"HELL ON WHEELS"

WAR AGAINST THE AXIS

1942 - 1943 - 1944 - 1945

66 A.R. · 67 A.R. · 41 A.I.R. · 82 R.C.N. · 17 A.ENGR. · 14 A.F.A. · 78 A.F.A. · 92 A.F.A. · SUPPLY BN. · MAINT. BN. · 48 MED BN. · 702 T.D. · 195 A.A.A.

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

ENGLAND · ENGLISH CHANNEL · HOLLAND · BELGIUM · GERMANY · FRANCE · LUXEMBURG

Tidworth · Dunkirk · Cherbourg · Le Havre · Dieppe · Abbeville · Brussels · Waterloo · Wavre · Tournai · Braine le Comte · Orchies · Douai · Bapaume · Peronne · Bray · Rouen · Elbeuf · Beauvais · Caen · Caumont · Falaise · Argentan · Sees · Verneuil · Breteuil · Conches · Mantes Gassicourt · PARIS · Carentan · St. Denis le Gast · St. Lo · Lithry · Cerisy Forêt · Cerences · Tessy sur Vire · St Sever Calvados · Vire · Sourdeval · Mortain · Barenton · Domfront · Le Teillel · St. Hilaire du Harcouet

Namur · Dinant · Ciney · Celles · Rochefort · Marche · Humain · Houfflize · Bastogne · Esnax · Aywaille · Samree · Hasselt · St. Trond · Maastricht · Gulpen · Aachen · Julich · Linnich · Ubach · Kalden-hausen · Krefeld · Schiefbahn · Hülhens Cross · Uerdingen · Greven-broich · Bedburg · Wesel · Dulmen · Haltern · Ludinghsn. · Oelde · Munster · Ahlen · Hamm · Lippstadt · Paderborn · Detmold · Lemgo · Bielefeld · Hameln · Hildesheim · Alfeld · Salzgitter · Wolfenbuttel · Brunswick · Oschersleben · Magdeburg · Schonebeck · Gutergluck

Siegfried Line · Adolf Hitler-bridge · Cologne · Mons · Seine · Somme River · Meuse · Albert Canal · Rhine River · Lippe River · Weser River · Elbe River · Dortmund-Ems Canal

Brunswick · Hameln · Hildesheim · Alfeld · Wolfenbuttel · Salzgitter · Oschersleben · Magdeburg · Schonebeck · Gutergluck · Bielefeld · Lemgo · Detmold · Munster · Paderborn · Lippstadt · Hamm · Ahlen · Oelde · Ludinghsn. · Dulmen · Haltern · Wesel · Krefeld · Uerdingen · Bedburg · Julich · Aachen · Maastricht · Hasselt · Samree · Aywaille · Esnax · Houfflize · Bastogne · Rochefort · Namur · Dinant · Celles · Humain · Marche · Ciney · Linnich · Ubach · Kalden-hausen · Krefeld · Schiefbahn · Hülhens Cross · Greven-broich · Bedburg · Cologne · Mons · Seine · Somme River · Meuse · Albert Canal · Rhine River · Lippe River · Weser River · Elbe River · Dortmund-Ems Canal

TEUTOBURGER WALD — Here CC"B" in a late afternoon attack succeeded in opening the north pass and followed up the success with a night attack that in the south was parallel to the mountains to pave the way for the opening of the center pass. These combined actions permitted the movement of the Division through this last mountain obstacle and into the plains of central Germany.

MAGDEBURG — After the German commander refused surrender demands the city was bombed on 17 April by 800 American Air Force bombers. Following the bombing the 2nd Armored Division in conjunction with the 30th Division made a coordinated attack with intense artillery support and cleared the city of all resistance by 1000 18 April.

BERLIN — The American sector of the city of Berlin was occupied by the Division on July 4, 1945.

ELBE RIVER BELOW MAGDEBURG — Where infantry elements of CC"B" crossed the Elbe River on 12 April, the first Allied crossing of the Elbe. After two days of bitter fighting, the bridgehead was abandoned, after direct fire of numerous enemy AA and artillery weapons had made impossible the crossing of armor, through destruction of bridging equipment and after elements of CC"B" had crossed the river to the 2nd Division bridgehead.

WOLFENBUTTEL and the massive Hermann Goering Works were captured by CC"A" after one of the heaviest engagements of the war in Europe. Among the Goering Works were large numbers of anti-aircraft guns in an artillery and anti-tank role. 37 AA guns were destroyed, or captured in this action, albeit varying from 128mm to 50mm.

OUTGELUCK (Here CC"K" opening on the north perimeter of 2nd Infantry Division bridgehead cooped a Panzer Grenadier Regiment attacking at knocking out the only remaining Allied troops east of the Elbe. Two infantry companies from the 8th Infantry and 3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment decisively defeated elements of the Scharnhorst Division succeeding to two infantry battalions supported by 12 assault guns and Mark V tanks. A total of 200 German was killed, 150 captured, 5 assault guns and 1 Mark V destroyed.

ADOLF HITLER BRIDGE — Still standing when the Division reached the Rhine, elements of CC"B" met fierce resistance in the fight to gain its approaches. An attempt was made, in the face of tremendous odds, to capture the bridge intact and a patrol from Co "D", 11th Engineers attempted to cross and reconnoiter the bridge approaches. Destroyed flooring and burning asphalt forced the patrol to return, whereupon the enemy blew all spans.

KALDENHAUSEN — Here CC"B" eliminated the last German resistance west of the Rhine in the Division zone, and in conjunction with elements of CC"A" destroyed 25 dual purpose 88mm guns.

SCHIEFBAHN — Here CC"B" met and repulsed a vicious counter-attack by elements of 130 Panzer Lehr Division attempting to escape out of Munchen-Gladbach pocket. This was last contact with this German unit which the Division had fought on numerous occasions during back even to Normandy.

BRONE RIVER BELOW WESEL — On March 24 in the initial assault elements of the Division and the 194th Group, Corps of Engineers, of the 11th Engineers built a pontoon bridge. 1,152 feet long across the Rhine in the record time of 7 hours at this point. The bridge was a definite factor in the successful but costly crossing.

HOUFFALIZE — Entered by elements of the Division 16 January 1945. Contact made with Third U. S. Army at this point, completing encirclement of German troops trapped in the western tip of the Ardennes salient.

CELLES — After a forced march of more than 100 miles the Division encountered the western-most prong of the 5th Panzer Army which succeeded in [illegible] Co. "D" 19th, and stopped it in the Celles pocket. The German winter counter-offensive had reached its deepest penetration here. The battle was fought Dec 20-26, 1944.

MANTES GASSICOURT — Just north and west of this city the Division, with CC"B" in the lead, crossed Seine on August 28 in pursuit of the routed German Seventh Army.

ST DENIS LE GAST — Where a Panzer force of 1800 man broke through the 41st Inf Regt CP but was later destroyed by pointblank fire from the 78th Armd F. A. Bn and the 82nd F. A. Bn, resulting in almost total annihilation of the enemy column.

CERENCES — Point of deepest penetration on CC"B"'s swing to the southwest to trap German elements cut off by the breakthrough.

TESSY-SUR-VIRE — Where CC"A" held back elements of the 2nd Panzer Division from relieving German units trapped in the Normandy pocket.

BARENTON — Where CC"B" held high ground north of the city five bitter days against the mass retreat of the routed German Seventh Army from been the Division started its swing to the northeast to cut off German troops attempting to escape from the Falaise-Argentan pocket.

DOMFRONT — Here Lt. Col. Merriam's 22nd Armd Rgm Bn captured, killed or wounded an entire German engineer battalion of more than 400 man defending the town street by street.

ELBEUF — The northernmost Seine River ferry crossing, captured by CC"A" on August 26. Here General Collier received a receipt for the [illegible] crossing to a Canadian unit.

BELGIAN BORDER NEAR TOURNAI — The 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion crossed the Belgian border here at 0001A September 5, 1944. First Allied troops to enter Belgium.

ORCHIES — At Marchiennes, just outside ORCHIES, an enemy column numbering 16 vehicles was trapped by the 2nd Armd Div Reserve under Col. Hinds. Both Gen. Hinds and Col. Hinds manned machine guns in this battle.

HILLENSBURG, GERMANY — Tanks of CCB", under General White, first left rendezvous here on German "Hotz Soll", September 18, 1944.

MARCHENBERG, GERMANY — The Division began frontal assault on the Siegfried Line, October 8.

TEUTOBURGER WALD — Here CC"B" in a late afternoon attack succeeded in opening the north pass and followed up the success with a night attack that in the south was parallel to the mountains to pave the way for the opening of the center pass. These combined actions permitted the movement of the Division through this last mountain obstacle and into the plains of central Germany.

Second Armored Division

Maj. Gen. I. D. White, Cmdg.
Brig. Gen. J. H. Collier, Combat Cmdr.
Brig. Gen. S. R. Hinds, Combat Cmdr.

The Division was activated at Ft. Benning, Georgia, July 15, 1940; participated in the Tennessee, Louisiana and Carolina maneuvers from June to November 1941; and in the Carolina maneuvers through July and August 1942; landed at Safi, Fedala, and Port Lyautey, French Morocco, November 8, 1942; garrisoned French Morocco and was replacement to the 1st Armored Division in Tunisia during winter and spring of 1943.

Sailed from Bizerte and Oran to land at Gela and Licata, Sicily, July 10, 1943, cut Sicily in two and captured Palermo, July 23, 1943.

Sailed from Palermo and arrived in England, November 26, 1943; landed in Normandy, France, June 9, 1944, Combat Command "A" decisively defeated the 6th Parachute Regiment and the 37th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment at Carentan, June 14 and 15.

The Division broke through the St. Lo-Periers line below St. Jean de Daye, July 26, 1944, and began the rout of the German Seventh Army; crossed the Seine near Mantes-Gassicourt, August 28; entered Belgium near Tournai, September 2; entered Holland vicinity of Maastricht, September 15.

Entered Germany vicinity of Hillensberg, September 28; attacked and breached the Siegfried Line in vicinity of Ubach, October 8; reached the Roer River, November 29, 1944, after what the German radio described as the largest tank battle of the Western Front.

When the German winter counter-offensive threatened to reach the Meuse in December, the Division raced 200 miles in less than 24 hours; met the western most prong of the Panzer Army, the 2nd Panzer Division, and destroyed it in the Celles pocket, December 23-26, 1944; attached to close the gap between Bastogne and Ayneille January 3, 1945; captured Houffalize January 16, 1945.

The Division moved back into Germany; crossed the Roer River at Julich 27 February; spearheaded the Ninth Army advance to the Rhine above Düsseldorf, reached the Rhine River vicinity Wesel 23 March 1945; crossed the Rhine 24 March 1945; captured Dortmund and captured Ludinghausen 30 March 1945; linked up with the 1st Army at Lippstadt 1 April 1945 completing the encirclement of the Ruhr and sealing the fate of the German Army Group "H" and elements of Army Group "B".

Forced the passes of the Teutoburger Wald 3-4 April 1945; crossed the Weser River 5 April; crossed the Leine River vicinity Elze 7 April; reached and crossed the Elbe River below Magdeburg 12 April 1945, after a 57 mile dash in less than 12 hours; put a task force across the Elbe in the Rhd Division bridgehead below Schonebeck when the northern bridgehead became untenable; captured Magdeburg in conjunction with the 30th Division 18 April 1945.

In the war against the Axis, the Division has taken 94,151 prisoners; liberated 22,538 Allied Prisoners of War; shot down, or destroyed or captured on the ground 366 enemy planes; fired a total of 17,309,972 rounds of cannon, rifle and machine gun ammunition; destroyed or captured uncounted numbers of tanks and tremendous amounts of equipment and supplies. The Division has been twice cited by the Belgian Government, and wears the fourragere of the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Four Major Generals have led the Division in 3700 miles of combat advance against the enemy; General Harmon (Africa); General Gaffey (Sicily); General Brooks (France and Belgium); General Harmon (Belgium, Holland, Germany); General White (Germany).

Since 1942, the Division has served and fought on three continents, in ten countries, under five Armies and one task force, and in seven Corps.

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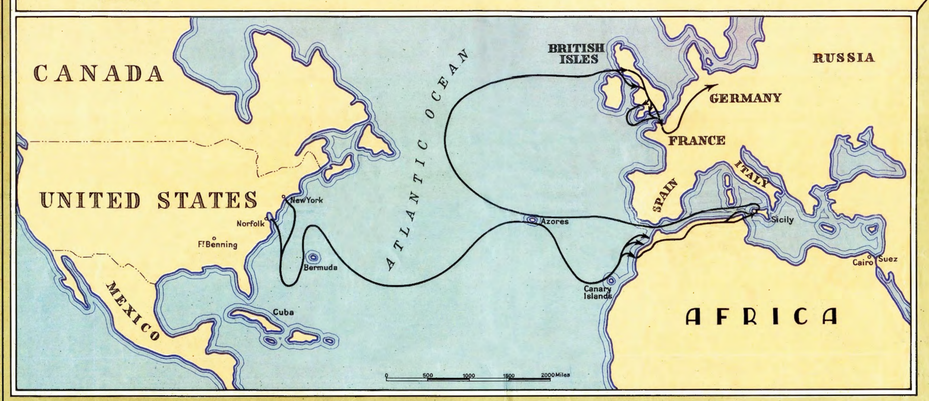

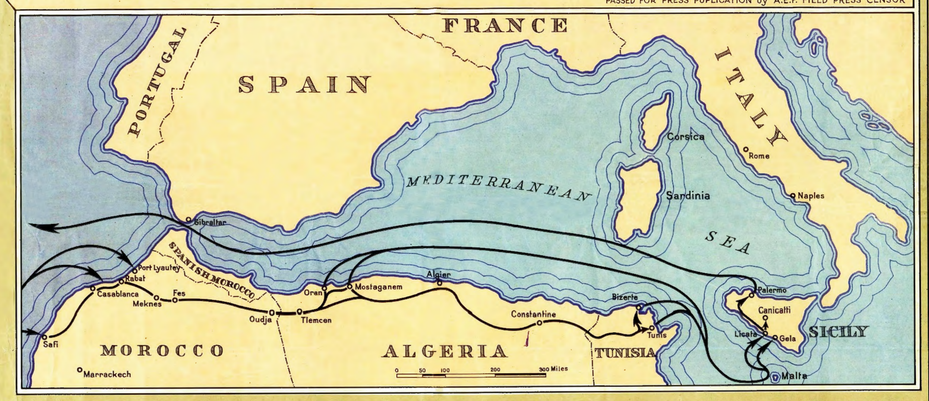

SCOTT·PATTON·CRITTENBERGER

HARMON·KINGMAN·GAFFEY·BROOKS·HARMON·WHITE

NORTH AFRICA · SICILY · NORMANDY · NORTH FRANCE · ARDENNES · RHINELAND · CENTRAL EUROPE

GLASGOW·LIVERPOOL · FORET·CARENTAN·CAU
TIDWORTH·IMBER·AMES · MONT·BALLEROY·ST.JEAN
BURY·SALISBURY·LONDON · DE DAYE·ST.LO·LE MESNIL
BARRY·SOUTHAMPTON · HERMAN·ST.GILLES·CAN
OMAHA BEACH·CERISY · ISY·ST.DENIS LE GAST

FT. BENNING·GEORGIA·ALABAMA·LOUISIANA·MISS·TENN·N.S.CAROLINA·FLA·NY.
NORFOLK·SAFI·PT.LYAUTEY·CASABLANCA

RABAT·MAMORA
MEKNES·OUDJA·PT.
AUX POULES·ORAN

MOSTAGANEM·BIZERTE·GELA·LICATA·BUTERA·CANICATTI·CAMPOBELLO·CASTELVETRANO·ALCAMO·PARTINICO·ZUCCO·PALERMO

TESSY SUR VIRE·ST.SEVER·CALVADOS·BARENTON·DOMEFRONT·ELBEUF·ORCHIES·TOURNAI
HASSELT·MAASTRICHT·AACHEN·SIEGFRIEDLINE

UBACH·GERONSWEILER·MERZENHAUSEN
ARDENNES-CELLES

SAMREE·HOUFFALIZE·ROER·KREFELD·SCHIEFBAHN·UERDINGEN·RHINE·TEUTOBURGER WALD
WESER·LEMGO·HILDESHEIM·MAGDEBURG

1 # Pz Div - 2 # Pz Div - 10 # Pz Div - 17 # Pz Div - # Landsturm "Nederland" - 2 Pz Div - 9 Pz Div - 11 Pz Div - 3 Pz Gren Div - 15 Pz Gren Div - 116 Pz Div - 130 Pz Lehr Div - 3 Para Div - 5 Para Div - 7 Para Div - 8 Para Div - Div Von Clausewitz - 176 ZBV Div - 183 VG Div - 340 VG Div - 560 VG Div - Sennelager # Repl. Bn. - NCO "Julich" - NCO "Duren" - 16 GAF - 17 GAF - 18 GAF - 7 AA Div - 47 Inf Div - 49 Inf Div - 84 Inf Div - 85 Inf Div - 91 Inf Div - 243 Inf Div - 271 Inf Div - 277 Inf Div - 338 Inf Div - 352 Inf Div - 353 Inf Div

G-2 Section - 2nd A.D.

MEF