

HISTORY OF THE PROVISIONAL ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

In accordance with an order from General Headquarters received June 24, 1941 (AG 320.2, 6-19-41), the Brigade proceeded at once with the organization of a provisional antitank battalion to be one of a number of such units throughout the country organized for trial during forthcoming maneuvers to test proposed changes in current plans for anti-mechanized activities.

The above order created a Provisional Antitank Battalion for each of fourteen infantry divisions and eight artillery Brigades, the latter to be tentatively under GHQ. These battalions were to be formed from the personnel, equipment and materiel of the existing antitank elements of the units concerned. Extra officers needed were to come from other sources.

On June 25th, the 71st Brigade Antitank Battalion, christened the "Lightning Battalion" by its initial personnel, was officially formed (Tr. Memo 33 Hq. 71st Brigade) at Fort Ethan Allen under the direction of Lt. Colonel Wayland M. Minot, who had been assigned to duty as Brigade Antitank Officer on June 17th. Col. Minot was placed in command on June 28th (P 6 SO 101 Hq. 71st Br.) in addition to other duties. The Battalion, consisting of Batteries G and H of the 186th F. A. and Batteries G and H of the 187th F. A., the antitank batteries of the First and Second Battalions, respectively, of those regiments, moved into the Vermont National Guard Camp, adjacent to Ft. Ethan Allen, under canvas, on June 27 and 28. A temporary Headquarters Battery of 27 men chosen from the four batteries of the Battalions was organized on June 29th and reported for duty on July 7th.

At the time of the VI Army Corps maneuvers in which the Battalion participated from Aug. 25th to Sept. 16th, the Battalion strength consisted of 21 officers and 470 men.

Headquarters officers consisted of the following: Lt. Col. Wayland M. Minot, Capt. Walter S. Mullins, Capt. Maurice C. Longstreet, Capt. Frank F. Wilkins, 1st Lt. Douglas D. Bigbie, 1st Lt. Roger W. Squier.

Battery strength was as follows: G, 186, Capt. David DeG. Smith Commanding; 4 officers, 109 men. H, 186, Capt. Louis H. Erichs Commanding; 4 officers, 117 men. G, 187, Capt. John H. Minton Commanding; 3 officers, 120 men. H, 187, Capt. Alfred G. Seitz Commanding; 3 officers, 124 men.

The 27 men attached to Headquarters were still considered assigned to the batteries from which they had come and are therefore not counted separately.

The two Antitank Batteries of the 186th F. A. had been formed after September 1, 1940, from the companies making up the 106th Infantry of Brooklyn, as the regiment was known prior to that date. The Regiment was inducted into Federal service on Jan. 27, 1941, and these batteries were at that time at half normal strength with between 50 and 60 men each, only a few of whom had joined during the period just before induction.

With the batteries of the 187th (prior to Sept. 1 the 14th Infantry of Brooklyn, inducted Feb. 3, 1941) the situation was similar except that over three-quarters of the 60-70 men of each battery had joined during the month of January.

When the selectees for the 186th arrived at Madison Barracks, N. Y. (where the 186th had been stationed until moving to Ft. Ethan Allen on June 2-3), on April 30, and at Fort Ethan Allen for the 187th on May 6th, these four batteries approached their normal peacetime strength. When the Antitank Battalion was formed, somewhat more than half of the men of each battery were from the National Guard group, except in the case of H 186, where the situation was reversed.

During the two months immediately after its formation, the Battalion went through a unified training program planned with especial attention to the requirements of antitank warfare. The 75mm guns with which the batteries were equipped were fired at moving targets on the Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. Speed of movement from one position to another was emphasized as a prime requirement and the batteries participated in a series of road marches with all available vehicles, providing valuable experience, particularly to chauffeurs, scouts, and officers. The new Headquarters participated in the VI Army Corps CPX near Pratts Pond, Greenville, N. H., on July 21-23, and the Brigade CPX near Schuyler Falls, N. Y., early in August.

On August 20th the Battalion took part in a formal Brigade Review. On Aug. 21st, on 24 hours' notice, the Battalion vacated its summer camp and bivouaced on the drill field behind the barracks of the 187th F. A. On Aug. 22nd, at 7 A.M., left for the vicinity of Ft. Devens for its first maneuvers with troops of the VI A.C.



MICHAEL J. FIBICH
Colonel U.S.A.
Executive Officer, 71st F.A. Brigade,
and former Commanding Officer
71st Antitank Battalion,
71st F. A. Brigade

Born September 11, 1891. Commissioned 2nd Lieut. in 3rd Field Artillery, on November 26, 1916, from sergeant of the 3rd Infantry. Served on the Mexican Border, in France and in war between Poland and Russia. Went overseas with the 5th Field Artillery, First Division. Was instructor of Field Artillery at training schools at Camp de Cortquidon and Camp de Souge, and Supervisor of Artillery Instruction in the Guipry area, France. Assisted in organizing and preparing firing area for heavy artillery at La Courtine. With the rank of Captain, commanded in action the 2d Battalion, 323rd Field Artillery (75mm guns) during the battle of the Meuse Argonne, and supported in action the 28th, 29th, 32nd, 91st Divisions and the 17th French Army Corps. With the 32nd Division, participated in the march into Germany and the occupation of the Rhine. Promoted to Major of Field Artillery, U. S. Army, on April, 1919. Was appointed Assistant Military Attache to the American Legation, Warsaw, Poland, on September, 1919, and served as Military Observer on the Polish-Bolshevik front and during the plebiscite in North Silesia. Resigned from the U. S. Army in Europe on August, 1920, and served in action as Major of Field Artillery with the Polish Army until the armistice was declared between the Poles and Bolsheviks. Attended the 1st Leavenworth Class, the School of Artillery Fire at Valdahon and the Army School of Advanced Artillery Studies at Trier, Germany. Upon return to the United States in 1923 became a major of Field Artillery Reserve. Promoted to Lieut. Col. Field Artillery Reserve in February, 1925, and was assigned to duty with the 432nd Field Artillery. Returned to active duty on May 8, 1941, as Lieut. Col. and Brigade Executive with the 71st Field Artillery Brigade. Promoted to Colonel of Field Artillery on May 23, 1941.



WAYLAND M. MINOT
Lieutenant Colonel U.S.A.
Commanding,
71st Antitank Battalion,
71st F. A. Brigade

Born October 23, 1889. April 9, 1917-June 21, 1917, 1st Lt. C Bat., 1st FA; June 21, 1917-Sept. 22, 1917, Captain, 1st Bn., FA; Sept. 22, 1917-May 26, 1918, Capt., 182nd FA, AEF; May 26, 1918-June 26, 1918, Captain, F Bat., AEF; June 26, 1918-Dec. 16, 1918, Major, 1st Bn., AEF; Dec. 16, 1918-April 29, 1919, Major, 1st FA, AEF; reappointed Major, Feb. 11, 1927; promoted to Lt. Col., Jan. 30, 1932; reappointed Lt. Col., Jan. 19, 1937.

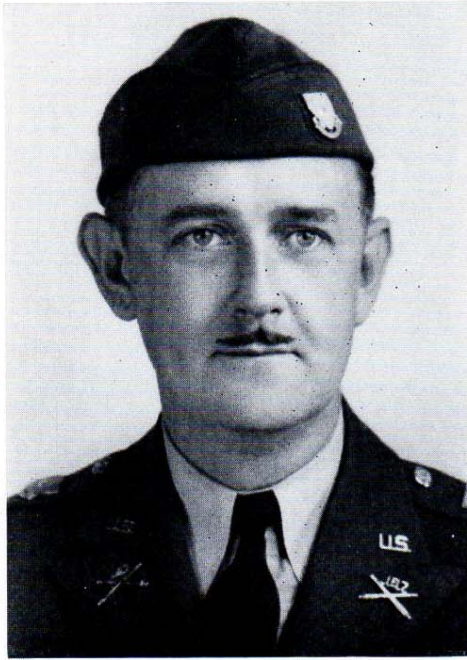
Formerly commanding Antitank Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Brigade, stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.



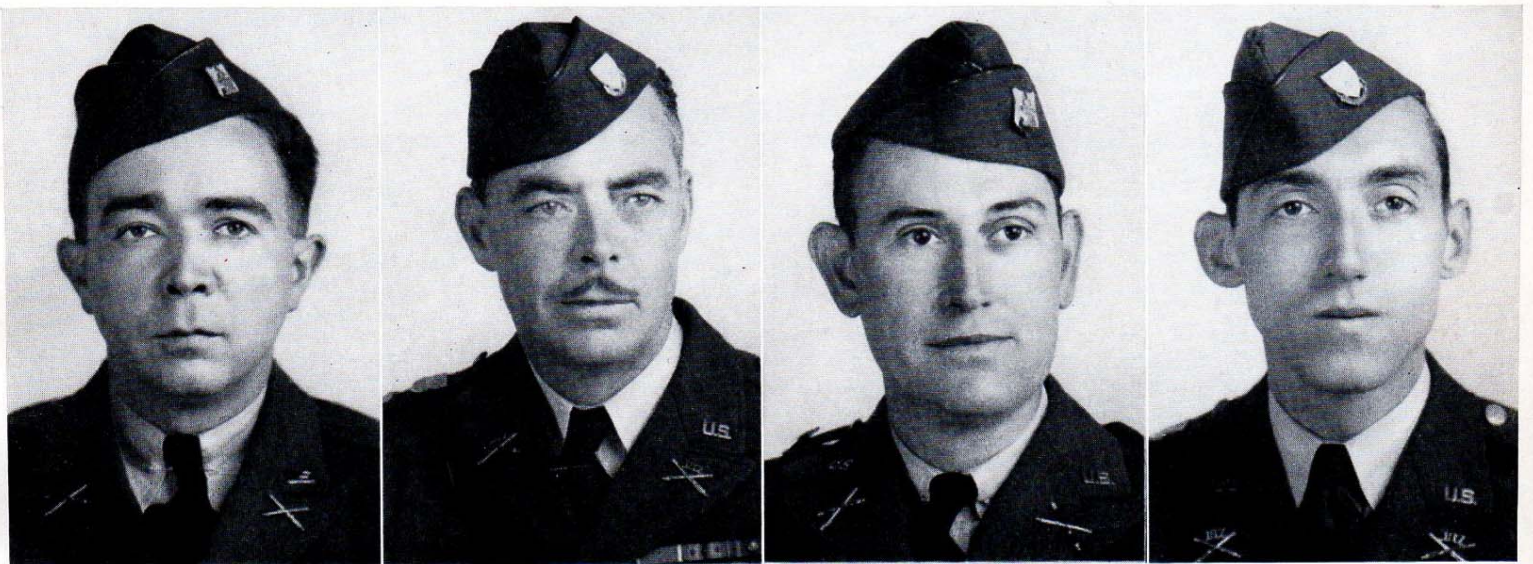
BATTALION STAFF

71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



WALTER S. MULLINS
Captain
Executive Officer



FRANK F. WILKINS
Captain
S-2

MAURICE C. LONGSTREET
Captain
S-3

ROGER W. SQUIER
1st Lieutenant

DOUGLAS D. BIGBIE
1st Lieutenant



71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



1. Sign at Base Camp.
2. Antitank Battalion in review.
3. Officers, Antitank Battalion.

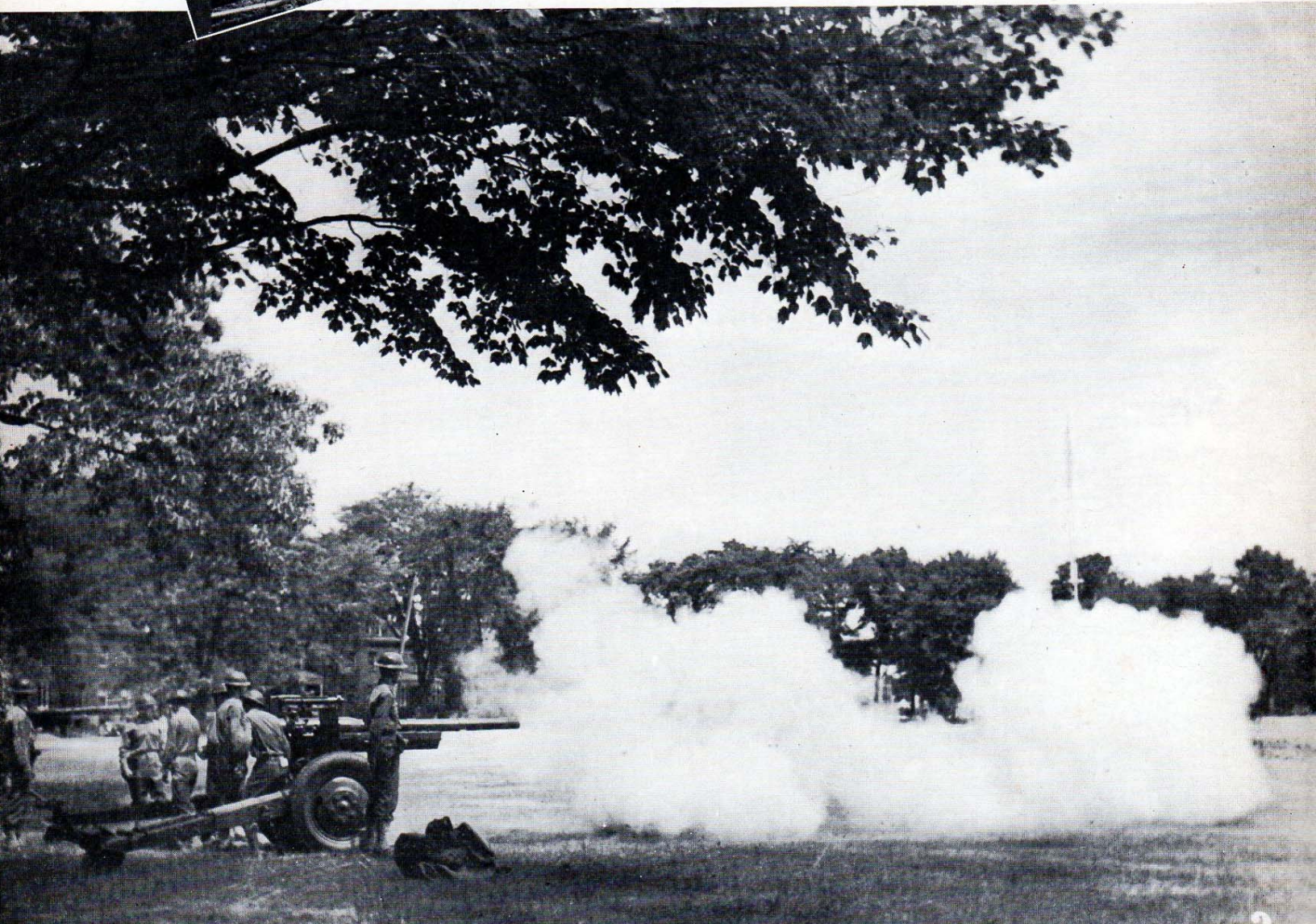


71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



1. Officers of Battery H, 186th F. A., Antitank Battalion in bivouac area.
2. July 4 salute at Fort Ethan Allen, 186th Field Artillery Antitank Battalion.
- 3-5. Dinner in field, Battery H, 186th Field Artillery Antitank Battalion.
6. Tent row, Battery G, 187th Field Artillery Antitank Battalion.





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71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

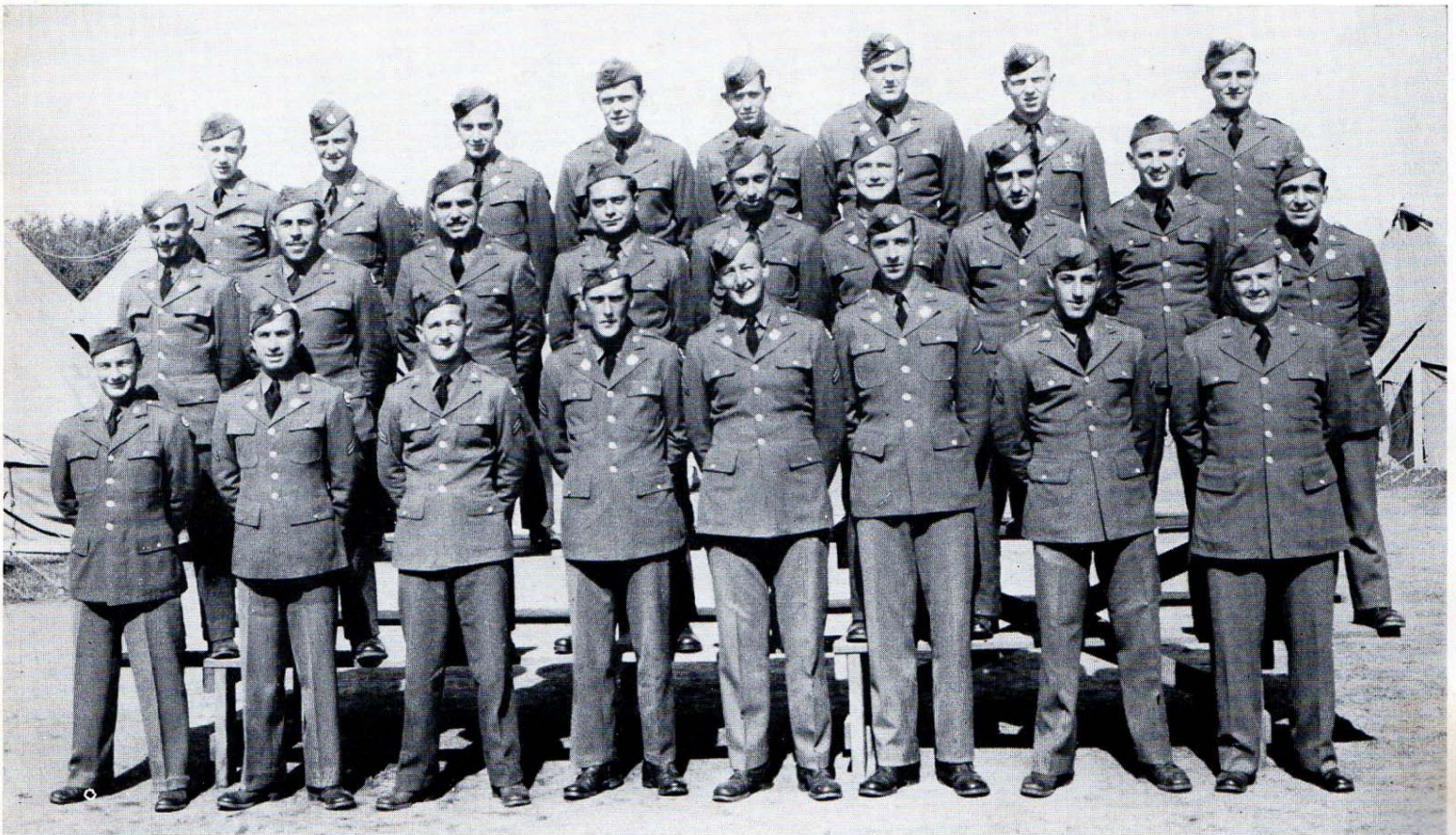
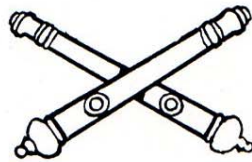
1. Officers' mess Battery H.
2. Advancing in maneuvers, Battery H.
3. Mess line in maneuver area, Battery G.
4. First Sergeant and orderly tent, Battery G.



HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

PROVISIONAL ANTITANK BATTALION



First row: C. A. Smith, Cpl. C. R. Lewis, J. B. Arnold, Cpl. W. J. Horn, R. J. Jabaut, J. V. Kapp, J. B. Meyers, A. S. Bausch. Second row: H. H. Schwarz, C. T. Greco, A. A. Vaccarino, A. F. Brancato, S. Bendit, S.

Schulman, R. A. Lamitula, W. K. Jacoby, PFC D. Romano. Third row: D. J. Nolan, W. M. Malczynski, P. M. Clermont, F. J. Hughes, C. L. Savage, C. A. Raab, PFC A. Greenfield, H. T. Roussis.



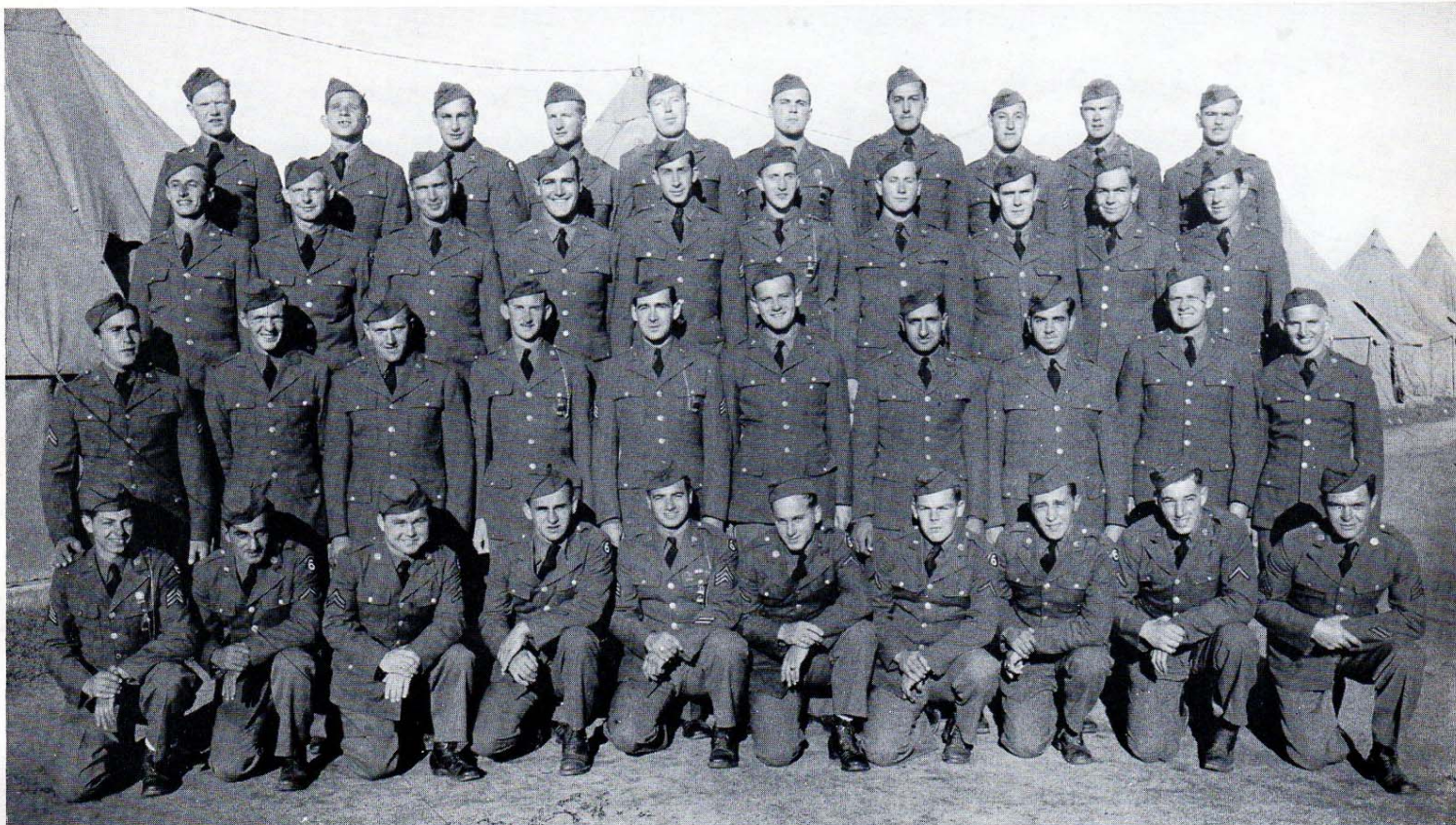
DANIEL DE G. SMITH
Captain
 Commanding,
 Battery G

BATTERY G

(186 F. A.)

71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



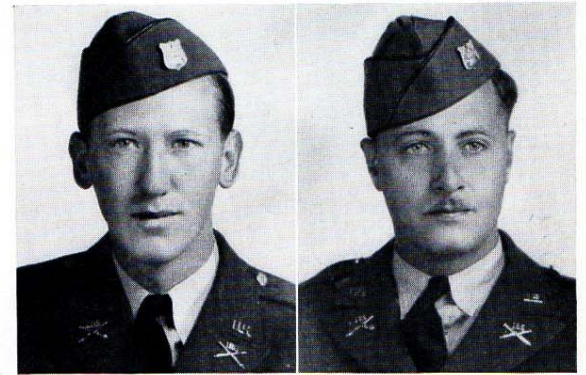
First row: Sgt. S. Manno, PFC P. P. Graziano, Cpl. F. J. Sinclair, Salvinski, Sgt. N. Cosenza, PFC G. J. Case, PFC E. C. Eichenauer, P. Correale, PFC V. T. Connell, Sgt. E. J. Sweeney. *Second row:* Cpl. J. J. Lazzaro, G. Martin, G. H. Jackson, Sgt. W. J. Jacoby, Sgt. A. Service, J. Itzkowitz, R. A. Lamitola, S. Schwartz, W. F. Cumiskey, W. K. Jacoby. *Third row:*

J. A. Blaha, PFC R. J. Cahill, G. Weissman, J. Ricklin, Sgt. P. Jacobson, Sgt. R. H. Jacoby, N. A. Noviello, Hughes, K. J. Osward, PFC H. Garsh. *Fourth row:* Cpl. B. K. Feeney, PFC L. H. Schmitz, PFC A. R. Ventrelli, J. W. Coles, Cpl. J. J. Reilly, Sgt. J. A. McAllister, J. Pazofsky, J. B. Meyers, Sgt. C. T. Hedrick, Sgt. Hughes.



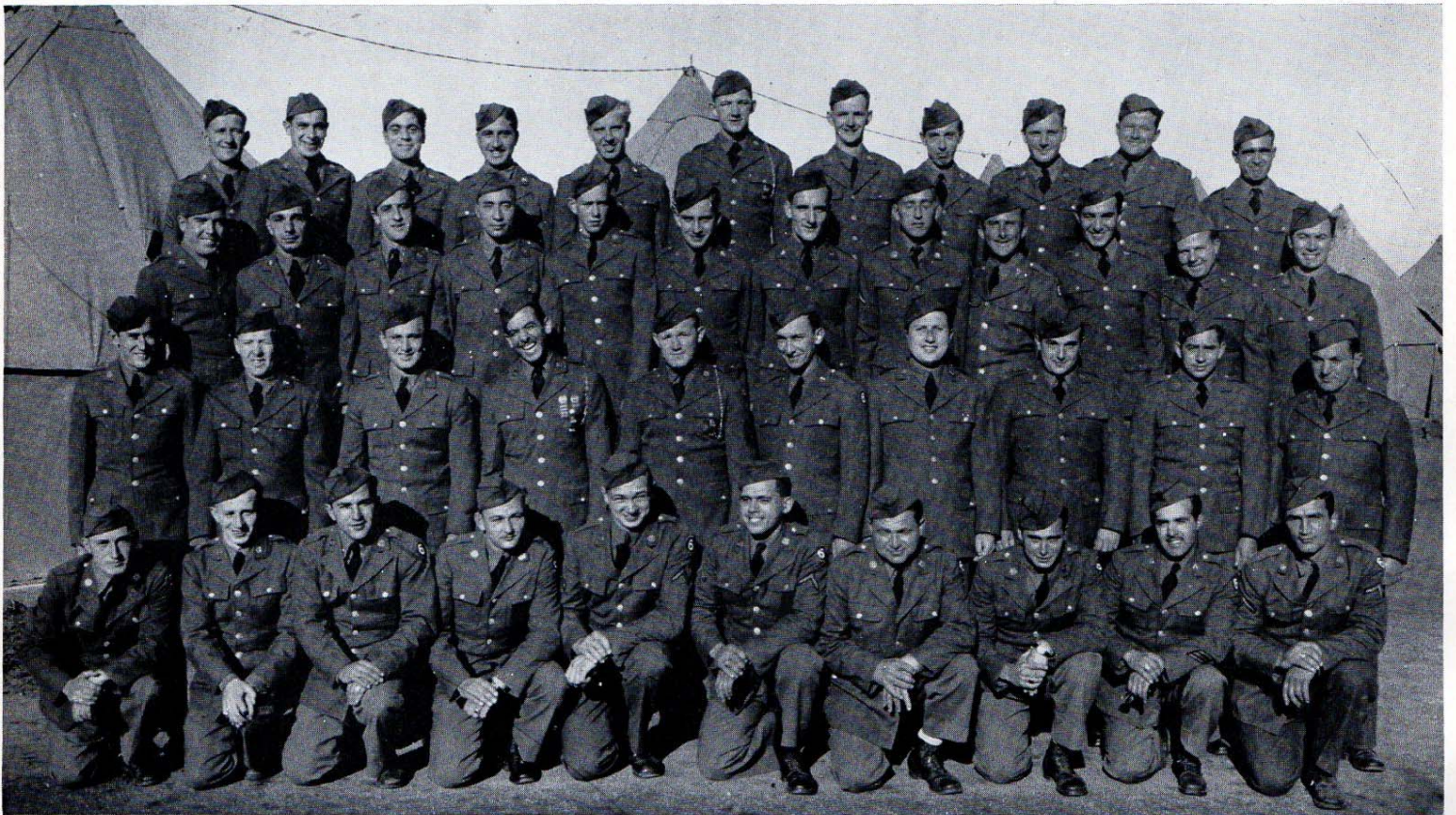
STEPHEN PORCARI
1st Lieutenant

RICHARD B. WILDER
2nd Lieutenant



JOSEPH V. TYNDALL
2nd Lieutenant

BENEDICT J. LA BUE
2nd Lieutenant



First row: W. Rosenbloom, D. J. Nolan, J. E. Cirigliano, C. C. Niemczyk, PFC J. W. Gilbert, PFC F. G. Rabbito, PFC J. Vortrefflich, H. S. Taub, PFC C. Alessi, A. Salak. Second row: E. J. Cerna, J. J. Flanders, J. A. Pisano, Sgt. F. F. Tucciarone, 1st Sgt. J. E. Clarke, N. J. Robilotto, D. Mendelson, J. J. Carpino, E. J. DiMauro, A. V. Almeida. Third row: E. R. Bar-

reau, A. Termine, D. J. Verdi, J. E. Green, C. L. Savage, P. M. Clermont, W. T. Grady, PFC B. Eisman, D. Weinberger, N. Cooper, E. W. Metzner, D. Bombace. Fourth row: J. B. Arnold, J. A. Bianco, J. P. Manna, E. H. DiPinto, W. C. Castle, Sgt. E. T. McLaughlin, PFC R. J. Hayes, PFC C. H. Hall, S. Goldberg, A. Cascioli, F. Rocco.



LOUIS H. ERICHS
Captain
 Commanding,
 Battery H

BATTERY H

(186 F. A.)

71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

RICHARD S. ESTES
1st Lieutenant
 (Photograph Unobtainable)



JOSEPH L. TASETANO
1st Lieutenant



PASQUALE M. LAMITOLA
2nd Lieutenant

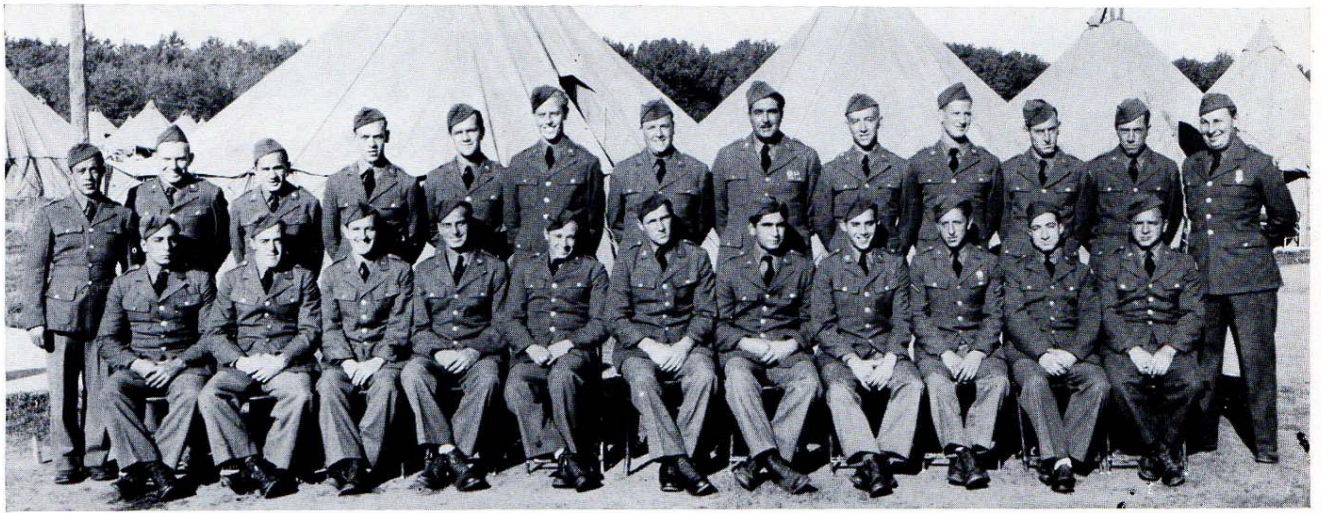


JAMES C. ALTEMUS
2nd Lieutenant



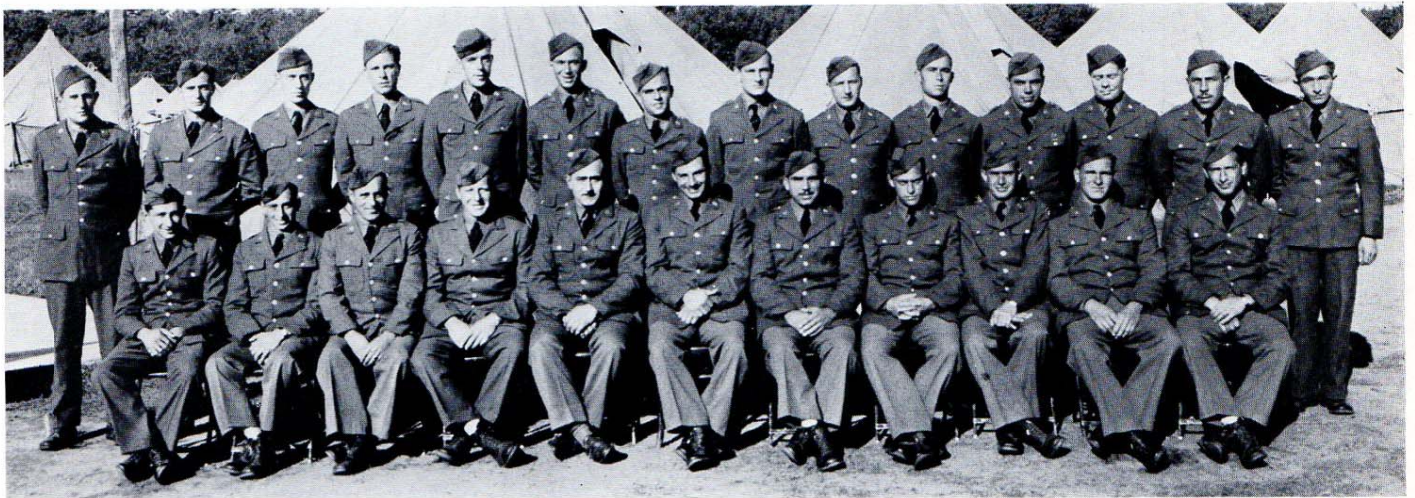
First row: Sgt. S. R. Zonca, Sgt. C. C. McCumiskey, Sgt. P. Grogert, Sgt. N. Scunziano, Sgt. H. Spersen, 1st Sgt. R. A. Weingart, Sgt. P. Alfasi, Sgt. C. Nobile, Sgt. J. Bertucci, Sgt. A. Banakus, Sgt. H. G.

Capes. Second row: Cpl. P. Garbarino, Cpl. C. Tamburello, Cpl. J. Klein, Cpl. J. Berger, PFC J. Cuneo, PFC T. Capobianco, PFC A. Prunty, J. Martinelli, Sgt. V. Chirco.



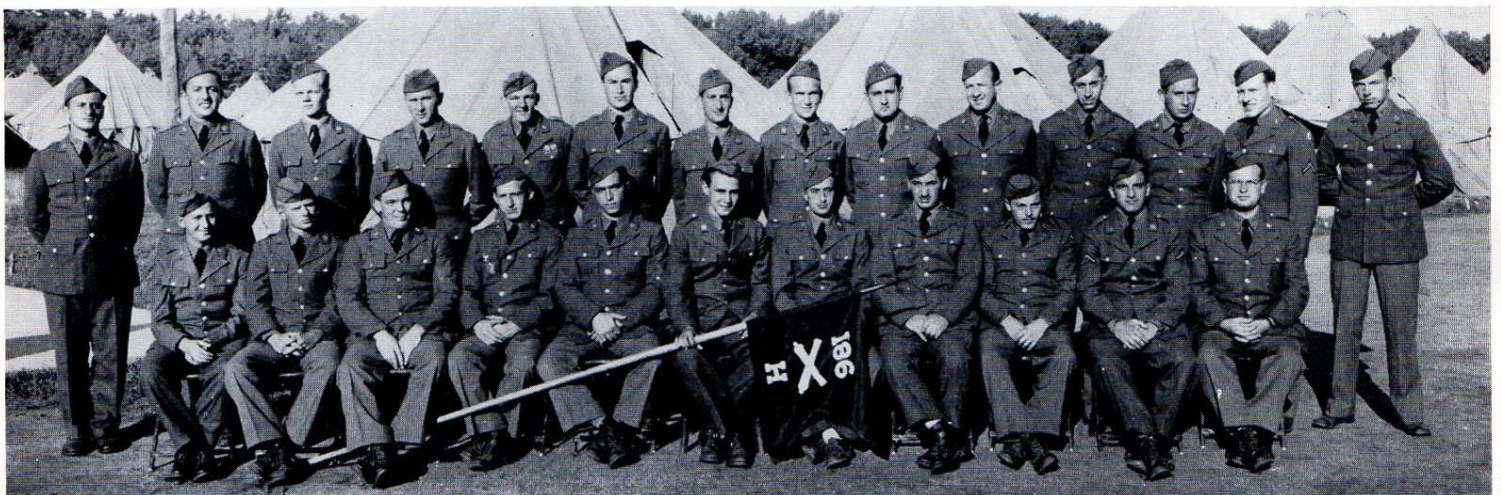
First row: Gruessing, A. Inserra, W. Clacny, R. Conklin, V. Gillen, A. Bausch, S. Morsillo, R. Goetz, J. Wise, J. Bram, C. Horgan.
Second row: J. Bisciglia, Sgt. J. Fercenia, C. Ulino, J. Carroll, R.

LoScalzo, H. Foster, J. Kandelowicz, V. Delsante, T. Andronica, A. Mazzocchi, M. Casciello, H. Hecker, A. Cash.



First row: W. Schraeter, S. Quattrocchi, R. Tepfer, I. Schwartz, J. Manginelli, L. Gaudiomonte, A. Vaccarino, J. Goldstein, H. Moskowitz, R. Brumm, N. Lapidus. Second row: I. Glazer, A. Kass, L.

Peterson, L. Collins, A. Bergersen, A. Billig, C. Gerardi, J. Gossard, J. Fay, M. Cancel, J. Siavin, J. Fentor, C. Greco, A. Renna.



First row: D. Anapo, E. Klugmann, N. A. Douglas, L. Passera, J. Nicolosi, L. Tannazzo, V. Muscarella, J. Marchese, A. Tramuta, Chiusano, M. Nelson.
Second row: A. DeNardo, M. Adler, J. McNamara, C. Kulas, L. Petersen,

H. Cohen, M. Markowitz, F. Menriski, P. Grimaldi, R. Florea, S. Bendit, Klein, PFC E. Connors, J. McShane.



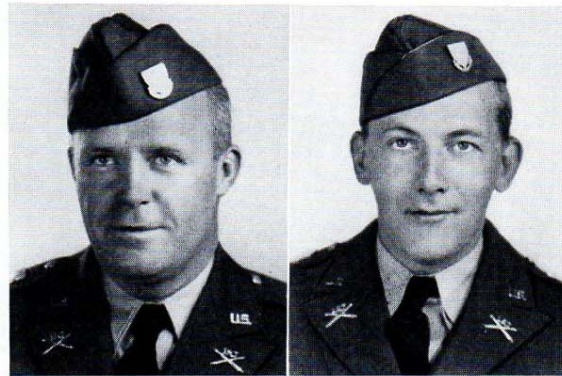
JOHN H. MINTON
Captain
 Commanding,
 Battery G

BATTERY G

(187 F. A.)

71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

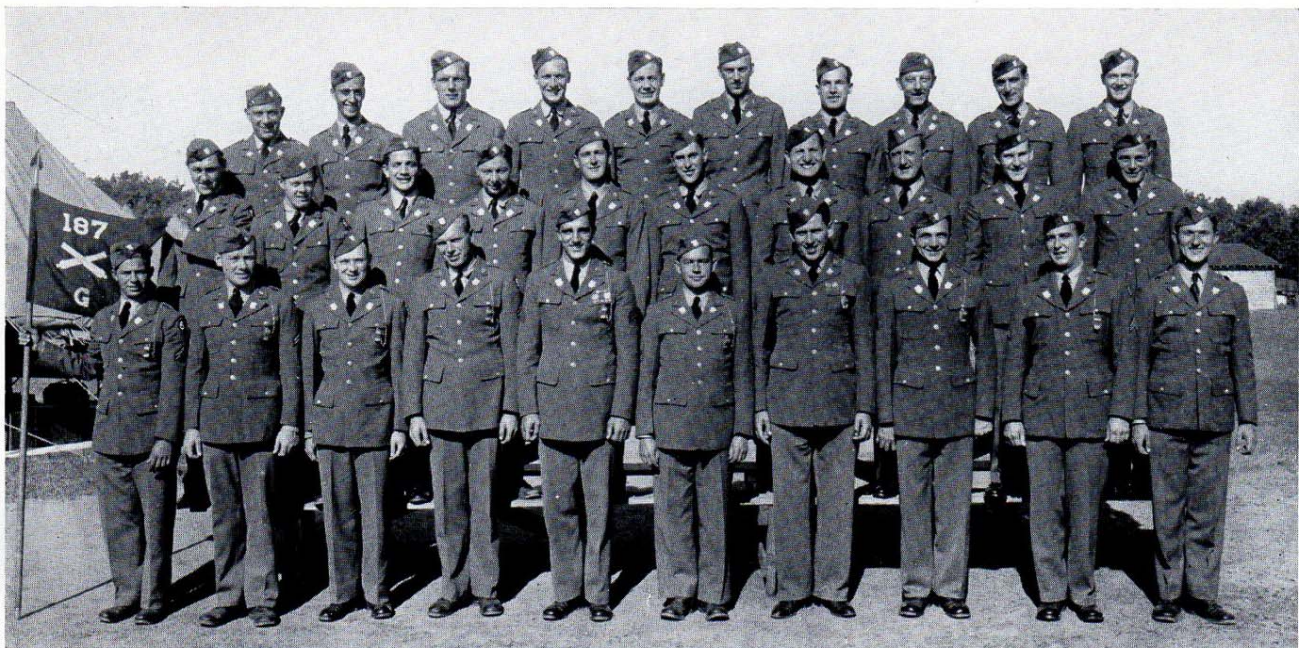


FREDERICK W. YOOS
1st Lieutenant

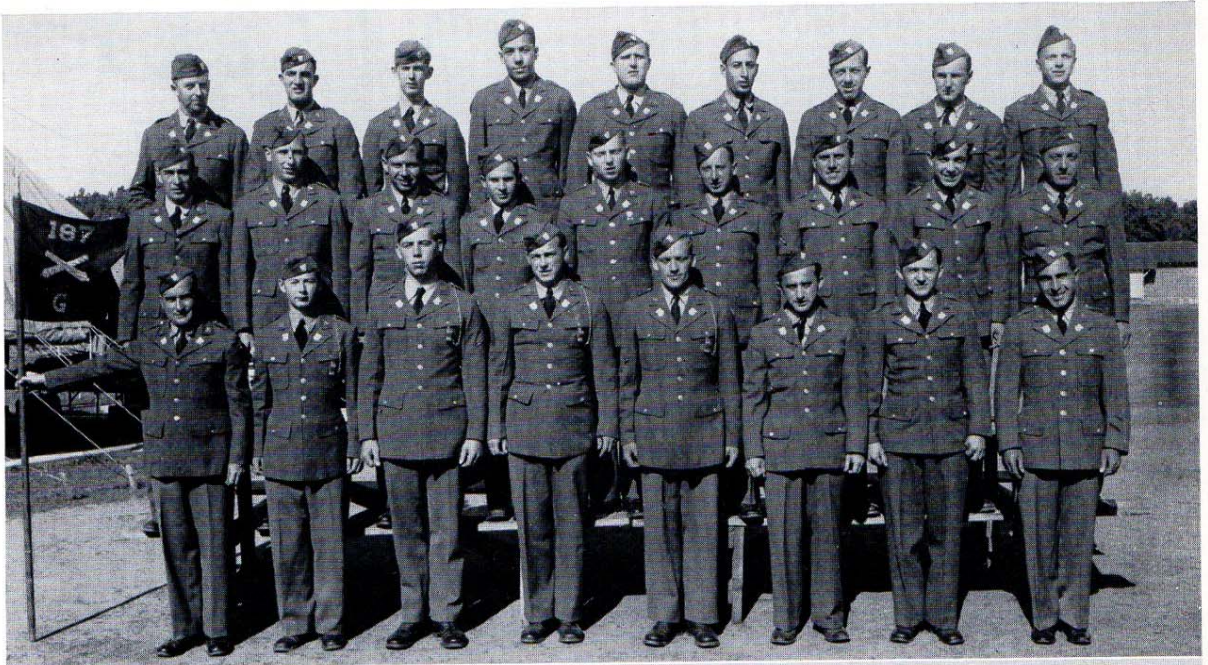
RICHARD F. FRANK
2nd Lieutenant

First row: Cpl. V. Chieffolo, Cpl. B. U. Reynolds, Cpl. J. H. Henderson, Cpl. G. W. Hamlik, Sgt. A. J. Cuisimano, 1st Sgt. R. Q. Olmsted, Sgt. L. J. Savarese, Sgt. F. T. Marchese, Cpl. P. J. Bilello, PFC A. C. Tomczyk. *Second row:* PFC E. J. Perkowski, W. E. Crane, PFC A. A. Masullo, C.

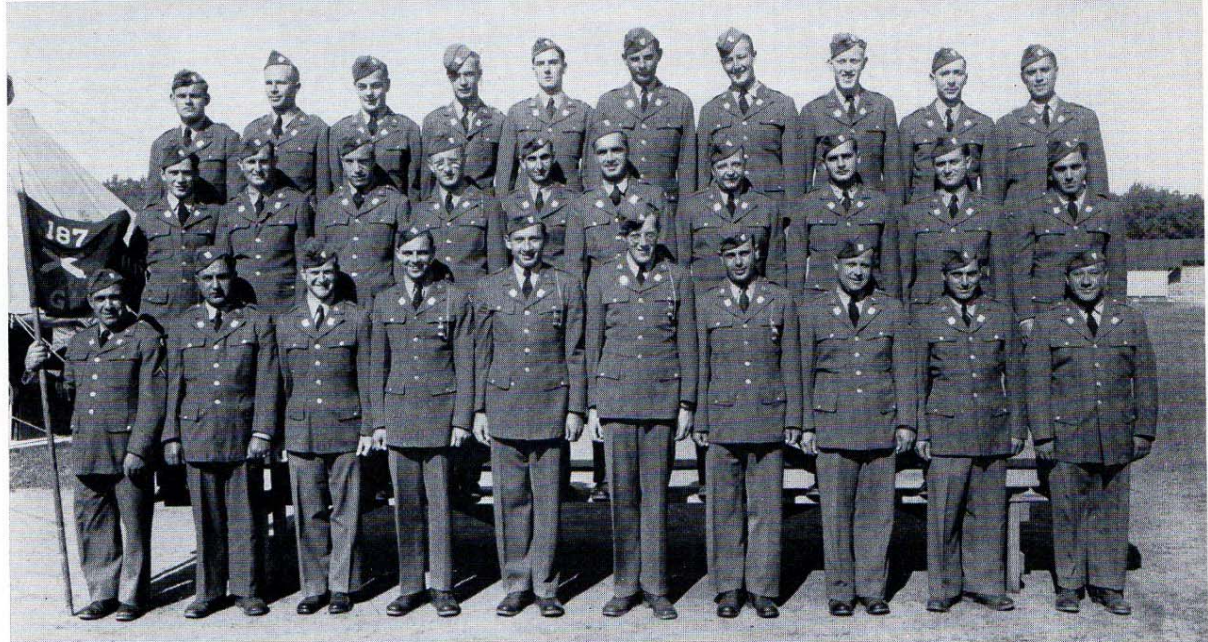
E. Schouw, J. J. Casey, G. H. Davis, H. S. Tugender, J. E. Becker, PFC C. P. Hewitt, Sgt. J. V. Pineau. *Third row:* PFC E. Rubino, F. Pellegrino, PFC P. W. Korotish, W. J. Emerson, T. J. O'Brien, W. H. Ethington, PFC S. J. Ateniese, I. R. Braught, P. F. Poccia, PFC E. Bridgeman.



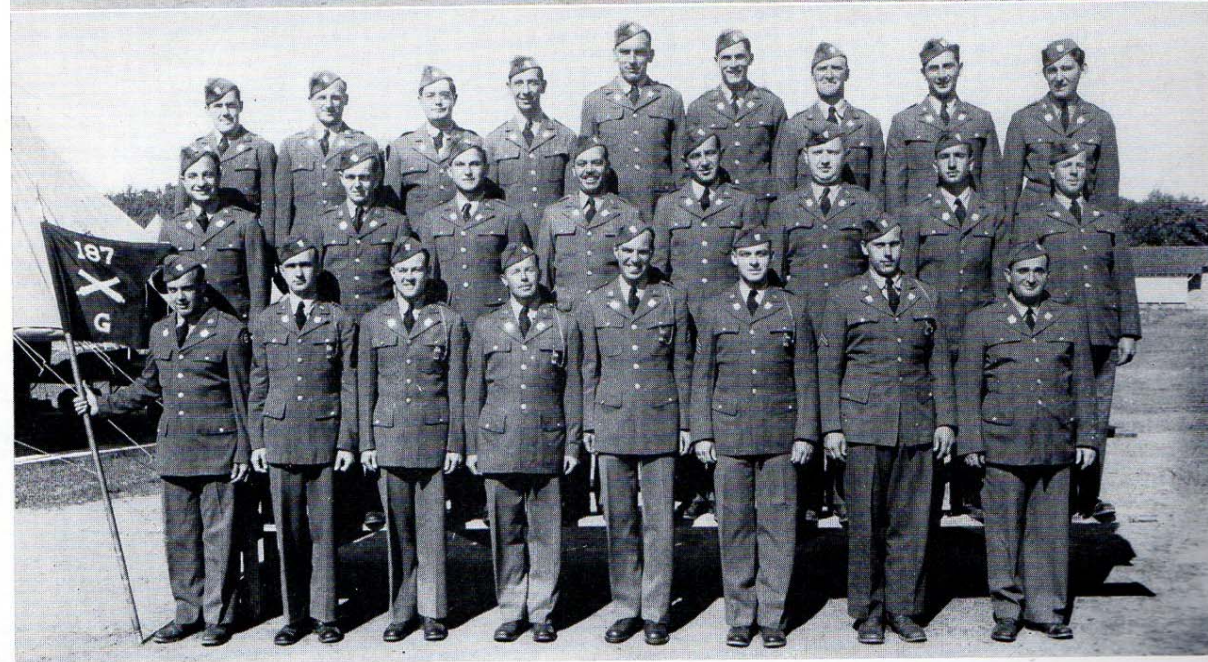
First row: PFC S. T. Laspina, Cpl. W. G. Sherburne, Sgt. G. V. Lusk, Sgt. F. J. Daly, Cpl. A. L. Norris, J. Weinreb, F. D. Gallik, A. C. Gaglia. Second row: W. Miller, J. A. Hanford, M. Hammer, H. Breenbreg, PFC A. Greenfield, R. Faszcaewski, PFC E. J. Perkowski, J. Kennedy, J. Loscalxo. Third row: M. B. Dullea, PFC M. M. Menechella, J. D. Doyle, J. A. Rund, C. A. Raab, A. R. Durham, PFC J. G. Hounsell, N. Ogrodnick, PFC N. E. Dahl.



First row: PFC D. Romano, P. C. Perdikos, W. M. Malczynski, Cpl. E. W. Schiffer, Sgt. Q. R. Unger, Sgt. H. Mallon, Cpl. C. F. Irving, T. T. Volnick, A. Phillips, S. Steckel. Second row: A. Muscente, E. M. Tesiny, E. A. Rock, R. J. Niedbalski, W. J. Schmitz, J. B. Crowley, E. F. Ferdin, H. H. Zupnik, G. W. LaVair, J. Pavona. Third row: C. A. Nelson, J. Dugoniths, H. L. Graham, PFC F. P. Orlick, J. T. Regan, M. P. Pier, R. J. Jabault, PFC W. A. Crowley, C. A. Dwyer, H. L. Cohen.



First row: J. A. Miller, Cpl. F. A. Linsostadt, O. C. Gernert, Sgt. P. J. Creamer, Sgt. W. J. Little, J. F. McMullen, D. C. Fischer, M. Rosenthal. Second row: J. T. Gagliaardi, H. V. Weitske, A. Dedunyk, Cassera, K. Szakolczay, B. W. Stultz, A. S. Serio, J. R. Tabolt. Third row: A. C. Dolan, PFC G. P. Perkowski, D. L. Orton, PFC L. J. Brambilla, H. M. Singer, PFC W. M. Talarek, C. Ruthberg, PFC S. Levey, N. Shapiro.



BATTERY H

(187 F. A.)

71st ANTITANK BATTALION

71st FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

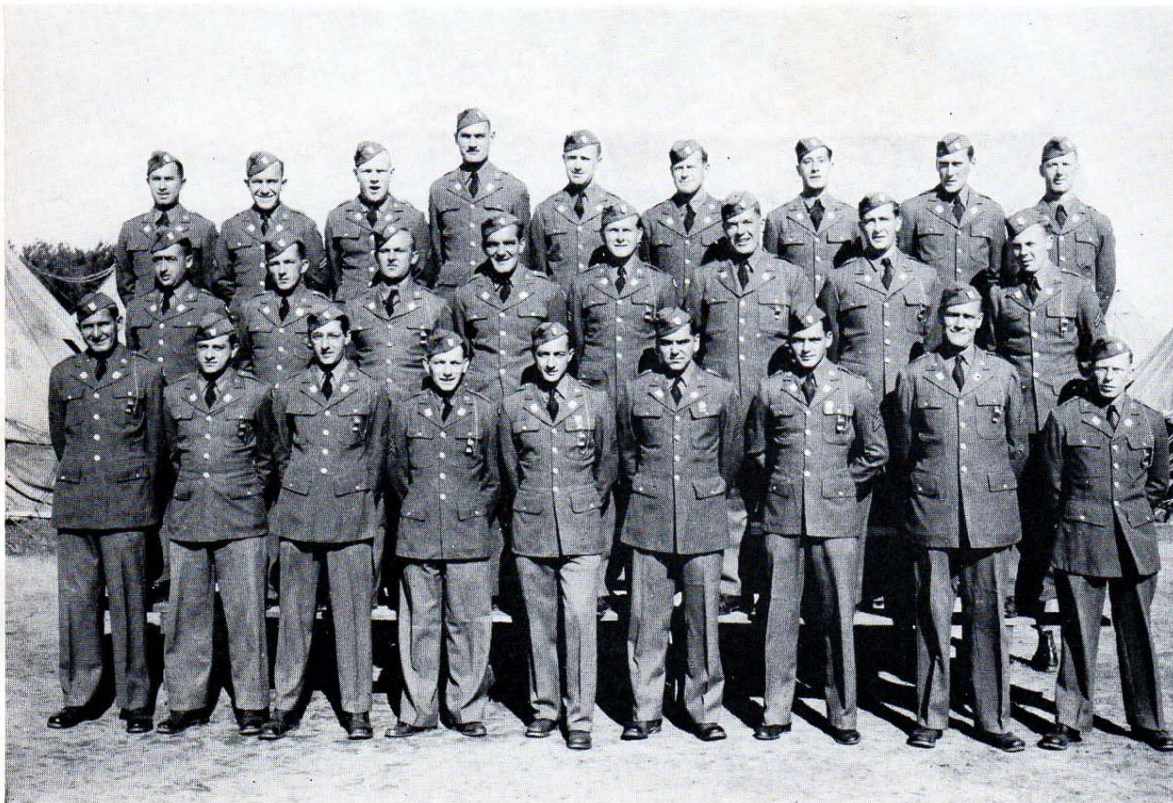


ALFRED G. SEITZ
Captain
Commanding,
Battery H



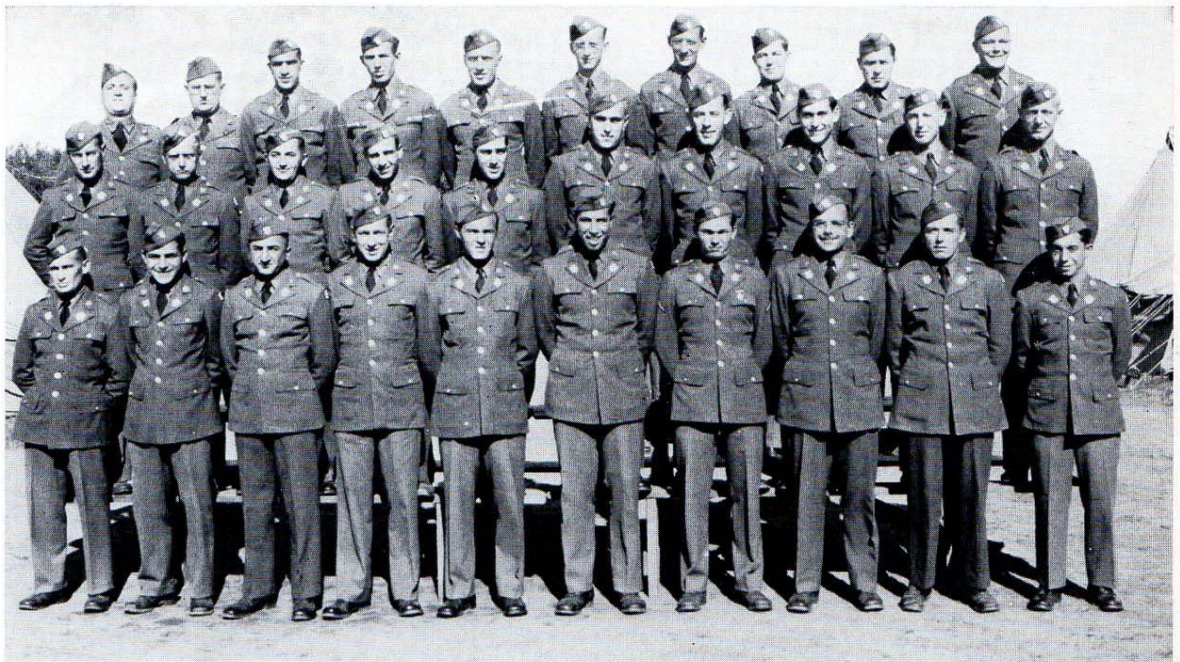
CHARLES A. WRIGHT
1st Lieutenant

VINCENT D. REED
2nd Lieutenant

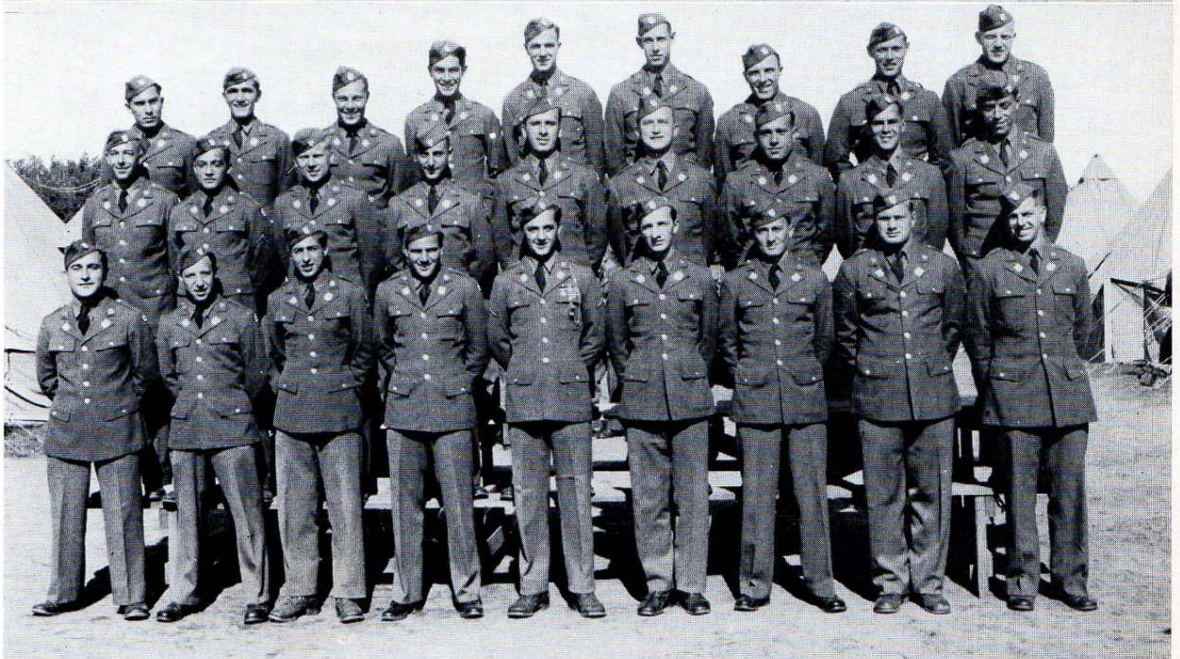


First row: Sgt. A. Frislid, Sgt. J. J. Migliore, Sgt. L. Marazza, Sgt. J. J. Halen, 1st Sgt. P. W. Hanley, Sgt. H. G. Megara, Sgt. F. Hillgardner, Sgt. H. Peterson, Sgt. H. Pearson. Second row: Cpl. Macaluso, Cpl. J. G. Finn, Cpl. E. A. Axtell, Cpl. L. H. Cutrone, Sgt. A. A. Cuzowski, Sgt. J. J. Lyons, Sgt. P. Talty, Cpl. T. R. Kennelly. Third row: Cpl. C. R. Lewis, PFC E. F. Ford, Cpl. J. A. Dunbar, Cpl. R. A. Schaller, Cpl. T. A. Dyas, Cpl. S. H. Stackpole, Cpl. J. H. Chiappone, Cpl. W. J. Horn, J. W. Pire.

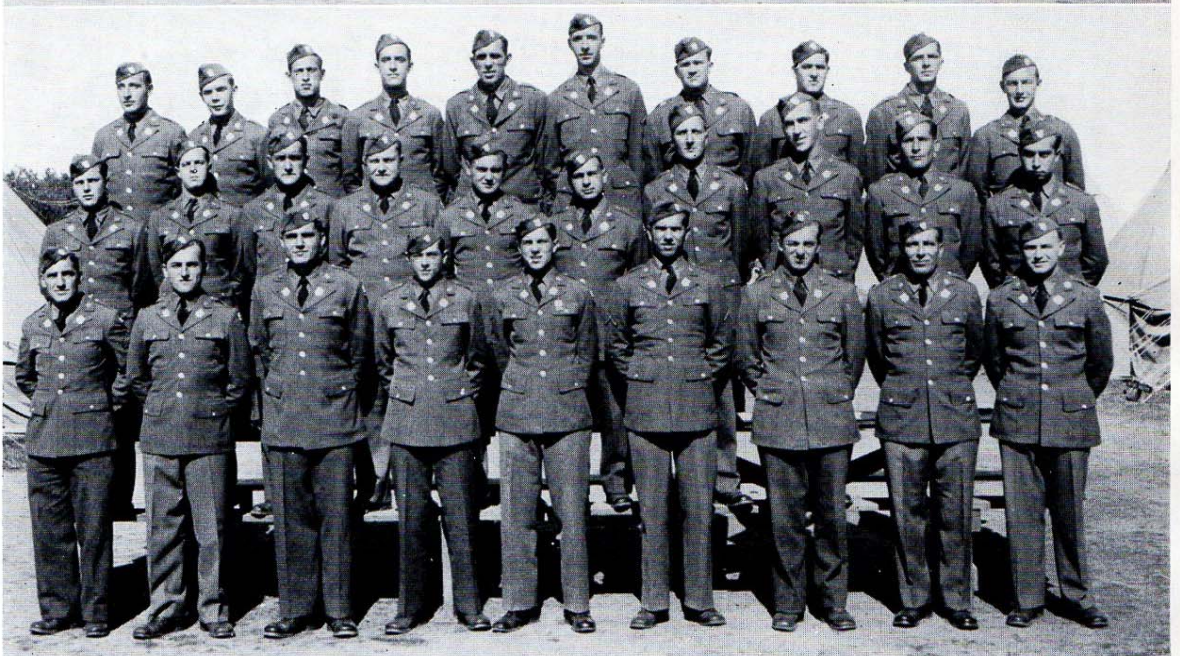
First row: I. Pagada, L. De-
 ciccio, J. R. Troham, P. H.
 Levitan, J. Stopa, J. L. De
 Phillips, PFC W. W. Joyce,
 L. J. Soukey, L. Szakacs, R.
 A. Sens. *Second row:* R. J.
 Freego, C. R. Gottman, S.
 Zucker, J. P. DeLuca, A. A.
 Cicciola, D. L. Kune, H. N.
 Rozos, R. A. Visconti, V. R.
 Gurtin, M. Brundjar. *Third*
row: J. J. Hera, W. Stock-
 burger, F. Sicuranza, PFC
 S. G. Clum, PFC D. E.
 Schmidt, PFC A. F. Oakes,
 PFC R. A. Wainright, J. W.
 Youngblood, PFC T. Comer,
 F. N. Roppelt.



First row: D. V. Spagnuolo,
 E. Resciniti, R. Sirico, D.
 Savoia, A. J. Amody, P. A.
 Venezia, PFC J. F. Amaty, F.
 Costello, R. E. Chrisman.
Second row: W. P. Almy,
 PFC L. Montalto, C. J. Schoff,
 H. Schwarz, C. T. Lavery,
 S. Schulman, J. Belmen, R.
 B. Wolf, B. B. Jacobs. *Third*
row: J. A. Jacobs, PFC J.
 Siouffi, J. J. Czarnecki, B.
 Meister, J. D. Snow, K. A.
 Cooper, R. J. Chirico, C. Ros-
 coe, R. L. Curtis.



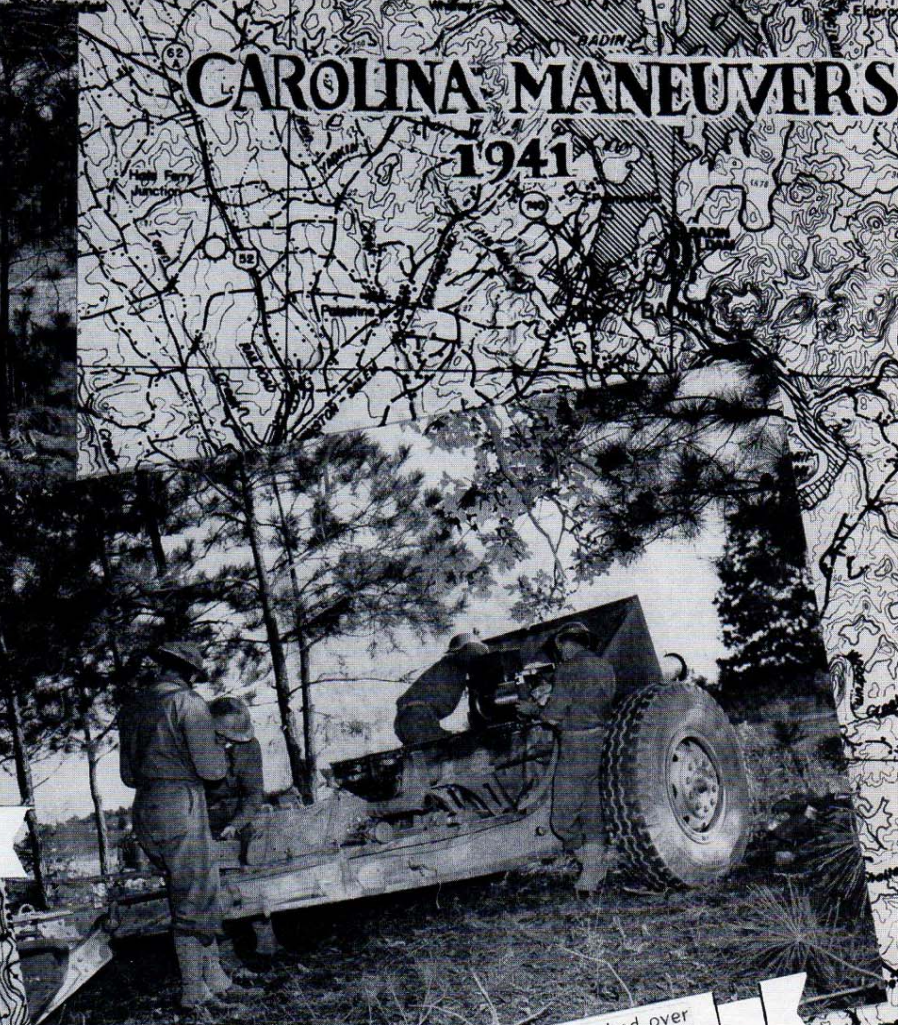
First row: PFC F. A. Nigro,
 H. T. Roussis, J. H. Biro, T.
 D. Monigan, H. L. Barbuto,
 PFC J. F. Gulanski, F. C.
 Majwicz, H. Zeller, J. Raul.
Second row: N. N. LaVene,
 A. P. Catozzi, H. L. Belle,
 PFC M. W. Thorn, PFC L. F.
 Illano, S. Blume, A. Pasquale,
 H. P. Albro, M. Roman, M.
 W. Sarno. *Third row:* E. A.
 Bierds, W. D. Garrison, PFC
 T. E. Brooks, Lehman, A.
 W. Groseklaus, J. V. Kapp,
 PFC E. R. Lewis, PFC J. J.
 Fuori, A. F. Patterson, C. A.
 Smith.



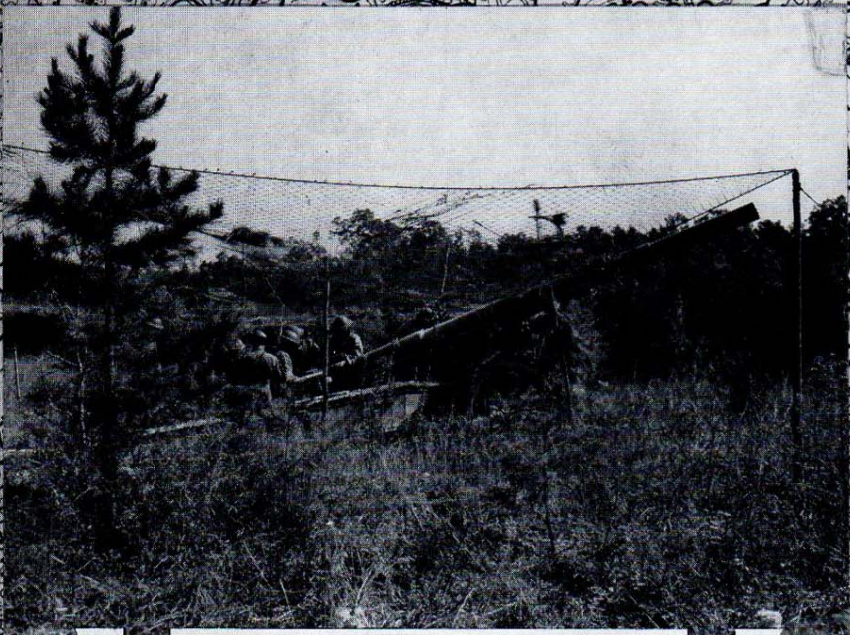
CAROLINA MANEUVERS 1941



186th F. A. detail laying wire.



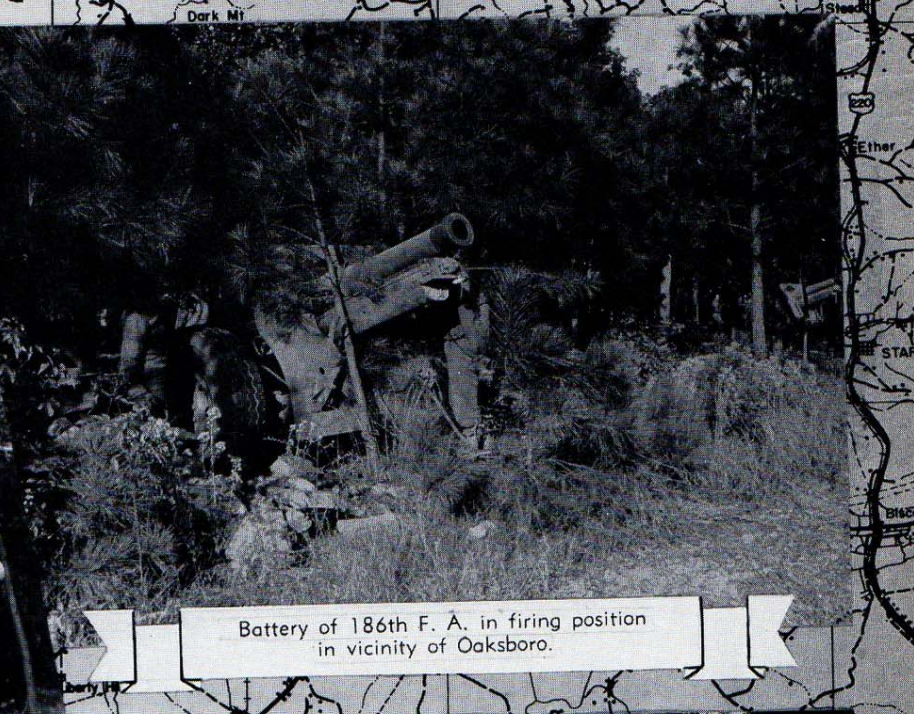
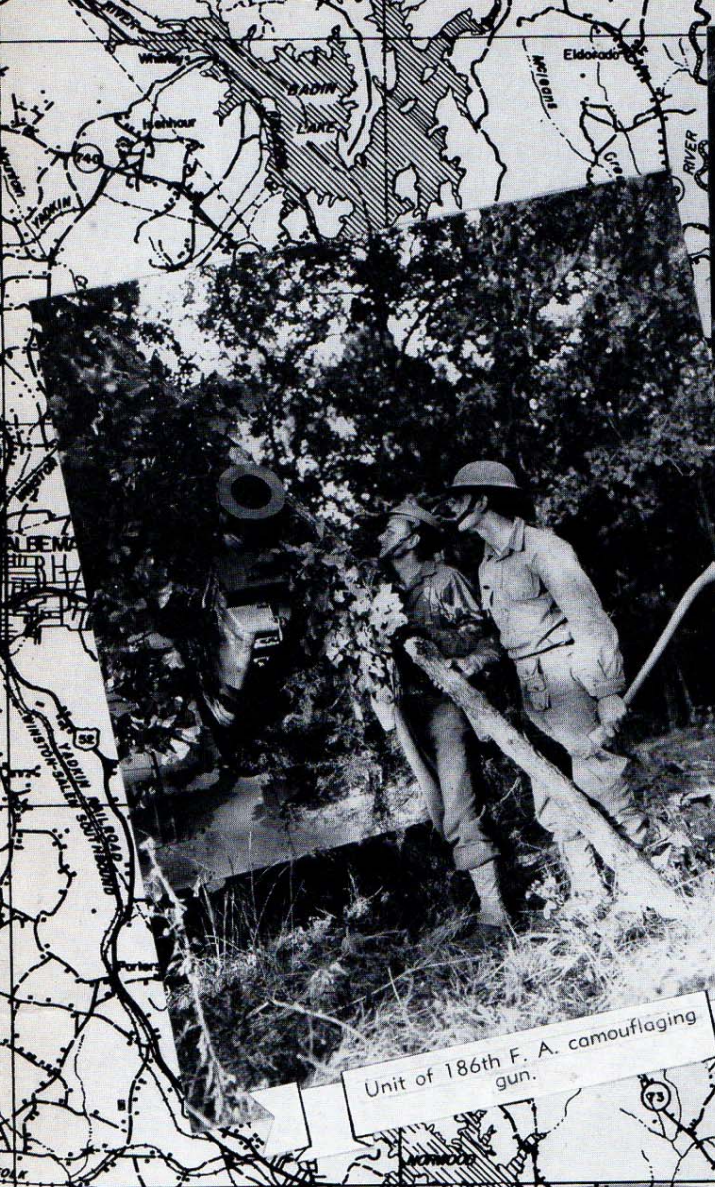
Howitzer of 186th F. A. being checked over after the fight (prior to G.H.Q. maneuver).



Battery C, 258th F. A., setting 155mm gun in position in woods near Bear Creek.



Observation group at station on water tower 100 ft. above town of Albemarle, North Carolina.



Battery of 186th F. A. in firing position in vicinity of Oaksboro.



Unit of 186th F. A. camouflaging gun.



Unit of 186th F. A. in firing position.



Observation post on Morrow Mountain near Albemarle . . . Pee Dee river in distance.

186th F. A. gun crew setting up camouflage during VI A. C. maneuver in vicinity of Oaksboro.