 Sep 44	Germany
Pfc.	Clark, Alonzo L.	9 Apr 45	Germany
Tec 5	Cody, William J.	7 Nov 44	Germany
Sgt.	Daniels, John J.	10 Sep 44	Belgium
Pvt.	Dibert, William F.	8 Apr 45	Germany
Pvt.	Dinkins, Sherman T.	7 Nov 44	Germany
1st Lt.	Ellis, William J.	6 Apr 45	Germany
Sgt.	Graham, Cecil H.	24 Sep 44	Germany
Pfc.	Greenwood, Edward H.	5 Feb 45	Germany
Pfc.	Gustafson, Elmer W.	3 Feb 45	Germany
S/Sgt.	Harden, Ira I.	5 Nov 44	Germany
Sgt.	Hardin, Morris D.	30 Jan 45	Germany
Pvt.	Henard, Joe F.	7 Nov 44	Germany
Sgt.	Hughes, Clarence P.	29 Aug 44	France
Cpl.	Jennings, Archie L.	30 Jan 45	Germany
Cpl.	Kietzman, Frederick W.	12 Dec 44	Germany
Sgt.	Kudlock, Joseph Jr.	28 Aug 44	France
Tec 5	Lee, Arnold G.	7 Nov 44	Germany
1st Lt.	McElory, Goodwin W.	5 Nov 44	Germany
Pvt.	Morris, Charles L.	14 Aug 44	France
Pvt.	Milcarek, Joseph	28 Jul 44	France
Tec 5	Romeo, Joseph T.	28 Jul 44	France

Let's We Forget

RANK	NAME	DATE	PLACE
Pvt.	Ruger, Jack	13 Aug 44	France
Pfc.	Ruiz, Theodore K.	17 Sep 44	Germany
Cpl.	Scroggins, John P.	27 Jul 44	France
Sgt.	Sicenavage, Edward	15 Dec 44	Germany
S/Sgt.	Strohl, Raymond E.	28 Aug 44	France
Sgt.	Thomas, Charles W.	10 Aug 44	France
Tec 5	Tougas, Joseph E.	17 Aug 44	France
1st Lt.	Walker, Clyde M.	13 Aug 44	France
Pfc.	Wallrauch, Edward G.	10 Mar 45	Germany
Pvt.	Williams, Raymond	7 Nov 44	Germany

ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Pfc.	Combs, Willie	11 May 45	Germany
S/Sgt.	Stakes, Lloyd	30 May 45	Germany

MISSING IN ACTION

Cpl.	Kratt, Richard I.	7 Nov 44	Germany
1st Lt.	Leonard, Turney W.	7 Nov 44	Germany
Tec 5	Paulson, Paul S.	7 Nov 44	Germany

893^D ROLL OF HONOR

The following is a list of Honors won and damage inflicted on the enemy by six-hundred-forty of the world's finest soldiers, the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion, during nine and one half months of continuous contact with the enemy.

Congressional Medal of Honor	1
Croix De Guerre (French)	2
Silver Stars	29
Bronze Stars	186
(Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star)	16
Air Medal	2
(Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal)	2
Purple Heart	280
(Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart)	36
Medical Badges	31
Certificate of Merit	39

Damage inflicted on the enemy:

3 — Mark III Tanks Destroyed	12 — Half-Track, personnel carriers destroyed
22 — Mark IV Tanks Destroyed	53 — General purpose vehicles destroyed
18 — Mark V Tanks Destroyed	76 — Machine Guns nests destroyed
12 — Mark VI Tanks Destroyed	53 — Fortified houses destroyed
32 — Towed AT guns Destroyed	214 — Strongpoints neutralized
59 — Pillboxes neutralized	1 — ME 109 Airplane shot down
10 — Mortar positions wiped out	42 — Roadblocks knocked out.
6 — Observation posts destroyed	5 — Supply dumps captured
21 — AA guns Destroyed	3 — Fuel dumps burned
4 — Ammunition trucks destroyed	1 — Locomotive destroyed
16 — Artillery pieces knocked out	4 — Motorcycles destroyed
10 — Bunkers destroyed	3 — Infantry howitzers captured and destroyed
2 — 380 MM Rocket guns destroyed	2872 — Enlisted men captured
28 — SP Guns Destroyed	2202 — Enlisted men known killed
55 — Officers captured	
9 — Officers known killed	

Commendations:

Order of Day	4th Inf Div	17 Sep 1944
Commendation	22d Inf Regt	7 Oct 1944
Commendation	12th Inf Regt	19 Oct 1944
Commendation	28th Inf Div	19 Nov 1944
Commendation	8th Inf Div	11 Dec 1944
Commendation	78th Inf Div	19 Mar 1945
Commendation	XVIII Airborne Corps	17 Apr 1945
Commendation	78th Inf Div	20 Apr 1945
Commendation	III Corps	26 May 1945

Distinguished Unit Citations:

3d Platoon, 1st Section 1st Platoon, Co. "A", and 1st Section 1st Platoon, Reconnaissance Company.
Company "C", 3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Co., and attached Medical Personnel.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

1st Lt. Turney W. Leonard

CROIX DE GUERRE

S/Sgt. Danforth H. Webster

AIR MEDAL

1st Lt. Bryant E. Campbell (2 Clusters)

1st Lt. William J. Ellis

SILVER STAR

2nd Lt. Patrick R. McMahon	Cpl. Chester Winchowski
1st Lt. Clyde M. Walker	Capt. Sidney C. Cole
Sgt. Charles W. Thomas	Cpl. Leo H. Grill
Sgt. Richard H. Chirdon	S/Sgt. Marshall F. Pritts
Tec 5 Donald L. Harris	1st Lt. Donald F. Cameron
Corp Edward J. Ponganis	Tec 4 Joseph Homza
2nd Lt. Christopher P. Caputo	Cpl. Pete Maneno
1st Lt. Jack W. Fuller	Pfc. Harry W. Ekstrom
1st Lt. Paul A. Broome	Pvt. Rupert W. Dawson
Pfc. Dave A. J. Mayberry	Pfc. Frank R. Comfort
Tec 5 Stanley E. Pawlak	2nd Lt. William E. Copley
1st Lt. Robert H. Wolken	Sgt. Ray C. Faulx
Pfc. James W. Rinehart	Sgt. Edward Sienavage
1st Lt. Curtis M. Edmund	Pvt. James S. Hadnagy
	S/Sgt. George M. Shaffer

BRONZE STAR

Sgt. Steve Sytar (Cluster)	S/Sgt. Garland B. Cook
Tec 4 John F. Kerstan	Sgt. Delbert A. Amig
1st Sgt. Guy T. Hodge	Pvt. Wilburn Martin
Tec 4 Max Wertheimer	Pfc. Edward G. Power
Sgt. Tony Tassone	1st Lt. William J. Ellis (Cluster)
Pvt. Frank Zimecki	Sgt. Imrich M. Sarabok (Cluster)
Pvt. John Shaute	Sgt. Sylvester Szymkowiak
Pvt. Robert A. Burgess (Cluster)	Tec 5 James A. Miller
Pfc. Steve Bea	S/Sgt. Raymond E. Strohl
S/Sgt. Franklin G. Reindollar, Jr.	Capt. Samuel W. Shibler
1st Lt. August D. Corsalini	2nd Lt. Benjamin H. Lassiter
2nd Lt. Lawrence C. Cross	Pfc. Edward H. Greenwood
2nd Lt. Louis J. Izzo	Cpl. Raymond J. Bauer
Sgt. Charles Protenic	Sgt. Patrick R. McMahon
Sgt. Mike Blazeovich	1st Lt. Donald E. Ellison
Sgt. Nicholas Petock (Cluster)	Sgt. Wade H. Pugh
1st Lt. Jack W. Fuller (Cluster)	Cpl. Donald McGill
Pfc. Jesse D. Silcott	Tec 5 Torrence L. Freeman
Tec 4 Edward F. Oleyn	Capt. John B. Cook
Pfc. Charles P. Miller (Cluster)	Tec 4 Donald H. Davies (Cluster)
Pfc. Jack Bassin	Cpl. Charles O. Foote
Tec 5 Paul J. Jancovic	Sgt. Alton J. Harrell (Cluster)
Pfc. Earl A. Brisley	1st Lt. Goodwin W. McElroy
Sgt. Melvin R. Austin (Cluster)	Tec 3 John Hornyak, Jr.
Cpl. Ralph D. Dell Erba	Cpl. Harry W. Graham
Tec 5 Herman B. Nail	Pvt. Stanley E. Sawyer
Pvt. Loyd T. Derrick	1st Lt. Thomas A. Cookingham
Pvt. Thomas W. McLemore	S/Sgt. Herbert C. Donavant
Pvt. Otto T. Albrecht	Tec 4 V. J. Lybrand
Pvt. John L. Marcus	Tec 4 Dewey Scott
Pfc. William G. King	Tec 4 Robert E. Stone
Tec 4 John A. Timko (Cluster)	Tec 5 Max W. Crawley
Cpl. Ben E. Whalen	Tec 5 Wayne C. Sheldon
Tec 4 Thomas W. Griffith	Pfc. Anthony C. Picarello
Pvt. William M. Blazier	Cpl. Bruno H. Aglietti
Pfc. Burton W. Merklinger, Jr.	Tec 5 William L. Brennan
Pvt. John Bandol	Sgt. Harry M. Bly
Pfc. Harry J. Szopiel	Sgt. John J. Daniels
Sgt. Clarence P. Hughes	2nd Lt. Arlie W. Wilson (Cluster)
1st Lt. Curtis M. Edmund	Sgt. Sledon W. Harris
Cpl. Rex E. Corsbie	Sgt. Antone Rose
Pvt. John Joyce	Tec 5 Joseph E. Butler

Pfc. Arthur S. Malone
 Pvt. Carl E. Sackett
 Pvt. William E. Stockton
 Pvt. Kenneth L. Tawyea
 Pvt. Clark L. West
 Pvt. Chester Winchowski
 Tec 5 Robert T. Osborne
 Capt. Eugene H. Perry (Cluster)
 S/Sgt. Leo V. Amilkavich
 S/Sgt. Cecil H. Graham
 1st Lt. Howard C. Davis
 Tec 5 Francis Sutton
 Lt. Col. Samuel E. Mays
 Pfc. Vernon L. Heiter (Cluster)
 Sgt. Morris D. Hardin
 Tec 4 John F. Mueller
 Capt. Marion C. Pugh (Cluster)
 Major Henry C. Kerlin
 Sgt. Jess W. Ullery
 Sgt. Henry J. Jagoda
 S/Sgt. Velmar R. Alexander
 T/Sgt. Alfred R. McCue
 1st Lt. Paul A. Broome
 Sgt. Edward G. Masi
 Pvt. Sam E. Gilbert
 Sgt. Joseph S. Bubel
 Major John J. Lavin
 Capt. William P. Hunter
 2nd Lt. William E. Copley
 Sgt. Levin Adkins
 Tec 4 Clarence J. Beck
 Cpl. William G. Cottingham
 Pfc. Phillip H. Margules
 S/Sgt. Elwood M. Kristianson
 Sgt. William F. Shaffer
 Tec 4 Dominick D. Gregory
 T/Sgt. Albert E. Joern
 Sgt. John D. Haas
 Pfc. James N. Collins, Jr.
 Cpl. George E. Sylvester
 Tec 4 George H. Warfel
 S/Sgt. Hammet E. Murphy
 Cpl. Nicholas Lemme

Sgt. Sidney Smith
 1st Sgt. Steve Pyrch
 Pfc. Ambrose Racaniello
 Sgt. Joseph Yencha
 S/Sgt. Raymond L. Sherwood
 Tec 5 Raymond C. Scheppman
 Sgt. Walter Clifford, Jr.
 Sgt. Bernard Zukowski
 Sgt. Andrew T. Ridgely
 T/Sgt. Wasyl C. Homa
 CWO Harry Sinclair
 1st Sgt. Charles W. Dean
 M/Sgt. Clayton C. Brown
 Sgt. John F. Snow
 S/Sgt. Albert Hall
 Tec 5 Paul R. Bethe
 Sgt. Lloyd P. Garner
 Sgt. Robert M. Bowen
 S/Sgt. William B. Gardner
 Sgt. Alex Vargo, Jr.
 Tec 4 John L. Cornell, Jr.
 Sgt. George T. Sasse
 Cpl. William P. Kannel
 S/Sgt. Albert Markunas
 Tec 4 Robert E. Palmer
 Sgt. William Brewster
 Pfc. Charles E. Ritenour
 Sgt. Robert B. Florer
 Tec 5 Lanta H. Boyles
 Capt. Sidney C. Cole
 Cpl. Neil J. Hallinan
 Sgt. Floyd E. Phelps
 2nd Lt. George G. Griffith
 Sgt. James C. Smith
 Sgt. William D. Roberts
 Cpl. Rufus Hudson
 Cpl. Gerald G. Johnson
 Sgt. Jacob C. Huffman
 T/Sgt. August W. Zudar
 Cpl. William H. Davis
 Sgt. Homer E. Kelley
 Tec 5 Joseph W. Wodzack
 T/Sgt. Samuel Nathenson

Tec 4 John H. Waiter
 M/Sgt. Frank G. Waugh
 Sgt. Herbert D. Ingram
 S/Sgt. Lloyd Stakes
 Capt. Emil J. Bernard
 S/Sgt. James W. Rinehart
 Tec 4 Bernard L. Ditchey

S/Sgt. William Cunningham
 Sgt. Joseph F. Burns
 Cpl. Audray A. Deetz
 Cpl. Frederick E. Swalby
 Pfc. Kenneth Gillis
 1st Lt. Daniel Cohen
 1st Lt. Edward A. Ruppel

PURPLE HEART

T/Sgt. Wasyl C. Homa
 2nd Lt. Leonard J. Allen
 Capt. Marion C. Pugh (Cluster)
 2nd Lt. Louis J. Izzo
 Sgt. Richard H. Chirdon
 Pfc. Vernon L. Heiter (2 Clusters)
 Sgt. Charles A. Prantis (2 Clusters)
 Pfc. Woodrow Fugate
 Sgt. Stephen M. Comarnitsky
 S/Sgt. John A. Bednarczyk (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. Daniel Hoell
 Tec 4 John A. Timko
 2nd Lt. Paul A. Broome (1 Cluster)
 Tec 5 Morris D. Hardin (1 Cluster)
 Cpl. Derald Zipf (1 Cluster)
 Sgt. Charles H. Cooper
 Tec 5 John L. Cornell
 1st Lt. Robert H. Wolken
 Tec 4 Clarence J. Beck
 Pfc. Robert G. Adams
 Pfc. William G. Cottingham
 Tec 4 Frank E. Burock
 Sgt. William D. Roberts
 Pfc. Thaddeus A. Aleshire
 Pvt. Ziggy Barczak
 S/Sgt. Mike Blazeovich
 Sgt. William E. Bristow
 Sgt. Junior R. Christie (1 Cluster)
 Pfc. John D. Gaines (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. Everett N. Jones
 Tec 4 Arthur L. Klein
 Pvt. Delbert E. Medford (1 Cluster)
 Tec 5 George Merichko

Sgt. Charles J. Metsopulos
 Tec 4 Herman B. Nail
 Pfc. Clarence Peck
 Cpl. Edward J. Ponganis
 Pvt. Charles F. Schmitz
 Pvt. Edward Spaleny
 Pfc. Linvil R. Ware
 Pvt. Thomas E. Bandelin
 Cpl. Charles R. Carlson
 2nd Lt. William E. Copley (1 Cluster)
 Tec 4 William J. Ewing
 Tec 4 Joseph Homza (1 Cluster)
 Cpl. George E. Kenney (1 Cluster)
 Cpl. Marion Kuchna
 Tec 5 Albert Miller
 Pfc. Chow W. Quong
 Pfc. Thomas J. Stelma
 Sgt. Jess W. Ullery
 S/Sgt. Joe Dasovich
 Tec 5 Paul S. Paulson
 Sgt. Nicholas J. Dinninni
 Pfc. Eron F. Steward
 Pfc. Wilson O. Hamilton
 Tec 4 Arthur P. Radwanski
 Pvt. Albert C. Burns
 Sgt. Joseph G. Dragan
 Sgt. Ray C. Faulx
 Pfc. Richard C. Kesner
 Tec 5 George Barker
 Sgt. John F. Snow (Cluster)
 Pvt. William D. O'Neill
 S/Sgt. Melvin R. Austin
 Tec 5 Claude W. Pinckney (1 Cluster)

Pvt. Luther F. Kramer
 Tec 5 Porter M. Rodgers, Jr.
 Pfc. Joseph R. Rappoccio (1 Cluster)
 Pfc. Kenneth Gillis
 Tec 5 Gene E. Copeland
 Sgt. Fred J. Schiffbauer
 Tec 5 Paul A. Hatcher
 Sgt. Ralph D. Dell'Erba (1 Cluster)
 Cpl. James C. Stewart
 Pfc. William O. Pierce
 1st Lt. Donald F. Cameron
 Pfc. James R. Lee
 Sgt. Levin E. Adkins
 Pvt. Michael Oliveri
 Pfc. Ernest Riker
 Capt. Eugene Perry
 Pfc. Richard J. Burch
 Pvt. Salomon Cohn
 Pvt. Denvil B. Johnson
 2nd Lt. Lawrence H. Kahn
 Tec 4 V. J. Lybrand
 Cpl. Michael Melnick
 Cpl. Julius Merker (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. Julius F. Mione
 Pfc. Cermello Orrichio
 Cpl. Morris Redler
 Tec 4 James R. Sellers (Cluster)
 Pvt. William E. Stockton
 Pvt. Lawrence J. Yatta
 2nd Lt. Warren E. Clark
 Pfc. George E. Davis
 Pfc. Delmar Hall (1 Cluster)
 Cpl. Donald L. Keehn
 Pvt. Stanley C. Konopka
 Pfc. Trask R. Lyons
 Cpl. Milliard A. Paulison
 Sgt. Harry M. Sibrel
 Sgt. Sylvester Syzmkowiak (1 Cluster)
 2nd Lt. Arlie W. Wilson
 Pvt. Sam E. Gilbert
 Pfc. Herman Scull
 Pvt. James W. Stewart
 Tec 5 Robert T. Osborne (1 Cluster)

Tec 4 Stewart Jacobs
 Pfc. Bruno H. Aglietti
 1st Lt. Curtis M. Edmund
 Pfc. Arnold Strelitz
 1st Lt. Donald E. Ellison
 Pfc. Otto T. Albrecht
 Pfc. Peter Rusnok
 Cpl. Ben E. Whalen
 Pfc. Elba E. Savage
 2nd Lt. Horace L. Smith
 Pfc. Francis Sutton
 Cpl. Homer E. Kelley
 Pvt. Adam E. Gregory
 S/Sgt. Louie M. Adams
 2nd Lt. Alex C. Kazmierski
 S/Sgt. Garland B. Cook (2 Cluster)
 Pvt. Joe F. Henard (1 Cluster)
 Pfc. Arvel Godby
 Sgt. Jacob C. Huffman
 Cpl. William D. O'Conner
 Tec 5 Raymond H. Worts
 Pvt. Otha L. Messer, Jr.
 Sgt. Edward G. Masi (1 Cluster)
 Pfc. Jesse D. Silcott (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. John H. Remick
 Sgt. Charles Protenic (1 Cluster)
 Pfc. Earl F. Kessler
 Pfc. Willard F. Kohler (1 Cluster)
 1st Lt. Turney W. Leonard
 Cpl. Henry J. Jagoda
 Sgt. Leo H. Grill
 Pvt. Joseph M. Bellini
 1st Lt. Jack W. Fuller (1 Cluster)
 Tec 5 Robert Dawson
 Sgt. Carl J. Smith (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. Woodrow A. Biddinger
 Cpl. George C. Cummins
 Pvt. Pietro P. Favato
 Sgt. James W. Rinehart
 Cpl. Gerald J. Miller
 Pvt. Robert G. Brown
 S/Sgt. Lloyd Stakes
 Lt. Col. Samuel E. Mays

Major John J. Lavin
 2nd Lt. Leonard R. Burgess
 Cpl. William F. Shaffer
 Tec 5 Herman C. Rogers
 Tec 5 Joseph Reilly
 Cpl. David R. Bowser
 Pfc. James A. Blackburn (2 Cluster)
 Pvt. James C. Stevenson
 1st Lt. Edward A. Ruppel
 Pvt. Bob Askins
 Cpl. John A. Suchanek
 Pfc. Delmar Hall
 Sgt. John O. Haas
 Pvt. John Sable
 Cpl. Mike Haschak
 Tec 5 Waltzia A. Green
 Pvt. Roy A. Guthrie
 Tec 4 Robert J. Batts
 Sgt. Joseph Suhy
 Pvt. Harold M. Itnyre
 Sgt. Joseph S. Bubel
 Tec 5 George R. Metzger
 Tec 5 Joseph M. Bando
 Sgt. John R. Vitchock
 Pvt. Maurice W. Guinn
 Cpl. Mort M. Estep
 Sgt. James C. Smith
 Pfc. Alvin E. Kincaid
 1st Lt. John S. Jarvis
 S/Sgt. Roy H. Gunter
 Tec 4 George E. Miller
 Pvt. Nicholas Lemme
 Tec 4 Donald H. Davies
 Pfc. Cecil C. Wagner
 Sgt. Carl J. Smith
 2nd Lt. Imrich M. Sarabok
 Pfc. Harvey A. Mills
 Sgt. Melvin S. Minter
 Pvt. Raiford L. Langford
 S/Sgt. Danforth H. Webster
 Tec 4 Robert E. Palmer
 Pfc. Henry C. Amend
 Pvt. Bryon E. Blakely

Pfc. Charles W. Burgess
 Sgt. John H. Cooper (1 Cluster)
 S/Sgt. Omer H. Dinsmore
 T/Sgt. Melvin E. Storm
 Pvt. Alfred L. Willis
 Pvt. Aubrey J. Blackwell
 Pvt. John E. Bogan (1 Cluster)
 Sgt. William L. Brown
 Pvt. William W. Carter
 Pfc. Jesus E. Contreras
 Cpl. Wendelin Dreher
 Sgt. John L. Filko
 Pvt. Lloyd F. Hancock
 Cpl. Mike Haschak (1 Cluster)
 Pvt. Raymond L. Inman
 Pvt. Lewis J. Krebs
 Tec 5 Andrew C. Loffelholz
 Pvt. Phillip H. Margules
 Pfc. Vernon B. Meyers
 Tec 5 Stanley E. Pawlak
 Pvt. Stanley E. Sawyer (1 Cluster)
 Tec 5 Richard Steinmetz
 Sgt. Alex Vargo
 Pvt. Bruce E. Wright
 Cpl. Rex E. Corsbie
 Tec 4 Lawrence Hector
 Tec 4 Charles W. Hirst
 Pvt. Vincent J. Kratovich
 Pfc. Arthur S. Malone
 Sgt. Antone Rose
 Pvt. Derald Whittenberger
 Pvt. Harold Barringer
 Pfc. Bernard G. Borris
 Pvt. Homer C. Dillon
 Pfc. James N. Honeycutt
 Pfc. Edward G. Power
 Sgt. Tony Tassone
 Pvt. Arthur C. Bell
 Sgt. Harry M. Bly
 Pfc. Robert J. Brichacek
 1st Lt. Christopher P. Caputo
 Pvt. Elzie Centers
 Pvt. Curtis Coyle

Pvt. Harry R. Dowdell
Pfc. Paul E. Gard
Pfc. Edward H. Greenwood (1 Cluster)
Sgt. Alton J. Harrell
Pvt. Guy T. Hodge
Cpl. Alfred C. Ingagliato
Sgt. Michael Kekalos
Pfc. Bernard I. Keyser
Cpl. Nicholas Lemme (2 Clusters)

Pvt. Vincent J. Loscoe
Pfc. Burton N. Merklinger, Jr.
Tec 5 McKinley R. Moore
Pvt. Harold D. Prescott
Tec 5 Charles H. Reitz
Pvt. James H. Williams
Pvt. Avalo R. Grimm
Pvt. John Joyce
Tec 5 Robert C. Lunn

BATTALION STAFF

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. Henry C. Kerlin

*

Executive Officer
Major John J. Lavin

*

Operations Officer
Major William E. Nash

*

Adjutant
Capt. Emil J. Bernard

*

Intelligence Officer
Capt. Sidney C. Cole

*

Supply Officer
Capt. William P. Hunter

*

Medical Officer
Capt. Samuel W. Shibler

*

HISTORY OF THE 893^D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

I. EARLY HISTORY

The history of the 893d T. D. Bn. actually began in 1916, with the activation of the 34th Inf. Regt. on the Mexican border. From there it went to France and participated actively in World War I. Upon return to the States it was stationed at Ft. Eustis, Virginia. After a short stay at this post it was transferred to Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland, where it remained for seventeen years.

On June 5, 1940, the 34th Inf. Regt. of the 8th Division was inactivated at Ft. Benning, Georgia. From the 2nd Battalion of the 34th Inf. Regt. the 93rd Inf. Antitank Battalion was formed. In July 1941, under the command of Lt. Col. Richard G. Tindall (now Brigadier-General), the 93rd Inf. Antitank Battalion was assigned the duty of developing Tank Destroyer doctrine, tactics, techniques and weapons, becoming, in effect, the first Tank Destroyer Battalion. It was a provisional T. D. Bn. and for this purpose, used "C" Co. of the 70th Tank Battalion for the Reconnaissance Company. In this form it participated in the 1941 Carolina Maneuvers as a means of proving the doctrine, tactics and technique developed up to this time. The maneuver was a success and on December 15, 1941, at Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland, the 93rd Inf. Antitank Battalion was redesignated the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion. Due to diligent and brilliant thinking and performance of officers and enlisted personnel of this battalion, Tank Destroyers had now become a recognized part of the Army. This new type of unit was later to prove itself the most versatile and aggressive striking force on the battle fields of the world.

The 893d T. D. Bn. was the first unit to arrive at Camp Hood, Texas, the new Tank Destroyer Center. There it became the

first Tank Destroyer School Troops and contributed several hundreds of experienced officers and enlisted men to the newly organized T.D. training organizations. Three of these officers became generals.

Early in 1943 the Battalion moved to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. It participated brilliantly in the 1943 Louisiana Maneuvers and departed in December 1943 for England.

II. ENGLAND

On January 18, 1944, the 893d T. D. Bn. arrived at Liverpool, in a drizzling rain. The men, for the first time, saw bomb damage. The unit moved, on peculiar little English trains, to the village of Chudleigh in Devon. There the men were introduced to living in billets, mild and bitter beer, a miserable cold climate and many other innovations. In late March the Battalion moved to Bridport in Dorset, a south coast town. Here it went into hard training for the final test; entry into combat with the 2nd Infantry Division on July 3, 1944.

III. NORMANDY

It was the night of July 1, 1944 — D plus 25. Troopships heavily laden with vehicles and men wallowed at anchor off Omaha Beach. Many other ships were moored to the long jetties which broke the surf — tugs, freighters and specialized landing craft. Still other ships, like the sunken LST with its bow still above the water, old worthless hulks that had been mighty vessels, then lay aground, shattered by shells and storm. Some of the smaller ones lay high and dry amidst the mass of destruction on Omaha Beach, near the small French town of St. Laurent-Sur-Mer.

Occasional air-raids kept AA gunners on the ships alert. All units were ferried to shore on Rhino Barges and were guided off the beach through Trevieres to the bivouac near Cerisy la Foret.

Everybody dug in. CP's were dug in, slit trenches dug, and everything camouflaged. Suddenly there was a series of violent

detonations in the fields next to us. Almost everyone ran for his hole until someone called attention to what it really was — outgoing shells. The 893 T. D. Bn., commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel E. Mays, had embarked on its supreme test — actual combat.

The 893d was assigned to 1st U.S. Army, attached to V Corps and attached to the 2nd Infantry Division for operations.

Company "B" was in reserve near the huge Foret de Cerisy, while Company "C" was in direct fire positions near the Battalion C. P. at Cerisy la Foret. Meanwhile, Company "A" became busy on an indirect fire mission in positions near Litteau.

On July 11 at 0540 in the morning, the attack of the 2nd Infantry Division against the German 3rd Paratroop Division which was dug in on Hill 192, began. This hill dominated the entire battle area in the Division sector and was the "key" to St. Lo. For three hours steadily the ground shook as American artillery laid down their terrific barrage. The barrels of Company "A" guns became discolored with the heat of continuous firing. Company "C" displaced forward to take positions in direct fire near Cloville, in support of the 38th Inf. Before night, Hill 192 was ours.

During this time the High Command was developing plans for Operation Cobra which resulted in the great Break-through.

In accordance with the big plan, the 2nd Division planned a double envelopment. The 9th Regiment and the 38th were to drive to objectives about 2500 yards to the south and join there. The 23rd was to clean out the resulting pocket. Company "A" remained with the 9th Regiment, Company "C" with the 38th, and Company "B" was still in indirect fire.

The German artillery had zeroed in on all the main roads, which had to be used in the advance, as the hedgerows prevented advancing across the fields. Hence, the German defense was tied up closely with the hedgerows. In order to nullify this, hedgerow cutters were attached to the tanks and TD's, cutters which would enable our armor to advance cross-country and to spoil the German defenses.

Exact routes through the hedges to be followed by the armor were worked out on 1:10,000 scale Assault Maps.

Finally, on July 25th, everything was ready. A vast armada of 3000 planes roared over all morning. One could feel the earth tremble with the bomb-blasts. Dive, medium and heavy bombardment aviation all played a part.

On the morning of the 26th, V Corps jumped off, the 2nd Division advancing. Tanks, then TD's plunged forward, paving the way for the infantry. Company "A" with the 9th Regiment moved forward rapidly to the South, but the other pincer, where Company "C" was working with the 38th, made slow headway. The contents of the intended pocket escaped.

On the night of the 27th, a lone German plane zoomed directly over a "C" Co. gun and dropped an incendiary bomb down the turret. Nine men underneath the destroyer escaped, but T/5 Romeo and T/5 Milcarek inside the turret, were killed. P.F.C. McMahon tried to get inside the destroyer to rescue them, but the smoke, intense heat, and then the exploding ammunition made it useless.

The following day, Company "C" scored when the 1st and 2nd platoon fired at targets at St. Armand outside of St. Jean des Baissants. Sgt. Prantis of the 2nd Platoon knocked down a church steeple which was being used by the enemy as an OP. It was later discovered that the same destroyer crew had knocked out a SP 75 gun at the base of the church. Two German observers were killed.

Finally, Company "A", with the 9th Inf., went down the steep hill to the Vire River, and waited under withering shelling while the engineers built a bridge across the river. Later, the other companies went across with the infantry.

A little way outside of Vire at a road intersection, Lt. Izzo with the 1st Platoon of Company "C", was on the left flank of the First Army. The only thing in front of it was one forward observer with a telephone and a rifleman. At dusk, three tanks were heard coming down the road. Lt. Izzo motioned to Sgt. Vitchock who came up with a bazooka, and they moved quietly

up to the side of the road to knock out the lead tank, when they suddenly heard a British voice say, "They should be at Vire!" That was the first contact with the British. The tanks were three Cromwells of the British 11th Armored Division.

The British were reported to have cleared Vire. Lt. Corsalini, of the 1st Recon Platoon with Company "A" took a patrol in to check on this and found a British Captain who was doing the same thing. German small arms fire chased them out. This unreliability of second hand reports was one of the first things that reconnaissance personnel really learned in combat.

On August 3rd, we entered the pile of rubble that was Vire. It had been bombed and shelled continuously for 48 hours before being entered.

Through a series of French towns we continued to fight and to liberate.

August 13th brought bad luck for Company "A". In Company "A"'s sector, near Truttmer Le Grand, Lt. Walker's 1st Platoon took over a tank mission; laying direct fire on an enemy strong point in the next hedgerow. Due to heavy shellfire falling in that area, Lt. Walker pulled a pair of wounded infantrymen into his destroyer via the escape hatch. Later, Lt. Walker was standing in the turret observing the fire of his guns, when an enemy sniper killed him. He was the first 893d officer killed.

Elements of the 2nd Rcn. Plt. with Company "B" of the 893d T.D. Bn. seized Tinchebray. Shortly thereafter Reconnaissance Company posted guides, and provided advance and rear guards for the long 90 mile night march on August 18th to Medavy, where the Battalion was attached to the 80th and 90th Divisions. Enemy planes flew over the moving column, occasionally dropping flares. The march was blackout all the way. Togas of Company "C" was killed when an M-10 hit a house.

The mission of V Corps with the 80th and 90th Divisions was jointly with the Canadians, Poles and British, to close the Falaise pocket, containing large elements of the German Seventh Army, and to capture Argentan. Company "A" with the 80th Division was to take Argentan, while Company "B" was to assist in this

attack, providing depth. "C" Co., guided into position by General Gerow himself, was assigned to support the 90th Division. Lt. Col. Herold, CO of the 610th and formerly CO of Company "B", 893d, was killed by shellfire during this operation. While the gun companies were generally in position along a high ridge where they could observe the efforts of the German Seventh Army to escape through Chambois, this Army was practically destroyed by direct and indirect fire weapons.

On August 21st, the 1st Recon Platoon with Company "A", sent two vehicles out to find a route to move destroyers into Argentan, which the infantry had reported clear. One jeep went into Argentan and found the report was not correct. Only by quick thinking and fast shooting did the crew (Kessler, Centers, Sgt. Silcott and Branham) escape with only minor injuries. They were obliged to leave the 1/4 ton with radio intact in enemy hands. Lt. Corsalini with Sgt. Sarabok and Corporal Tillotson in a 1/4 ton went forward, dismounted and tried to recover the 1/4 ton. Sgt. Rhinehardt, Wodzak and Shanahan in an M-8 covered the advance of the 1/4 ton. Rhinehardt saw Germans abandon the vehicle, warned the 1/4 ton crew, then fired on the enemy, hitting one German with a round of 37mm HE. He went to pieces! Shanahan noticed a German machine gun crew trying to outflank them. He stopped them with .50 caliber MG fire.

The closing of the gap was strictly an international affair. British, Poles, colorful French colonial troops, and the French 2nd Armored, all took part. On the 19th, the 3rd Platoon of Company "A" entered Argentan. Sgt. Austin knocked out a German SP that day.

After going into company and battalion assembly areas for a few hours, the battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division on a mission, with the 2nd French Armored, of taking Paris. The movement was completely motorized, infantry being loaded on tanks, destroyers, trucks, jeeps, armored cars, — in fact, anything that could roll.

Company "C" rolled forward with the 22nd Infantry Regiment

to the little town of Corbeil, Southeast of Paris, where they fired across the Seine to cover the crossing of the Regiment. Meanwhile, Company "B", with the 12th Regiment, moved into Paris through the Porte d'Orleans, Capt. Cook setting up his company CP in front of Notre Dame Cathedral; the first U.S. troops in Paris. The destroyers were over-run by joyous crowds hailing the liberators. There were many songs and plenty of "Vive l'Amerique! — Vive la France!" There was also sniper fire, but the FFI took care of most of that. The Battalion C. P. was located in Bois-de-Vincennes, a city park.

On August 27th, Company "C" moved on across the river and liberated East Paris with the 22nd Infantry, and on into the suburbs of Aulnaysous-Bois.

IV. NORTH FRANCE & BELGIUM

The war became a pursuit operation, with contact generally being lost during the day, a brief fight coming up at dusk with enemy rear guard SP guns, mortars and automatic weapons which usually permitted the main German forces to pull out. With the highly motorized task force Regnier and Task Force Taylor, Companies "B" and "C" traveled along the main roads. In like manner, Company "A" supported the 8th Infantry. All along the highways, wrecked or abandoned German equipment could be seen.

Going up a long trail of wrecked German equipment, the destroyers of the 893d climbed the mountainous terrain near Fumay, crossed over into Libin, Belgium, where we were again greeted as liberators by the Belgians. Many black, yellow and red flags decorated the houses while signs proclaimed — "Vive les Libérateurs!"

Company "A" ran into a heavy rear guard action near Recogne, knocking out several large trucks, one 75mm AT gun and two 20mm AA guns.

On September 10, Company "C" with the 22nd Infantry riding their destroyers left St. Hubert, Belgium, without the usual support of tanks. Later in the day the destroyers pulled

into the outskirts of Houffalize. German rear guard elements, including armor, were holding the town. The destroyers opened fire, driving the enemy out of the town. Gunners used their gunner's quadrants at extreme ranges. They silenced a haystack which turned out to be a well camouflaged SP gun.

On the next night, September 11th, Lt. Izzo with two destroyers, Sgt. Dinini, and Sgt. Graham, went on a patrol with about 25 infantrymen from the 22nd Regiment. The mission was to go into Germany. They crossed the border near Elcherath, Germany, took the town and returned with two bags of German soil for the Division Commander. They were the first U.S. troops to enter Germany.

Encountering only light opposition, elements of Company "A" entered Mutzenich, on September 13th, with Company "B" going into Honsfeld the next day. They set up direct fire positions there with guns covering the main tank approaches to the towns. The entire Battalion was in Germany.

V. THE RHINELAND (Part I)

On September 14th, Company "C" was pulled back for a brief period of maintenance, Company "A" moving into the vicinity of Buchet with the 22nd Infantry. The pillboxes which the patrols had found largely empty were filled with Germans while this shift was taking place.

On the 14th, four tanks and all 12 destroyers of Company "A" stormed into the Siegfried Line against stiff resistance, in support of the 22nd Regiment. In a two-day running battle during which they attempted to penetrate the stronghold of Brandscheidt three times, these two platoons of Company "A" neutralized 20 pillboxes and several direct fire weapons. Nazi troops frequently slipped back into neutralized pillboxes. The infantry lost heavily during the period.

One of the destroyers was blown up by a mine. The driver, Byers, jumped out of the disabled M-10, landed on another mine blowing him to pieces. In the process of grouping around the destroyer in order to inspect the damage, 11 more of the men from other units were killed.

Meanwhile, Company "B" was in position East of Schlausenbach in the Schnee-Eifel Forest with the 12th Regiment.

Two destroyers of the 1st Platoon commanded by Sgt. Cooper and Sgt. Sasse pulled the old box play on an enemy tank which was firing at our infantry from beside a pillbox. One of the destroyers approached the tank frontally while the other one fired on it from the flank and jammed the turret; when the tank tried to change position to return fire, the other destroyer knocked it out.

One night about 20 men from another division on a front-line security mission were foolish enough to go to sleep without setting up any security at all. During the night five German tanks, with full headlights, moved into the area. The men all surrendered without a fight, and the Germans lined them up, shot them all and pulled out. The 2nd Platoon of Company "C" was sent there for the next week to patrol the area in case any more tank patrols came around.

On September 30th, Company "A" was attached to the 102nd Cavalry Group. They patrolled with the cavalry the area of Hofen to Rocherath, a screening operation intended to hide the movements of other bodies of troops to the North. This was largely uneventful patrolling. Sgt. Lassiter became Lt. Lassiter at this time, the first enlisted man to receive a battlefield commission in the 893d.

Early in October the Battalion with the 4th Division moved North and West into Belgium on a holding mission. Company "C" moved into Murringen and set up for indirect fire for the first time. The gun crews lived in ammunition box houses, built more for protection from the weather than from shelling. The security was luckier. They continued the newly acquired habit of sleeping in houses. Special Service supplied frequent movies and shows.

On October 28th, the 893d was attached to the 28th Division and moved into the Hurtgen Forest near Zweifall. Companies "B" and "C" went into indirect fire positions while Company "A" remained with the 102nd Cav. Gp.

On November 2nd the 28th interred Vossenack and the next day took Kommerscheidt and Schmidt. The first effort to take the Roer River dams had begun.

On the 4th the Germans counterattacked, pushed the infantry out of Schmidt back to Kommerscheidt Hill where they dug in. The 3rd Recon Platoon, attached to Company "C", checked the narrow Vossenack-Kommerscheidt road over which Company "C" had been ordered to move to support the 112th Infantry Regiment at Kommerscheidt. Tanks of the 707th Tank Battalion, which tried the road, slipped off the side going around one curve. Tankers worked all afternoon trying to get the tanks out, while the 1340th Engineers worked on the road. Company "C" was ordered to get to the hill by daylight, while at the same time the Engineers were to have the road cleared. Meantime, the 1st and 3rd Platoons had moved into Vossenack, and early on the morning of the 5th of November, they pulled down into the Kall River Draw, while the 2nd Platoon on the way into Vossenack lost one destroyer, Sgt. Petock's, on a mine.

Followed by tanks of the 707th, the 3rd and 1st Platoons of Company "C" crawled up towards Kommerscheidt under heavy shellfire, and finally into town, behind buildings. In the late morning German tanks and infantry came out from Schmidt to attack. By the end of the day, Lt. McElroy was killed, Sgt. Wilson taking over command of the 3rd Platoon, and Sgt. Hardin of the 1st Platoon was also killed. Sgt. Sicenavage's gun had knocked out four German tanks, with Corporal Kietzman as gunner. Sgt. Chirdon had knocked out one and so had Sgt. Hardin before he was killed. That evening Lt. Edmunds' 2nd Platoon moved past Sgt. Rose's destroyer, which had broken a track in the draw, and up onto Kommerscheidt Hill.

Early in the morning of November 6th, several 1/4 tons with ammunition for the men on the hill were ambushed, and Corporal Bauer of Recon 3rd Platoon was killed. The Germans had at the same time infiltrated into the eastern end of Vossenack. Capt. Pugh and Lt. Fuller moved down with two Company "B" destroyers that had just pulled into the town, and dispersed the ambush.

At the same time two men who had remained with Rose's destroyer, Tawyea and Malone, made a break for it and escaped. Destroyers of Company "B" pulled into Vossenack. Relief for the now surrounded troops at Kommerscheidt was organized.

This was Task Force Ripple, led by Lt. Col. Ripple, commanding the 707th Tank Battalion. The armor couldn't make it because of the mines and shells, but one battalion of the 110th Infantry did get through to the hill, along with Capt. Pugh, through the woods.

While the fight continued on the hill and more armor on both sides was knocked out, Capt. Cook and Capt. Cole brought indirect fire of Lt. Davis' 1st Platoon and Lt. Ellis' 3rd Platoon to bear on German infantry in the draw North of Vossenack.

Up on the hill, AP fire coming from Bergstein began to crash into Kommerscheidt. Capt. Pugh, Company "C" Company Commander, on Sgt. Miller's destroyer, gave the coordinates to the artillery and then directed the fire of the 8 inch guns onto the German guns. Our aviation dropped bombs on the same guns. While the Thunderbolts were roaring low to quiet Bergstein's batteries, Sgt. Wilson and Lt. Leonard were moving about in the shell fire directing the fire of their platoons. Lt. Leonard won the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is missing in action.

Late that night weasels from the division with a special guard of the 2nd Rangers tried to get through to Kommerscheidt. All but three of the vehicles were put out of action.

The morning of the 7th saw the battle on Kommerscheidt Hill as hot as ever. Sgt. Masi of the 2nd Platoon knocked out two Panther tanks. Infantry attacked both our flanks. Thunderbolts came over low, bombed Schmidt. Destroyer crews hastily put panels across the breech where the planes could see them but the enemy couldn't. To strafe the infantry which was attacking us, P-38s came in at tree-top level, their machine guns blazing, almost chopping the acrials off the destroyers. Sgt. Masi's destroyer, where Lt. Edmunds was located, was put out of action in a barn that was used to conceal the gun. When the Germans demanded he come out and surrendered, Lt. Edmunds

yelled back — "Come in and get me!" Finally, wounded, he crawled to a hole, patched up his own wounds, and stayed there until later captured. That same afternoon, about 1500, there was another attempt to break thru to "C" Company. This time Lt. Smith and Lt. Fuller with 4 destroyers of the 2nd platoon, "B" Company, were to try to get thru in daylight on orders of higher authority, in spite of the fact that the road was mined, blocked, and in enemy hands. Lt. Col. Mays, then battalion commander of the 893d, asked for 4 volunteers to man 30 caliber machine guns to be mounted on the front of each destroyer (tripod mount!). Four men from Recon Company volunteered — Pfc. Rusnock, Tec 5 Reitz, Pfc. Blazier, and Tec 5 Zukowski. The men on the Hill could see them start down, and watched the elimination of the column with sinking hearts. The German artillery fire came in right on the nose. Moving down the hill the entire column was knocked out of action by direct and indirect fire. A little later the same day, German armor smashed thru and into Kommerscheidt, the infantry, (there weren't many left alive), pulling back into a little patch of woods on the Hill. The TD's and tanks covered their withdrawal, and then those that were still able to move, withdrew. The constant shelling all all night long meant many casualties. Perhaps the worst part of it was that there was no way of evacuating the wounded; there were no supplies, little food; there was nothing but enemy and shells. The German write-up of the battle tells of "3000 shells thrown into the Kettle from all sides."

At 1900 on the 7th, Capt. Pugh radioed in, "I have no platoon leaders." In response to a question about the tanks and infantry with him — "Very, very little of both." There were only three guns left — Sgt. Sicenavage, Sgt. Vitchock, and Sgt. Grill. All the men whose vehicles were out were in fox-holes, some of them manning machine guns, or assisting the aid men in trying to make the wounded as comfortable as possible.

Meanwhile, "C" Company's rear, fed by a heavy stream of supply from the Battalion, which did everything it could to help, got to work. Lt. Burgess, "C" Company Administrative Officer,

formed a 4th Platoon, mainly from the crew of Sgt. Petock, who had lost his gun, and from Company CP personnel. The new platoon was heavily stocked with only battle items, and turned over to Lt. Izzo, who later moved the platoon up to the vicinity of Vossenack with "B" Company. It was intended to move the platoon to the Hill originally.

On the 8th most of the 1340th Engineers who were still trying to hold the bridge were killed by shell fire. "B" Company firing from Vossenack knocked out 5 German tanks moving across Kommerscheidt Hill.

Finally, on the night of the 8th of November, the men of "C" Company who were still left on the Hill and waited expectantly for another attack, hopelessly for reinforcements, got the order to withdraw. The group came back in 3 different parties — one with Capt. Pugh and Sgt. Wilson, another with Sgt. Pritts, and a third with Sgt. McMahon. They all cut thru the woods, infiltrating back thru the enemy lines into Vossenack, which was half in German hands. On the night of the 8th and the morning of the 9th, it turned bitter cold and snowed.

"C" Company had knocked out 17 German tanks and 150 or more German infantry were killed. But the cost was high, 11 destroyers lost, and many casualties. Of the men to go up on the hill, only 1 officer and 27 men had come back.

About this time, "A" Company, still with the cavalry, shifted operations to the north, working between Lammersdorf and Monschau.

"B" Company continued to hold in Vossenack. During the time "C" was on the hill "B" had lost 6 destroyers. Worse than the loss of guns, was the loss in men — over 40 % casualties, because of the heavy fire the enemy poured into the rubble which was Vossenack — 3000—3500 rounds per day. After helping repel the counterattack of the 6th, the company had pulled back to the west end of town.

About the 11th, Lt. Davis' 1st platoon moved south and west and fired for a period of about three days on the draw to the north of Silberscheidt, with 100 Germans killed and many wound-

ed, 1 AT gun out, 1 machine gun out, 2 bunkers destroyed, and 1 road block wrecked as a result of this fire. A patrol of the 2nd Ranger Bn counted the dead.

During the Kommerscheidt and Vossenack operations both the 2nd and 3rd Recon Platoons had taken heavy punishment.

On the 15th of November, battered "C" Company, which had 5 days to reorganize with new replacements, was moved into Vossenack, where they replaced "B" Co. for 5 days. "C" Company then went into indirect fire. On November 18th the 28th Div. was withdrawn and the 8th Div. replaced it, bringing two companies of the 644th T.D. Bn. with them. The 893d stayed in place, joining the 8th Div.

During the fighting in Vossenack on November 23rd, Major Henry C. Kerlin became our Battalion Commander, when Lt. Col. Mays left to take command of 3rd T.D. Group.

On the first of December, Sgt. Sarabok of Reconnaissance Company was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

Bergstein, the next town in the path of the American advance in the Hurtgen Forest, was invested on the night of December 5th, by CCR of the 5th Armored Division, after a hard fight and much damage by mines. Their damaged vehicles prevented the 3rd Platoon of Company "B" from getting into the town that night. They pulled back while the engineers cleared a path around the mines, allowing them to move in the next morning before daylight.

The next night, Company "C" moved out of indirect fire positions, through Hurtgen, and into Bergstein in support of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, relieving the 5th Armored. Our platoons were there for almost a week. The TD's helped to protect the American spearhead on the open high ground which stuck out into Germany like a peninsula. The 3rd Platoon of Company "B" destroyed an enemy tank.

VI. THE ARDENNES BULGE

On December 10th, the 893d was attached to the 78th Infantry Division, which was just moving into the line for its initial

combat mission. Company "C" replaced Company "A" with the 102nd Cav. Group, and Companies "A" and "B" "got set" in Lammersdorf.

At 0600 hours on the 13th of December, Company "A" in support of the 309th Infantry Regiment pushed off for Simmerath. Mines were everywhere. Lt. Lassiter's 3rd Platoon drove South through Simmerath, while the 1st and 2nd Platoons drove East to Witzerath and Kesternich.

It was in this area that the large German forces, probably assembled for the German campaign in the Ardennes, were diverted from the main drive by the action of the 78th Division, supported closely by Companies "A" and "B". In order to protect their drive in the South, the Germans had to hold Kesternich, "Little Aachen", as the 78th Division dubbed it.

Repeated attacks by the 309th Infantry Regiment, with Company "A" in support, during the 14th, 15th, and 17th of December met with varying success, but they were unable to hold the town, being driven back to the western end each time.

In the afternoon of December 13th, Sgt. Bednarczik with the 2nd Section, 2nd Platoon of Company "A", moved through Kesternich, clearing machine gun nests for the infantry. He was 1000 yards east of the town when he realized the infantry had been unable to follow through the terrific artillery barrage and mortar fire. His two destroyers were alone, 1000 yards in enemy territory! He stayed there until enemy AT guns knocked out an engine on one of his destroyers. He then took both guns back into Kesternich.

One pillbox near the entrance of Kesternich, which had been by-passed the previous day, continued to fire on our rear and hinder the advance. Sgt. Austin of the 3rd Platoon moved a destroyer up to within 20 feet of the pillbox door, and fired a number of rounds into it at point blank range. Forty-eight EM's and one officer surrendered. No infantry being there, the destroyer tried to herd them back to the PW inclosure, covering them with the .50 Cal. MG. A heavy barrage came in, so the Germans took advantage of the confusion and tried to escape.

Corporal Foote, in spite of the shelling, jumped out of the destroyer, killed three of them with his M-1 and got the others to come along peacefully.

Meanwhile, farther to the south, Company "C" had taken over Company "A"'s old positions in Monschau, Mutzenich, and Hofen. Shortly after they had first pulled in, the 1st Platoon, which was strung out from Mutzenich to Hofen, lost one destroyer to a shell, which blew in the end of a house, killing Sgt. Sienavage and his gunner Corporal Keitzman, as well as wounding others in the crew. All three platoons were in direct fire positions, attached to the 102nd Cav. Group. The 2nd Platoon under Lt. Ruppel had guns on Mutzenich Hill behind the 1st Platoon's, and also above Monschau itself. The 3rd Platoon was in position on the outskirts of Konzen, where both patrols and shelling were frequent. Monschau was fairly quiet, not a bad place for Company "C"'s "rest area", until about 0530 on the morning of December 17th. Screaming mimi's, shells, mortars — and finally small arms — crashed into Mutzenich, into the narrow streets of Monschau, into Konzen, and into Hofen. It was the Ardennes Drive of the Germans. Mutzenich was torn up, gas trucks were burning up, jeeps stood abandoned, knocked out by shell fire, in the middle of the road. Mortars knocked out the wire lines. Enemy paratroops landed all over. Confusion reigned.

German infantry attacked the 1st Platoon positions in Mutzenich, and Sgt. Pritts had a field day with a .50 cal. MG. About 30 dead Germans piled up in front of the gun.

Lt. Wilson, Faulx, Berry and Boxell were on pass in Eupen, when they heard German bombs hitting the outskirts of the town. They were awakened in the middle of the night to go out on patrol to help round up German paratroops.

On the hills above Monschau, every available man was used on some kind of a gun; cooks, KP's, mechanics, Field Artilleryman, Engineers, and even forward observers were used to register in captured artillery pieces against the Germans. All vehicular machine guns were used to build up local security. Christmas dinner was a quiet affair eaten in a bomb-proof shelter in Monschau, or by a nice restful gun position (interrupted only

by ME-109's). 2nd Platoon men picked up a German paratrooper who obligingly sang — Silent Night, Holy Night, for the benefit of the platoon. There was even a Christmas tree, complete with German decorations.

While Company "A" was fighting in Kesternich and Company "C" was holding in Monschau, Company "B" was also busy. It was early on the morning of December 13th that Company "B" with the 310th Infantry Regiment pushed off from Lammersdorf on Rollesbroich. The road was heavily mined with Riegel mines. The destroyers went across country to the left of the road, that night going through a mine field on into town where the infantry was still clearing the place and sniper and machine gun fire was rattling around. The 2nd Platoon took up positions guarding to the north of town, and the 1st Platoon was in position covering to the East. The infantry dug in at Rollesbroich and stayed there.

About this time, Sgt. McMahon of Reconnaissance Company and 1st Sgt. Copely of Company "B" won battlefield commissions.

German planes came over Rotgen on New Year's Day. Company "C"'s Sgt. Ullery happened to be cleaning the .50 cal. MG on his destroyer when he saw a German ME-109 coming over. He shot it down and received official credit for it.

During most of January each gun company kept one or more platoons on the line. The platoons not on the line did a lot of indirect firing. Lt. Cohen supervised the company fire direction centers. The men lived in small wood huts built with ammunition boxes. A great deal of HE was fired. They also fired star shell at night, which frequently illuminated enemy patrols before they could get in close enough to do damage. During this period Reconnaissance Company had OP's in Lammersdorf. All those OP's were subject from time to time to shelling, which frequently made moving one of the OP's necessary. Meantime, the 3rd Recon Platoon was busy reconnoitering roads along the Division front. Reconnaissance Company had the mission of determining the habits of the enemy in connection with the large operations then being planned by the 78th Division.

VII. THE RHINELAND (Part II)

On January 30th, these operations started. Our infantry, TD, Tank team took Konzen with few losses. Sgt. Hardin was killed by a sniper in Konzen. Meanwhile the 1st Platoon of Company "C", under Lt. Kahn, went South from Simmerath to take Imgenbroich with the 2nd Battalion of the 310th. Both the 2nd and 3rd Platoons were kept busy reducing a number of pillboxes near the much shelled cross-roads at Am Gericht.

Farther north, where the 311th with Sgt. Harrel's 1st Platoon and Lt. Lassiter's 3rd Platoon of our Company "A" were driving on Huppenbroich and Kesternich, the character of resistance was far from bitter. The company lost Bogan and Jennings, killed in action, by shellfire, and one man seriously wounded. The first day they captured about half the town, met heavy direct fire, as well as occasional mortar fire. The second day, tanks, artillery and TD's practically leveled what was left of the town, battering it to pieces house by house, until the ground was black in spite of the snow on the ground. By sunset on February 2nd, it was all over. Kesternich was taken.

On the 4th, the 1st Platoon of Company "A" with the 311th Infantry took Ruhrberg.

CCR of the 7th Armored took Strauch and Steckenborn. On the same morning, Pfc. Greenwood of Reconnaissance Company was killed when his jeep hit a mine on the main road to Schmidt.

In the second drive to take Schmidt, hub of the German defenses west of the Roer River, Company "B"'s guns were scheduled to play a major role. With Lt. Davis's 1st Platoon giving supporting fire from Vossenack, the 2nd Platoon with Lt. Cross, and Lt. Copely's 3rd Platoon attacked down the road into Schmidt, in support of the 310th Regiment. At the same time Company "C" sent the 1st Platoon and 3rd Platoon through the woods and into Kommerscheidt with the 309th Infantry.

By the end of the first day the 774th Tank Battalion going into Schmidt was badly mauled by direct fire from AT guns. The TD's were more fortunate that day, Company "C" knocked out two pillboxes, one AT gun and killed many of the enemy.

The two platoons of Company "C" returned to Kommerscheidt Hill — the Hill, where three months before Company "C" had all but been wiped out, and where even now they were surrounded by the dead bodies of fallen comrades, the piles of countless dead, American and German, and all kinds of abandoned equipment.

On the second day, the 1st Platoon of Company "B" joined the battle for the rest of the town. The 2nd Platoon of Company "C" then moved through Schmidt and into Harscheidt with the 3rd Battalion of the 311th. Lt. Clarke moved in there at dusk, saw a flash but couldn't see the gun. He fired at the flash. Next day he found they had knocked out a 75 mm AT gun and it's crew. Sgt. Rhinehardt ran through various and sundry forms of fire to deliver chow to the 2nd Platoon every day. Rhinehardt, the man who wouldn't duck shells, and miraculously didn't get hurt anyway.

The second and following days, Schmidt was cleaned out, and the course of battle shifted South in the direction of the important Schwammenauel Dam; if the Germans could blow the dam, they could slow up Allied operations for weeks, by flooding Duren and the towns near there. In the original phase of cleaning out Schmidt, Company "B" took a heavy beating.

The attack on the dam was a hard fight in which the infantry was moving through woods and suffering heavy casualties from tree bursts. Initially, the 311th, and, finally, a battalion of the 309th fought their way down to the dam. All this while Company "B" gave indirect fire support from their artillery positions, along with a mass of artillery. At the same time, the 1st Platoon of Company "C", working with the 309th driving on Hasenfeld, pulled into a spot where it could deliver direct fire on the other side of the dam. The 1st Platoon shot up many targets on the other side.

Finally, the engineers of the 9th Division and elements of the 309th reached the Schwammenauel Dam. They found it damaged but not so much that the rise in the level of the Roer River would hinder our operations, so, the next job, after consolidating our gains, was to cross the Roer.

Company "B" was taken out of indirect fire to join the 14th Cavalry Group at Gey, while Company "A" took over the indirect fire positions of Company "B".

The crossing of the Roer was supported with much artillery and screened with smoke pots, near Niddegen.

From the Roer to the Sieg:

Company "B" had crossed before the other companies with the cavalry, attacked into Boich, on into Drove and then enemy armor at Thum. About this time the 3-inch guns went to work and accounted for one Mk V and one Mk IV tank.

After this operation the company was detached from the cavalry and attached to the 903rd Field Artillery Battalion, operating with two six-gun platoons. Movement was so fast that most of the time was spent in displacing forward.

The advance of Companies "A" and "C" with the 309th and 311th Infantry Regiments was characterized by speed, so that frequently the advance was so rapid that the radio reports of our TD Platoons proved to be the first and only information that the Division Headquarters had of their own advancing infantry units.

The character of the fighting is well illustrated by a play-by-play description of Company "A"'s operations at that time. After crossing the Roer, Sgt. Harrel's 1st Platoon attacked Abenden and then Vlatten, where they destroyed one Mk IV, one SP gun, one towed AT gun, 20 houses and killed about 80 enemy and took 50 PW's. Lt. Cameron's 2nd Platoon helped take Berg and Wallersheim. At this time Sgt. Brewster hit a German motorcycle messenger with a round of HE at 2800 yards. The 2nd Platoon then moved into Burvenich early in the morning of March 3rd, set up a road block on the East end of town, and caught two truck loads of enemy reinforcements being rushed to the town.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Platoon, by direct fire, knocked out a locomotive and 15 houses in a movement outflanking the walled city of Ahrweiler.

VIII. CENTRAL GERMANY

Next came the Rhine crossing. On the 7th of March, infantry of the 9th Armored Division captured intact the Ludendorff railway

bridge, spanning the Rhine from Remagen to Erpel. This infantry, with initial support from CCB of the 9th Armored and 1 company of the 656th TD Bn was immediately thrown into the breach to build up a bridgehead. On the 9th of March when "A" and "C" companies and on the 10th when "B" crossed, long range heavy artillery fire crashed interminably into the bridge, while engineers worked under fire to build other ponton bridges to relieve the strain on the weakened Ludendorff Bridge. From high ground on the far side of the Rhine German OP's directed fire of guns in caliber all the way up to 380 mm, while on both sides American AAA gunners with multiple mount 50's on half-tracks took heavy punishment from shelling, strafing, and bombing, — but at the same time kept the Luftwaffe too high for accurate bombing. With the gun companies, keeping a close tab on things, were Capt. Perry and Capt. Cole. Pvt. Wallrauch, Capt. Perry's driver, was killed on this mission, by shellfire.

While "A" Company went into the line at Bruchausen, "C" Company was fighting near Rheinbreitbach, and "B" Company near Kasbach. This company saw action within 5 minutes after the crossing, Lt. Copely's 3rd Platoon knocking out 1 Mk V, neutralizing 2 pillboxes, as well as killing and capturing a number of enemy. The battle to hold, enlarge, and break out of the Remagen bridgehead was won in hard fought battles in the week after the first crossing. Working generally north through parallel strings of towns, the gun companies and their recon platoons, together with the tankers, served as the battering rams for the hard fighting, advancing infantry columns.

Working mostly north and eastward through the most hazardous terrain yet encountered, "A" Company supported the attack of the 309th Infantry. The 2nd Platoon helped take Rottbitz. The platoon knocked out 2 jadpanthers, 1 AA gun, 1 Mk IV tank, and 1 truck, then moved into town to help secure the right flank of the division.

Then the 1st Platoon started down the main road to Agidienberg, but the direct fire from German tanks and artillery knocked out several tanks, and the number 2 destroyer was hit near Siefen-

hoven. It was necessary either to stop the fire or find another route into town. Our TD's handled this with their noted tactical flexibility.

Lt. Sarabok's recon element contacted an artillery liaison officer and brought fire to bear on the enemy guns, putting them out of action, while the destroyer platoon leader discovered another and defiladed route to new firing positions overlooking the town, from which they destroyed 2 German tanks. The 3rd Platoon then moved out of Himberg by a back route, took Hovel with the infantry, and then cut the Cologne — Frankfurt Autobahn, being the 1st TD's to cross it. In the process Company "A" destroyed 5 enemy bunkers, 1 truck, 1 88 mm SP gun, and captured 36 PW's.

Meanwhile, "B" Company, with the 310th Infantry, which had so quickly been involved in battle after the Rhine crossing, had also seen much action. With tanks and infantry, they stormed into Kalenborn, where they met fire from numerous enemy tanks. The tanks were in a sunken railway bed, frequently changed position, and were always in hull defilade. The 1st section of the 1st Platoon was ambushed to the right of Kalenborn, but was able to shoot its way out. That night Lt. Copely's 3rd Platoon relieved the 1st in Kalenborn. One Panther in a good position had held up the American advance all day, March 14th, four or five Shermans being put out of action by it. Lt. Copely made a foot reconnaissance, found that no tank or TD would be able to get near enough to get a shot at it. So he borrowed a bazooka from 52nd Armored Bn, and, with Sgt. Shaffer, he put 3 rounds into the tank, knocking it out. They could advance again. His platoon moved on, knocking out 3 Mk VI's, 2 half-tracks, and killed 19, as well as taking about 26 PW's. The company moved to an assembly area in Honnef.

While "B" was working on the East flank of the 78th, "C" Company was fighting through the towns along the East bank of the Rhine.

"C" Company, with the 311th Infantry, moved through Honnef to Königswinter, knocking out an AT gun and a truck loaded

with infantry, killing 64 Germans, on the 16th. Lt. Wilson's 3rd Platoon, with elements of the 9th Armored Division, including the 33rd Armored Infantry, were given the mission of taking Ittenbach and cutting the superhighway at that point. They entered the town that night and shared it with German tanks. Next morning they knocked out 3 enemy tanks. The town was taken, and the Platoon joined the rest of the company at Königswinter. On March 17th, the 1st Platoon lost its platoon leader, Lt. Kahn, in Königswinter, where he was hit by a shell fragment.

Company "A" now pulled out of Honnef; the 2nd Platoon pulled out to assault Holtorf, Holzlar, and several other towns, while the 3rd Platoon went through Vinxel, but were held up at Stieldorf by SP and AT guns. Firing from positions overlooking the town, they destroyed 2 SP guns, and 2 tanks. This neutralized the town and allowed the infantry to move in, followed by the TD's. Suddenly an American 3/4 ton appeared. Thinking it a friendly vehicle, nobody fired. When the truck was about 50 yards away, it was seen to be loaded with the mail, chow, and Germans. A brief exchange of small arms, with Lt. Lassiter firing his pistol at them, resulted in a quick surrender.

The 1st platoon went through Burlinghoven and Dambroich, crossing the Autobahn, and joined the infantry the following day for the attack on Honnef. The 1st section of the 1st Platoon went into Honnef with the lead elements of the 309th Infantry, the 2nd Section being in reserve. They took a good deal of AT and AA fire from armor in the town and from guns which were on the high ground on the other side of the Sieg River. The company ran up a score of 4 SP guns, 4 AA guns, 23 strong points, 4 CP's — all knocked out, in addition to 99 enemy killed, and 35 PW's. During the same period, "B" Company had moved through Königswinter, and, with the 310th Infantry, on March 22 attacked and held Hangelar, just south of the Sieg River.

From about March 22nd to end of first week in April, the battalion fought the static battle of the Sieg River line, with "A" Company in direct fire positions in Honnef, and later near Hamm; Company "B", except for 1 platoon, in indirect fire with

the 903 Field Artillery, was in direct fire positions in Hangelar, Burlinghoven, and Niederpleis; and "C", after a brief rest period, was in position at Eitorf, then Obernau, along the Sieg River. We helped the 78th Division defend a 44,000 yard front, a holding operation intended to protect the other troops which were plunging far eastward into the heart of Central Europe. We held the South side of the Ruhr Pocket.

IX. THE RUHR POCKET

Just before the Ruhr Pocket operation got under way, the 97th Division relieved the 78th on the Sieg River line.

The earliest attempt to break out of the pocket came shortly before the gun companies crossed the Sieg, when about 12 tanks and 600 men forded the River, with the objective of seizing Honnef. The 2nd Battalion of the 309th called for its TD support, which together with the infantry, broke up the counter-attack.

On April 7th, Company "A" crossed the Sieg River Southeast of Dattenfeld. Lt. Cameron's 2nd Platoon rolled into Waldbrol, liberating 700 American PW's.

On April 10, the 3rd Platoon of "A" Company went into Drabenderhohe, home of a huge ordnance plant. Here one German rear guard put up a terrific battle. Field pieces and AA guns, all of them that could be manned opened fire, pinning down our infantry. The 3rd Platoon knocked out one gun after another, but where the gun itself was not hit, replacements would rush out from the dugouts and replace the battered gun crews. Our artillery pounded them mercilessly, also, but the enemy kept firing in a three-hour battle until all the guns were destroyed. The 50 men who finally surrendered were reported to have killed their own officers in order to quit.

Continuing to the north, the 1st Platoon on the 13th moved into Lindlar, with orders not to fire unless fired upon, and the Germans were in such a state of confusion that the platoon took a hospital intact, with two American officers, as well as about 1500 PW's, and a German Major General with all his staff —

all this without firing a shot. On the same day, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons went into Berghausen, where American Troops overran an Allied PW inclosure, freeing 174 American prisoners, including Sgt. Dasovitch who had been captured when "B" company moved into Hangelar. Dasovitch indicated that the German intelligence officer who questioned him knew a great deal about the record of the 893d. On April 6th, North of Katzwinkel, Lt. Ellis, 2nd Platoon leader, was killed, when a German Mk IV tank caught Lt. Ellis' destroyer with AP fire.

On the night of April 13th, the 3rd Platoon caught the enemy off guard, captured a whole CP group, including several high-ranking officers. During this time the 2nd Platoon, under Lt. Cross, was attached to the 78th Cavalry. The 2nd Platoon caught horse-drawn artillery on the road and destroyed several guns. They continued to move northwest in pursuit of a more and more disorganized enemy.

On April 15th, Lt. Copely, with tanks and 3rd battalion of the 310th Infantry, went into Wipperfurth. They received the surrender of the town from the local burgermeister, and then the column was fired on from a road-block which was built about half-way through the town, with 1 tank, 2 AT guns and a bazooka team. The leading tank was hit by a bazooka, disabling the tank. Lt. Copely, who saw that the tank platoon leader was wounded, crawled onto the tank and tried to lift him out of one of the front hatches, when another round hit the front of the tank, killing the tank platoon leader and seriously wounding Lt. Copely. The "one man army" was finally evacuated.

In the closing days of the Ruhr operation, the company moved into Wuppertal, and, finally, on April 19th, into a company assembly area in Mandersbach. "B" was out of the war.

During the same operation, Company "C" was busy also. On the 6th the company crossed the Sieg, went through Waldbrol, Denklingen, Wiehl to Gummersbach, to Wermelskirchen. From Obernau to Wermelskirchen, through various towns we had taken, it was a pleasure most of the time.

In the early days of the operation, Lt. Wilson of the 3rd

Platoon was wounded when on reconnaissance for gun positions with Sgt. Zukowski of the 3rd Reconnaissance Platoon.

North of Morsbach the company ran into much armor. After the leading tank of the armor which was with us was knocked out, the 2nd Platoon pulled into a small farming district. Sgt. Ullery's destroyer opened fire on a German tank. The tank immediately picked up the muzzle flash of the TD and sent a round of AP through the driving compartment. The M-10 caught fire. Rather than get out, the men stuck to their posts, knocked out two towed guns and a probable tank before more enemy tanks returned the fire, striking the destroyer repeatedly. Ammunition on the M-10 exploded, blowing Tec 5 Carlson, the driver, and Sgt. Ullery out of the vehicle. Both men suffered severe burns. The other members of the crew were Corporal Canizzo, the gunner, Pfc. Blatnick and Pvt. Clark.

On April 13th, Company "C" knocked out two 380mm SP rocket guns, one 88 and three 75mm AT guns. On the 15th, Company "B" of the 311th Infantry was sent with two tanks and two TD's to take Remscheid. Just on the outskirts of the town we observed coming down the road a high ranking German officer with an aide carrying a white flag and another carrying a red cross flag. He asked us not to "fire those great big guns at our city"; so Remscheid was declared an open city. We were guided through town by a red cross vehicle. In this area to the north, Sgt. Petock forced an enemy tank to surrender, first boxing it in by moving up on it with a gun in such a way that it couldn't move without backing up, then when it did back up, he used his pistol and three hand grenades.

The company then moved into Wuppertal against light resistance, afterwards withdrawing to a company assembly area in Ronsdorf, where it ceased tactical operations.

The end of the tactical operation in the Ruhr Pocket brought an end to our operations in the ETO — operations which carried the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion through five hard fought campaigns. During this time the Battalion, or its companies, worked with 8 different infantry divisions, several armored divisions, two cavalry groups, several field artillery battalions and one ranger battalion. What it had accomplished and learned in the European campaigns now belongs to history.

COMPANY ROSTERS OF PERSONNEL AS OF 30 APRIL 1945

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

OFFICERS

Capt. John W. Blotzer	1st Lt. Donald E. Ellison
1st Lt. John R. Geilker	2nd Lt. Albert E. Joern
1st Lt. Edward A. Rupple	CWO Harry Sinclair
1st Lt. Daniel Cohen	

ENLISTED MEN

M/Sgt. Clayton C. Brown	Tec 4 John H. Waiter
1st Sgt. Russell M. Reedy	Cpl. Salvatore Marchesano
T/Sgt. Wasyl C. Homa	Cpl. Robert E. Maxey
T/Sgt. Harry G. Macht	Cpl. Frank J. Merk
T/Sgt. Kenneth McKenna	Cpl. Lawrence R. Voeltz
T/Sgt. Lester B. Michaels	Tec 5 Willard L. Adkins
T/Sgt. Samuel Nathenson	Tec 5 Michael P. Amitrano
S/Sgt. Albert Hall	Tec 5 Walter A. Bahl
S/Sgt. Wallace I. Reid	Tec 5 Charles A. Beam
S/Sgt. Thomas E. Stone	Tec 5 Earl L. Blose
S/Sgt. Charles P. Gernand	Tec 5 Lanta H. Boyles
S/Sgt. John J. Reilley	Tec 5 Joseph A. Catullo
Sgt. Delbert A. Amig	Tec 5 Edward D. Cogar
Sgt. Herbert D. Ingram	Tec 5 Brooks W. Cowgill
Sgt. William R. McCracken	Tec 5 Michael Drozdick
Tec 4 Cleneth Z. Yonkin	Tec 5 Robert R. Gebhart
Tec 4 Arnold E. Blews	Tec 5 Burless L. George
Tec 4 Albert B. Cipollone	Tec 5 James E. Hager
Tec 4 David S. Dries	Tec 5 Michael J. Kelly
Tec 4 John R. Finn	Tec 5 Elwyn W. Lunday
Tec 4 Frank G. Germuga	Tec 5 John H. McCord
Tec 4 Joseph M. Glass	Tec 5 James A. Miller
Tec 4 Thomas W. Griffith	Tec 5 Daniel T. Moyer
Tec 4 Andrew J. Leitner	Tec 5 Eben Neal
Tec 4 Johnny M. Mallory	Tec 5 Andy G. Ohrin
Tec 4 Michael Ninno, Jr.	Tec 5 Dona E. Pepin
Tec 4 Paul P. Pagano	Tec 5 Edwin J. Phillips
Tec 4 Kenneth A. Perry	Tec 5 Pierce O. Pickens
Tec 4 Steve P. Poprocky, Jr.	Tec 5 Joseph B. Reilly
Tec 4 Carl J. Robinson	Tec 5 Paul E. Rickard
Tec 4 Robert T. Smith	Tec 5 Donald L. Roberts

Tec 5 William G. Skutches
 Tec 5 Richard Steinmetz
 Tec 5 Arthur J. Strehlau
 Tec 5 Edward M. Szmania
 Tec 5 Harold H. Voigt
 Pfc. James O. Baker
 Pfc. Wilson P. Baker
 Pfc. Joseph M. Bellini
 Pfc. Ezra W. Brown
 Pfc. Milton C. Brown
 Pfc. Frank Cangelosi
 Pfc. Alphonse A. Castello
 Pfc. Thomas W. Christlieb
 Pfc. Vernon Forney
 Pfc. James J. Gavin
 Pfc. Wilbur Hart
 Pfc. Lester F. Higginbotham
 Pfc. Richard J. Kenney

Pfc. James A. Lee III
 Pfc. Tony I. Maggio
 Pfc. Joseph D. McCarthy
 Pfc. Herbert L. Meece
 Pfc. Thomas E. Morrison
 Pfc. Edgar J. Richard
 Pfc. Louis J. Sara
 Pfc. John J. Stevens
 Pfc. Harry Szopelia
 Pvt. Sidney L. Brownell
 Pvt. Anthony Cabibbo
 Pvt. Harry W. Fisher
 Pvt. Troy L. Gray
 Pvt. William D. Havens
 Pvt. Thomas E. Morris
 Pvt. William O'Connor
 Pvt. Joseph B. Rogers
 Pvt. George E. Rudzik



RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

OFFICERS

Capt. August D. Corsalini
 1st Lt. Louis J. Izzo
 1st Lt. Imrich R. Sarabok

1st Lt. Leonard R. Burgess
 1st Lt. Harry A. Karch
 2nd Lt. Patrick R. McMahon

ENLISTED MEN

1st Sgt. Charles W. Dean
 S/Sgt. Albert L. Gentili
 S/Sgt. Anthony J. Barzdinos
 S/Sgt. Pete P. Bottali
 S/Sgt. Stewart J. Jacobs
 S/Sgt. Edward S. Manning
 S/Sgt. Ralph Piccolo, Jr.
 S/Sgt. Raymond L. Sherwood
 Sgt. Walter E. Clifford, Jr.
 Sgt. Stephen M. Comarnitsky
 Sgt. William Cunningham
 Sgt. Frank W. Kohler
 Sgt. William P. Shaffer
 Sgt. Sidney Smith
 Sgt. Joseph Yench
 Sgt. Bernard J. Zukowski
 Tec 4 Robert Cece
 Tec 4 Bernard J. Ditchey
 Tec 4 Harold Omundsen
 Tec 4 Nicholas Pascalli
 Cpl. Bernard I. Keyser
 Cpl. Gerald J. Miller
 Cpl. Edward J. Rugis
 Tec 5 Harold E. Farrell
 Tec 5 George P. Garret, Jr.
 Tec 5 Vincent R. Graziano
 Tec 5 Clarence L. Marsh
 Tec 5 John B. Maver
 Tec 5 John A. McAlicie
 Tec 5 Russell J. Nocero
 Tec 5 Lawrence H. Powell
 Tec 5 Samuel F. Pugliano
 Tec 5 John J. Rees
 Tec 5 Charles Reitz
 Tec 5 Porter M. Rogers, Jr.

Tec 5 Raymond C. Scheppman
 Tec 5 John H. Shively
 Tec 5 Paul Wills
 Tec 5 Joseph W. Wodzack
 Tec 5 William C. Cooper
 Tec 5 Raymond H. Worts
 Pfc. Otto T. Albrecht
 Pfc. Charles N. Aposhian
 Pfc. John Bandol
 Pfc. Ballard Bishop
 Pfc. Charles R. Bland
 Pfc. William H. Blazier
 Pfc. Herbert C. Branham
 Pfc. Thomas E. Bright
 Pfc. David J. Burshnic
 Pfc. Andrew A. Byarley
 Pfc. Michael J. Carroll
 Pfc. Harley G. Carter
 Pfc. Elzie Centers
 Pfc. Carl H. Cheak
 Pfc. Jesus G. Contreras
 Pfc. Robert R. Doorr
 Pfc. Jonah Gold
 Pfc. Robert W. Groth
 Pfc. George L. Guidotti
 Pfc. William K. Guthrie
 Pfc. Robert F. Hayes
 Pfc. John G. Hernandez
 Pfc. Isidore Kass
 Pfc. James W. Kuno
 Pfc. James R. Lee
 Pfc. Wilburn Martin
 Pfc. George M. McKinney
 Pfc. Otha L. Messer, Jr.
 Pfc. Burton N. Merklinger, Jr.

Pfc. Vernon B. Meyers
 Pfc. Harvey A. Mills
 Pfc. Julius J. Nemcek
 Pfc. Elmer C. Peterson
 Pfc. William O. Pierce, Jr.
 Pfc. Ambrose N. Racaniello
 Pfc. Joseph R. Rappoccio
 Pfc. Leonard E. Rudman
 Pfc. Peter Rusnok
 Pfc. Dale H. Shepherd
 Pfc. Robert C. Smith
 Pfc. James W. Stewart
 Pfc. Edward N. Taylor
 Pfc. John E. Taylor, Jr.
 Pfc. Dennis J. Tingman
 Pfc. Banford M. Tompkins
 Pfc. Eugene R. Waple
 Pfc. James H. Williams
 Pfc. Edwin G. Wright
 Pvt. Cecil R. Appleby

Pvt. Bob Askins
 Pvt. Nerman E. Black
 Pvt. Earl L. Brakefield
 Pvt. Albert C. Burns
 Pvt. Rupert S. Dawson
 Pvt. Harry R. Dowell
 Pvt. Joseph T. Fagin
 Pvt. Adam E. Gregory
 Pvt. Clinton E. Johnson
 Pvt. Earl F. Kessler
 Pvt. Kenneth L. Lee
 Pvt. Orville P. Mc Cool
 Pvt. Richard H. Maloney
 Pvt. Ernest E. Myers
 Pvt. Stanley J. Myjak, Jr.
 Pvt. Milford M. Patterson
 Pvt. John J. Walters
 Pvt. Gene A. Copeland
 Pvt. John L. Marcus
 Pvt. Thomas E. Obrzud



"A" COMPANY

OFFICERS

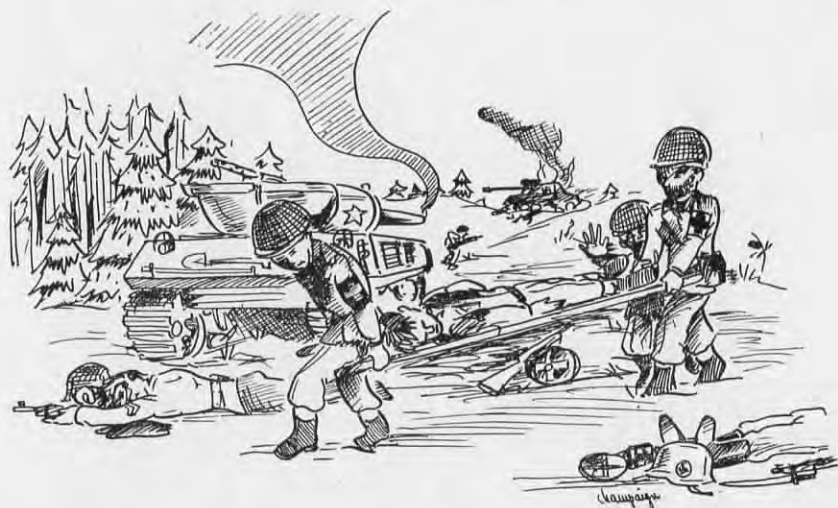
Capt. Eugene H. Perry	1st Lt. Benjamin F. Lassiter
1st Lt. Robert W. Wolken	1st Lt. John S. Jarvis
1st Lt. Donald F. Cameron	2nd Lt. Alton J. Harrell
1st Lt. Lawrence C. Kahn	

ENLISTED MEN

1st Sgt. Steve Pyrch	Tec 4 Joseph A. Polock
T/Sgt. Alfred R. McCue	Tec 4 Arthur P. Radwanski
S/Sgt. Melvin R. Austin	Tec 4 Grant T. Schneider
S/Sgt. Harold M. Eshleman	Cpl. Samuel P. Bailey
S/Sgt. Roy H. Gunter	Cpl. William G. Cottingham
S/Sgt. Alton J. Harrell	Cpl. Willard H. Davis
S/Sgt. Elwood M. Kristiansen	Cpl. Audray A. Deetz
S/Sgt. Joseph Suhy	Cpl. Maurice Feld
Sgt. Levin E. Adkins	Cpl. Robert B. Florer
Sgt. Harry M. Bly	Cpl. Charles O. Foole
Sgt. William Brewster	Cpl. Carl W. Hansen
Sgt. Joseph S. Bubel	Cpl. Mike Haschak
Sgt. Joseph F. Burns	Cpl. Joseph Mancia
Sgt. Ralph D. Dell'Erba	Cpl. Pete Maneno
Sgt. Joseph G. Dragan	Cpl. Robert S. Myers
Sgt. John L. Filko	Cpl. Steve L. Rito, Jr.
Sgt. John O. Hass	Cpl. Dewey Stevens
Sgt. Jacob C. Huffman	Cpl. John A. Suchanek
Sgt. Homer E. Kelley	Cpl. Frederick E. Swalby
Sgt. Floyd E. Phelps	Tec 5 Joseph M. Bando
Sgt. Rix M. Richardson, Jr.	Tec 5 Paul R. Bethe
Sgt. John J. Scassellati	Tec 5 William L. Brennan
Sgt. Carl J. Smith	Tec 5 Willard G. Cash
Sgt. Steve P. Sytar	Tec 5 Arthur L. Drury, Jr.
Tec 4 Robert T. Batts	Tec 5 Kenneth C. Gossett
Tec 4 Clarence J. Beck	Tec 5 Waltzia A. Green
Tec 4 Frank A. Bentley	Tec 5 Luther B. Gunter
Tec 4 John L. Cornell, Jr.	Tec 5 Paul A. Hatcher
Tec 4 Donald H. Davies	Tec 5 William O. Martin
Tec 4 Edwin W. DeBuhr	Tec 5 George R. Metzgar
Tec 4 Hosea Hopkins	Tec 5 Waldo E. Miller
Tec 4 John F. Kerstan	Tec 5 Stanley E. Pawlak
Tec 4 Wilfred B. Kruse	Tec 5 John J. Phillips
Tec 4 George E. Miller	Tec 5 Herman C. Rogers

Tec 5 Sam Shenk
Pfc. Robert G. Adams
Pfc. Daniel P. Bacakos
Pfc. Arthur G. Bell
Pfc. Bobby L. Browning
Pfc. William E. Cross
Pfc. Willie Combs
Pfc. George E. Davis
Pfc. Alfred J. DeCastro
Pfc. Hubert F. Dortland
Pfc. Harry W. Ekstrom
Pfc. Woodrow Fugate
Pfc. Kenneth Gillis
Pfc. Harold R. Groves
Pfc. Roy A. Guthrie
Pfc. Russell D. Hadley
Pfc. Luther F. Kramer
Pfc. Phillip H. Margules
Pfc. Nevin L. McAllister
Pfc. David T. McDaniel
Pfc. Thomas W. McLemore
Pfc. H. E. McQueen
Pfc. Anthony Murgia, Jr.
Pfc. Charles E. Ritenour
Pfc. Charles V. Roach

Pfc. Hall T. Robertson
Pfc. Stanley E. Sawyer
Pfc. Daniel D. Sullivan
Pfc. Earnest W. Tanksley
Pfc. Charles Virzi
Pvt. Woodrow A. Biddinger
Pvt. Robert W. Boni
Pvt. Francis Brennan
Pvt. Ellsworth L. Childs
Pvt. Stanton J. Clarke
Pvt. Louis A. Cocuzzi
Pvt. Charles Coffman
Pvt. Frank J. Curtis
Pvt. Raymond C. Dahn, Jr.
Pvt. William F. Dibert
Pvt. George A. Edwards
Pvt. Harold Falk
Pvt. Pietro P. Favato
Pvt. Michael C. Meola
Pvt. Arnold W. Mohr
Pvt. John Nastio
Pvt. Michael Oliveri
Pvt. Philip G. Ouellette
Pvt. George H. Peacher
Pvt. James F. Underwood



"B" COMPANY

OFFICERS

Capt. Jack W. Fuller	1st Lt. Haward C. Davis
1st Lt. Lawrence C. Cross	2nd Lt. George G. Griffith
1st Lt. Bryant E. Campbell	2nd Lt. William E. Copely
1st Lt. Christopher P. Caputo	

ENLISTED MEN

1st Sgt. William L. Brown	Tec 4 William N. Yates
T/Sgt. August W. Zidar	Cpl. Anthony J. Allegrucci
S/Sgt. William B. Gardner	Cpl. Thomas C. Bernard
S/Sgt. George G. Griffith	Cpl. James A. Blackburn
S/Sgt. Hammet E. Murphy	Cpl. David R. Bowser
S/Sgt. John D. Shannahan	Cpl. Clarence D. Drisling
S/Sgt. Lloyd Stakes	Cpl. Walter T. Duffy, Jr.
S/Sgt. John Sutton	Cpl. Jackson F. Goettel
Sgt. Michael Kekalos	Cpl. Paul J. Jancovic
Sgt. Robert M. Bowen	Cpl. Nicholas Lemme
Sgt. Robert A. Burgess	Cpl. Raymond L. Inman
Sgt. Annacleta J. Devivo	Cpl. Donald McGrill
Sgt. Lloyd P. Garner	Cpl. Charles H. Remick
Sgt. Charles P. Miller	Cpl. Phil E. Sigmon
Sgt. Melvin S. Minter	Cpl. Forrest J. Stevens
Sgt. Walter S. Racutt	Cpl. George E. Sylvester
Sgt. George T. Sasse	Cpl. Edward N. Williams
Sgt. Frederick J. Schiffbauer, Jr.	Cpl. Derald Zipf
Sgt. George M. Shaffer	Tec 5 Aloysius J. Bachurek
Sgt. Harry M. Sibrel	Tec 5 Steve Basey
Sgt. John F. Snow	Tec 5 Jack Bassin
Sgt. Aleck Vargo, Jr.	Tec 5 Earl A. Brisley
Tec 4 Tom E. Aly	Tec 5 Glen Bullion
Tec 4 George Barker	Tec 5 Carl W. Drab
Tec 4 Stanley L. Belanger	Tec 5 Arvel Godby
Tec 4 Ignatius A. Caito	Tec 5 Herbert C. Kiser
Tec 4 Edward P. Czubek	Tec 5 Elwood H. Hunter
Tec 4 William J. Ewing	Tec 5 Adam J. Kornacki
Tec 4 Americo A. Genrile	Tec 5 Charles J. Lelugas
Tec 4 John Goida	Tec 5 Tony A. LiBretti
Tec 4 Edward P. Oley	Tec 5 Andrew C. Loeffelholz
Tec 4 William L. Schaeffer	Tec 5 McKinley R. Moore
Tec 4 George H. Warfel	Tec 5 Ernest L. Pannell
Tec 4 Max Wertheimer	Tec 5 Lowell E. Rucker

Pfc. Oren M. Adams
Pfc. Stephen W. Brier
Pfc. James M. Collins, Jr.
Pfc. Frank R. Comfort
Pfc. James L. Cloonan
Pfc. Walter L. Duggins
Pfc. Harley S. Ebey
Pfc. Daniel F. Ellison
Pfc. Paul E. Card
Pfc. Irvin L. Cast
Pfc. Richard C. Kesner
Pfc. John W. King
Pfc. Edward E. Kirby
Pfc. Vincent E. McFadden
Pfc. Joseph Macaluse
Pfc. Francis B. McVicker
Pfc. Floyd Mason
Pfc. Charles L. Porter
Pfc. Billy Ratliff
Pfc. Franklin G. Reindollar, Jr.
Pfc. Dallas L. Robbins
Pfc. Vernon G. Rothrock
Pfc. Chester D. Rzesutek
Pfc. Norman J. Schuster

Pfc. Edwin C. Shannon
Pfc. John Shaute
Pfc. Lloyd J. Staley
Pfc. Eron F. Stewart
Pfc. Cecil E. Wagner
Pfc. Robert O. Williamson
Pfc. Robert O. Wissler
Pfc. John J. Zecca, Jr.
Pfc. Frank Zimecki
Pfc. John J. Zolna
Pfc. August A. Plitt
Pvt. Albert I. Gilman
Pvt. Herbert B. Fisher
Pvt. David Golub
Pvt. Preston Jaucock, Jr.
Pvt. George M. Heald
Pvt. Stanley C. Konopka
Pvt. Frank A. Konstatine
Pvt. George M. McGrath
Pvt. Paul Mallon
Pvt. William D. O'Neill
Pvt. Donald L. Osborn
Pvt. Stanley Rawza
Pvt. James G. Stevenson



"C" COMPANY

OFFICERS

Capt. Louis G. Thompson	2nd Lt. Alex C. Kazmierski
1st Lt. Thomas A. Cookingham	2nd Lt. Nicholas Petock
1st Lt. Warren E. Clark	2nd Lt. Arlie W. Wilson, Jr.

ENLISTED MEN

1st Sgt. James J. Conroy	Tec 4 Nicholas Wysochansky
T/Sgt. Herbert C. Donnavant	Cpl. James E. Bennett
S/Sgt. Leo V. Amilkavich	Cpl. Jack T. Berry
S/Sgt. Marshall F. Pritts	Cpl. Marion C. Boxell
S/Sgt. Joseph F. Smith	Cpl. Joseph E. Butler
S/Sgt. James A. Spencer	Cpl. Charles R. Carlson
S/Sgt. Danforth H. Webster	Cpl. Neil J. Hallinhan
Sgt. Bruno H. Aglietti	Cpl. Rufus Hudson
Sgt. Harold E. Barnett	Cpl. Gerald G. Johnson
Sgt. William W. Carter	Cpl. William P. Kannel
Sgt. Richard R. Chirdon	Cpl. Alvin E. Kincaid
Sgt. Clifford D. Davis	Cpl. Ralph C. Mociun
Sgt. Ray C. Faulx	Cpl. Clarence H. Morris
Sgt. Leo H. Grill	Cpl. John L. Sharp
Sgt. Sheldon W. Harris	Cpl. William H. Smith, Jr.
Sgt. Guy T. Hodge	Cpl. James G. Stewart
Sgt. Henry J. Jagoda	Cpl. Chester Winckowski
Sgt. John F. Mueller	Cpl. Charles L. Beaver
Sgt. James W. Rinehart	Tec 5 Aubrey J. Blackwell
Sgt. William D. Roberts	Tec 5 Luster C. Boggess
Sgt. James C. Smith	Tec 5 George J. Gerencir
Sgt. Wilbert H. Smith	Tec 5 Joseph A. Johnson
Sgt. Joss W. Ullery	Tec 5 Robert L. Marchant
Tec 4 Max W. Crawley	Tec 5 Raymond V. O'Neill
Tec 4 Dominick D. Gregory	Tec 5 Anthony C. Picarello
Tec 4 Donald L. Harris	Tec 5 Harold D. Prescott
Tec 4 George E. Harris	Tec 5 Joseph P. Reese
Tec 4 Ray E. Killmer	Tec 5 Wayne C. Sheldon
Tec 4 Robert E. Palmer	Tec 5 Joseph C. Southers
Tec 4 Elba E. Salvaga	Tec 5 Francis Sutton
Tec 4 Dewey Scott	Tec 5 Ellsworth V. Wildoner
Tec 4 Rocco R. Sorgi	Tec 5 Clark L. West
Tec 4 Robert E. Stone	Tec 5 James W. Cassidy
Tec 4 Bernard P. Thomas	Pfc. Joseph D. Alderson
Tec 4 Warren W. Voelker	Pfc. William J. Aloia

Pfc. Claire G. Ankney
Pfc. Anthony Blatnick
Pfc. Robert J. Brichacek
Pfc. Charles Cannizzo
Pfc. Raymond R. Chestnut
Pfc. Alonzo L. Clark
Pfc. Curtis Coyle, Jr.
Pfc. Walter E. Davidson
Pfc. Leonard A. Gorman
Pfc. Maurice W. Guinn
Pfc. Robert M. Herrera
Pfc. Charles E. Hayslip
Pfc. Rudolph E. Hoffek
Pfc. Elbert W. Huddleston
Pfc. William E. Hughes
Pfc. Darvin V. Hurst
Pfc. William A. Knnak
Pfc. Lewis M. Krebs, Jr.
Pfc. Christ J. Kristo
Pfc. Vincent J. Losco
Pfc. Raymond H. Marquard
Pfc. August J. Mohr

Pfc. Herbert B. Newcomb
Pfc. Earl T. Nolan
Pfc. John A. Peterson
Pfc. William J. Preddy
Pfc. John J. Pryzbojewski
Pfc. Aron D. Scott
Pfc. Roderick E. Shadle
Pfc. Ira Standridge
Pfc. Talmadge A. Southern
Pfc. Johnny E. Stephens
Pfc. Arnold Strelitz
Pfc. Anthony P. Susoljak
Pfc. Kenneth L. Tawyea
Pfc. Howard G. Williams
Pfc. Horace G. Wood
Pfc. Bruce E. Wright
Pvt. Robert C. Brown
Pvt. James S. Hadnagy
Pvt. Lyman S. Hall
Pvt. Harvie L. Haynes
Pvt. Baiford L. Langford
Pvt. Lawrence O. Zapata