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U.S. Army. 693d Field Artillery Battalion

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COMBAT EXPERIENCES OF THE 693RD FA BN.
IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

NORMANDY

NORTHERN FRANCE

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CENTRAL EUROPE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Coat of Arms and Description | 4 |
| Foreword, by Lt. Col. R. L. Shoemaker, Jr. | 9 |
| Preface | 15 |

PART ONE — "OUR STORY"

| | |
|--|----|
| Plans and Training, an Introduction | 19 |
| DO NOT LOAD! The Normandy Campaign | 21 |
| FIRE MISSION! The Campaign of Northern France | 25 |
| FIRE FOR EFFECT! The Campaign of the Rhineland | 34 |
| MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! The Campaign of Central Europe | 49 |
| Epilogue | 63 |

PART TWO — "THE FACTS"

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Awards and Decorations | 67 |
| Attachments and Assignments | 70 |
| Letters of Commendation | 71 |
| Miscellaneous Statistics | 77 |
| Rosters | 79 |
| Personal Notes | 94 |

COAT OF ARMS AND HISTORY OF THE 693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BLAZONRY

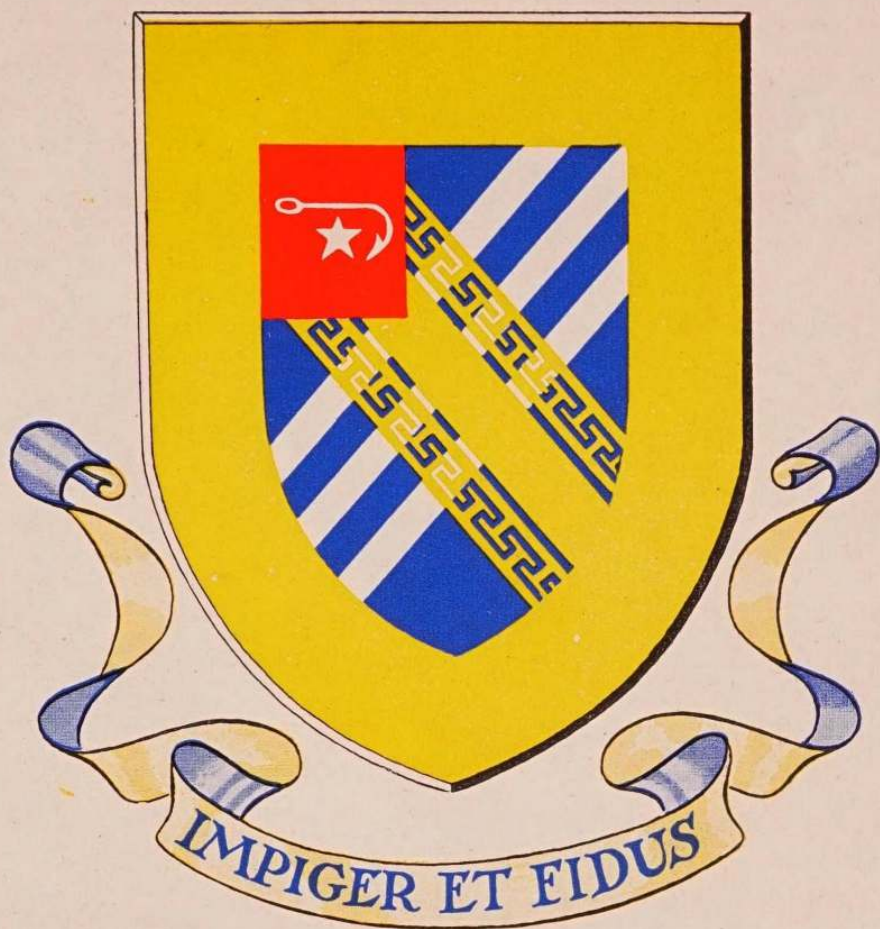
Shield: Azure, three bendlets sinister argent, a bend double cottised potente counter-potente or; on a canton gules a mullet within a fish-hook fess-wise, ring to dexter and barb to base, of the second within a bordure or.

Motto: Impiger et fidus (Alert and faithful).

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The 693rd Field Artillery Battalion was redesignated from the 4th Battalion, 18th Field Artillery per AG 320.2 (2-5-43) OB-I-GN-M, dated 8 February 1943. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery was authorized to be organized at El Paso, Texas, per General Order No. 62, War Department, dated 14 May 1917; placed on the inactive list, per letter, Field Artillery, dated 16 August 1921; the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery was redesignated and consolidated with the 2d Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, per AG 320.2 (7-5-27), dated 15 August 1927; the 18th Field Artillery was reorganized on 1 January 1935, to consist of two battalions with two active gun batteries and one inactive battery each; a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, a Service Battery; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Combat Troop, 1st Battalion became inactive 1 January 1935. The 693rd Field Artillery Battalion has no other history and was not entitled to battle honors prior to World War II.

The design is that of the coat of arms of the 18th Field Artillery within a gold border to indicate descent of the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion from that organization. The shield is the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 3rd Division, the bend and bendlets are from the arms of Champagne. The canton indicates the parentage of the regiment. The fish hook and star are from the coat of arms of the 5th Field Artillery; the Union battle line at Gettysburg was in the shape of a fish hook and the corps badge of Slocum's 12th Corps was a star.





IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE C. HARPER

CLYDE G. GINDER

JAMES T. GARRETT

OSCAR L. PHILLIPS

RICHARD H. WENRICK

JESUS MORENO

PREFACE

*"To our Wives, Families and Sweethearts, to whom
it can now be told."*

PREFACE

Four years of our lives have been compressed into this small volume; vivid experiences are described by a terse sentence. Such is the fate of these many long months of military service when reduced to printer's ink and subjected to the editorial blue pencil. We have touched only upon the highlights — — the drab monotony of war as we knew it has been virtually ignored — —and yet, as we lived those long weeks outside of La Neuveville last fall or in Gros Rederching in the spring, our principal reaction was boredom and weariness. Experiences which make such interesting reading here were obscured by the deadly sameness of the dull grey skies, of the mud underfoot and of the night harassing fires. If your editors have underplayed this aspect, it is because they have tried to make this volume more interesting to you and to your children in the years to come.

This book represents the combined efforts of many members of the Battalion, who have each made a contribution to the completed manuscript. Cpl. Botts is the author of the Normandy Campaign; Cpl. Blackburn, who as Headquarters Clerk kept the Unit Journal from July, 1944, to January, 1945, contributed the chapter on Northern France; The Campaign of the Rhineland was divided between Cpl. Isham and Pfc. Gugliotta, both of whom have been of great assistance in preparing the volume for publication; Sgt. Perry, who kept the Unit Journal from January, 1945, until May, 1945, has written the Campaign of Central Europe and has rendered valuable aid in assembling the manuscript. The statistical data, including rosters and recipients of awards, were prepared in the Personnel Section under the direction of T/Sgt. Brown. The photographs, collected from many sources within the Battalion, were assembled by Captain Bolson and Cpl. Sparks, who also prepared the photo montages introducing each campaign and who planned the overlay of our route. Pfc Ruppel is the draftsman who executed the plates from which the overlay has been reproduced. Sgt. Fitzgerald has served as unofficial Battalion photographer, and many of the pictures are from his excellent collection. The cover and the title page were designed by M/Sgt. Howell, and Pfc. Stoddard served as proof reader of the initial drafts. Language difficulties in the publication of this volume have been solved by the skillful assistance of Pfc. Gruenewald as interpreter. Upon Captain Wilson's shoulders has fallen the difficult task of completing the publication of the manuscript. Finally, we must acknowledge the publicity and inspiration given to our humble efforts by the Cobweb Comments and their assistance in the selection of our title. Thus, as you have made this history, you have recorded it for posterity!

Salzburg, Austria
7 July 1945

M. C. D. Jr.

PART ONE

“OUR STORY”

INTRODUCTION

PLANS AND TRAINING

In the beginning we were five hundred Regular Army three year enlistees from Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and a handpicked cadre from the 18th Field Artillery Regiment housed in a tent camp pitched on the New Post Parade Ground at Fort Sill in January and February of 1941. While the 45th Infantry Division was moving from Fort Sill to Abilene, Texas, on March 1st, 1941, our recruit training ended, and we became the Fourth Battalion of the 18th Field Artillery.

As the junior battalion in the Regiment, we struggled through our infancy under the watchful eyes of then Colonel Charles P. George, Regimental Commander, and then Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Doran, Battalion Commander. Rapidly absorbed into the routine of Field Artillery School problems and exercises, we acquired the title of "school troops", a term which was to haunt us for some time after leaving Fort Sill.

From firing points on the East Range, from RSOP 12's in the Blue Beaver Area and from Field exercises in the Wild Life Preserve we watched the expansion of the Field Artillery School from 1941 to 1943. With the famous Block House on Signal Mountain as an aiming point we set deflections and executed innumerable shifts for the succession of Officers' Candidate School classes, which had developed into the major activity of the FAS by the summer of 1942. Employed by the Field Artillery School to perfect the technique of massing of fires, we performed before all students of the school and such distinguished guests as General Marshall and McNair in the famous "Division Shoot" on the West Range. Early in our career flexibility was imposed upon us as we became guinea pigs for then experimental projects such as armored artillery and airborne artillery. Nor can it be left unsaid that we had a brief rise to movie stardom, under Hollywood direction, in a series of training films. Playing opposite BUSTER CRABBE, we have entertained countless G. I. audiences in a thrilling film, "The Firing Battery".

Meanwhile we had a succession of battalion commanders including then Lt. Colonel Walter T. O'Reilly, then Lt. Colonel Frederick Lyle, then Lt. Colonel James W. Clyburn, and finally Lt. Colonel Burtis L. Fayram. We furnished a cadre to the 80th Infantry Division Artillery in 1942, and another to the 42d (Rainbow) Infantry Division Artillery in 1943. We felt the loss of these veteran noncommissioned officers, among whom were Archie Underwood, "Streamline" Wesner, John Thomas, "Kid" Brunett, "Red" Spencer, Horace Perkins and George Blissett.

Perennial contenders for the Fort Sill baseball championship, the Regimental team was reinforced by several outstanding players from our battalion, including "Super" Howell, "Ted" Vela, "Lefty" Isaacs, Morris Card, Donald Braa and Frank Bettencourt. We contributed Billy Tiger, Ben W. Smith, and "Jeep" O'Neal to the Regimental boxing team which attained national recognition in the Golden Gloves Tournaments.

On March 1st, 1943 the 18th Field Artillery Regiment became the 18th Group, and we were redesignated the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion. Our sister battalions became the 685th, 687th and 689th Field Artillery respectively; later, the former 1st Battalion was again redesignated as the 18th Field Artillery Battalion. Except for the 689th Field Artillery, which retained the 155mm Howitzer as its organic weapon, all battalions remained 105mm, truck drawn. At this time we acquired a Medical Detachment commanded by then Lt. Adrian Marshall, and the Personnel Section under the supervision of "Chief" W. O. Eades became an integral part of the unit.

Reports from the South Pacific on the employment of artillery in combat were being received at the Field Artillery School in 1943, and it became obvious that artillery technique was being perfected on the battlefield rather than on the Fort Sill ranges. Under Colonel Robert P. Clay, Group Commander, unit and individual training was intensified during the summer of that year. In August the entire group, less the 685th Field Artillery which had left Fort Sill in June with the 196th Group, was alerted for movement to the Desert Training Center in California; and the Fort Sill period of our career came to a close.

Arriving at Camp Iron Mountain in October of 1943, we were attached to the XV Corps Artillery for training. There we experienced our first taste of living in the field, of building a tent camp, of helmet washing, of maintaining trucks and howitzers without elaborate motor sheds, and of providing our own entertainment. After many dry runs we successfully passed the Army Ground Force Firing Tests, and we participated in our first maneuver with the 90th Infantry Division, in which sand, "C" rations and the Battle of Palen Pass were featured. In November of 1943 we acquired a new battalion commander, Lt. Colonel Ergo Iosbaker, who had served with the 18th Group as executive. On our off duty hours we reconnoitered Los Angeles, Palm Springs and Indio; and most of us spent our first Christmas away from home.

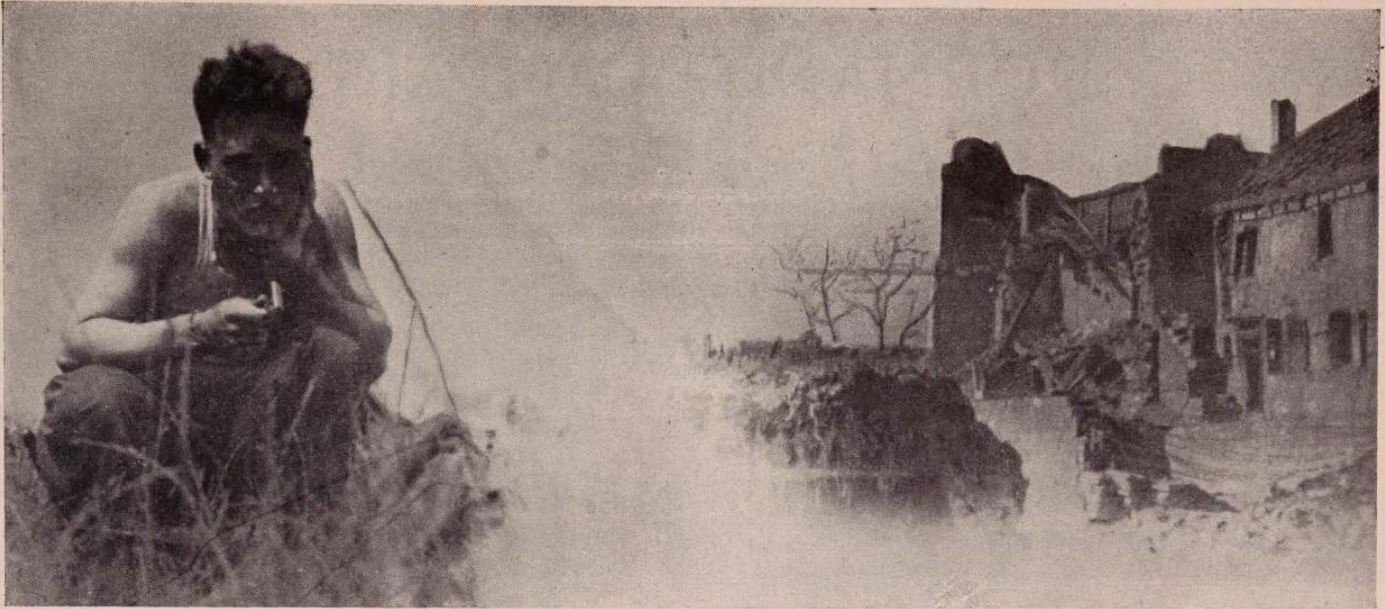
New Year's Day 1944, found us engaged in preparation for overseas movement. A hectic period of inspections and overhead fire courses was climaxed by 48 hours of feverish activity under last minute orders. Our bonfires were still burning on the desert when we moved out by train, headed for the New York Port of Embarkation.

The tiresome, transcontinental trip ended on February 1st at Camp Shanks, New York, where processing commenced immediately upon our arrival. Sixty hours later, still mystified and bewildered by the experience, we found ourselves on board a train bound for the Boston Port of Embarkation. At Camp Myles Standish we were processed again, and half of the battalion had one "last night" in Boston. On February 12th, Lincoln's Birthday, we were aboard the U. S. Army transport, *Henry Gibbons*, headed for sea.

Our ocean voyage was calm or rough, depending upon the point of view of the individual concerned; however, it was uneventful except for the abundance of rumors which circulated freely regarding destination, size of convoy, ship losses during preceding 24 hours, imminent attacks by "Wolf Packs" and German periscopes observed breaking the surface of the ocean. On February 22nd, Washington's Birthday, even the most persistent sufferers from "mal de mer" rallied at the sight of the shores of Ireland. We anchored at Gourock, Scotland the same day but did not set foot on dry land until 24 February at Glasgow, where a waiting train and Red Cross Donuts started us on the next leg of our journey.

Our five months in England were divided between housekeeping duties at Kington Camp in Herefordshire and rigorous maneuvers on the ranges in Wales and Southern England. At Kington we were introduced to English rural life, "pubs", the blackout, fish and chips, bicycling and tea; on the ranges the Cobweb jinx brought us continuous rain and wet weather. "D Day" found us mired in the Sonnybridge range on a firing exercise with the XV Corps Artillery; on July 4th, we were embedded in the liquid clay of Salisbury Plain with the XX Corps Artillery.

Without warning on Sunday evening, July 9th, we were ordered to proceed to an embarkation area in Southern England, at 0600 Monday morning. After a frantic night of loading, packing and rounding up members of the battalion in "cinemas" and pubs throughout Herefordshire, sleepless and bleary-eyed, we moved out at sunrise. Again, in the marshalling area, we experienced the confusing procedure of being processed. Equipped with invasion money, seasick pills, vomit bags, "K" rations and ammunition, on July 14th aboard two LST's, we headed into the unknown awaiting us on the far shore of the English Channel.



"DO NOT LOAD!"
THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN

July 14, 1944 to July 24, 1944



NORMANDY CAMPAIGN

A thrill of excitement passed among the men who lined the rail of the landing craft as the first sight of the coast of France appeared on the horizon. At long last had arrived our own D Day, July 14, 1944. This was also Bastille Day, the great national holiday of our French Allies.

Everyone knew we were headed for combat; but no one knew what form it would take or what to expect as we drew nearer and nearer to the beach that was to be our landing place. The men were in good spirits, some joking in a half-hearted way of the task ahead; others, more sober minded, were writing last minute letters or seemed to be deep in thought. Then there were the ever-present tales from the ship's crew of their past tasks well done.

The landing craft drove into the shallow water of the beach and came to a stop just short of the water's edge. There before us lay Utah Beach, and all around were signs of the struggle that had taken place — broken ships needing no anchor to hold them in place on the beach — the burnt-out pill boxes, with the rusting guns of the coast defense.

During the wait for the tide to go out came our first taste of war — the war that is played for keeps. To our left appeared a lone plane. Soon the tracers of the anti-aircraft batteries on shore could be seen, and the plane ended in a burst of flame. Soon only the trail of smoke could be seen, marking the place where it had been.

As darkness set in the word came to mount up and prepare to leave the ship. On shore very little could be seen, and this only added to the uneasiness of going into something unknown and strange. On arriving ashore, we tried to form our vehicles in columns and proceeded slowly to Area B, the appointed assembly grounds, under the direction of the MP's stationed along the route. As there was much confusion resulting from the darkness and the unscrambling of the load from the ship, the last units arrived at their areas at seven the next morning.

Our first position was among the hedgerows, and all about were the signs left by the troops which had preceded us into Normandy — waterproofing, ration containers, the odor of dead cattle, and numerous other signs of haste and war.

The first town entered by the battalion in France was Ste. Mère Eglise. Here some of our members attended their first church service on Continental Europe.

It was in this position also that we were issued our first item of equipment on the Continent — a new web belt with a bright, solid-brass buckle.

As darkness set in that evening, the battalion moved on to the next position, across the peninsula and farther north. It turned out to be a bivouac near Third Army Headquarters, between Bricquebec and St. Sauveur.

Here we were told of our mission. Much to our disappointment, we were to become a provisional MP Escort Battalion for prisoners of war, under direction of the Provost Marshal of the Third Army.

The next days were spent in learning the technique of this type of work, in lectures and what to do if captured and in that ever present physical conditioning. In connection with our schooling for our new duties were lectures, trips to prisoner of war cages to study the job at first hand, and visits to nearby towns, some of us getting as far as Cherbourg.

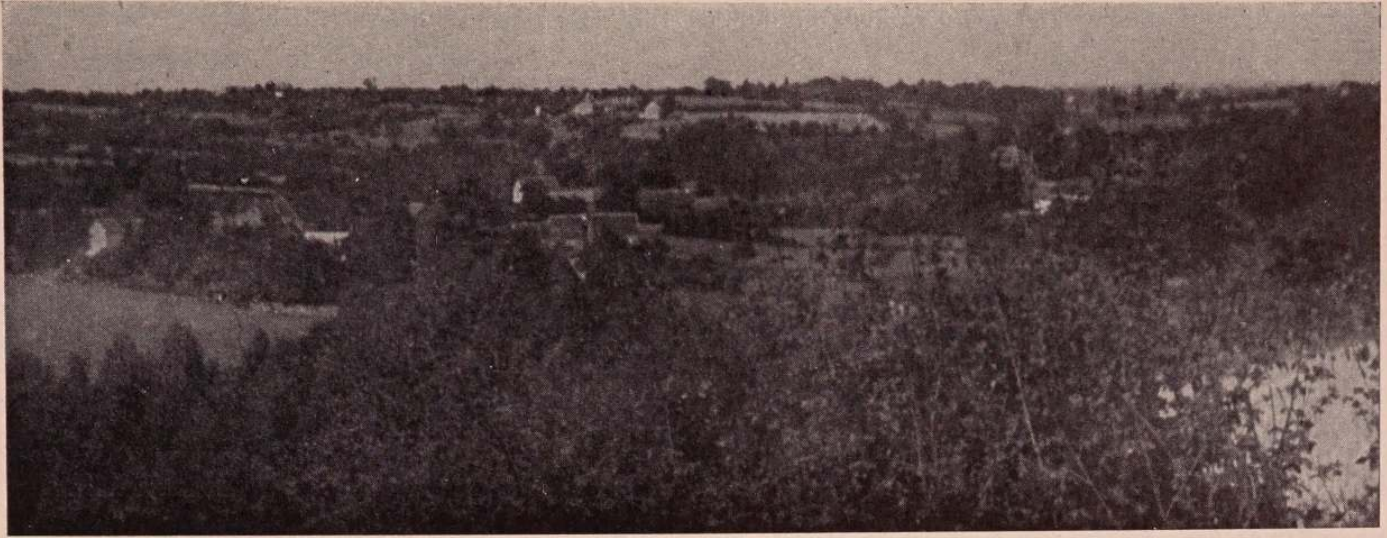
To further our conditioning and also to provide amusement, we constructed a very nice volley ball court and ball diamond, all within five miles of the front; for which job we were able to borrow a bulldozer to level the Normandy hedgerows.



There were also hikes over the surrounding countryside where we were able to see what that part of the world looked like, and the terrible damage that war could produce. Well does everyone remember the shattered towns of Normandy. Near here we inspected the site of one of the famous V weapon launching platforms.

We all remember those days, too, for there we first heard the roar of the artillery fired in anger and the German planes as they flew over the Allied occupied areas. We saw the fire-work effect of the anti-aircraft fire that invariably greeted their nightly visits.

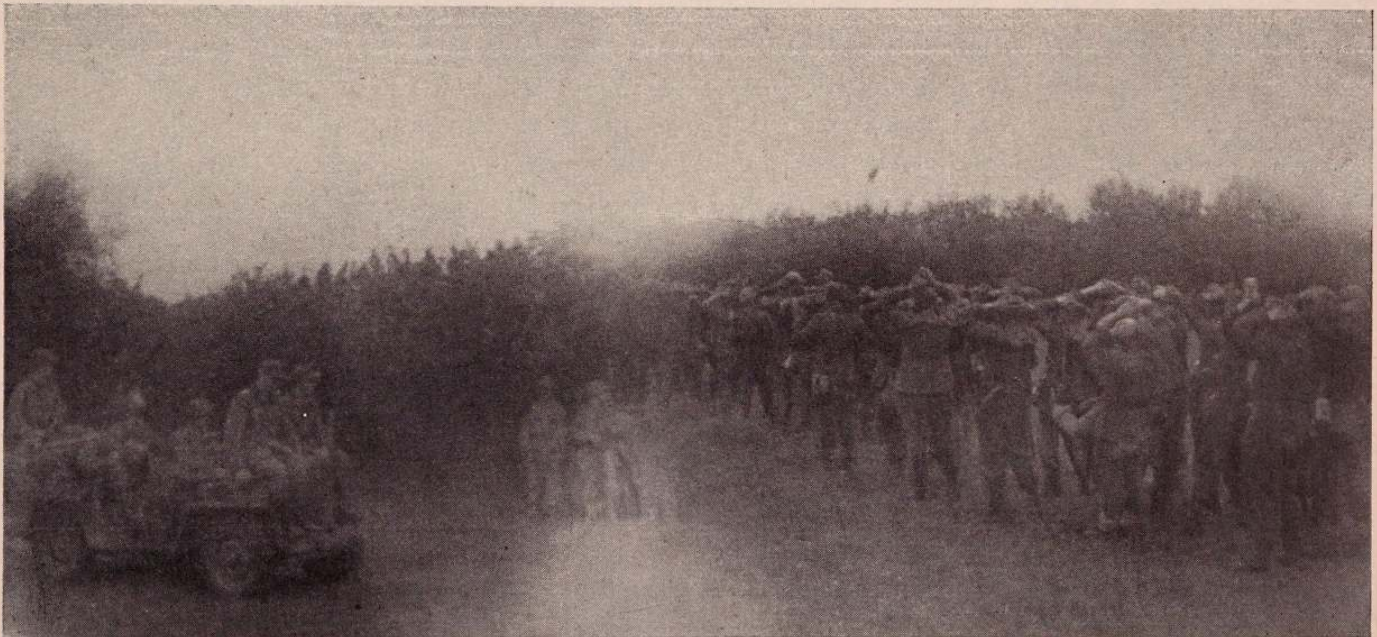
When the plight of the battalion was brought to the attention of General Patton, through visits of Sergeants Hermann and Noyes with their former battery Commander, General Gaffey, we were suddenly released from the escort job; and once again were ready to take our place as field artillery in the great advance across France and Germany.



“FIRE MISSION!”

THE CAMPAIGN OF NORTHERN FRANCE

July 25, 1944 to September 14, 1944



NORTHERN FRANCE

On July 25th, 1944 the entire Normandy front erupted. There was a mass attack by Allied planes on a German-held area, ten miles square. This was the climax of the softening-up phase. Hundreds of planes roared over our positions, and we could hear the distant rumbling of the exploding bombs. It was in this bombardment, near St. Lô, that the death of Lt. Gen. McNair occurred. The breakthrough which followed opened the way for the full force of Allied might on the land and in the air. Troops overran the dazed and shell-shocked Germans and poured through St. Lô, while the sky was filled with white-striped planes cutting up the German 7th Army. The whole Nazi defense system was thrown into turmoil.

While these earth-shaking and history-making events were taking place, the battalion was notified on July 28th of its attachment to the XV Corps, which was in turn to be a part of the 3rd Army. The mission of the 3rd Army was to pass through the 1st Army and exploit the great breakthrough to the utmost, and the following day we march ordered to an artillery concentration area. From this concentration point the FO's, led by Captain Bolson, left to make a reconnaissance of a new area in the vicinity of the 90th Infantry Division, to which we were to be attached. This was the same division with which we had maneuvered on the California desert, and of which we had heard excellent combat reports. It was in this position also that we drew our net camouflage covers for our helmets. These practically useless bits of netting strangely enough seemed of great importance to us and added that final touch in preparing us for the fight.

On July 30th, we left the concentration area to join the 90th near Periers in the position selected by the FO's. The war had just recently passed over this area and we "sweated out" mines. Our machine-guns manned their guns for the first time in earnest as two low-flying planes swooped over the position. We also drew our first pay in the field.

Shortly before midnight we received march order and in the early morning hours of August 1st we went into position south of Periers. This position had previously been occupied by the 687th FA Battalion, and it was here that the guns were laid for the first time. After much moving and jockeying for position we were at last about to jump into the real thing. Who could forget Periers as we passed through it that first night? Its streets were choked with debris, — the eerie moonlight filtering through the skeleton buildings, the fog drifting in, and silence broken only by the rumbling of our trucks. This first blackout drive paid tribute to the soundness of the training we had received on the desert, and the five months of dress rehearsal we had been given in England.

Again in the middle of the night the FO's left, this time to join a regimental combat team; at 0400 the battalion was alerted to move out. The 90th Division's mission was now to secure and defend the Avranches Corridor, the plan of execution calling for the doughs to detruck in the vicinity of Avranches. As we sat on the road waiting for the final clearance on moving, more than a few of us confessed to that uneasy feeling in the bottom of our stomachs.

As we rolled along the roads, south through Coutances, we were greeted everywhere with open arms. Flowers paved the roads and schools were dismissed. The church bells in the little towns were ringing, and occasionally we had the good fortune to stop long enough to enjoy a glass of wine which the newly liberated French thrust upon us. On other occasions we stopped near shot-up German convoys where the rank

smell of death fouled the air. It was here that we saw a complete cow about 30 feet up in a tree. There were several bomb craters nearby.

When no opposition was encountered near Avranches, we struck off to the east and finally, in the late afternoon, went into position 10 miles east of Avranches, near the village of Pain D'Avoinnes. Here we experienced our first real sample of the German Luftwaffe. Twenty-eight enemy planes roared over our position and strafed in the vicinity. As we huddled in our fox-holes, we recalled accounts of the "non-existent" Luftwaffe and we were not impressed. From that time on we were subject to enemy air attacks, and it was necessary to be on the alert constantly. We were especially vulnerable while on the march, and numerous times we hit the dirt as hedge-hopping ME 109's sought out our column. One plane was so persistent and regular in flying over our position each night at about eleven o'clock that we dubbed him "Bed-check Charlie". The firing batteries displaced on August 4th a short distance in the direction of St. Hilaire. That night we were treated to quite an air show, which included bombs, flares, and streams of tracers, all of which took place at alarming proximity. The air battle ended at about 2 A. M, and we returned to our beds.

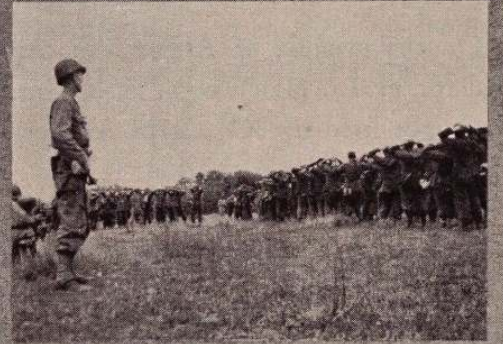
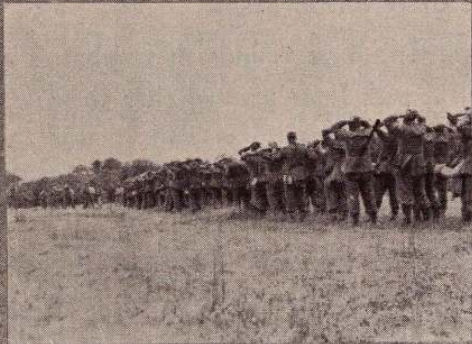
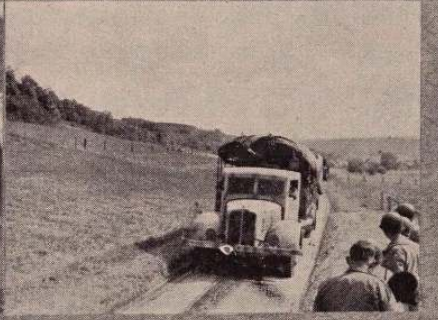
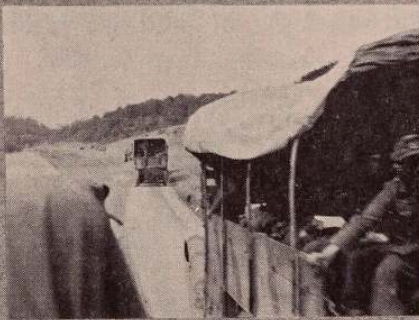
Many of us were sleeping in foxholes at this time, and each time we turned over in bed dirt would trickle down into our blankets. Bugs of every description seemed to seek out our abodes and crawl in to keep us company. The weather, however, was uncommonly nice. The days were warm and fair and the nights were not too cool. We cursed the dust, but then we had not yet experienced the miseries of mud in a serious way.

Early on August 5th we took off on a wild dash to the east. This was to be one of those periods when two and even three displacements a day were not uncommon. Positions were of the drop trail, lay by compass variety, and most of the time we traveled with the foot-sore and weary doughs with reconnaissance parties spearheading the advance. This was all part of the drive on Le Mans.

On the evening of August 7th, Able Battery fired the Battalion's first rounds in combat. Fire was called for by Lt. Haley upon enemy infantry and an 88mm gun. It was later learned that these were the first rounds fired by XV Corps Artillery. The initial round was white phosphorus and it was fired by S/Sgt. Wesley Panches' section. It was here also that we took our first prisoners, two dirty, tired and desecrated Germans who were evacuated to the Division PW cage.

August 8th was a very eventful day in the history of the Battalion. At two-thirty in the morning, after a late occupation of position, we were aroused by an exchange of small arms fire in the area. One German was killed, another wounded and two more were rounded up by CP guards. Soon after daylight Able Battery brought in ten prisoners in one of their own vehicles. They had been captured while trying to escape down one of the back roads. While these men were being searched and assembled in a temporary PW cage near the CP, another truck loaded with SS troopers suddenly appeared from one of the side roads. The high hedges hid them from view until they were almost upon us. The Germans raked the area with burp guns and machine pistols. Our men quickly hit the ground and returned their fire. The truck was halted when the driver was struck and killed. When the shooting stopped, three of the SS troops had been killed, and three of the eleven captured were wounded. A French civilian was also taken, and, although he vigorously denied any connection with the Germans, he was treated as a prisoner of war. For prompt and decisive action in this fracas, Lt. Haley and Cpl. Skinner were awarded the Bronze Star.

Meanwhile Baker Battery had been detached from the Battalion and had moved forward to become part of an advance guard, which was to spearhead the advance of the 90th Division into Le Mans. At the same time the 79th Division was to drive in from the south.



While Baker was forward clearing the way, the remainder of the Battalion rested in the shade of their vehicles. When a column of Germans was reported marching in our direction, Major Shoemaker and Captain Corby left to investigate the situation. When the column came in sight Captain Corby gave the alarm and opened fire. The Germans immediately dispersed to a nearby woods and scattered firing was indulged in by both sides. A small party, led by Captain Corby and including Sgts. Noyes, Downs, Fitzgerald, White and Jones, was successful in flanking the wooded area, and the Germans quickly surrendered. In all, 113 enlisted men and 2 officers were captured with no casualties suffered by the Battalion. The episode and the day achieved an anti-climax when a lone Frenchman attempted to drive off in a German car. He was brought to a stop by a burst of .50 caliber machine gun fire. When most of these rounds sang through our CP, where we were engaged in searching the 115 prisoners, captors and captives alike hit the dirt. Order was quickly restored, but one of the newly captured prisoners was killed in the fray. For their parts in this incident Lt. Col. Iosbaker and Captain Corby received the Silver Star, and Major Shoemaker, Sgt. Noyes and Sgt. Downs were awarded the Bronze Star. The 8th of August came to a close with the entire Battalion in position on the outskirts of Le Mans.

On August 7th Lt. Joseph Hannon, pilot, and Lt. Stuart W. Hanes, observer, took off on a routine flight from a field in Sace, France. Their mission was to locate the front lines, which were very flexible at that time, to report any enemy activity, and to give the location of our leading elements. During this flight they had several brushes with ME 109's and were finally forced to the ground. For over a week the Battalion received no word from them, and all hope had nearly vanished when news of their safety was finally received. Here is their story:

"As soon as the plane stopped, we jumped out and ran for a stone fence, having seen one of the planes coming down to strafe. After making one unsuccessful attempt to destroy us on the ground, the planes left. French civilians living in a nearby farmhouse called us over. After we had learned our position, we inquired as to whether there were any Americans in the vicinity. We learned that some armor had passed through the town early that morning. We were also told that it was impossible for us to go into town as there were still Germans there. We pulled our plane back under cover and returned to the home of our French friends where we stayed for two days. On the third day we insisted on going into town; this was permitted after two of the men had scouted the town and convinced themselves that it was safe for us to enter. We tried to communicate with our organization but that was impossible as all communication had been blown. We contacted the FFI, which was very active, and offered our services to them until such time as we could contact an American unit. They gave us a room in a hotel and placed us on their regular patrols into the surrounding country to capture Krauts cut off by the lightning-like thrusts of the armor. On only one of these occasions were we successful. Hanes and I with one of the regular FFI split from the main body trapped some Krauts in a farmhouse; they surrendered readily. On the sixth day, we managed to send a message to our organization by a messenger we chanced to see passing through town. Three days later an officer and two men from our organization came to pick us up."

On August 9th we rolled into and through Le Mans. This was the first large French city we had seen. It had been hardly touched by the war and we were much impressed with the crowds of pretty girls. As we were among the first troops to pass through the city our welcome was especially warm. The speed with which we went through the city brought forth some remarks about how we always seemed to poke along through the country and race through the towns. It was in Le Mans that we caught our first glimpse of the treatment the French collaborationists received at the hands of their neighbors. We saw a large crowd



gathered in the street, and as we approached we could see that a woman was the center of attraction. Her head had been shaved and half her clothes had been torn off, and she was being escorted to a PW cage where she would be locked in with the Boche soldiers with whom she had been too friendly.

After a short breather on the 10th, we moved northward with the 90th Division in order to close on Alençon. This was our small part in the closing of the Falaise Gap, and we ran into very little resistance. At this time the French 2nd Armored was being passed through the 90th, and we got our first look at the outfit which was later to win the respect and praise of the United States armies.

While in position, a few miles south of Alençon, our work with the 90th Infantry Division came to an end. On the 16th we were attached to the 79th Infantry Division with orders to drive on toward Paris. The next few days and nights found us on the roads almost continuously. Drivers who couldn't take time out for proper vehicle maintenance, somehow contrived to keep the trucks rolling through dust, rain, mud, and blackout. Many times we were abreast of the infantry and occasionally out in front of them. Often our RO's had to go forward at night and feel out the different routes. We drove through burning towns, were caught in traffic jams in some of the larger cities, and "sweated out" enemy planes circling overhead; finally we arrived at a position on the Seine River near Mantes-Gassicourt.

Here we took a bath in the waters of the Seine . . . the first bath we had taken since the start of our push. Enemy planes were often overhead. They strafed our airstrip, and Lt. Hanes was struck in the chest by a .50 caliber machine gun bullet. His life was saved by the prompt action of the medics, who administered blood plasma to him while rushing him to a hospital.

The mission of the 79th Division was to establish a bridgehead across the Seine in the vicinity of Mantes-Gassicourt. On August 21st we crossed the river on a pontoon bridge in that area and went into position in a dense forest, dug in and immediately began firing missions which were pouring in from our push. Enemy planes were often overhead. They strafed our airstrip, and Lieutenant Hanes was struck never silent. Our firing chart looked like it "had the measles." On the 24th a heavy counterattack was repulsed with severe casualties inflicted upon the enemy. In this action the Battalion fired 76 missions, and Cpl. Turner was awarded the Bronze Star for manning a telephone in an exposed position during this attack. Air activity was again rather heavy and our machine gunners did some very creditable firing. From this position the battalion fired over 4600 rounds and was credited with destroying one enemy tank, four enemy vehicles, three guns, an ammunition dump, and setting a town on fire thus destroying an enemy strongpoint.

Near the end of the month the enemy resistance ended. Patton's tanks were racing eastward under a security blackout, and we moved south of Paris into a bivouac area near Nangis for a much needed and deserved rest. The gasoline shortage extended our stay and we heard reports of the First Army's drive into Belgium. A group of officers and a few enlisted men went on a one-day trip to newly-liberated Paris, and we all drew a third-of-a-cup ration of cognac for several days. Everybody had a date picked for the end of the war in Europe, as the news bulletins reported the advance of the First and Third Armies.

On September 7th we gassed up the trucks and moved out to the east, up to the banks of the Marne River with the XV Corps Artillery. At this time there was no infantry in front of our immediate sector, and word was received that an enemy strongpoint existed two towns in front of our position. We were formed into battle patrols consisting of two platoons of Engineers and Baker and Charlie Batteries to make a reconnaissance of hostile forces reported near Chaumont. The rest of the battalion was immobilized so that the trucks could be used to haul infantry in the fast moving situations.

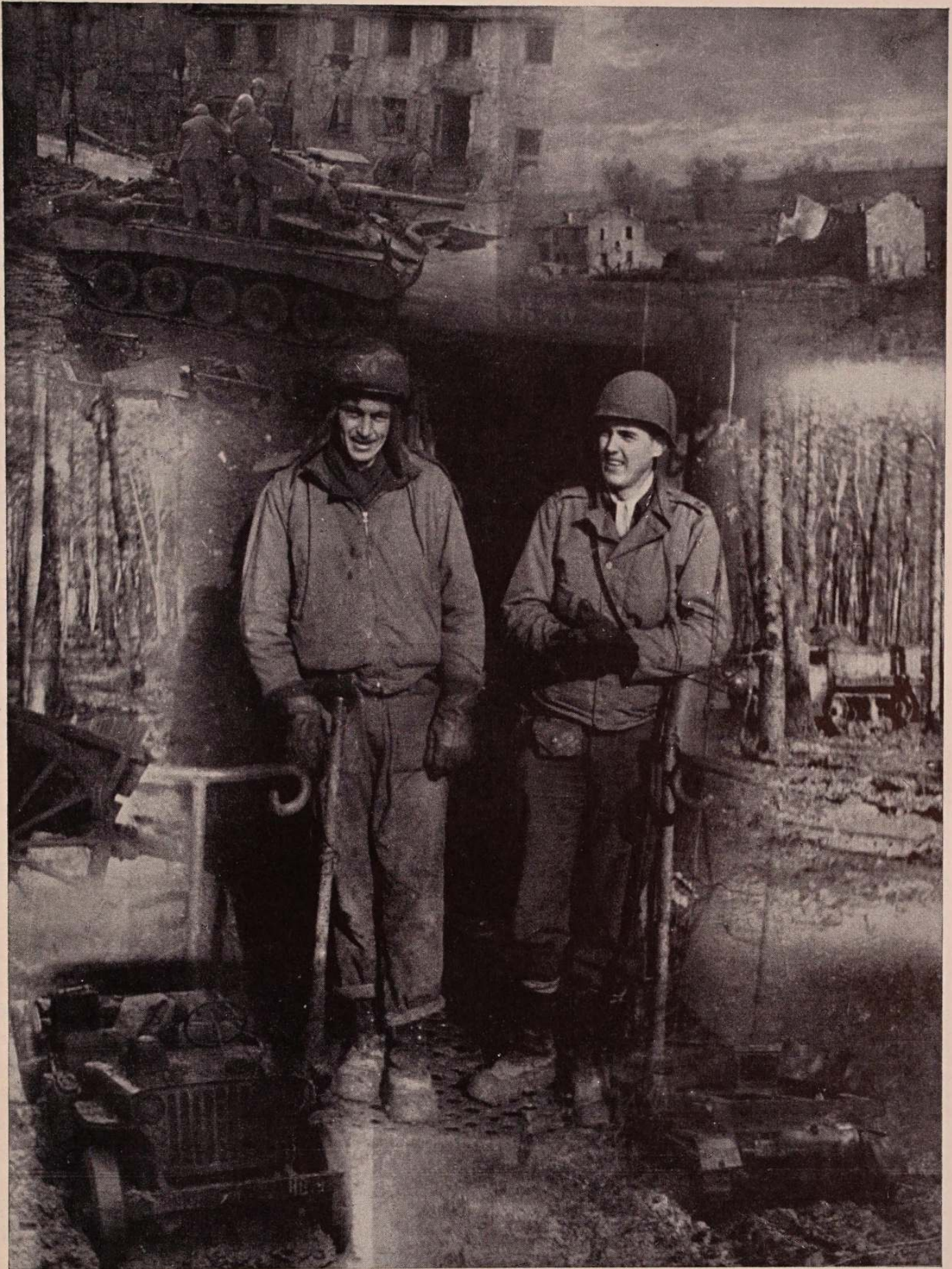
Reconnaissance elements of the Baker Battery patrol encountered a roadblock and became engaged in a fire-fight. Capt. Bolson came to their aid by directing fire from an over-looking hill until our air ob-

servers took over the mission from him. Serious damage was inflicted on a water tower which began to gush over the landscape. Cpl. Schwartz was pinned down while offering the Germans surrender terms. At the same time the patrol with which Charlie Battery was traveling hit off in the direction of Chaumont and their reconnaissance elements from a fine OP observed large German forces in that city. They were even treated to a formal guard mount from their point of vantage. It was wisely decided not to engage these greatly superior forces, since the other patrol was already in some difficulty.

The road-blocks were too strongly fortified and defended to be taken by so small and improperly equipped a force. Casualties had been inflicted on the enemy, and our only wounded was one member of the attached Engineers, although the driver of the survey jeep made a fortunate descent from it just before a 37mm shell put a hole completely through it. All elements were withdrawn rapidly and we returned to our area in the growing darkness.

By September 14th the big picture in front of us showed German resistance to be extremely scattered and foot troops could no longer make effective contact with the enemy. The Battalion was completely immobilized and all our trucks were assigned to convoy the infantry from positions often far in the rear of where the enemy was last reported to be. Unfortunately the retreating Krauts had left small delaying parties in addition to countless stragglers who would fight till their ammunition was exhausted and then surrender.

For three days our drivers ran the gamut of these small pockets of resistance, ranging from the Belgian border to far east of the Marne River. Hostile small arms fire was routine rather than unusual for them, and at one point a truck park in an orchard was zeroed in by an unneutralized battery of 88's. It was at this point the drivers learned to appreciate the doubtful protection provided by the body of a GMC truck as the high pitched scream of enemy shells fell with monotonous regularity. Eight Purple Hearts were earned in those three days by our drivers but fortunately the heaviest toll was taken in tires. None of our trucks was badly damaged but few of them escaped without some scars to testify to what they had undergone.



"FIRE FOR EFFECT!" THE CAMPAIGN OF THE RHINELAND
September 15, 1944 to March 21, 1945

THE CAMPAIGN OF THE RHINELAND

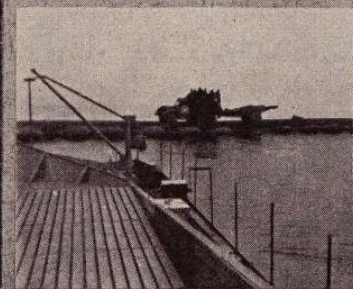
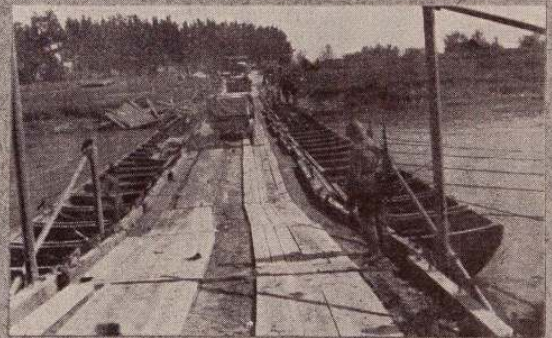
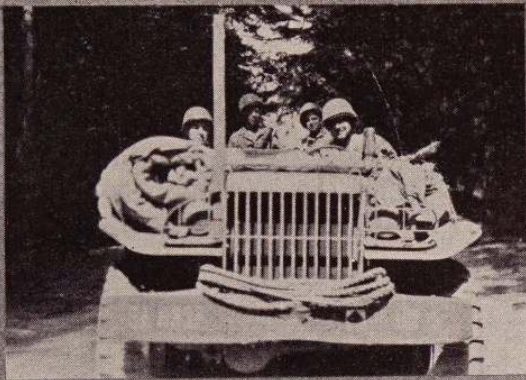
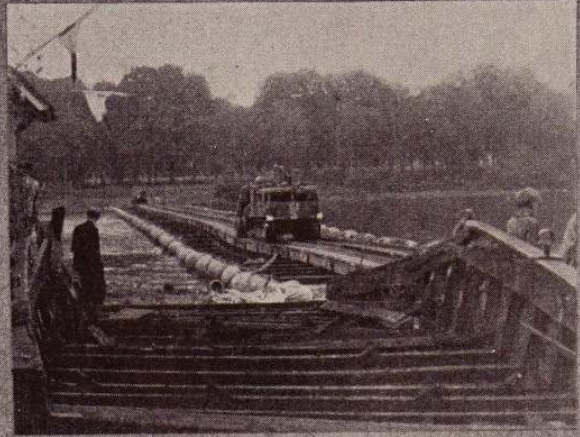
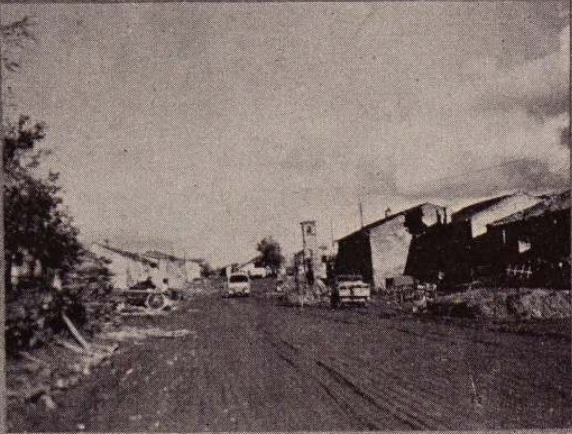
Thursday, September 15th, was the day we started earning our third battle star. The trucks had returned to the battalion and the casualties had become general knowledge. But there was still little to indicate to most of us the turn the war was soon to take, and, for the most part, we had no idea of how miserable the next few months were to be. In retrospect, however, that weekend afforded several hints of what we were soon to encounter and of the conditions under which we would soon learn to live. Advance elements of the 79th Infantry Division reported eight enemy tanks and six hundred infantry near Charmes, a call for FO's was received from the 310th FA Battalion which we were supporting, eight P-47's went into action to the east of the Battalion position, and worst of all we were soaked by the first of the cold Fall rains.

The famous Marne River, which we knew as a bloody battleground of World War I, was somewhat of a disappointment. The quiet, peaceful stream made excellent bathing, and we were much in need of baths at that time; but it was hard to picture it as a formidable barrier. The days when we were to see much smaller streams than the Marne hold up armies were in the not too distant future.

Shortly after the return of the trucks, we again took to the road going into position first near Rauves La Chetive and later moving on to Charmes. On the night of the 20th, we pulled into position two miles south of Lunéville, firing 70 rounds into that city before dawn. The battalion occupied this position for over a week. This was the first time that determined enemy resistance had been the cause of such a delay. The leaden skies poured forth almost continuous rains, and the wet and mud became more hated enemies than the Germans. The firing batteries first set up pyramidal tents in this position; it was here that fires suddenly became a necessity and night-long fire missions and the twenty-four hour shift became part of our life.

The stiffened enemy resistance was attested to by the fact that on Thursday, September 21st, the Battalion Commander's party drew fire while visiting an OP, established in an old German barracks on the outskirts of Lunéville. Lt. Haley, who was manning the OP, received only minor wounds, but Sgt. Edwards and two other members of his party were evacuated by the infantry medics. It was all too obvious now that the complexion of the war was changing. The entire 3rd Army was slowed, and while the headlines at home were mainly concerned with the drive on Metz, Charlie Battery was daily being counter-battered, and the Battalion was alerted to expect an attack from the enemy forces who had effected a crossing of the Meurthe River.

In the late afternoon of Tuesday, the 26th, having fired 1856 rounds from this position, we winched our way to the main road and marched into the deserted and battered streets of Lunéville. The civilian reception was the coolest which we had yet encountered, and a warning of sniper activity had everyone on the alert. The guns were trundled into position along the railroad tracks leading into the Société Lorraine factory, and for the first time since hitting the shores of Normandy, the entire battalion slept under a roof. During the next few days the dead factory was infused with new life, and between fire missions the machine shops rang with the construction of everything from belt buckles to trailers. The sheds full of battered and strafed railroad cars stood as mute testimony to the works of the Air Corps. Most of us were able to get our feet dry for a change, and some even took advantage of the town's elaborate public baths.



Unbeknownst to most of us, it was here that word was received that the XV Corps passed to the Control of the Seventh Army; it was here also that our FO's began operating on a regular schedule of two days "out" and two days "in".

On Sunday October 1st, we lost our Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Iosbaker, when his jeep hit a mine; he and his driver were both evacuated by the medics. Because of the enemy fire which was drawn at the crossroad, it was impossible to evacuate the jeep and the confidential papers and maps it contained. Lt. Young had to return under the cover of darkness with the wrecker to do the job. At 1105, October 1st, Major Raymond L. Shoemaker Jr. took over the command of the Battalion.

We grudgingly left our factory home on October 2d and took up positions in the farm community of Champel. Fire Direction was housed in a vaulted wine cellar, and small amounts of francs changed hands as the Cards and the Browns battled for the World Series in St. Louis. The shells which fell frequently in and around the battalion area caused the construction of the first of the covered homes by the "Demons" of Baker Battery. These holes, which were from four to six feet deep, well covered, water-proof, and equipped with stoves and straw became SOP; with very few changes they were home for a large percentage of the Gun Battery men in the next few months. We gladly exposed ourselves to the constant drizzling rains to take advantage of the movies shown in a Lunéville theater. Federal ballots were received and voting in the Presidential election was encouraged.

All the while plans were being laid and supplies made ready for the bloody assault on the Forest of Parroy; Division G-2 estimated the opposing ground forces at approximately 1500 men, mainly Panzer Grenadiers, supported by at least 125 artillery pieces, a large number of which were mobile. That the enemy was dug in and thoroughly prepared was common knowledge. The attack jumped off as scheduled at 0630 on October 9th with the 693rd reinforcing the fires of the 310th FA. During the first twenty-four hours of the attack we fired 1000 rounds, and the division advanced through the forest.

These were unpleasant days for all because of the foul weather, but they were nightmarish for the FO parties. All through the night enemy high-velocity guns ricocheted shells through the woods. To have German tanks grind to within a hundred yards of where a FO party lay huddled in a shallow hole was not an uncommon occurrence. Even during the daylight hours it was next to impossible to adjust fire because of the denseness of the forest, and on more than one occasion it was necessary to adjust by sound. Lt. Haley had some luck in adjusting infantry mortars by working through Lt. Kochakian in the liaison plane, and Lt. Hardzinski and Cpl. Downey were pinned down by machine gun fire when they attempted to take a prisoner. The battalion came in for some well-earned praise when Baker Battery, firing its Normal Barrage, stopped a counterattack. The infantry reported later that the mission was the fastest artillery support which they had ever received.

The vital crossroads in the woods finally fell to the doughs of the 79th two days later. They broke through to the high ground beyond and dug in to "hold at all costs". We followed them up by occupying positions near Marainviller. Mines were now a real hazard and only elaborate precautions saved us from casualties. Meanwhile Service Battery requisitioned a schoolhouse in Lunéville. The countryside was littered with more ruin than we had seen since Normandy. The truck parks and gun positions were a sea of mud, and we added such phrases as "nichts verstehen" and "alles kaputt" to our growing vocabularies.

Over the weekend the batteries moved to positions just north of La Neuveville Aux Bois in a draw which acquired the title "Cobweb Gulch". Artillery jammed the valleys and the nights were lighted with the flash of guns. A rest camp was established by Service Battery for the returning FO's, and daily movies were shown in an empty barn. The first of the football cards sponsored by Sgts. Fitzgerald and Young made its appearance.



All day Tuesday the 24th, the doughs of the 44th Division trudged along the roads. This was their first taste of combat, and for the first time we felt like battle-hardened veterans. Nevertheless, we were glad to see them, for we knew the 79th was badly in need of replacements and rest. General Wahl, 79th Division Artillery Commander, arrived at the CP to thank the Battalion for the fine work it had done and for its cooperation; and at midnight we were relieved from the 79th, with whom we had fought since the Seine, and were attached to the 44th Infantry Division. The following morning General Beiderlinden, the new Artillery Commander, paid his first visit to the Battalion.

The next few weeks were a monotonous mixture of mud, rain, and fire missions. Numerous low-flying planes were over the area, occasionally enemy harassing fire was received, and on the last day of the month a Division Artillery Flash warned of an imminent air attack. At all times we had at least two observers on the line, and in one night Lt. Haley fired 1500 rounds in stopping a tank-supported counterattack. Lt. Hardzinski and Lt. Bang ate several meals from a standing position as the result of near misses. A battalion rest camp was established to the rear to give the men a chance to dry out and scrape the mildew from their extra clothing. Trench foot warnings were widely circulated, and only the timely issue of the army's best piece of equipment, the Snow Pack, averted many a threatening case.

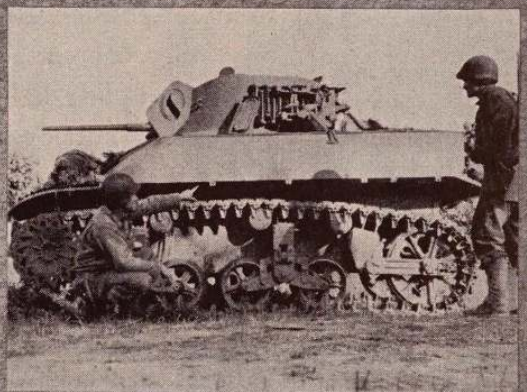
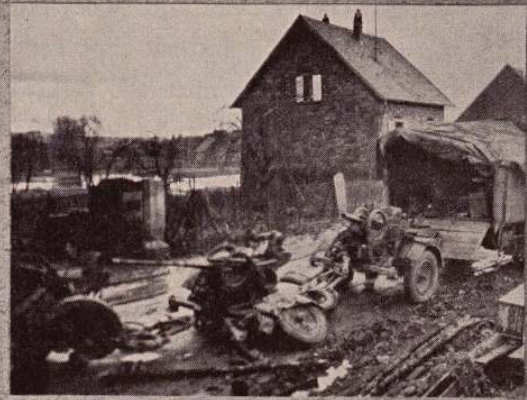
As we entered the second week of November, there was a noticeable heightening of activity. Ammunition piles were being rapidly built up and everything pointed to a big push in the near future. Finally we were informed that the XV Corps was launching a coordinated attack with Saarburg as the objective. During the initial phases, we were to be in direct support of the 114th Infantry Regiment, protecting the division's left flank. The attack was launched on the 13th of November following 13 hours of preparation fires.

The first four days were tough and costly; but by the end of the week determined resistance was finally beaten down, and the attack gained momentum rapidly. On Friday the battalion moved, with the aid of tractors, to a new position 2000 yards northeast of Leintry. Here, the medics treated four wounded Germans, and more Germans were captured 200 yards from the Battalion CP. Here also, word was received that Charlie Battery's FO party, led by Lt. Hardzinski, was missing, and the Battalion position was shelled by 88's. Major Shoemaker was slightly wounded and one GMC truck was set on fire. The harassing fire continued through the night and a Headquarters Battery radio truck was damaged by shrapnel.

The breakthrough was finally achieved and in three days we occupied five positions. This was more our type of war, and although the hours of sleep were few and far between, we were glad to be on the move again.

As the magnitude of the breakthrough and the general confusion of the Germans were realized, the XV Corps exploited its initial success by filtering the French 2d Armored Division through backtrails of the Vosges Mountains and by overrunning the Saverne Pass from the rear. Without stopping we became a part of the 324th Regimental Combat Team when the 44th Division followed the armor in combat team formation. We passed through the industrial city of Saarburg on two wheels and advanced into the Eschbourg-Dossenheim Pass through the Vosges. In occupying hasty positions we placed our guns on or near roads so that valuable time would not be lost in battling the ever present mud. Thus we arrived at Dossenheim in Alsace on Thanksgiving night, and we were immediately impressed by the relative cleanliness and lack of manure piles which characterized the villages in the Rhine valley.

The French 2d Armored had already taken Strasbourg and requested infantry to help secure the city. The VI Corps had broken through and cleared to the south, and the First French Army was working up the Rhine from the Belfort Gap. The drive had been making headlines but there were few who could pause to read them. Germans, ranging from two man patrols to Panzer Divisions, were cut off in the Vosges Mountains and were vainly trying to break through to the Rhine and Germany.



Shortly after dark of our first night in Dossenheim, Baker Battery was called on by the infantry to furnish a 25 man patrol. Contact was made with a roving band of Germans, and the results of the night fire-fight were two enemy dead and two wounded. Battalion outposts were swamped with prisoners coming in, and Guyton of Service Battery captured eighteen Germans while hunting for souvenirs. The Battalion sat down to a real turkey dinner the following day; while the situation was stabilizing, we caught up on our sleep, took helmet baths, and did a little maintenance on our equipment. An OP was established on Hill 324, and members of the Battalion sighted Germany for the first time.

On Monday, November 27th, we were relieved from the 44th Division and attached to the famous 45th Infantry Division, veterans of Sicily, Italy and Southern France. Working with this outfit was a real pleasure, and we were able to rest our forward observer parties. Attached to the 158th Field Artillery, we displaced twice to the northeast, occupying positions in Bischoltz on November 30th.

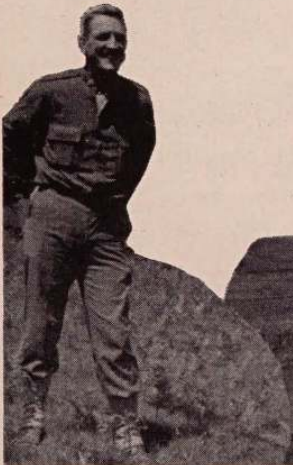
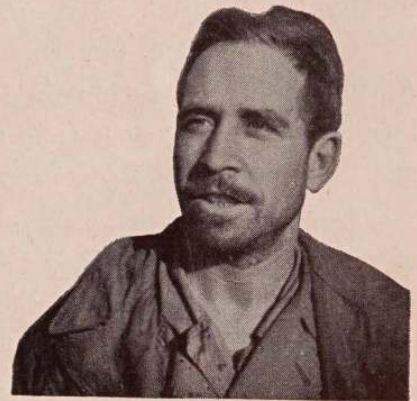
All the while, the flanks and rear areas had been having trouble with cut-off German units. The Third Army drive to our north had increased the pressure on the Seventh Army northern flank, and the 44th was called on to drive in a northeasterly direction from Drulingen. After only six days with the 45th we were again attached to the 44th, and left on a night march back through the Eschbourg-Dossenheim Pass, to join them in the vicinity of Durstel.

Thus it was that we jumped into the middle of a slow moving attack up the Sarre River Valley. The Germans were fighting a delaying action slowing our advance as much as possible by making use of Maginot Line defenses, mines, and by employing mobile guns with great skill. Baker Battery suffered a casualty when its wire truck ran over a mine. We advanced slowly through Durstel, Waldhambach, Butten, Montbronn, and finally to Meierhof. At all times we had three observers on the line, and in order to maintain the system of reliefs, it was necessary for the battery executives to take turns as forward observers. Fall was becoming winter, and more and more we took advantage of all available shelter.

On December 11th, from our position 2 miles northwest of Montbronn, we fired onto German soil for the first time, placing a one volley concentration south of the village of Uttweiler. We were nearing the famous fortress of Bitche. In the fading light of the 12th Lt. Strong and his party, from a ditch outside of Petit Réderching, adjusted fire on Fort Simserhof. The Germans were employing direct laying on our troops from this fort, and our adjusted data were used by XV Corps Artillery to place harassing fire upon the fortification during the night.

In keeping with the policy of aggressive reconnaissance, the Battalion Commander and his party reconnoitered for a new position in the vicinity of Welschhof Farms on the 14th. The party successfully entered the town of Kapellenhof, where the vehicles were parked while the Battery Commanders reconnoitered with Major Shoemaker. At that time all hell broke loose as the Germans started shelling the town from Simserhof. The party was pinned down for several hours, but finally managed to complete the reconnaissance on foot. It was not until after dark that the vehicles could be moved, and there were many broken windows and flat tires.

On Friday, December 21st, our steady but unspectacular advance was halted by the news of the Ardennes breakthrough. The Seventh Army assumed a defensive mission, and the XV Corps extended its left flank to include the Sarreguemines sector. With the 44th Division, we displaced laterally to the town of Sarreinsming, two miles east of Sarreguemines, on the 22d; on the following day when the infantry was pulled back out of Germany to shorten our lines and to establish a more favorable defensive position we withdrew to the south bank of the Sarre River near Siltzheim. Little did we realize that it would be three months before we were again to make a forward displacement.



The first snow of winter had begun to blanket the quaint town of Siltzheim. It was the Holiday Week between Christmas and New Year's, but the spirit of the season did not prevail. With anxiety in our hearts, we had read about the breakthrough in the Ardennes. Now we were sweating out a similar occurrence in our sector. As a precautionary measure against a surprise armor breakthrough, engineers immediately began mining the roads in and around Siltzheim. Deep holes were drilled out at advantageous sections of the streets, and demolition charges, already fused, were then planted. All bridges in the area were mined and guarded. Nothing was overlooked to insure the successful defense of our sector.

The first of a series of enemy attacks began on the night of December 31, 1944, New Year's Eve. Jerry was informed that on this occasion the Americans would be too drunk from celebrating to offer much resistance. Visibility was good even for night observation. A bright moon reflected on the newly fallen snow, lighting the countryside. As the attack got under way, our forward observers called in fire missions with Lt. Strong adjusting on an attempted river crossing. One rubber assault boat received a direct hit, killing an officer and an enlisted man, and giving the rest of the men a chance to swim in the cold water. Infantry, assembling in a draw and illuminated by the moonlight, caught hell after they were observed by Lt. Tedesco. By morning this attack was stopped, the Germans having sustained heavy casualties, fifty percent of which were due to devastating artillery fire.

The following day preparations for another attack were nipped in the bud by our Air Corps, when twelve Thunderbolts dived on the enemy, spitting leaden death, after which the Krauts retired to lick their wounds.

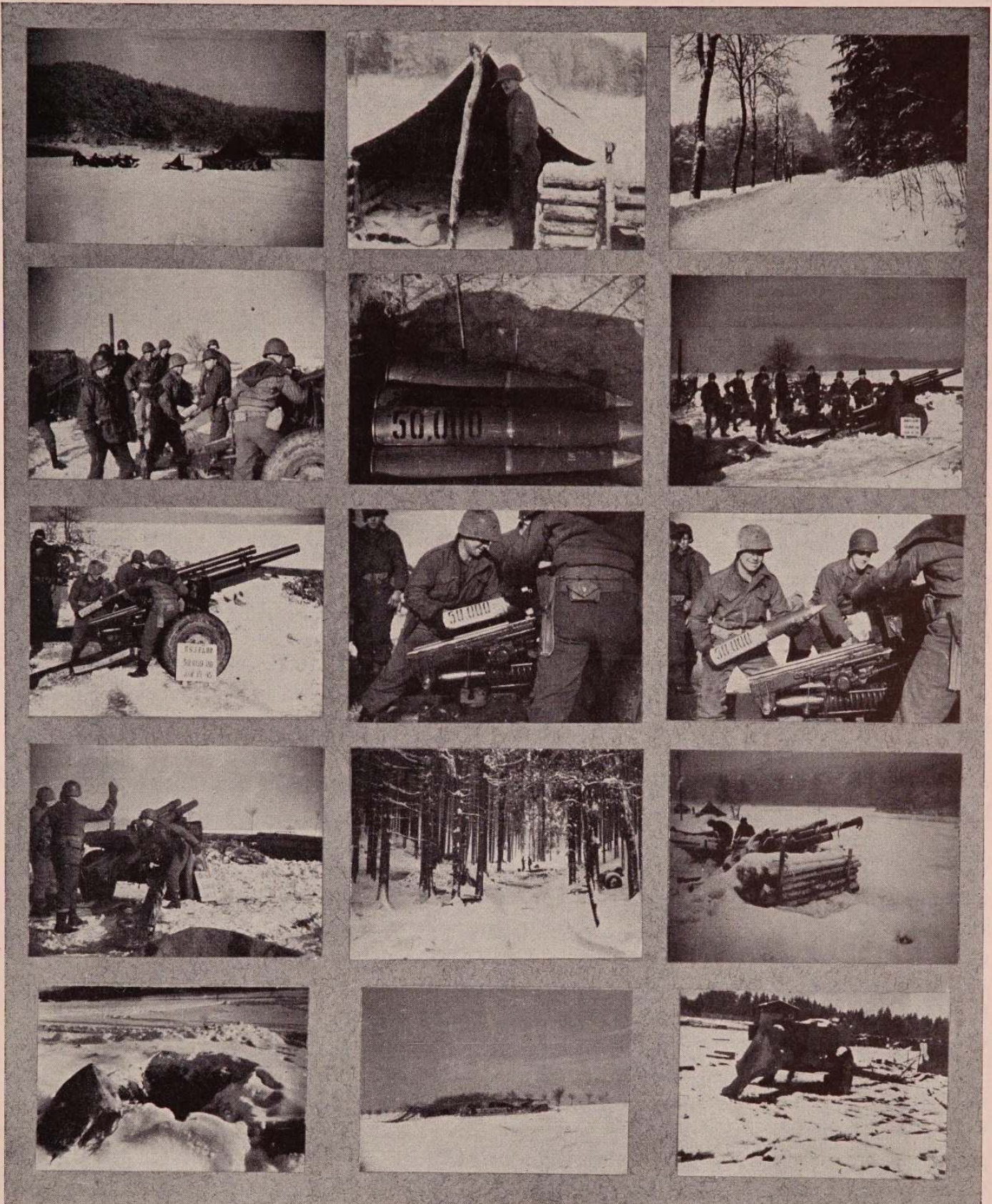
On January 3rd, four enemy Tiger tanks accompanied by Infantry shot their way into the town of Achen, which was to our right rear. A hasty withdrawal seemed imminent. However, this breach in our lines was filled by armor from the 2d French Armored Division, which checked the impetus of the assault and recaptured Gros Rederching.

Our air observation team of Lts. Malicoat and Kochakian spotted thirty vehicles and a long column of troops on the road. They quickly brought fire power to bear on these luckless Germans with the result that fifteen vehicles were destroyed and the foot troops neutralized.

In a series of counter-battery duels, Able Battery threw out sixty-four rounds and succeeded in definitely knocking out a self-propelled 88mm gun. The Nazi artillery, too, was at last beginning to find the range. Up until then it was more or less pecking all around us, but this time the shells landed in Charlie Battery's area. The shelling lasted about thirty minutes, and forty rounds were thrown in which inflicted several casualties and damaged the kitchen truck.

Just about this time Service Battery began to tremble under the long arm of the Germans' huge railway gun which was appropriately nicknamed "Alsace Alice". Service Battery was in position in the town of Sarralbe, a few miles behind the rest of the Battalion and within range of this giant artillery piece. In the town there was great evidence of the destructive power of this gun. Under the impact and explosion of its heavy projectile, buildings crumbled and fell. The destruction resembled the kind that would be wrought by an aerial bomb rather than an artillery shell. The gun was probably shifted from one place to another to prevent its being spotted. The shelling of Sarralbe lasted for about a week, after which the gun was located and destroyed.

Several days later, January 9th, enemy tanks attacked Rimling and heavy fighting ensued. That day our Battalion fired twenty observed missions into the town causing heavy casualties to personnel and damage to materiel of the attacking Krauts. The enemy, however, succeeded in capturing the town, and our forward observers in the vicinity of Gros Rederching again suffered anxious moments.



"NUMBER 50.000 ON THE WAY"

Baker Battery fired this round from its position near Siltzheim on Monday, January 15, 1945 at noon.

Reports were issued to our troops to be on the lookout for spies operating in the town of Siltzheim. One suspected spy dressed in an American uniform was apprehended by the Military Police. Two more, however, were still at large. To facilitate their capture, all military personnel on the road had to have a pass or trip ticket, and also the correct sign and counter-sign to get by the road guards and Military Police.

Rumors of paratroop landings in Fenetrage — a town behind our lines — were running rampant. However, as no official word was ever received concerning the operations, it was assumed to have been a false report. Some paratroopers did manage to make a landing in the sector of the 36th Division, but the situation was well in hand.

On Monday, January 15th, special preparations were made in connection with the 50,000th round fired by our battalion since it entered combat. Baker Battery was given the privilege of sending this special greeting to the Germans. Several pictures were made to record the event.

In the meantime Lt. Col. Iosbaker, our former Battalion Commander, returned from the hospital and was assigned to the 173rd Field Artillery Group while Major Shoemaker, who was later promoted to the rank of Lt. Col., remained as Battalion Commander.

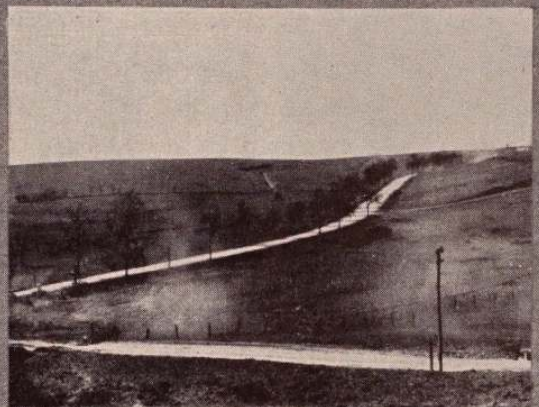
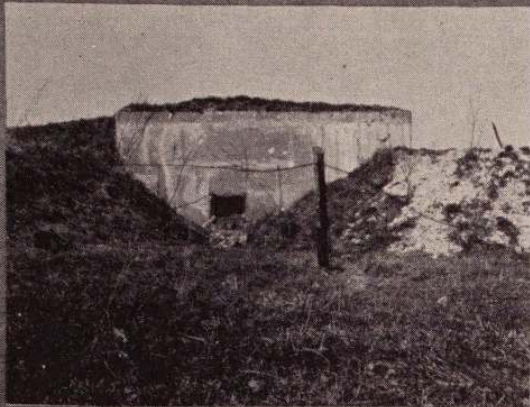
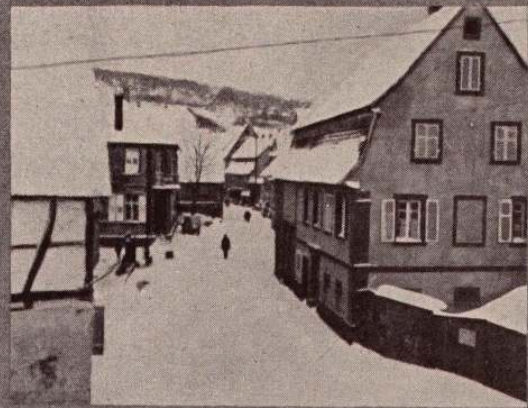
The 44th Division was ordered to extend its right flank, and we made a displacement to the town of Etting. After our position was organized with great difficulty because of snow and ice, we settled down for the night. During the early hours of the morning, a call came through alerting the Battalion for another move at 0730 that morning. Reconnaissance parties left immediately for the new position. The ever-present rumors were floating about again. These new ones put us in the Hagenau sector where the Krauts were exerting great pressure. If true, this meant a new attachment with the VI Corps. Finally the orders came through, and the Battalion was to hold up at a rendezvous area northwest of Bouxwiller before proceeding to its new sector.

After leaving the rendezvous area, the Battalion took up a position in the vicinity of Offweiler. We were under the control of the VI Corps, attached to the 45th Division, and in direct support of the 36th Combat Engineer Regiment, which had been committed as infantry because of the critical situation. Our mission of direct support brought on many problems. We lacked the personnel for such a mission, and to make up for the shortage, Firing Battery Commanders had to act as liaison officers. The snow, which had begun falling back in Siltzheim, had now increased its fury.

Roads were completely covered over, some with snow and others, more frequently used by convoys, with ice. Movement over such roads was slow and dangerous. The pressing situation along the Corps front forced us to seek a rear position, and, just before dark on January 20th, the Battalion began its orderly withdrawal from the town of Offweiler, displacing by echelon to maintain continuous support of the Engineer Regiment. Three of our vehicles, while moving into marching position, ran into snow filled craters and shell holes, and were helplessly stuck. When the order to move came, these vehicles had to be left behind. Unmindful of the fact that the town would soon be in enemy hands, the drivers of these trucks stayed with their vehicles.

The blinding fury of the snow made progress slow and hazardous. Many times our trucks very nearly skidded off the roads. The fact that most of the route was over down-hill, ice covered roads made matters worse. Roads were congested and traffic was jammed. The first echelon of the Battalion reached the new position in Weinburg early in the evening. The remainder arrived in the early hours of the morning except the three vehicles which were still in the old area. As soon as possible our battalion wrecker was dispatched to winch out the lost trucks. It was a race to see who would get there first, we or the Germans!

Working under the guidance of Lt. Young, Sgt. Fookes, wrecker driver, with the aid of Sgts. Hilton Bowman, and Juvinal, succeeded, in freeing the three vehicles, thus saving the Battalion a great loss in



vital and necessary equipment. Sgts. Cassell and Repta, Cpl. Chase, Pfc. Hanes, and Pvts. Cannon, Hurst, Tasovac, and Tollett were commended for staying with their trucks in spite of the danger which faced them. These men breathed a sigh of relief when they at last got back to the Battalion after having come safely through "no-man's land".

For this operation our Battalion received a letter of commendation from Headquarters, VI Corps Artillery. The letter was signed by Brigadier General Carl A Baehr, and was forwarded to us through channels, receiving many glowing indorsements.

Alternate positions were immediately surveyed in case of a further withdrawal. The Germans were determined to capture Strasburg and cut off the Allied troops east of the Vosges, and they were pressing our troops to the fullest extent. We sat there and held.

The 23rd of January was a busy day for the forward observers who had to adjust defensive fires in their respective areas. A static Observation Post was established in the Castle in Lichtenberg, which was once the home of "Robber Barons".

Our air observers were active again and during one of their flights they sighted a battery of mountain artillery in position. They adjusted on it, and only one section survived the fire for effect from our battalion and the 189th Field Artillery, a medium battalion.

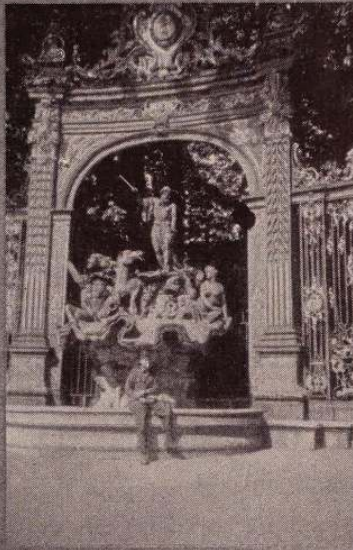
Air activity on the part of the Germans had virtually been at a standstill. However, one day a lone plane zoomed over and strafed Able and Baker Batteries. The plane was identified, strangely enough, as a P-51, commonly known as the Mustang fighter. Perhaps it was one of our planes that the enemy had captured intact and decided to use against us in the hope that before any suspicions were aroused the damage would already be done. If that was their plan in this case it did not work out because the plane was reported shot down in the vicinity of Shillersdorf.

Ammunition shortage was another problem facing us in those days. The stock of the various dumps was dangerously below the normal expenditures and, in order to build up a supply at these dumps, artillery outfits were restricted as to the amount of ammunition they could draw. This rationing went into effect February 1st and our Battalion was limited to fifteen rounds per gun per day. The gun sections could not exceed this limit in a day's firing. Further, Service Battery could draw only what was needed to keep up the allotted number of fifteen rounds per gun.

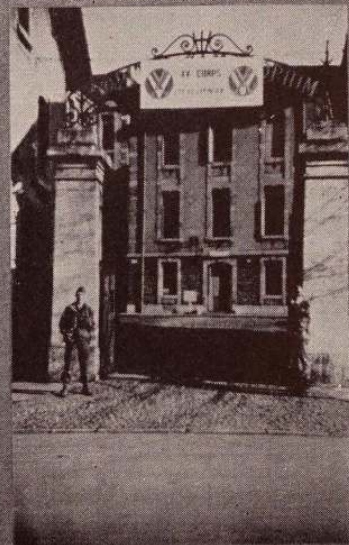
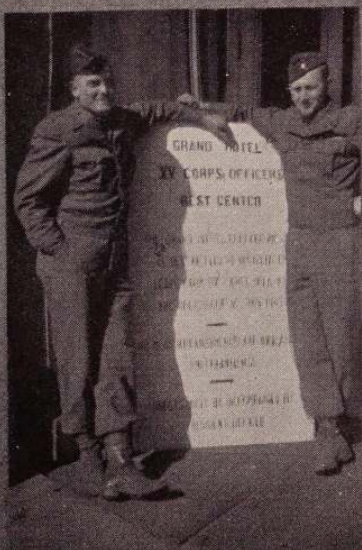
As the situation eased in February, a system of rotation was introduced in the Battalion to provide for the relief of one firing battery at a time for a rest and rehabilitation behind the lines. Our request to initiate this plan was granted, and Baker Battery was the first to leave, spending a pleasant week in the village of Haegen, South of Saverne. The plan was to remain in effect until all three firing batteries had an opportunity to rest.

Meanwhile the 36th Engineers were relieved. Our work here was done, and we were ordered to rejoin the XV Corps and the 44th Division. On February 10th the Command Post was reestablished in the town of Etting. Snow of the previous month was almost gone, and the frozen ground was beginning to thaw. Sarralbe was again the location of Service Battery. How well the men of that organization remembered the harrowing experience of the early days in January, when the Germans had the town zeroed in with their long range gun!

This sector had been quiet since our departure in January. Several days later, February 15th, the 44th Division launched a limited objective attack which resulted in the recapture of the town of Rimling. The attack rolled along for a few hours. Finally, the Germans came back with an intensified counterattack which forced two companies to fall back. Hours later, however, this counterattack was stopped and the



NANCY



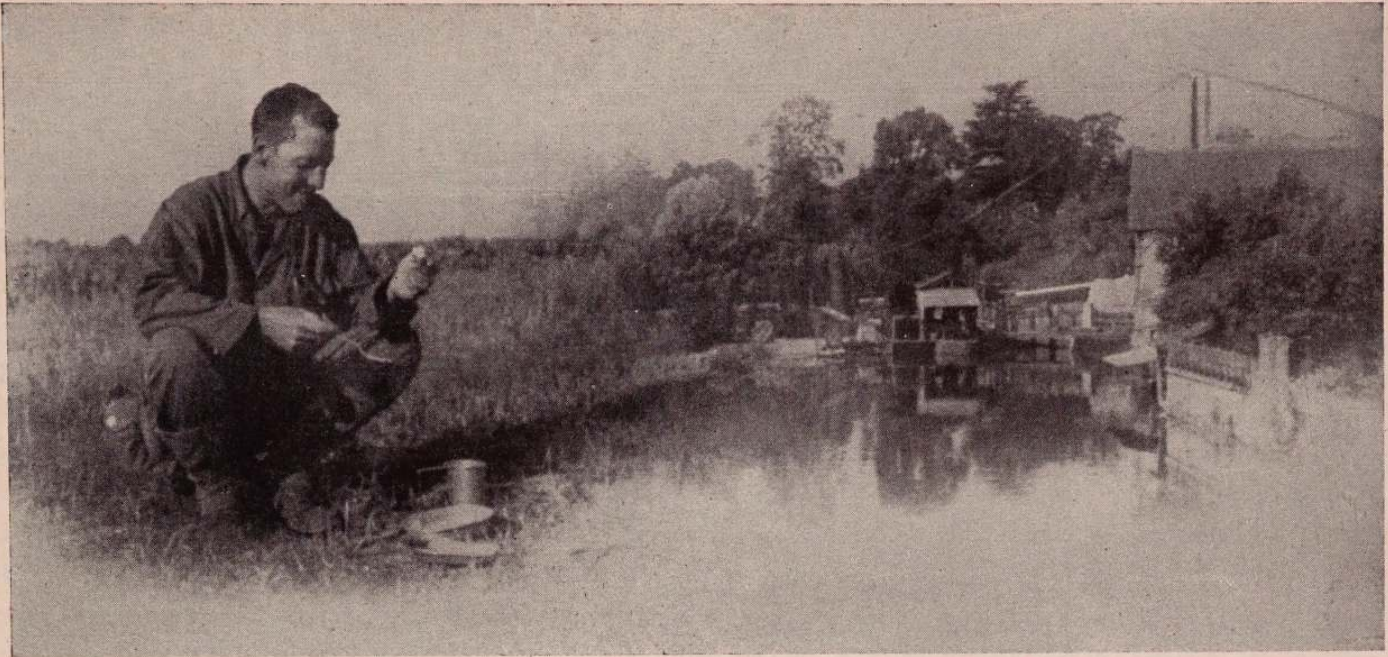
lost ground was regained. After that, repeated attempts on the part of the Germans to dislodge us from this position ended in failure.

A few days later on February 19th, the battalion made its first forward displacement since December. The new position was in the town of Gros Rederching, which was smashed and battered to a pile of rubble. The fact that it had changed hands so many times and that many tank battles had occurred within its limits had brought about this utter destruction. Tanks and armored vehicles of both sides were strewn throughout the town. In the course of our housekeeping amidst the debris we put a new tile roof on the school building housing the CP and restored the statue of Jeanne D'Arc to her pedestal.

We received a report on the state of morale of the Germans opposing us. It stated that the men had been ordered to fight to the bitter end by their officers, that adverse news was never passed down below the officers because of the effect on the men, that our artillery fire was very effective, that their ammunition was very strictly rationed, that gasoline and other supplies were very scanty and that replacements were older men or convalescents. Because of these factors the morale of the enemy confronting us was very low.

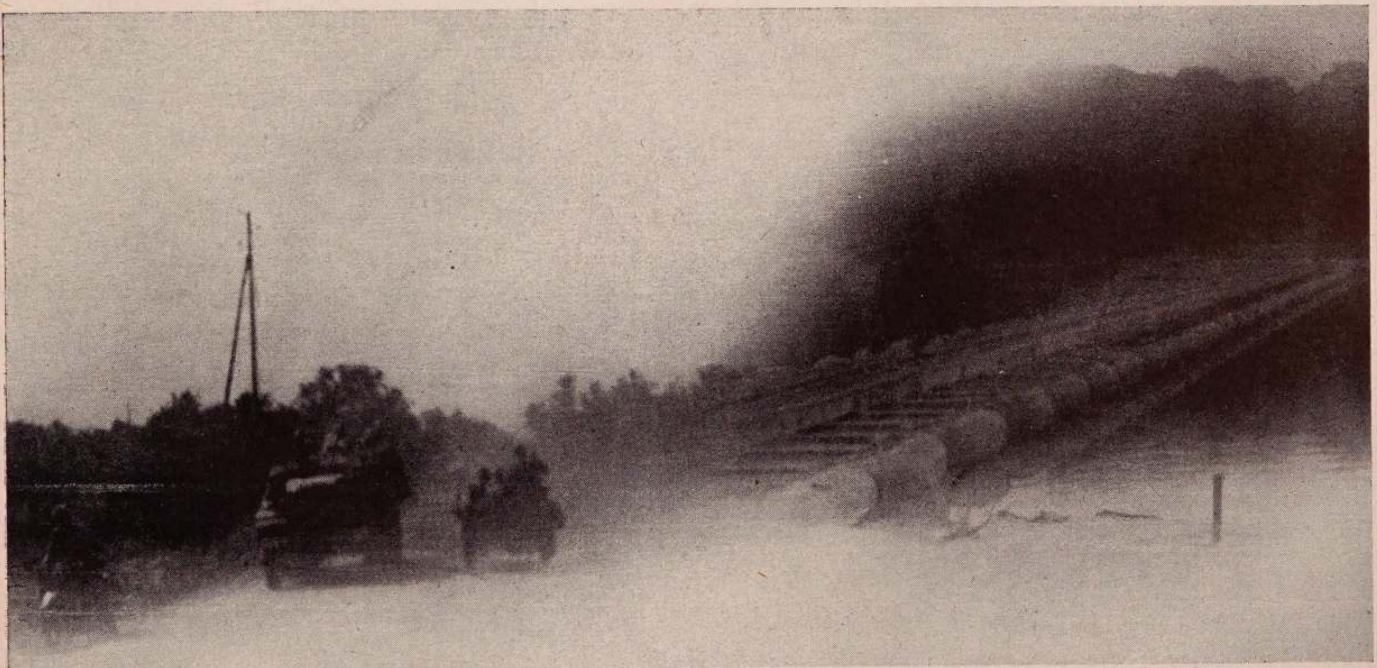
In this area Charlie Battery came in for another shelling by German artillery. However, luck was with them this time, and no casualties or damages were inflicted. Much emphasis had been placed on field fortifications, and our firing battery positions located on the outskirts of the village, exploited the camouflage possibilities of the area. Here we also had our first change of battery commanders since entering combat when Captain Torrington was transferred to Headquarters Battery and Captain Bang took over Able Battery. Lt. Wright, who had been evacuated the previous October, rejoined the battalion as Survey Officer, and Captain Corby became Assistant S-3.

During our prolonged stay in this position we were able to complete the rotation plan inaugurated by Baker Battery. Charlie and Able Batteries each spent a week in the village of Gunzwiller, south of Sarreburg, where they experienced the delights of town life in Alsace. Meanwhile winter was turning to spring, and daring members of the battalion shed their snowpacks. The XV Corps Rest Center at Nancy was opened, and some of us tasted the joys of this pleasant, friendly city. Living as comfortably as we could in the ruins of the destroyed town and on the muddy surrounding hillsides, we watched the valiant struggle of the French to reestablish a normal life and to bring order out of the chaos left in the wake of war.



"MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"
THE CAMPAIGN OF CENTRAL EUROPE

March 22, 1945 to May 12, 1945



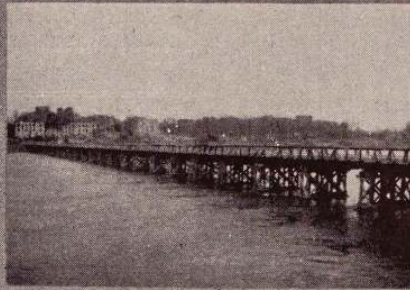
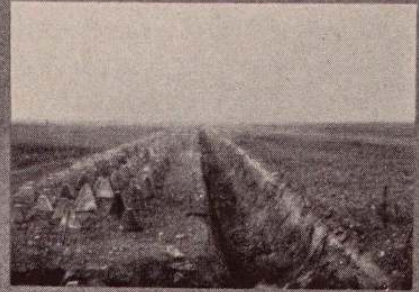
CENTRAL EUROPE CAMPAIGN

For two weeks preceding the attack of the Seventh Army on the final drive into the heart of the Reich, even the Germans knew the storm was about to break in the Sarguemines-Bitche-Hagenau sector. Up north the Twelfth Army Group had breached the Siegfried Line, crossed the Rhine River and were driving a wedge of steel into the heart of the great Nazi beast which was now beginning to writhe and gasp under unremitting pressure of those great allied armies operating there. The military strategy of the Supreme Command had deliberately withheld the attack of the Seventh Army until an enormous pocket had been created in the Palatinate. Action was imminent. New outfits coming in our sector with their organization designations on vehicles blacked out, large infantry assembly areas being organized near us, brass tearing through the streets of Gros Rederching on their way to CP's and OP's up front, all this meant something even to the inexperienced soldier. Tough and static winter fighting had keyed everyone into high pitch and the general sentiment was "We're ready; let's go and get it over with!"

Finally the order came down. The Seventh Army was to attack on H Hour D Day, 0100 15 March 1945. We learned that two of the most famous attack divisions in the American Army, the 3rd and 45th, would spearhead the Seventh Army's push to crack the Siegfried Line and that the jump off would be made in the vicinity of Gros Rederching, where we were in position. The order indicated that the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion would be attached to the 3rd Division, a fact which caused no end of speculation and excitement among the members of the Battalion because we knew their reputation. We knew that they expected no quarter from the enemy and they gave none, that they had a burning hate for the Germans, and that their objective would be to seek him out and destroy him. We also knew that when these veterans of Africa Sicily and Italy began a drive, they usually reached their objective — — fast. After briefing by our Battalion and Battery Commanders with an admonition from Colonel Shoemaker to remain "highly mobile" throughout the coming operation, we knew then that this was definitely the big thing.

The attack came off as scheduled, but initial phases were slowed down by small arms, artillery and mortar fire and numerous mine fields. The Battalion fired many concentrations in support of the initial attack. Lts. Brunacci and Strong, forward observers, were up with the assault elements and had direct wire communication with the Fire Direction Center. They observed the opening phases of the attack and gave a vivid play by play description of events as the operation progressed.

Two and a half days later, after much hard fighting, the back of the German defense system had been broken, a definite breakthrough had been achieved, and the drive had carried to the Siegfried Line. The Battalion was then ordered to occupy position near Scheyen to support the assault on the Siegfried Line. 2744 rounds fired on installations and fortifications in the Siegfried Line on March 18th later proved to be the heaviest day's firing in combat. TOT's were a common occurrence and the method of fire was usually "Battalion 10 volleys!" Also at this position the Battalion ammunition train was broken down into sections, each section being assigned to a firing battery for the purpose of insuring a maximum amount of ammunition being available to each battery in the shortest possible time. The Battalion Commander anticipated that once the outer and inner approaches of the Siegfried Line had been breached, a fast moving situation would develop and we were prepared for rapid movement. The direct assault of the Siegfried Line was now on. The enemy resisted bitterly from his pillboxes behind concrete "Dragon Teeth" and "AT" ditches. Our pressure was too great, however; on March 20th our troops succeeded in breaching the strong



SIEGFRIED LINE



line. At 1130 on the same day we crossed the Franco-German border and went into position near the town of Alt Hornbach, Germany.

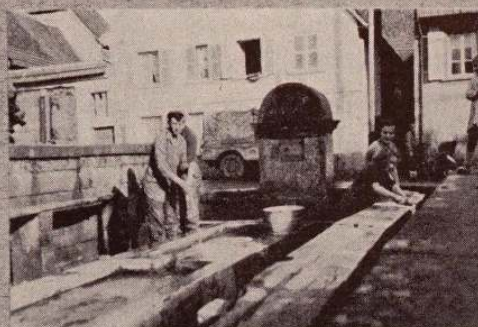
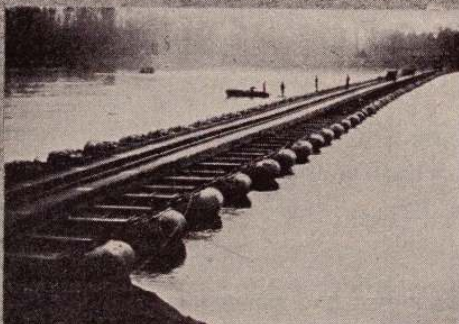
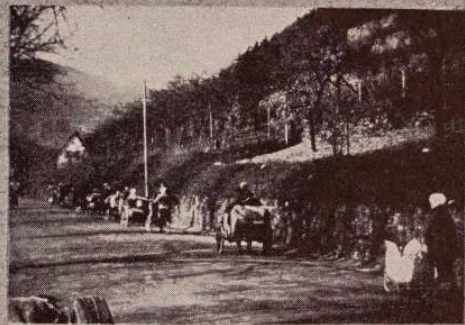
On March 21st we displaced into the Siegfried Line to assist the 15th Regimental Combat Team, to which we were attached, in cleaning up pillboxes and fortifications by-passed by the main effort. We occupied position within the Siegfried Line at Offweiler Farm. The farm itself had been damaged extensively and was completely deserted. Dead cows, horses and pigs were lying all over the place, and the odor was nauseating. Much of the farm stock was still penned and had not been fed for days. The Battalion Commander ordered them fed with feed stored in the barns and turned loose. Dead stock was removed, and the place was otherwise put in order to accommodate the Battalion during our stay there. Huge concrete and steel pillboxes and other fortifications surrounded our position. Most of them were well stocked with food, bedding, radios, cameras, guns and ammunition of all types and of course the inevitable German "bier." In a few hours they had been thoroughly "looted" and many valuable souvenirs obtained. Engineer units were busy demolishing the pillboxes by high explosives because previous experience had shown that sometimes the enemy would counterattack and reoccupy these same pillboxes, which of course would involve retaking them at the risk or cost of more lives.

With the Siegfried Line breached, intelligence reports indicated that only hasty fortifications would be encountered on the march to the Rhine River and on March 20th the 6th Armored Division was committed to exploit the breakthrough to the Rhine. The Battalion, still attached to the 15th Regimental Combat Team, was to follow in the wake of the 6th Armored Division, clean up all enemy resistance encountered on the march and, as the order indicated, "continue rapid advance to the Rhine."

After a 16 hour delay due to traffic congestion in the zone of advance, the 15th Regimental Combat Team got under way at 1740, March 22nd. The plan of advance called for the Battalion to haul 200 infantrymen on our already overcrowded and overloaded vehicles, a fact which caused great discomfort to everyone. The night was flooded by a full moon thereby increasing the danger of air attacks and ambush along roads which had been passed by the armor operating far ahead. To add to the discomfort, the night was bitterly cold and some element in the atmosphere caused the faces of everyone to become burned and chapped. As the night wore on, the prospect of a bivouac for the remainder of the night seemed more and more improbable as the column moved at a slow pace. Long overnight marches were not new to us since we had made many of them back in the days of Northern France, but it was generally agreed that this march was perhaps the roughest, as far as downright discomfort was concerned.

Several interesting sights along the road were encountered to break monotony. Most towns which we passed through seemed to be completely deserted. We did not know whether the civilians had pulled out with the soldiers, or whether they were hiding in the vicinity, but we noticed that destruction to towns and cities was much greater than anything which we had seen since Normandy. Points of resistance, which were usually in villages and at road blocks, had been ruthlessly crushed by the firepower of the armor and air attacks, and it was easy to picture the panic and extreme fear which overcame German soldiers and civilians alike who were in our path of advance. At one point, a column of German army vehicles had been caught on the road by our air force and armor. We passed thousands of still burning trucks and horse-drawn vehicles. Horses had broken loose and enemy dead lined the roads, which indicated that the column had been caught by surprise. The aura of death along this column gave everyone a creepy feeling. Horses wandering aimlessly about in the moonlight, enemy dead sprawled in grotesque positions and the smouldering and smoking destruction of miles of enemy equipment certainly brought home to us the ruthlessness of warfare.

After tiresome overnight marches from one concentration area to another, encountering only sporadic enemy resistance, the Battalion arrived on the banks of the Rhine in the vicinity of Frankenthal, Ger-



many and occupied positions in the suburbs of that city on March 24th. The division was preparing for an immediate crossing of the Rhine in order that the enemy might not have time to reorganize his forces. We were briefed for this operation which was to be called the "Rhineland Operation" and was to be initiated at 0230, March 26th following a 12,000 round artillery preparation. Gun positions were situated in the back yards of civilian homes, and this was our first opportunity to observe the German civilian population. We did not know what to make of them and apparently they felt the same way about us for they caused no trouble. However, Cpl. Copeland and Cpl. Hughs of Able Battery apprehended two German soldiers trying to sneak into a house in front of the battery position. One was an officer and both were armed and carrying signal equipment. The amusing part of this episode was that a woman accomplice in the house attempted to divert their attention while the Germans escaped by methods not found in rules of land warfare. During and prior to the river crossing, the Battalion came under heavy enemy artillery fire from self-propelled guns across the river and from heavy emplaced AA guns in the City of Mannheim. An ammunition truck in Charlie Battery was destroyed by a direct hit and made a brief but spectacular pyrotechnic display.

Finally, after a terrific artillery barrage, the 7th and 30th Infantry Regiments stormed across the Rhine in assault boats south of Worms. The Medical Detachment was swamped with casualties which an engineer unit sustained during the initial stages of the assault while they were ferrying doughboys across the river in assault boats. Everything was well planned and coordinated because the division pushed rapidly inland from the river, and the bridgehead was well established at the end of the first day. The Battalion had been ordered to prepare to cross the river, stripped to essential vehicles. Much time and effort were expended in making elaborate loading plans only to have the whole thing cancelled by an order to cross on the treadway bridge, the whole Battalion moving intact.

We were then ordered to make a displacement to a town called Petersach, which virtually sat on the banks of the Rhine preparatory to our actual crossing of the river itself. After reconnaissance parties had made their reconnaissance under machine gun and 88 fire, and the Battalion had moved into position, and made preparations to spend the night there, an order was received about 10 minutes later to cross the river immediately. The actual crossing of the Rhine was made on a treadway bridge in the vicinity of Worms at 2300, March 26th. The bridge was enveloped by a heavy smoke screen, and it gave one an eerie feeling, indeed, to hear only the muffled rattle of the track plates on the bridge and the low exhaust of the vehicles and to know that perhaps Jerry was overhead getting ready to drop a few bombs on us. The crossing was without incident, however, and everyone dug in at the next position, exhilarated by the realization that we had just crossed Germany's last major defense and that there would be no stopping now.

The next morning we saw scenes reminiscent of the days after the breakthrough back at St. Lo. Columns advanced along the roads unmolested, and when enemy resistance was encountered, it was quickly overcome. Enemy dead, tanks and vehicles were abandoned by the roadside when they had the misfortune to come in contact with our mechanized elements ranging far ahead. It was now apparent that the war had again entered the "rat race" phase, and there was no telling how long it would last. One displacement followed another, and the days of regular meals and undisturbed nights of sleep seemed far behind us. The Battalion Commander's reconnaissance party was constantly forward reconnoitering possible position areas, and as soon as we occupied one position, fired a few rounds and had eaten a meal, it would be time to pull out again. In spite of all this, morale was high and the Battalion was operating with great efficiency.

The attacking elements up ahead had begun to overrun numerous forced labor camps, and liberated slave laborers were seen trudging along the roads to our rear areas. At one time the Battery Commander's

parties contacted approximately 300 Greek soldiers who had escaped from a German PW camp in the vicinity of Steinbach. They were oriented and assisted to the rear. In a matter of hours the roads became clogged with thousands of these dazed, half-starved people. Many were seen stripping the flesh from dead horses and donkeys lying by the roadside, and it was a pitiful sight to see them scramble for an occasional can of "C" ration hash or a "K" ration biscuit given to them by members of the Battalion.

On March 20th the Battalion occupied a position in the vicinity of Worth, to support a crossing of the Main River. There was light machine gun, small arms and artillery reaction to the reconnaissance for a river crossing, but the crossing itself at 0300, March 30th was unopposed. The Battalion crossed the river without incident on March 31st and occupied positions at Rollbach. The Battalion Commander, with Sgt. Noyes, Sgt. Perry and Cpl. Woods went back to the bridgehead site to check on a couple of stray vehicles and were caught in a bombing and strafing attack by German jet propelled planes attempting to destroy the pontoon bridge over the river. The bombs landed close by in a row of houses on the west bank of the river killing several civilians but causing no damage to the bridge.

The enemy was in full retreat and fought back only at roadblocks and by use of heavy covering weapons such as flakwagons and assault guns. Resistance in the division zone was entirely disorganized, and only small battle groups and stragglers were encountered. Intelligence reports indicated that the enemy was pulling out leaving only these small groups to man road blocks and to delay our advance. Most of these battle groups consisted of highly ineffective and disorganized remnants of battalions and divisions; for instance the 283rd "stomach" Battalion, made up of soldiers with stomach ailments who were normally employed in building fortifications, put in an uninspiring appearance.

Immediately after the crossing of the Main River, a huge reorganization of forces was being accomplished which was to result in a plunge further into the Reich. The 45th Division was being shifted to the left, and the 3rd Division was moved to the zone vacated by the 45th. During this reorganization period the Battalion was given the mission of direct support of a screening force of the 15th Infantry Regiment which was to hold the area vacated by the 3rd Division until the arrival of the 42nd Division. The Battalion was relieved from this mission when elements of the 42nd Division closed in the area on April 1st, and we then moved to the new zone of the division. As a result of this reorganization an enormous "task force" was constituted which was to spearhead the Seventh Army's drive in the final phase of the war in Europe.

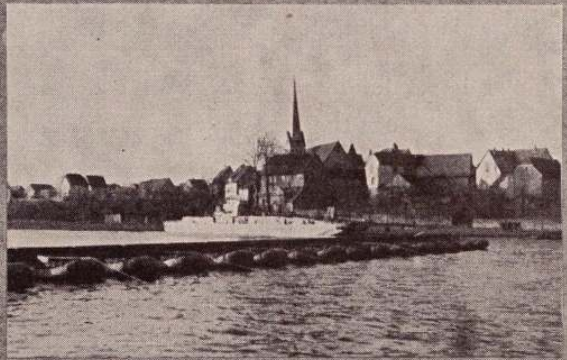
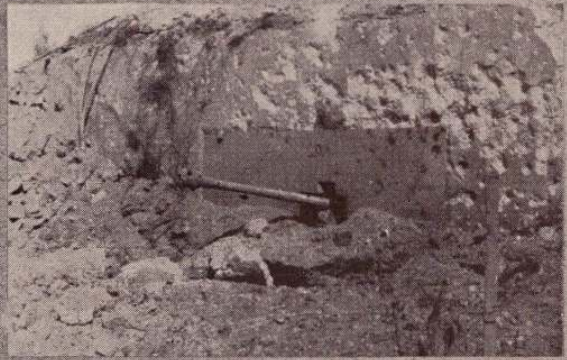
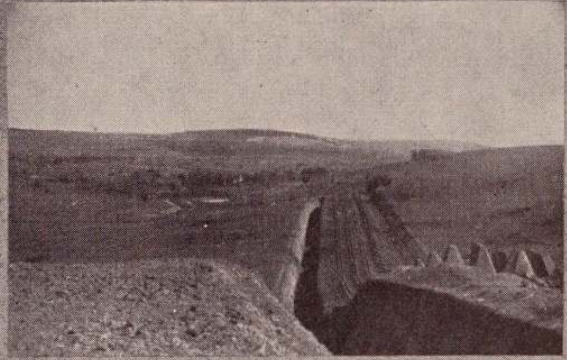
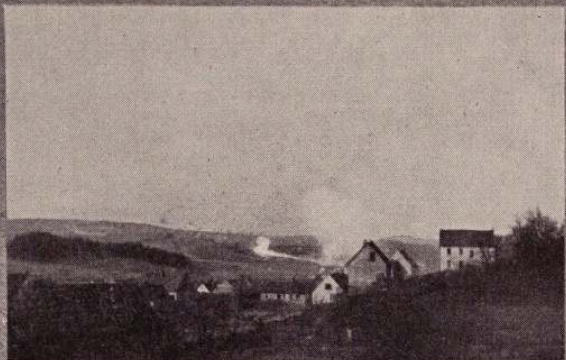
Still attached to the 15th Regimental Combat Team, the Battalion advanced through difficult, wooded terrain and over a poor road net from April 1st to April 9th, meeting scattered resistance which was easily overcome. This period was one of continuous movement aggravated by miserable weather and difficult traffic conditions. The 14th Armored Division was passed through the 3rd Division; the road net became badly congested and displacements were accomplished with great difficulty and delay, because of the presence of armored vehicles halted on the narrow, secondary roads. The continuous advance of the infantry and the movement of the armor greatly added to the congestion. During this short period the battalion made 13 displacements and the grind was beginning to tell on everyone. It was here that we last saw 2 DUKW's which had been attached to Service Battery to assist their moves from position to position. These DUKW's were huge ponderous "boats on wheels" used in the Rhine crossing and which were being driven forward with the flow of the army to assist in other river crossings to be encountered in the near future. These amphibious trucks could carry an amazing load and surprised everyone by their maneuverability on the road.

On April 9th, resistance was encountered and the Battalion occupied positions at Holzhausen, 4 kilometers from Schweinfurt, where we came under some of the heaviest shelling so far encountered in Ger-

many. Schweinfurt, a large industrial city and scene of the heaviest loss sustained by the 8th Air Force in the fall of 1943 (64 heavy bombers in one raid) was literally "bristling" with 88 mm anti-aircraft guns. The town of Holzhausen, where the CP was located, was showered but miraculously no personnel casualties were sustained. During the night, enemy tanks advanced to the edge of a woods 500 yards from Baker Battery's position and opened up with direct fire. Since it was dark and direct observation was impossible, these tanks would fire at the flash from our guns when a mission was in progress. Two Baker Battery howitzers were damaged by direct hits but the gun crews stayed at their posts and continued to fire, fortunately receiving no casualties. The Battalion and battery CP's were dancing on their foundations from low air bursts, and shrapnel splattered on the roofs like hail. Foxholes were dug good and deep that night. The Cub planes drew fire every time they went aloft to observe. Everyone held his breath when the bursts came closer and closer to them. Lieutenants Malicoat and Hannon managed to evade the fire by changing their flying patterns frequently in order to keep the enemy gun crews confused.

Resistance in and around Schweinfurt was overcome, and the Battalion then moved into position to support a second crossing of the Main River. Again the crossing was unopposed. The division continued its advance to the east and assault elements crossed the Regnitz River on April 15th. Immediately after crossing the Regnitz River, the direction of advance swung suddenly to the south and the division rapidly closed on the next major objective — — Nurnberg. Enemy resistance became fanatical at this point. Great numbers of the enemy were being killed and very few were taken prisoner. Sgt. Chapman, Sgt. White, Cpl. Hanna and Pfc. Beadoen of Headquarters Battery, while looking for the 39th Field Artillery Battalion CP, made a wrong turn and met several heavily armed German soldiers in the woods west of Ebersbach, who opened fire on them. Sgt. Chapman, manning the .50 caliber machine gun mounted on the truck, returned the fire, and after a brisk fire fight the enemy withdrew. The crew suffered no casualties although their 608 radio was damaged by gunfire. Enemy air activity had increased noticeably, and German planes were active at night strafing roads and dropping bombs. Service Battery, back at Bamberg was kept on the alert as planes strafed the town frequently. On one occasion, bombs, aimed at a QM truck parked on the road with its lights on, were dropped just a few yards from their position. Captain Wilson, noting that more casualties would probably be sustained in the mad scramble for cover than from the actual air attacks, issued an order that henceforth withdrawals to the safety of the wine cellar would be conducted with more dignity.

The Battalion moved to the vicinity of Kraftshof within the city limits of Nurnberg on April 18th from which it was able to deliver effective fire on the City of Nurnberg and surrounding territory. The city was heavily fortified and numerous 88mm AA guns were in position around the city preventing assault elements from advancing rapidly to clear resistance within the city. The Battalion, together with two organic battalions of the 3rd Division Artillery was credited with destroying 16 of these enemy 88's firing on our troops. Nurnberg offered heavy resistance to all three attacking Divisions, the 3rd, 42nd and 45th, and required steady pressure and the most difficult type of street fighting before the city was cleared. Battalion reconnaissance parties entered the Old City on April 20th and an OP was established on the sixth floor of an apartment house. Later in the day all organized resistance ceased and the city officially surrendered. Thus fell the shrine of the Nazi party. The city had been smashed by repeated massive air attacks by the American Air Force and RAF; hardly a building was left standing. Industrial areas had been completely wiped out; railroads and marshalling yards had been churned to nothingness. As a city it had ceased to exist. This was the first opportunity for us to see an example of the devastation wrought by air attacks and the condition typical of every major industrial area and major city in the German Reich.



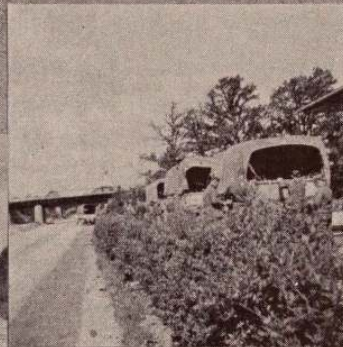
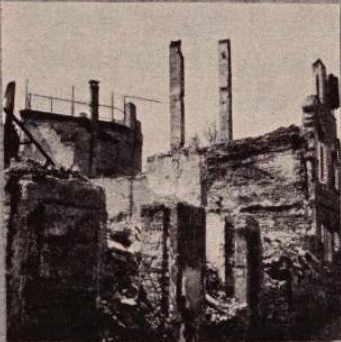
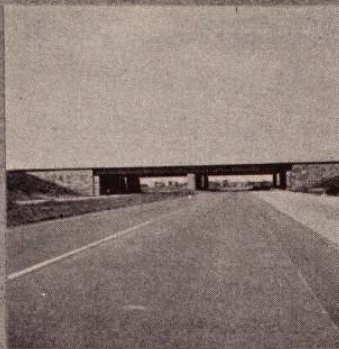
April 20th was Hitler's birthday, and according to intelligence reports an underground resistance movement, called the "Werewolves", was to strike on this date. The objective of each member was to kill at least one American soldier in honor of the Fuhrer's birthday. Orders from higher headquarters indicated that extreme caution would be exercised and that all personnel would be informed of this threatened uprising. Our guards were alerted and when morning broke, the "Werewolves" had not made an appearance. However, this incident warned us of what might be a daily danger now that we were deep in enemy territory.

The fall of Nurnberg found us more than half way across Germany. Although there were a few indications that the German army was about to collapse, it was reported that all German forces were withdrawing into the National Redoubt in Bavaria and Austria. Would we continue the advance directly to the east and meet the Russian forces driving toward us or would we swing south toward Munich and the Redoubt Area? All this was answered for us on April 20th when we were attached to the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. We marched through Furth, and through the city of Nurnberg itself, arriving at a bivouac area outside of Altenberg. After arrival we learned that the 42nd Division was to march south to an assembly area in the vicinity of the Danube River, that the Battalion was to march with the reserve regiment and to carry 375 infantry to an assembly area. After much confusion and several hours delay, the Battalion moved out at 2300 on April 21st and thus began one of the most unsatisfactory operations in our days of combat.

Traffic congestion caused by poor roads, mines, and road-blocks made displacements very difficult and caused the Battalion to be out of range most of the time. Several times reconnaissance parties found it necessary to enter areas which had not been cleared. On several occasions mines and road blocks had to be removed by our reconnaissance parties to permit movement of the Battalion into the designated area. While the enthusiasm of the Battalion was dampened somewhat by these incidents, the division continued to make a fairly rapid advance southward and everyone realized that each mile of advance brought the end of the war closer. On April 26th the Battalion crossed the Danube River near Shafstall, and after several displacements arrived in position at Holzlarn on April 28th. While Charlie Battery was occupying positions, a sniper at the edge of the woods near the guns began shooting at several members of the attached AA platoon causing several casualties. A combat patrol of 100 men was sent out from the Antitank Company of the 242nd Infantry to locate the sniper and to clear the area. Several persons wearing civilian clothes were taken into custody, and the sniper was presumed to be among them.

About this time everyone was becoming souvenir conscious. The most sought after collector's item was a German pistol, but knives, swords, helmets, insignia, uniforms and cameras were highly prized. Cpl. Lilley of Baker Battery turned up later with the souvenir hunter's dream — — from Hitler's house in Nurnberg, an elaborately designed field marshal's baton inscribed in gold letters, "To the Fuhrer from Gros Admiral Doenitz." Cpl. Wood, the Battalion mail clerk, was constantly harassed by questions as to the size of a box which could be sent through the mails, the weight limit and a thousand other questions concerning the only means of sending these priceless items home.

On April 28th the Battalion was alerted to move out as a motorized combat team following in the wake of the 20th Armored Division which was to make a drive down the Autobahn into Munich. On April 29th our column, which was designated "Task Force Dillinger", moved out. The march progressed over a poor road net, and the first phase was without incident. However, a comical note was injected shortly after we arrived at the Autobahn where the 20th Armored Division was being delayed by the 3rd Division. The 20th Armored Division's mission was to sweep down the Autobahn and to eliminate all enemy resistance. As it turned out, the 3rd Division Band led the armor down the Autobahn, and



after we had traveled several miles down the road casting uneasy glances on each side for possible ambush, we were startled to see big red lettered signs "3rd Division QM" and "3rd Division Ration Point."

While the 20th Armored Division continued its advance toward Munich we cut off from the column to unload the infantry at their assembly area in Ob Roth. The town seemed quiet enough when we entered, but the doughboys and our own men began to flush Germans out of the houses by the dozens. Baker Battery captured 21, and it seemed that there were more German soldiers in the town than Americans. As it turned out, they were just waiting for such an opportunity to surrender and at 2200 we turned our PW's over to the infantry and began the march back to the 3rd Division zone. We arrived there an hour and a half later and occupied positions at Geiselbullach. Advance elements of the 3rd Division had arrived in the outskirts of Munich and were preparing to enter the city. On April 30th the Battalion displaced to the vicinity of Munich and at 1415 the same day, we arrived in Grafelfing, a suburb of the city. Upon our arrival we were surprised to hear that resistance in Munich had collapsed and that mopping up operations were already in progress. We were then immobilized in order to furnish 20 GMC trucks to motorize the 3rd Division for a lightning thrust into the National Redoubt in the direction of Salzburg, Austria and Berchtesgaden, Hitler's famous mountain retreat.

Munich, capital of Bavaria, has a normal population of 829,000 and is the third largest city in Germany. One of Germany's principal industrial centers, it was also the birthplace of the Nazi party. Sight-seeing trips authorized by Colonel Shoemaker on May 1st were conducted through the battered city and to the notorious Dachau prison camp. The site of the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch was visited, and at 1200, May 1st Major Dittmann, Captain Kinder and Cpl. Isaacs entered the famous Hofbrau House where the Nazi party was founded. This was the second opportunity for members of the Battalion to see at first hand the effect of large scale industrial bombing although the city was not as completely destroyed by saturation raids as was the city of Nurnberg.

On May 2nd we were ordered to move as much of the Battalion as possible with available transportation and to occupy positions in the vicinity of Rosenheim. Anticipation of such an order by Colonel Shoemaker enabled him to assemble Baker Battery and the first echelon of Headquarters Battery and to have them on the road an hour and a half later. Thus began our final chapter of the war in Europe.

The 7th Regimental Combat Team, motorized, was cutting a swath deep into the Redoubt Area, and upon arrival of Baker Battery and the echelon of Headquarters Battery at the designated position in Rosenheim, Colonel Shoemaker was told to continue to march along the Autobahn until enemy resistance was encountered or until he met the column of the 7th Regimental Combat Team. The Colonel then sent word back to the remainder of the Battalion, still at Grafelfing, to send maps, rations and gasoline forward. He also indicated that our trucks would soon be released and that they would return to Grafelfing to move the rest of the Battalion forward.

The forward echelon of the Battalion roared down the Autobahn and joined the Combat Team on May 3rd. The column was rolling ahead virtually unopposed, and we began to meet thousands of German prisoners marching in small groups and columns of several hundred to our rear areas. Many were seen coming out of woods and side roads of their own accord to join these columns. Every German soldier in this sector had either received orders to surrender or had refused to continue the fight. The Autobahn is a dual highway, and to the rear streamed thousands of German soldiers, trucks, motorcycles, troop carriers, in fact, all the equipment necessary for an army to function with the exception of weapons. We had seen prisoners before but never anything like this. One can picture the amazing scene described here: two armies which had been locked in death grip for over three years were passing each other at throwing distance. One army was completely victorious, the other was going down to ignominious defeat. It was

now apparent that the Germans were completely powerless to cope with the might of the American Armies advancing into the Redoubt and that there would be no large scale last ditch stand in this area.

We knew the end was coming but we anticipated that, after months of concentrating troops in this area, there were undoubtedly SS troops in this vicinity prepared to make a fanatical stand and that there might be plenty of tough, mopping up operations ahead.

Finally, on May 3rd, some resistance was encountered up ahead, and Baker Battery went into firing position at Hub. While at this position, the men liberated 5 American PW's who had been sent to the farms in this vicinity to work in the fields. The elation and gratitude of these men was beyond description, and strangely they told of excellent treatment by the German families with whom they had been quartered. They also mentioned that treatment had improved considerably the past two weeks. At this point 18 trucks returned to Grafelfing, and Able Battery and the second echelon of Headquarters Battery began their march down the Autobahn to join Baker Battery. Meanwhile resistance was particularly heavy in the town of Piding just a short distance ahead and was eventually reduced after a heavy fire fight. Baker Battery went into position in Piding just a short time after the city was cleared, and forward reconnaissance indicated that several bridges leading into Salzburg were blown, that enemy resistance was increasing and that we could expect a good fight here.

Firing was fairly heavy during the night but morning broke with a strange calm. At 0700 a report was received that our elements were making no contact in Salzburg, a fact which seemed strange as the town was reported heavily garrisoned with SS Troops who were to defend the city to the last man. At 0900 the same morning representatives from the 3rd Division entered the city to negotiate surrender terms. All resistance ceased and the city officially surrendered a short time later. At 1100 Able Battery and the second echelon of Headquarters Battery arrived in position at Piding after a hectic all night march down the Autobahn in which a command car overturned in a deep crater, injuring Lt. McLeod, Sgt. Repta, Cpl. Hill and Cpl. Hirschmann. These were the last Purple Hearts awarded by this organization for injuries received during combat.

The shape of things to come had begun to assert themselves. An official entry in the unit journal is quoted herewith:

"1400 May 3rd 1945 — From 3rd Division Artillery: Information received indicates General Von Kesselring plans to surrender his forces today. If he appears in your area, take him to 3rd Division Headquarters without delay."

Since Von Kesselring's Army Group was one of the major forces still resisting in Europe and since his surrender appeared imminent, the end of all organized resistance and the end of the war seemed in prospect for the near future. Von Kesselring contacted the 3rd Division representatives shortly after this warning was issued because Baker Battery, while on the march to the new position, became involved in a column of German vehicles coming from the other direction. This column proved to be the surrender party of Von Kesselring.

Lt. Tufts in charge of our vehicles was accosted by Major General "Iron Mike" O'Daniels to get those damned vehicles off the road and let me pass. I've got the end of the war here." There is no doubt that the surrender of Von Kesselring unofficially ended the war in southern Germany and Austria.

On May 4th Colonel Shoemaker accompanied a task force from the 7th Infantry whose mission was to march through the pass leading to Berchtesgaden, clear out all enemy resistance, continue the advance and capture Berchtesgaden and Adolph Hitler's retreat on Mt. Kehlstein. Surprisingly slight resistance was encountered on the march, and when the column reached the outskirts of the town, the commanding general of the SS troops garrisoned there and the burgomeister of the town were waiting with a white flag to surrender.

On the same date, after a reconnaissance of bridge sites over the Salzach River and of a position area in the vicinity of Salzburg, Colonel Shoemaker moved Baker Battery and the first echelon of Headquarters Battery across the river to occupy a position on the airfield to cover the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Infantry disposed on the west side of the city of Salzburg. At 2045 we entered Austria for the first time and went into firing position 15 minutes later. The next morning the remainder of the Battalion entered Austria at 0800, May 5th and were in position ready to fire shortly afterwards. This was to be the last firing position occupied by the Battalion in the European War.

Rumors were many concerning the end of the war. One had only to look about him to see that the German army was finished. Two complete German divisions marched down the Autobahn to surrender. 250 kilometers away, the Russian Army was driving westward from Vienna and the Third Army was driving down from the north. Reports indicated that battlefield surrenders were taking place on all fronts and that it would just be a matter of time until a complete formal unconditional surrender would be effected. At 1630 on May 5th, 3rd Division Artillery sent out an order that all firing would cease unless of course, we were fired upon. On May 6th, we learned that we were to remain at Salzburg Airfield for a period of at least 10 days and that temporary garrison installations would be prepared to accommodate the Battalion. We all knew by this time that our part in the European War was over, but strangely none of the things which we said we would do when this moment arrived seemed appropriate. Perhaps we just could not believe it or maybe, being soldiers, we realized the job was only half done. Our part in the campaigns of Europe was finished, but the war in the Pacific still confronted us and would require many troops from this theater before victory would be achieved. Then too, an official end to the war had not been declared, and, although things seemed quiet enough at the moment, more fighting could still be encountered.

Finally on May 7th, Colonel Nye, 173rd FA Group Commander, visited the CP and gave the word that Admiral Doenitz had submitted an unconditional surrender to the Allies, that all Germans had until midnight May 8th to surrender all forces and that all hostilities were to cease. Everyone was extremely relieved but again there were no wild displays of happiness and elation.

On May 8th we were kept busy receiving German planes of all types which were landing at the airfield and surrendering their crews. Most of them came in from Leipzig and Klagenfurt after having received orders to fly to this airfield to surrender. After months of sweating out German planes, it was hard to get used to having them buzz over our heads all day and land a hundred yards from us.

At 2400, May 8th 1945 the German surrender terms became final and the war in Europe ended. Still dazed and unable to comprehend its full meaning, we joined in the salute by discharging small arms and flares at midnight. Thus, in a blaze of gunfire we ushered in an era of peace in Europe.

EPILOGUE

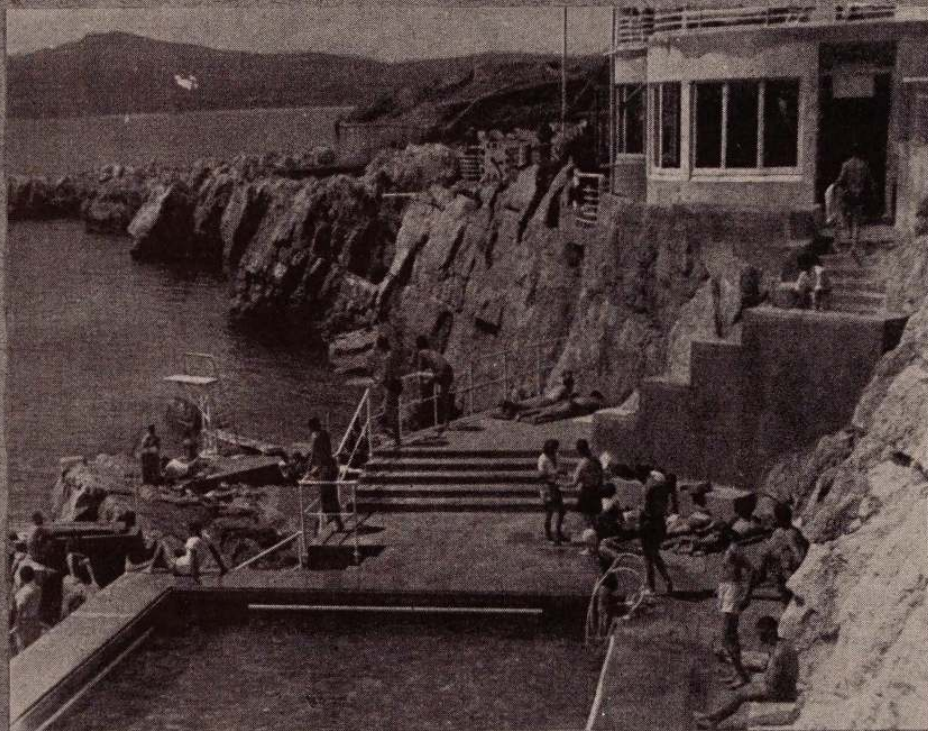
The future is beginning to take shape for the Battalion as we go to press, and it appears that we are merely at a halting place in our combat history. However, sweeping changes in personnel are now in progress and many familiar faces will disappear from the scene. For those who will join the unit and for those who have had the good fortune to depart for the States we will summarize our activities of the past two months since May 8th.

After a brief period of rehabilitation of materiel and personal equipment following the cessation of hostilities, we assumed the mission of guarding warehouses, utilities and art treasures in Salzburg, which still continues. The changing nature of the guard posts and the scenic beauties of Salzburg have made this job popular among men and officers. At the same time we have been able to enjoy the artistic and cultural advantages of this community. Under Captain Kinder and Cpl. Ginger an active Special Service program has resulted in a variety of sight-seeing tours to all points of interest and in quotas to the reviews, theatrical performances and concerts. For those interested in classical music the Salzburg Festival Orchestra resumed its concerts late in June; those whose interests were on the lighter side were entertained by Marlingo and the yodelers at the frequent Austrian reviews.

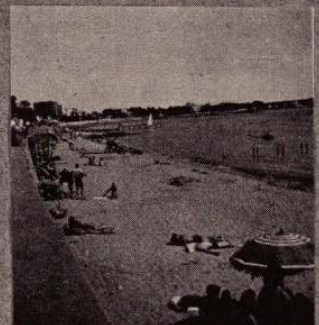
Meanwhile a liberal policy on passes and furloughs has enabled most of the Battalion to revisit fraternizing territory since the end of hostilities. Almost 50% of the Battalion made the long drive to the Riviera, the "GI Paradise", for seven days of rest and rehabilitation, with the last two convoys journeying through the Brenner Pass and Italy. The XV Corps Rest Center continued in full blast in Nancy, until July 4th and there were many repeaters last month. A few small quotas to Paris and Lyons were enjoyed to the utmost, and one small group of four enlisted men returned to England on furlough. Baker and Charlie Batteries each established a camp on nearby lakes where fishing and boating facilities were available, and the Cobweb Yacht Club was organized for sailing enthusiasts.

Readjustment of personnel within the unit under the point system first appeared in the form of small quotas to return to the United States. M/Sgt. Noyes spearheaded the return of the Battalion by leaving on May 19th and arriving at his home in Oklahoma on June 17th. Two groups of five men each left in June to return by air; they included Sgt. Harold L. Smith, Tec 4 Freddie Turner, Cpl. Basil Stewart, Tec 5 Milton V. Walcher, Pfc. Victor D. Underwood, S/Sgt. Willard H. May, Sgt. Jack D. Caraway, Cpl. Hilbert L. Vela, Tec 5 Tommy S. Neal and Pvt. John A. Goforth. On July 4th a large party left consisting of S/Sgt. Roy C. Williams, Jr., S/Sgt. Clint E. Franklin, Cpl. Newton F. Purdy, S/Sgt. Jack D. Edwards, 1st Sgt. Michael J. Washenberger, T/Sgt. Robert N. Zellner, 1st Sgt. Dominic Hermann, S/Sgt. John L. Manor, S/Sgt. Noble Allen, Cpl. Luman L. Preston, Tec 5 Allison C. Gay, S/Sgt. Troy A. Cherry, S/Sgt. Nicholas J. Giardina; this group included some of the "old timers" from the regimental days, and their wholesale departure was a sad occasion. Finally on July 10th a mass transfer of the remaining "high point" men will clear the unit of many other familiar faces.

Thus, it is the end of the road for many of us with the Battalion, and it will be a sad occasion for us to leave the unit where we have served so long. The announcement of the transfer of Lt. Col. Shoemaker comes as an additional blow, for he has been associated with the Battalion since our activation and has symbolized our proud descent from the 18th Field Artillery Regiment. To his successor and to those who will occupy our humble shoes, with sorrow in leaving, with joy in our rich memories and friendships — — and with just a trace of envy — we wish the best of luck and success in carrying on the spirit and traditions of Cobweb — — THE BEST BATTALION IN THE U. S. ARMY!

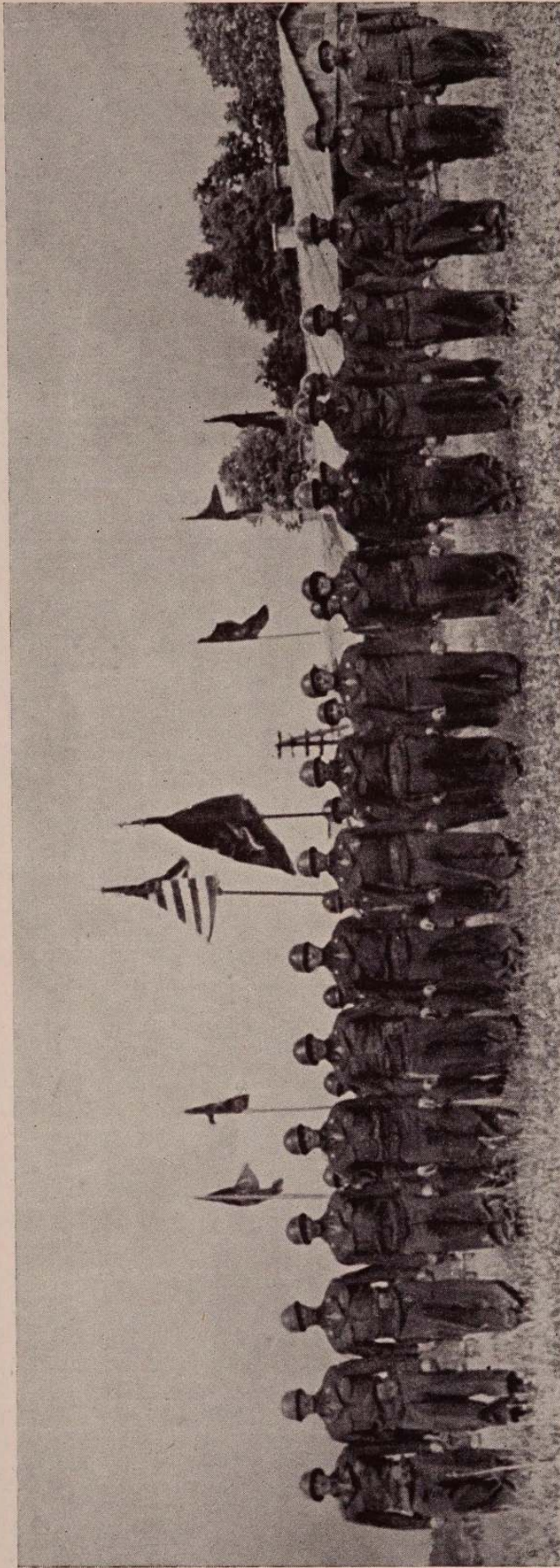


RIVIERA



PART TWO

THE FACTS



AFTER THE BATTLES WERE ENDED THE AWARD OF DECORATIONS TOOK ON A FORMALITY. THE AIRPORT AT SALZBURG WAS THE SCENE OF THE

ABOVE FORMATION OF PERSONS DECORATED.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OFFICERS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Capt. Bang, Jens E. W. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart | 1st Lt. McLeod, Daniel S. | Purple Heart |
| 1st Lt. Brown, Lawrence D. | Bronze Star Medal | 1st Lt. Morris, John H. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Captain Bolson, Harry B. | Bronze Star Medal | Capt. Schmidt, Kenneth E. | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1st Lt. Brunacci, Guy F. | Bronze Star Medal | Lt. Col. Shoemaker, Raymond L. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal with Oak-Leaf Cluster: Purple Heart |
| Captain Corby, Jay L. | Silver Star | 1st Lt. Strong, Charles P. | Silver Star: Bronze Star Medal: Purple Heart |
| Major Dittmann, Mathew C. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal | 1st Lt. Tedesco, Louis V. | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1st Lt. Haley, Norman R. | Bronze Star Medal with Oak-Leaf Cluster: Purple Heart: Croix de Guerre with star | Captain Torrington, Francis R. | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1st Lt. Hannõn, Joseph F. | Air Medal with Three Oak-Leaf Clusters | 1st Lt. Tufts, Henry H. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Captain Kinder, Gordon T. | Bronze Star Medal | Major Turner, Mitchell H. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1st Lt. Kochakian, Vaughn | Air Medal with Four Oak-Leaf Clusters | Captain Walch, Jack A. | Bronze Star Medal |
| 1st Lt. Malicoat, Roland E. | Purple Heart: Air Medal with Five Oak-Leaf Clusters | 1st Lt. Wright, Richard P. | Bronze Star Medal |
| | | 1st Lt. Zeanah, Hugh W. | Air Medal with one Oak-Leaf Cluster |

HQ & HQ BATTERY

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Astolfi, Paul V. | Bronze Star Medal | Manor, John L. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Beaudoen, Franklyn L. | Combat Infantry Badge | Neal, Tommy S. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Betterton, Roy L. | Certificate of Merit | Noyes, Claire M. | Bronze Star Medal with one Oak-Leaf Cluster |
| Chastain, Carter C. | Certificate of Merit | Perry, Lloyd L. | Certificate of Merit |
| Deck, Everett N. | Purple Heart | Query, Garold P. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Downs, J. A. | Bronze Star Medal with one Oak-Leaf Cluster; Certificate of Merit | Reynolds, Harry D. | Bronze Arrowhead |
| Drees, Harry J. | Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Ruppell, Henry K. | Combat Infantry Badge |
| Fitzgerald, Paul L. | Certificate of Merit; Bronze Star Medal | Smith, Ben W. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Foster, Rufus C. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal | Smith, John E. | Certificate of Merit |
| Goforth, John A. | Bronze Star Medal | Stoddard, Roy | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Hardy, Frederick T. | Bronze Star Medal | Tennyson, Alfred V. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Hendrix, Samuel J. | Bronze Star Medal | Toone, Leo C. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Hill, Elmer A. | Certificate of Merit | Usleton, Thomas H. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Howell, William L. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Williams, Roy C. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal |
| | | Woods, Emmette W. | Certificate of Merit |

SERVICE BATTERY

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cassell, Jim T. | Certificate of Merit | Fookes James L. | Purple Heart; Bronze Star Medal |
| Chavez, Doroteo L. | Certificate of Merit | Goforth, John A. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Coffin, Louis H. | Certificate of Merit | Grant, Robert E. L. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Currier, Lenard J. | Purple Heart | Hilton, Phaniel | Bronze Star Medal |
| Essmeier, William | Bronze Star Medal | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Hurst, Cleo E. | Purple Heart | Naimoli, James | Certificate of Merit |
| Keller, Benjamin A. | Certificate of Merit | Reeves, Roscoe | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Levendosky, John L. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Richardson, Ralph R. | Purple Heart |
| Marshall, Lowell D. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Smoot, Frank W. | Purple Heart; Certificate of Merit |
| McGraw, Gerald J. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Ward, Robert A. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Miller, Ralph R. | Certificate of Merit | Whisnand, G. W. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Mozingo, Leonard M. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Zellner, Robert N. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Paliki, Frank P. Bronze Star Medal with one Oak-Leaf Cluster

BATTERY "A"

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Antonelli, Harry | Combat Infantry Badge | Holbrook, Foster | Combat Infantry Badge |
| Askelson, Arnold | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Hudman, Paul F. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Bowman, Charles L. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Johnson, Glen H. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Caudill, Orville | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Johnston, Thomas R. | Certificate of Merit |
| Clevenger, William S. | Certificate of Merit | Jones, Charles E. | Certificate of Merit |
| Dominek, Johnnie L. | Certificate of Merit | Kirk, Author R. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Dudley, Howell E. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | May, Willard H. | Bronze Star Medal |
| English, Leroy J. | Purple Heart | Parker, Charlie F. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Geu, Dallas | Certificate of Merit | Punches, Wesley C. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Hermann, Dominic | Bronze Star Medal | Repta, Steve Jr. | Purple Heart |
| Hicks, Forrest M. | Bronze Star Medal | Shillinglaw, Morion O. | Certificate of Merit |
| Hill, W. J. | Purple Heart with one Oak-Leaf Cluster; Certificate of Merit | Torneo, Joe R. | Combat Infantry Badge |
| Hirschmann, Henry | Purple Heart; Certificate of Merit | Ward, Thomas S. | Certificate of Merit |
| | | Werrell, Ira L. | Bronze Star Medal |
| | | Worrell, Howard P. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |

BATTERY "B"

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Andrews, John J. | Combat Infantry Badge | Keeler, Lewis E. | Purple Heart |
| Barrientes, Raymond R. Jr. | Bronze Star Medal | Lilley, William A. | Purple Heart; Certificate of Merit |
| Beeler, Hazen C. | Purple Heart with one Oak-Leaf Cluster | Makowiec, Leo A. | Certificate of Merit |
| Caraway, Jack D. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Mathews, Robert E. | Certificate of Merit |
| DeRossett, Joe | Combat Infantry Badge | Mazarakis, James | Certificate of Merit |
| Dryden, Wesley I. | Certificate of Merit | Merriman, Rex H. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Edwards, Jack D. | Purple Heart; Certificate of Merit | Misel, Fred J. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Elledge, Clyde J. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Pelletier, Joseph O. | Combat Infantry Badge |
| Flannery, John P. | Certificate of Merit | Phillips, Henry M. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge; Distinguished Unit Badge |
| Franklin, Clint E. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit | Purdy, Newton F. | Certificate of Merit |
| Ginger, Lester M. | Bronze Star Medal | Raper, Chloeta D. | Certificate of Merit |
| Graf, George D. | Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart | Russell, John H. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Graves, Harold W. | Certificate of Merit | Sides, Carlton J. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Ibarra, Salvador | Purple Heart | Smith, Harold L. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Isham, Robert T. | Bronze Star Medal | Wyatt, Theodore R. | Purple Heart |

BATTERY "C"

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Allen, Noble | Bronze Star Medal | Moticka, Joseph F. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Baltrus, Joseph F. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge | Neff, William H. | Certificate of Merit |
| Barrick, Earl E. | Purple Heart with one Oak-Leaf Cluster | Owens, Charles D. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Brown, William A. F. | Certificate of Merit | Pierce, James L. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Cherry, Troy A. | Bronze Star Medal | Rains, Louis E. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Downey, Eugene M. | Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; Certificate of Merit | Schroeder, Aloysius F. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Durbin, William E. | Bronze Star Medal | Sparks, Paul C. | Bronze Star Medal; Certificate of Merit |
| Elliot, Charles T. | Certificate of Merit | Tate, Charles E. | Certificate of Merit |
| Fleming, Carroll | Purple Heart | Tolson, Roy L. | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Fultz, James C. | Bronze Star Medal | Trejo, Pete | Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge |
| Gay, Allison C. | Certificate of Merit | Tucker, Emmitt M. | Certificate of Merit |
| Howard, L. V. | Certificate of Merit | Washenberger, Michael J. | Bronze Star Medal |
| Kane, Frederick W. | Purple Heart | | |
| Kelso, Glen O. | Purple Heart | | |
| Lane, Richard C. | Purple Heart | | |

ATTACHMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

693RD FA BATTALION
29 July 1944 to 8 May 1945

ARMIES

First U. S. Army: 29 Jul 44 to 31 Jul 44; 24 Aug 44 to 29 Aug 44
Third U. S. Army: 1 Aug 44 to 24 Aug 44; 29 Aug 44 to 28 Sep 44
Seventh U. S. Army: 28 Sep 44 to 8 May 45

CORPS

XV Corps: 29 Jul 44 to 19 Jan 45; 10 Feb 45 to 8 May 45
VI Corps: 20 Jan 45 to 10 Feb 45

DIVISIONS

90th Infantry Division: 31 Jul 44 to 15 Aug 44 (attached to or reinforced fires of 344th FA Bn and 345th FA Bn)
79th Infantry Division: 16 Aug 44 to 29 Aug 44; 10 Sep 44 to 24 Oct 44 (attached to or reinforced fires of 310th FA Bn and 311th FA Bn)
44th Infantry Division: 25 Oct 44 to 27 Nov 44; 2 Dec 44 to 20 Jan 45; 10 Feb 45 to 15 Mar 45 (attached to or reinforced fires of 156th FA Bn, 217th FA Bn and 220th FA Bn)
45th Infantry Division: 27 Nov 44 to 2 Dec 44; 20 Jan 45 to 10 Feb 45 (attached to or reinforced fires of 158th FA Bn; Direct Support of 36th Engineer Regiment)
3rd Infantry Division: 15 Mar 45 to 20 Apr 45; 29 Apr 45 to 7 May 45 (attached to or reinforced fires of 10th FA Bn, 39th FA Bn and 41st FA Bn)
42nd Infantry Division: 20 Apr 45 to 29 Apr 45 (attached to or reinforced fires of 232th FA Bn and 392th FA Bn)

FIELD ARTILLERY GROUPS

173rd Field Artillery Group: 29 Jul 44 to 31 Jul 44; 15 Aug 44 to 16 Aug 44; 29 Aug 44 to 10 Sep 44; 7 May 45 to 8 May 45

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

APO 436, U. S. Army
4 September 1944

(A)

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, XV Corps Artillery.

1. It is a great pleasure to publish the following commendation from the Commanding General, Third United States Army:

"1. YOUR CORPS HAS MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION OF SECURING A POSITION IN THE VICINITY OF MANTES GASSICOURT, HOLDING A BRIDGEHEAD EAST OF THE SEINE RIVER AT MANTES GASSICOURT, AND DENYING THE USE OF CROSSING SITES TO THE ENEMY AS FAR NORTH AS LOUVIERS.

"2. THE AGGRESSIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH THIS MISSION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON THE CORPS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH TRADITIONS OF THE SERVICE AND UPON YOU AS ITS COMMANDING GENERAL. YOUR ABILITY TO ACCEPT CALCULATED RISKS WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN UNWARRANTED DELAYS HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MISSION.

"3. YOU AND THE PERSONNEL OF YOUR COMMAND ARE HEREBY HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR SPLENDID ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS MISSION."

2. I desire personally to thank you and every member of your command for the splendid accomplishment of every task assigned. Your achievement as a first class fighting unit is playing a large part in the liquidation of the German Army which is our eventual goal. My best wishes to you and your command for continued success.

WADE N. HAISLIP
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

☆

1st Ind.

JAB/pfm

Headquarters, XV Corps Artillery, APO 436, U. S. Army, 9 September 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 173rd FA Group, APO 403, U. S. Army.

1. The commendation and sentiments from the Commanding Generals, Third U. S. Army, and XV Corps are transmitted to you with a great deal of pleasure and with much pride in the splendid accomplishment of the field artillery in the actions concerned.

2. I feel that the operations of the Corps Artillery were so successful because of a burning desire to assist our infantry and armor to the utmost in the achievement of a total victory over the Germans; and

because all ranks of the Corps Artillery proceeded most vigorously and intelligently to translate this desire into acts which would give our supported troops more help even than had been expected or hoped for. With such a high purpose, I feel that our future blows will continue to make the tasks of our arms increasingly easier and less costly.

3. It is desired that this letter be distributed through channels to include batteries.

EDWARD S. OTT
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

WSN/hdr.

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 173rd FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 403, U. S. Army.

12 September 1944.

TO: Commanding Officers, 182nd FA Bn
242nd FA Bn
693rd FA Bn
961st FA Bn
Hq Btry, 173rd FA Gp.

1. The battalions of this Group fired, during the Mantes-Gassicourt operation, eleven thousand five hundred rounds of ammunition, or a total of some 570 tons. A good deal of this had to be hauled 125 miles. In addition, all battalions displaced several times, usually under difficult conditions. For several successive days they were under frequent air attack. Nevertheless, a very large number of the enemy were known to have been destroyed by the fire of our batteries. At least three German tanks were knocked out. Several German attacks were "stopped cold." In the final attack of the corps the units comprising this Group played their part by the delivery of incessant massed fires, many of them observed missions.

2. The commendations of the higher commanders are richly deserved by the officers and men. The Group Commander can only add: "Well done! The hard, conscientious work and gallantry of all concerned was an inspiration; and the skillful execution of all orders a pattern for others to follow."

W. S. NYE
Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

☆

HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 436

5 September 1944

SUBJECT: Performance of Combat Duty.

TO : Commanding Officer, 173rd FA Gp.

1. The following extracts from a personal letter from the Artillery Commander covering the transmittal of the division order are published for the information of the command:

"That Corps Artillery of yours, by the way, has a fine fighting spirit. They depended on no one for their local security and would fight at the drop of a hat, as all good artillerymen should. The occasion of these awards was probably the first time in history when the flank of a

division was protected by a medium battalion with a heavy battalion in direct support. This situation continued most of one day and during that day the 961st FA Bn, still pointing east at 1000, was suddenly shifted to the northwest at 1100, 100, to the northeast at 1500, and changed position at 1800 to get inside the outpost line and prepared to fire north. I don't think they fired a round of artillery ammunition during this period, but the threats to our flank were real. Nevertheless, the only threat developed was broken up by the heavy battalion. The 693rd didn't do so badly either. If I remember correctly they captured around 200 prisoners. On one occasion they were attacked by Heinies while marching and in the scrap that followed the 693rd, with no casualties to itself, accounted for five dead Germans, seven wounded ones, and nineteen prisoners."

2. Such high words of praise from this Division Artillery Commander should be a source of satisfaction to all of the XV Corps Artillery who took part in the breakthrough from Avranches; that our standard is high is evidenced by the above remarks; that we are living up to our standards is evidenced by the awards given these five enlisted men.

EDWARD S. OTT
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 173rd FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 403, U. S. ARMY.

7 September 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 693rd FA Bn.

1. The Group Commander takes great pleasure in transmitting to battalions concerned, this fine praise of the Division Artillery Commander, 90th Division Artillery. The praise was deserved.

2. During this initial contact with the enemy, personnel comprising the units of this group conducted themselves in a manner befitting the highest tradition of the service.

W. S. NYE
Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

☆

HEADQUARTERS
SIXTH ARMY GROUP
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 23

13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters 44th Infantry Division, APO 44.
THRU: Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758.

Since the night of 31 December 1944 the 44th Infantry Division has achieved new successes. Receiving the initial impetus of the main enemy attack on the evening of January 2, you maintained the integrity of your defense in the face of determined and repeated attacks by the German 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, supported by strong elements of two Infantry Divisions. The stubborn resistance of your Infantry elements, supported by artillery action, the devastating power and accuracy of which was unsurpassed, is outstanding. You repulsed, with exceedingly heavy losses to the enemy, several strong attacks on Janu-

ary 1, and numerous other attacks and continuous aggressive action since that date. The collective gallantry and superb fighting qualities of the 44th Division compelled the enemy to shift his main forces to another area. I congratulate every member of the Division and its supporting units for these courageous and successful actions.

JACOB L. DEVERS
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

2nd Ind.

Hq 44th Div Arty, APO 44, U. S. Army, 21 Jan 45.

TO: Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion.

1. With reference to sentence in basic communication concerning artillery action, cognizance is taken of the fact that this includes the fires of the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion, and that the commendation for the Division and its supporting elements includes your Battalion.

2. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the superior assistance furnished the Division Artillery not only as mentioned above, but during all other phases of operation in which your Battalion participated.

WILLIAM A. BEIDERLINDEN
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 46 US ARMY

14 February 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation of Services.

TO : Commanding Officer, 693rd FA Battalion, APO 758, U. S. Army.

THRU : Commanding General, Headquarters XV Corps, APO 436, U. S. Army.

1. I desire to express my appreciation for the services rendered by your command while attached to the VI Corps.

2. You arrived at an extremely critical time and promptly occupied positions. You accomplished your mission of direct support in a superior manner in spite of lack of personnel for such a mission. Such a performance reflects great credit on all members of your battalion. Your smooth and efficient execution of a difficult withdrawal in extremely bad weather, indicates a high state of training and morale.

3. I desire that you transmit to all members of your battalion my heartiest congratulations on a job well done.

CARL A. BAEHR
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

AG 201.2-(E)
(14 Feb 45)

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS XV CORPS, APO 436, U. S. Army, 19 February 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion.

THRU: Commanding General, XV Corps Artillery, APO 436, U. S. Army.

I desire to add my appreciation to that of General Baehr for the superior manner in which you accomplished your mission while attached to the VI Corps.

WADE H. HAISLIP
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

JCK/pfm

AG 201.22-(E)
(14 Feb 45)

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS XV CORPS ARTILLERY APO 436, U. S. Army, 24 February 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion.

THRU: Commanding General, 44th Infantry Division, APO 44, U. S. Army.

1. The appreciation of the services of your battalion when employed with comparatively strange units and commanders speaks highly of the skill and cooperative attitude of all ranks. That the efforts of all ranks measurably affected the outcome of the campaign should be a source of satisfaction to each individual.

2. It is desired that this letter and its indorsements be read to all members of the command.

EDWARD S. OTT
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

AG 201.22 (14 Feb 45)

3rd Ind.

Hq 44th Inf Div, APO 44, U. S. Army, 27 Feb 45.

THRU: Commanding General, 44th Division Artillery.

TO : Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion.

I am pleased to forward this commendation.

WILLIAM F. DEAN
Brigadier General, United States Army
Commanding

☆

4th Ind.

AG 201.22

Hq 44th Div Arty, APO 44, U. S. Army, 6 Mar 45.

TO: Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion.

1. The excellent services rendered by your unit while attached to the VI Corps as expressed in the basic communication, are exemplary of the fine assistance which has been felt during the periods your unit has been attached to this command.

2. It is with great pleasure that I forward this commendation to you.

WILLIAM BEIDERLINDEN
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

☆

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO 3

26 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 693rd Field Artillery Battalion, APO 758, U. S. Army.

The Third Infantry Division Artillery has been very fortunate to have had the services of your battalion during the final blow which will destroy the enemy. Though your missions were frequently changed to give artillery reinforcement where it was most urgently needed, you accepted each assignment cheerfully, and as a result, I heard nothing but praise from my organic Battalion Commanders with whom you worked. You showed remarkable ingenuity in selecting positions, and your aggressiveness, speed, accuracy and flexibility aided this Division materially during the period of your attachment.

I regret to see you leave us, and I hope that you will pass on to your officers and men, whose cooperative efforts have made this association so profitable, my appreciation and congratulations on a job well done.

W. T. SEXTON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

☆

HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS ARTILLERY
APO 436
U. S. ARMY

26 June 1945

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Shoemaker:

The XV Corps Artillery has been very fortunate to have had the services of your fine battalion during all the campaigns in which the XV Corps participated. Your battalion has served under almost every condition. It has supported six different divisions, one cavalry group, one engineer regiment, and one infantry regiment. It has been engaged in all types of action from a stabilized front to a completely fluid situation. In all situations the units supported by your battalion could always count on complete artillery support. No finer tribute could be paid a unit than the many expressions of appreciation from the organizations your battalion supported.

I am very happy to have had you serve with us and wish you would pass on to all your officers and men my appreciation for the fine job that they did.

Sincerely,

EDWARD S. OTT
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

NUMBER OF DAYS IN COMBAT

284

FIRING POSITIONS

99

TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED

76,203

MILES TRAVELED (COMBAT)

1700 (approximate)

BIVOUACS

11

TUBES REPLACED

7

HEAVIEST DAY OF FIRING

Date: Twenty four hour period 18—19 March 1945.

Target: Siegfried Line installations.

Rounds fired: 2744.

COMMUNICATIONS

Total number miles of wire laid: 800. (approximate)

Most wire out at one time: 130 miles while in position at Siltzheim.

9 switchboards were in use on this net.

Longest sustained operation for radio: Headquarters Battery SCR 193 Radio was in continuous operation, with the exception of 48 hours, during the entire 284 days of combat.

PRISONERS:

Total captured: 372.

Record Month: 156, August 1944.

Record Day: 146 on August 8th, 1944.

THE 693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION CREDITED WITH FIRING FIRST AND LAST ROUNDS BY XV CORPS ARTILLERY IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER:

First Round

Battery: Able

Place: Ste. Suzanne, France

Time: 1550, 7 August 1944

Target: Enemy Infantry and 88 mm Gun

Type of Shell: WP

Effect: Gun silenced, area neutralized

Battalion Commander: Lt. Col. Ergo Iosbaker

Battery Commander: Capt. Francis R. Torrington

Executive: 1st Lt. Robert B. Ingalls

Observer: 1st Lt. Norman R. Haley

Fire Direction Computer: Cpl. Garold P. Query

Chief of Section: S/Sgt. Wesley Panches

Gunner Corporal: Cpl. James H. Dennis

Gun Crew: Pfc. Clarence H. Bray; Pfc. Earl R. Kohal; Pfc. Charlie Plake; Pvt. Buddy E. Copeland;

Pvt. Aubrey D. Norris; Pvt. Larry L. Baker; Pvt. Serveriano Huerta

Driver: Pfc. Milton V. Walcher

Notes: Gun position strafed by enemy plane. First two PW's captured.



Last Round

Battery: Baker

Place: Vicinity Piding, Germany. Map coordinate: yZ 9624

Time: 1031, 4 May 1945

Target: Enemy Infantry

Type of shell: HE

Effect: Area neutralized. Zone (1) fired for effect

Data for fire for effect: Range 10,400, SI 301, El 484

Battalion Commander: Lt. Col. R. L. Shoemaker, Jr.

Battery Commander: Capt. Jack A. Walch

Battery Executive: 1st Lt. Henry H. Tufts

Observer: Infantry observer with 7th Infantry Regiment

Fire Direction Computer: Tec 5 Robert W. Queen

Chief of Section: Sgt. Clyde J. Elledge

Gunner Corporal: Cpl. Arlie L. LeGrant

Gun Grew: Pfc. Clyde R. Yost; Pfc. Jesse F. Wood; Pfc. Clarence C. Eckert; Pfc. Robert E. Fischer; Pfc.

James Mazarakis; Pfc. George Tomlinson; Pvt. Henry M. Phillips; Pvt. Raymond E. Phillips.

Driver: Granvle R. Norton

OFFICERS

693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

May 8, 1945

| NAME | RANK | HOME ADDRESS |
|---------------------------|--------|--|
| Baird, John N. Jr. | 2d Lt | 111 Buena Vista Ave., San Francisco, California |
| Baker, Floyd M. | 2d Lt | Plainview, Texas |
| Bang, Jens W. E. Jr. | Capt | Eagle Valley Road, Sloatsburg, N. Y. |
| Beare, Paul E. | 1st Lt | 2068 Seward Ave., Detroit, Mich. |
| Bolson, Harry B. | Capt | 1301 Forest Ave., Ft Wayne, Ind. |
| Brown, Laurence D. | 2d Lt | 2424 Pleasant Ave., Ft Wayne, Ind. |
| Brunacci, Guy F. | 1st Lt | 7840 Maryland, Chicago, Ill. |
| Collura, Johnnie F. | WOJG | 5543 Truett Ave., Houston, Texas |
| Corby, Jay L. | Capt | 95 N. Edgewood Ave., La Grange, Ill. |
| Dittmann, Matthew C. Jr. | Major | 911 Glenbrook, Bryn Mawr, Pa. |
| Eades, Odis N. | CWO | 410 Gore Ave., Lawton, Okla. |
| Haley, Norman R. | 1st Lt | Gen. Del., Hatfield, Missouri |
| Hannon, Joseph F. | 1st Lt | 105 South St., Rutland, Vermont |
| Ingalls, Robert B. | 1st Lt | 839 South 7th East St., Salt Lake City, Utah |
| Kinder, Gordon T. | Capt | 908 National Road, Bridgeport, Ohio |
| Kochakian, Vaughn | 1st Lt | 52 Mt. Dustin Ave., Haverhill, Mass. |
| Malicoat, Roland E. | 1st Lt | Route No. 6, Kokomo, Indiana |
| McLeod, Daniel S. | 1st Lt | Smerritt St., Geneva, Ala. |
| Morris, John H. | 1st Lt | 9 High St., Peterboro, New Hampshire |
| Parkhurst, Cyril I. | 1st Lt | Castleton, Kansas |
| Schmidt, Kenneth E. | Capt | 1535 W. Ashby St., San Antonio, Tex. |
| Shoemaker, Raymond L. Jr. | Lt Col | c/o Col. I. R. Cole, 2858 Alpine Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia |
| Strong, Charles P. | 1st Lt | 525 West 1st St., Maryville, Mo. |
| Tedesco, Louis V. | 1st Lt | 451 Potomac, Buffalo, N. Y. |
| Torrington, Francis R. | Capt. | The Dingle, Cumberland, Maryland |
| Tufts, Henry H. | 1st Lt | 30 Dustin St., Peabody, Mass. |
| Turner, Mitchell H. Jr. | Major | 224 Ave. L. S. W., Childress, Tex. |
| Walch, Jack A. | Capt | 502 S. Kansas, Cherokee, Okla. |
| Wilson, Malcolm E. | Capt | 148 S. Main St., Tooele, Utah |
| Wright, Richard P. | 1st Lt | Route No. 6, Paris, Texas |
| Young, John C. | 1st Lt | 331 Forest Ave., Ben Avon, Pa. |
| Zeanah, Hugh W. | 1st Lt | Berry, Alabama |

OTHER OFFICERS WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Christoph, Charles J. | 1st Lt | |
| Hanes, Stuart W. | 2d Lt | 18 Rowe St., Melrose, Mass. |
| Hardzinski, Alec F. | 1st Lt | Fifield, Wisconsin |
| Iosbaker, Ergo | Lt Col | Grinnell, Iowa |
| Marshall, Adrian | Capt | Brooklyn, N. Y. |
| Pearce, Charles W. | 2d Lt | |
| Pletcher, Ernest R. | 2d Lt | |
| Suffin, Gustave D. | 2d Lt | Bronx, N. Y. |

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

May 8, 1945



Arvanis, Grant C., Box 321, East Moline, Illinois
 Astolfi, Paul V., 1321 S. Liddesdale, Detroit, Michigan
 Baker, Robie, Route No. 2, Center, Texas
 Barnhart, Charles E., Box 191, Drumright, Oklahoma
 Baskin, Roma B., 4225 Milton St., Houston, Texas
 Beaudoen, Franklyn L., 616 Howard St., Bay City, Michigan
 Best, Eugene W., 219 N. 8th St., Hamilton, Ohio
 Betterton, Roy L., 412 S. Pecan St., Nowata, Oklahoma
 Blackburn, Charles A., General Delivery, Rexburg, Idaho
 Brown, Sidney R., 5634 Pearl Rd., Parma, Ohio
 Butler, Grover E., Route No. 1, Batesville, Arkansas
 Carlsward, Willis L., Route No. 3, Red Oak, Iowa
 Caudle, Elmer L., Route No. 1, Maud, Oklahoma
 Chabner, Allen C., 737 S. Independence Blvd., Chicago, Illinois
 Chapman, Ramie L., General Delivery, Brownfield, Texas
 Chastain, Carter C., Adams Route, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
 Conterez, Jesse G., General Delivery, Pittsburg, Oklahoma
 Cramer, Charles B., 3147 N. 45th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Cranford, David L., Wolf Bayou, Arkansas
 Deck, Everett N., 1137 W. 37th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Downs, J. A., 322 16th St., Seal Beach, California
 Drees, Harry J., 8516 Douglas Ave. St. Louis, Missouri
 Edinger, Robert W., 217 S. Jefferson St., Woodstock, Illinois
 Fackler, Wallace O., Route No. 2, Bucyrus, Ohio
 Fitzgerald, Paul L., Box 15, Knox City, Texas
 Flowers, Alf H., General Delivery, Saratoga, Texas
 Flowers, Andrew J. Jr., Route No. 1, Idabel, Oklahoma
 Foster, Bill, General Delivery, Whiteboro, Oklahoma
 Foster Rufus C. Jr., General Delivery, Paris, Arkansas

Giardina, Nicholas J., 2503 Ulric St., San Deigo, California
 Guajardo, Eddie S., 318 Blum St., San Antonio, Texas
 Hainey, Tommy, 526 W. California, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Hammon, Harold G., Box 71, Choctaw, Oklahoma
 Hand, Robert L., General Delivery, Skellytown, Texas
 Hanna, Randall E., General Delivery, McAlester, Oklahoma
 Hardy, Frederick T., General Delivery, Tabor, Iowa
 Harris, Ivan L., 2212 N. E. 22nd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Henderson, Albert R., 769 2nd Ave., San Bruno, California
 Hendrix, Samuel J., 411 S. 9th Ave., Durant, Oklahoma
 Hill, Elmer A., Box 236, Walters, Oklahoma
 Holmes, Ronald C., 604 N. 10th St., Woodward, Oklahoma
 Howell, William L., 1142 N. W. 32nd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Huber, Merrill A., 129½ N. Barstow St., Eau Claire, Wisconsin
 Jacobowitz, Howard, 885 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, New York
 Johnson, Jesse L., Route No. 1, Frankewing, Tennessee
 Kellogg, Wilbur F., RFD No. 1, Council Bluffs, Iowa
 Kosovac, George J., 4 Seventh St., Watsonville, California
 Lane, Willard L., Route No. 4, Box 143, Bristow, Oklahoma
 Lawson, James W., Route No. 2, Saltillo, Mississippi
 Lensky, Carlton L., East Hazel St., Albion, Indiana
 Manor, John L., General Delivery, Shawnee, Oklahoma
 May, Leslie W., 5015 Maxwell St., Detroit, Michigan
 McBride, Clifford C., 3520 N. Kellham St., Box 383, C-1, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Mendoza, Carlos C., 1608 Avenue B., Galveston, Texas

Mitchelar, Lloyd G., 127 Hellen St., Peoria, Illinois
 Moore, Glynn E., Hayfield, Virginia
 Myers, Joe R., 229 S. "C" St., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Neal, Tommy S., 605 N. Philadelphia St., Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Nichols, Vernon H., Route No. 9, Box 323, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Niemi, Toivo M., 917 North St., Clinton, Indiana
 Niswonger, Lewis L., 1035 3rd Ave., Duncanville, Pennsylvania
 Noyes, Claire M., 105 E. 16th St., Ada, Oklahoma
 Owen, Vernon E., 1530 N. W. 2nd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Palkovich, Fabian Jr., 4807 Homerlee Ave., East Chicago, Indiana
 Palonis, Edward F., Route No. 1, White Cloud, Michigan
 Perales, Uvaldo M., General Delivery, Encinal, Texas
 Perry, Lloyd L., 4611 St. Paul St., Lincoln, Nebraska
 Penney, Harold A., 3339 Dorsey St., Fort Worth, Texas
 Phillips, Allen G., General Delivery, Miami, Oklahoma
 Phillips, Sim C., Box 161, Howe, Oklahoma
 Preston, Luman L., Route No. 1, Olustee, Oklahoma
 Queen, Robert W., General Delivery, Sylva, North Carolina
 Query, Garold P., 509 N. Davidson St., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Reynolds, Harry D., RFD No. 2, Freehold, New Jersey

Ritter, William F., Route No. 3, Washington, Indiana
 Ruppell, Henry K., Sugar Hollow Rd., RFD No. 2, Danbury, Connecticut
 Saperstein, Solomon, 764 Trinity Ave., Bronx, New York
 Smith, Ben W., General Delivery, Barling, Arkansas
 Smith, Corwin N., 623 Monroe St., Fredonia, Kansas
 Smith, John, Williamson, West Virginia
 Smith, John Edward, 93 Irving St., Jersey City, New Jersey
 Spencer, Lester E., General Delivery, Blanco, Oklahoma
 Steed, Jack D., General Delivery, Afton, Wyoming
 Stoddard, Roy, 6218 S. Rockwell St., Chicago, Illinois
 Tennyson, Alfred V., RFD No. 2, Chestertown, New York
 Toone, Leo C., Box 262, Haskell, Oklahoma
 Tucker, Marshall A., Drakes Branch, Virginia
 Tull, John, Route No. 1, Shadypoint, Oklahoma
 Usleton, Thomas H., 713 N. Hayes St., Amarillo, Texas
 Waller, William M., Route No. 1, North Zulch, Texas
 Walther, John P., 4728 Knox Ave., Chicago, Illinois
 White, Earl E., Box 293, Wirt, Oklahoma
 White, James H. Jr., General Delivery, Boatman, Oklahoma
 Whitsett, Finis T., 607 N. Main St., Altus, Oklahoma
 Williams, Roy C. Jr., Route No. 1, Windom, Texas
 Wood, John H., Milford, Illinois
 Woods, Emmette W., Route No. 3, Seminole, Oklahoma
 Young, Eugene V., Hawesville, Kentucky

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Alcantara, Jose M., General Delivery, Asherton, Texas
 Clopton, Ray E., Route No. 2, Lawton, Oklahoma
 Cook, Ted R., 1217 N. Boston St., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Dooley, Homer T., 916 N. W. 5th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Fefer, Seymour, 3107 W. Douglas Blvd., Chicago, Illinois
 Ghini, Aaron, 429 W. 1st St., Trinidad, Colorado
 Hall, John E., General Delivery, Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Jones, Earl C., Route No. 4, Beaumont, Texas

Parrott, Billy J., 206 Upper North, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma
 Robison, Kenneth L., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Semore, D. B., General Delivery, Heavener, Oklahoma
 Skinner, Jack E., 1609 Franklin St., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Smith, Leo D., 513 N. Philadelphia St., Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Stempien, Casimir L., 4957 S. Avers St., Chicago, Illinois
 Wardlaw, Harold B., 1223 Pierce St., Amarillo, Texas
 Wilkerson, Luther Jr., 3221 N. W. 29th St., Fort Worth, Texas

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

May 8, 1945

Becker, Erven, 5747 Bales Ave., Kansas City, Missouri
 Brooks, James S., Route No. 1, Marshville, North Carolina
 Ellwood, Ralph R., 702 W. Main St., Anamosa, Iowa
 Furr, James C., Route No. 3, Albemarle, North Carolina
 Gates, James R. Jr., Route No. 1, Box 241, Rainier, Oregon
 Graziano, James F., 1021 S. Main Ave., Scranton, Pennsylvania

Higgins, James C., Route No. 3, Lufkin, Texas
 Paliki, Frank P., 103 Wilcox St., Springfield, Massachusetts
 Parnese, Frank, 9527 90th St., Ozone Park, Long Island, New York
 Poppin, John, 354 S. Pecan St., Los Angeles, California
 Zimmerman, Cort A., 507 E. 5th St., Emmett, Idaho

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Giangrande, John, 2101 W. 11th St., Brooklyn, New York

SERVICE BATTERY
693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

May 8, 1945



Barton, Brack P., 301½ S. Main St., Hobart, Oklahoma
 Bettencourt, Francis H., 917 Park Ave., Burlingame, California
 Bond, Curtis C., 108 S. 2nd St., Vinita, Oklahoma
 Burbank, Brigham G., 3626 Folsom St., San Francisco, California
 Cannon, Delbert D., Route No. 4, Chillicothe, Texas
 Cassell, Jim T., General Delivery, Kribbs, Oklahoma
 Chavez, Doroteo L., 2042 Arapahoe St., Denver, Colorado
 Christiansen, Virgil H., Route No. 1, Laurel, Nebraska
 Coffin, Louis H., 708 Interdrive, University City, Missouri
 Cooper, Gilbert, General Delivery, Mayfield, Kentucky
 Cornelious, Carlton C., 460 N. 13th St., Salem, Oregon
 Crone, Francis P., 1710 N. W. 19th St. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Currier, Lenard J., Box 20, East Springfield, Pennsylvania
 Dunevant, William M., 115 E. Clark St., El Reno, Oklahoma
 Earnhardt, Jerry F., Route No. 1, Greenbriar, Arkansas
 Erickson, Oliver L., 207 S. Center St., Shenandoah, Iowa
 Erwin, Hollis W., General Delivery, Walker, Louisiana
 Essmeier, William, 225 E. 10th St., Leadville, Colorado
 Fookes, James L., Route No. 2, Belevue, Texas
 Foreman, Philip, Route No. 2, Cynthiana, Kentucky
 Freeman, Roy W., General Delivery, Culp, Arkansas
 Gammon, Ernest General Delivery, Carrollton, Texas
 Garcia, Marvin L., Hub Rooms, Rawlins, Wyoming
 Graham, John W., Route No. 2, Paducah, Texas
 Grant, Robert E. L., Route No. 2, Westminster, South Carolina
 Gugliotta, Anthony J., 1438 S. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Halderson, J. E., 519 N. Drake Ave., Chicago, Illinois
 Harris, Bush W. Jr., Route No. 1, Gladstone, Virginia
 Helvy, Otice N., General Delivery, Snyder, Oklahoma
 Henderson, Wesley, Route No. 1, Frankston, Texas
 Hilton, Phaniel, 2017 5th St., Lubbock, Texas
 Hurst, Cleo E., 739 S. W. 32nd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Irvine, Kenneth W., c/o A. M. Bonnell, Mountain Home, Arkansas
 Isaacs, Beecher S., Route No. 1, Konawa, Oklahoma
 Jackson George F., Route No. 1, Konawa, Oklahoma
 Johnson, Lewis J. Jr., General Delivery, Bowlegs, Oklahoma
 Keller, Benjamin A., Tuckerman, Arkansas
 Knowles, Vernerl C., Box 475, Riviera Beach, Florida
 Levendosky, John L., 843 Lincoln Ave., N. W., Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Marshall, Lowell D., Box 25, Pleasant Plains, Arkansas
 Martin, George F., General Delivery, Walco, Oklahoma
 Mattox, Lee E., 637 S. Tennessee St., Columbus, Kansas
 McCurry, Othar, 2301 N., Riverside Drive, Fort Worth, Texas
 McGraw, Gerald J., 78 Main St., Locust Cap, Pennsylvania
 Miller, Ralph R., 413 S. Muskogee St., Claremore, Oklahoma
 Mozingo, Leonard M., Station Hospital, Camp Howze, Texas
 Murphy, Thomas K., 1217 Mautene St., Chicago, Illinois
 Naimoli, James, 2524 S. 67th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Nieland, Glenn H., Route No. 1, Box 28, Frankfort, Illinois
 O'Donnell, Daniel E., Wilburton No. 2, Pennsylvania
 Orinick, Myron, 121 Jefferson St., Simpson, Pennsylvania

Poe, Archie F. Jr., Star Route, The Grove, Texas
Pruitt, Phines D., General Delivery, Iuka, Arkansas
Reeves, Roscoe, Box 811, Hedley, Texas
Richardson, Ralph R., Route No. 1, Asher, Oklahoma
Riley, Hollice R., Route No. 1, Box 225, Columbia,
Mississippi
Rivera, Joseph, 158 E. 110th St., New York, N. Y.
Sharp, William T., Route No. 1, Ravenden, Arkansas
Sheppard, Eugene T., Route No. 1, Box 8, Purvis, North
Carolina
Simonich, Joseph, 1729 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, Colorado
Smith, Marshall P., 701 S. Carlisle St., Alburquerque,
New Mexico

Smoot, Frank W., Box 296, Moulton, Alabama
Tollett, Mark E. Jr., Box 621, Carrizo Springs, Texas
Ward, Robert A., Route No. 2, Box 45-D, Claremore,
Oklahoma
Webb, Lee R., 508 S. Broadway St., Holdenville, Oklahoma
Westerman, Otis H., Box 1, Heber Springs, Arkansas
Whisnand, G. W., Route No. 2, Box 96, Electra, Texas
Williams, Trenton F., 199 Chestnut St., Apt. 1, San
Francisco, California
Williamson, James C., Route No. 2, Box 406, Beaumont,
Texas
Yarbrough, Joseph L., Route No. 1, Huntsville, Arkansas
Zellner, Robert N., 2508 E. 2nd St., Tulsa, Oklahoma

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Curtis, Jack W., 301½ N. Hudson St., Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma
Dunkelberger, Norman E., 1515 Euclid Ave., Lawton,
Oklahoma
Dunlap, George F., Route No. 9, Box 178, Phoenix,
Arizona
Else, Robert J., 1009 W. Reno St., Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma

Gilpin, Albert E., 911 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, California
Guyton, Arthur L., General Delivery, Rayburn Gap.,
Georgia
Horn, Donald C., Box 127, Apache, Oklahoma
Rood, Albert B., 215 2nd St., N. E., Wadena, Minnesota
Shayler, Harry C., 4617 S. Broadway St., Englewood,
Colorado
Stewart, Denby C., 2021 Kane St., Houston, Texas

BATTERY "A"
693 RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
May 8, 1945



Antonelli, Harry, 212 Walnut St., Norristown, Pennsylvania
 Arozian, John P., 1345 Washtenaw Ave., Detroit, Michigan
 Askelson, Arnold, 2110 7th Ave. N., Fort Dodge, Iowa
 Bailey, Virgil C., 1214 W. 5th St., Davenport, Iowa
 Ballok, Albert F., 26 W. 105th St., Chicago, Illinois
 Beasley, Max M., Box 191, Moundridge, Kansas
 Benson, Walter L., 215 Belt Ave., Eufaula, Oklahoma
 Berry, William E., 1114 Tyler St., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Bertrand, Robert J., 359 N. Harrison Ave., Kankakee, Illinois
 Best, Howard J., 1406 Lincoln St., Amarillo, Texas
 Boehme, Albert C., 916 Snover St., Houston, Texas
 Bolduc, George E., Bay Harbor, Florida
 Botts, Earl E., 29 S. E. 34th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Bowman, Charles L., Route No. 1, West Union, Ohio
 Bray, Clarence H., 112 Ashe St., Bristol, Tennessee
 Card, Morris W., Box 575, Duncan, Oklahoma
 Carr, Edward B., 9 Railroad Ave., South Norwalk, Connecticut
 Carr, William L., Route No. 2, Lexington, Oklahoma
 Caudill, Orville, 714 Maple St., Kingsport, Tennessee
 Chase, William K., General Delivery, Turley, Oklahoma
 Clayton, Jack J., 603 W. 5th St., Rochester, Michigan
 Clevenger, William S., General Delivery, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
 Davis, William C., Route No. 3, Roanoke, Alabama
 Dennis, James H., Route No. 1, Huntsville, Arkansas
 Dixon, Leonard G., 2000 Lee St., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Dominek, Johnnie L., Route No. 3, Box 138, Bryan, Texas
 Duke, Charles O., 201 Hickory St., Sweetwater, Texas
 Dudley, Howell E., Arnoldsville, Georgia
 English, Leroy J., Box 36, Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Espinoza, Santos H., Box 645, Dodge City, Kansas
 Eudy, James M., Route No. 1, Donaldson, Arkansas
 Fenwick, Jack C., General Delivery, Brevard, North Carolina
 Garcia, Jose, Route No. 3, San Benito, Texas
 Garcia, Stephen W., 1944 S. Tejon St., Denver, Colorado
 Geu, Dallas, Route No. 3, Wisner, Nebraska
 Hanes, William J., 1521 N. Union St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Hauck, Albert, Box 354, Golden Valley, North Dakota
 Hermann, Dominic, 1325 Ash St., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Hicks, Forrest M., Route No. 3, Quitman, Arkansas
 Hill, W. J., 601½ Lee St., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Hirschmann, Henry, 146 W. 168th St., New York 52, New York
 Holbrook, Foster, Relief, Kentucky
 Hudman, Paul F., Titus Star Route, Wetumpka, Alabama
 Huerta, Serveriano, 403 N. Santa Rosa St., San Antonio Texas
 Hughes, Noel S., Box 9, Marlow, Oklahoma
 Hutzell, Orval R., Route No. 2, Hot Springs, Arkansas
 Johnson, Glen H., Box 2062, Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Johnston, Thomas R., General Delivery, Washington, Oklahoma
 Jones, Charles E., Box 154, Olive Hill, Kentucky
 Juvinall, Donald E., 815 Goodman St., Peoria, Illinois
 Kelly, Carlie B., Sassafras, Kentucky
 King, Daniel, 351 N. Indiana St., Wichita, Kansas
 King, Robert, 5558 Maxwell St., Detroit, Michigan
 Kirk, Author R., General Delivery, Leon, Oklahoma
 Kirk, Sylvester G., 318 S. Birch St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Kohal, Earl R., Enright, Arkansas
 Lewis, Robert L., Box 363, Granite Falls, Washington

Lieder, Chester G., 935 Archie St., Fresno, California
 Lovell, Robert L., 1224 N. E. 10th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Marx, William S., 647 S. Park St., Elizabeth, New Jersey
 May, Willard H., Route No. 1, Friona, Texas
 Mercer, Roy K., Jerusalem, Ohio
 Miller, Marion R., Box 23, Willowton, West Virginia
 Miller, Richard M., 716 S. Washington St., Hobart, Oklahoma
 Norris, Aubrey D., 530 E. 16th St., Huntington, West Virginia
 Oakley, George W., 1914 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland
 Parker, Charlie F., Azle, Texas
 Plake, Charlie, Athens, Arkansas
 Panches, Wesley C., 214 S. 3rd St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Ramirez, Rickey T., 120 W. 10th St., San Angelo, Texas
 Ray, Allen C., Route No. 1, Graham, North Carolina
 Reeder, Granful W., Short, Oklahoma
 Reeder, William R., Route No. 2, 1320 N. 3rd St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Repta, Steve Jr., 4654 Laverne Ave., Chicago, Illinois
 Rudd, John R., Route No. 2, Hart, Texas
 Settles, John P., 2254 N. Spencer St., Indianapolis, Indiana

Shelton, Darrell W., 225 S. Center St., Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Shillinglaw, Marion O., Route No. 2, Chinagrove, North Carolina
 Shope, Edward D., Route No. 3, Rockford, Ohio
 Slayton, Roy K., Vernon Hill, Virginia
 Smith, William B., 201 Netta St., Picher, Oklahoma
 Sneed, Archie L., Route No. 2, Quitman, Arkansas
 Solita, Andrew J., 1118 Wentworth Ave., Chicago Heights, Illinois
 Strouse, Paul E., 388 Bridge St., Reading, Pennsylvania
 Tasovac, Vladimir S., 2764 W. St. Mary St., Chicago, Illinois
 Taylor, John W., Route No. 2, Duncan, Oklahoma
 Torneo, Joseph R., 17 Barbour St., Hartford, Connecticut
 Turner, Roy F., Route 19, Columbia Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio
 Walcher, Milton V., Route No. 1, Altus, Oklahoma
 Ward, Thomas S., Route No. 3, Lindsey, Oklahoma
 Werrell, Ira L., 408 E. Shintaffer St., Britton, Oklahoma
 Wiley, Harold L., 410 N. Osage St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Wilson, George E., Route No. 1, Spiro, Oklahoma
 Windham, James N. Jr., Box 1993, Durham, North Carolina
 Wolery, William R., 433 E. 8th St., Delphos, Ohio
 Worrell, Howard P., 1104½ 18th St., Wichita Falls, Texas

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Baker, Larry L., 1525 W. High St., Lima, Ohio
 Barker, Roy H., 4860 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Boenker, Gilbert O., 623 Monroe St., St. Charles, Missouri
 Crittenden, Robert M., 4317 Stonewall St., Greenville, Texas
 Cross, Fain M., General Delivery, Childress, Texas
 Cummings, Beal B., Route No. 2, Paducah, Texas
 Dunn, Glenn C., 730 32nd St., Oakland, California
 Feight, William H., Wonewoc, Wisconsin
 Futrell, Gerrald R., General Delivery, Soper, Oklahoma

Gates, Arthur D., General Delivery, Taloga, Oklahoma
 Glastetter, Lawrence A., 1240 S. State Ave., Freeport, Illinois
 Grothe, George A., 505 S. 6th St., Chickasha, Oklahoma
 Hadley, Alvin L., c/o Midway Store, La Ward, Texas
 Lane, Clyde P., 303 Vassar St., St. Joseph, Missouri
 Maestas, Sam O., General Delivery, Fort Garland, Colorado
 Neer, Leslie G., 1515 S. 1st St., Arkansas City, Kansas
 Veres, John, 121 Belvidere Ave., Phillipsburg, New Jersey
 Witt, Robert W., Route No. 3, Lebanon, Indiana

BATTERY "B"
693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
May 8, 1945



Abramson, William S., 1202 4th St., S. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Andrews, John J., 69 Butler St., Springfield, Massachusetts
 Arguelles, Rudy V., 416 Belle St., Corona, California
 Atkinson, Oliver G., 1507 Crockett St., Houston, Texas
 Barrientes, Raymond R. Jr., 911 Lovett Ave, South San Antonio, Texas
 Battles, Creath O., 925 S. 4th St., Chickasha, Oklahoma
 Beeler, Hazen C., 223 Catalpa Ave., Knoxville, Tennessee
 Braa, Donald A., 739 Quincy St., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Canter, Howard R., 7730 Emerson Rd., W. Lanham Hills, P. O. Hyattsville, Md.
 Caraway, Jack D., Box 56, Madill, Oklahoma
 Casias, Antonio G., Route No. 1, Box 28-A, Antonito, Colorado
 Cavin, Earl L., Box 11, Crescent, Oregon
 Clemons, Roy H., Route No. 8, Box 229, Dallas, Texas
 Cohen, Gary, 15 Amboy St., Brooklyn, New York
 Copley, Troy, Everettville, West Virginia
 Cranford, Mark L., Parran, Maryland
 DeRossett, Joe, Premier, West Virginia
 Dowhower, Ralph R. Jr., 42 E. Front St., Lititz, Pennsylvania
 Dryden, Wesley I., 314 N. W. 25th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Eckert, Clarence C., 212 Burgard Place, Buffalo, New York
 Edwards, Jack D., 112 Fordyce St., Rector, Arkansas
 Elledge, Clyde J., Box 64, Hinton, Oklahoma
 Fecser, John G. Jr., 2214 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
 Fischer, Robert E., 241 Waverly Ave., Newark, New Jersey
 Flannery, John P., 52 Second St., Brooklyn, New York

Franklin, Clint E., 1205 W. 3d St., Big Spring, Texas
 Fry, Clarence C., 119 W. Fresno, Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Gandara, Marcos R. Jr., 228 National St., San Antonio, Texas
 Ginger, Lester M., 821 N. Osage St., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Graf, George D., 512 12th St., Alamosa, Colorado
 Graves, Harold W., Route No. 2, Roosevelt, Oklahoma
 Guffey, Paul A., Route No. 2, Ashland, Illinois
 Guinn, Thomas J., Route No. 5, Elk City, Oklahoma
 Hoagland, James N., 2623 N. Dewey St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Hogge, Eugene F., Sandston, Virginia
 Holt, Jessie W., 408 N. Leflors St., Pampa, Texas
 Honack, William A., 6622 Independence Ave., Kansas City, Missouri
 Howard, Kenneth B., Pike, West Virginia
 Hull, Claud L., Cushman, Arkansas
 Ibarra, Salvador, Carrizo Springs, Texas
 Isham, Robert T., 999 Lake Rd., Lake Forest, Illinois
 Jurasek, Victor J. Jr., Route No. 1, El Campo, Texas
 Kaiponen, Arve F., Box 172, Rockland, Michigan
 Keeler, Lewis E., 611 Canal St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan
 Le Grant, Arlie L., General Delivery, Marshall, Oklahoma
 Lilley, William A., 217 S. 6th St., Durant, Oklahoma
 Magill, Frederique E., 2220 N. W. 37th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Makowiec, Leo A., 326 Fayette St., Elmira, New York
 Mallery, Glenn E., Route No. 2, Box 201-A, Wheeling, West Virginia
 Masters, Fred J., 1438 N. Wall St., Columbus, Ohio
 Mathews, Robert E., Route No. 1. Fennimore, Wisconsin
 Mazarakis, James, 160 Albany St., Albany, New York

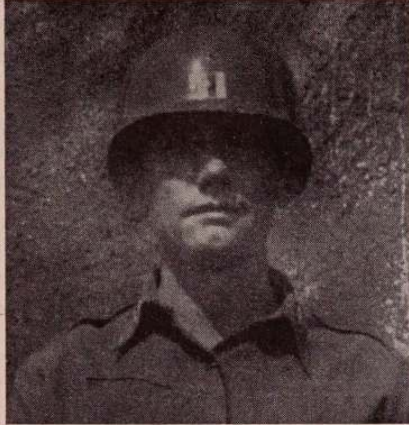
Merriman, Rex H., General Delivery, Lenapah, Oklahoma
 Misel, Fred J., 2502 "B" Ave., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Moutray, Clifford R., General Delivery, Leonard, Oklahoma
 Narron, Wilbert D., 523 Norse, Slater, Missouri
 Neel, Harrell L., Route No. 2, Altus, Oklahoma
 Norton, Granvle R., Box 233, Blair, Oklahoma
 Orullian, David, 1128 Elgin Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah
 Pelletier, Joseph O., 72 Pond, Waterbury, Connecticut
 Peters, Robert F., 5430 Carnegie Ave., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Pettit, Donald A., 93 Brooklyn St., Pontiac, Michigan
 Phillips, Henry M., Route No. 3, Holladay, Tennessee
 Phillips, Raymond E., City Route, Collinsville, Oklahoma
 Pirtle, William, Route No. 2, Merom, Indiana
 Purdy, Newton F., Route No. 2, Box 113, Mt. View, Oklahoma
 Ralston, Herschel E., Route No. 1, Box 139, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Raper, Chloeta D., Box 314, Healdton, Oklahoma
 Reece, Clifford L., Box 246, Drumright, Oklahoma
 Ricotta, Joseph J., 623 Wall St., Rockford, Illinois
 Rine, Ralph W., General Delivery, Jet, Oklahoma
 Robinson, William E., Box 216, Lone Wolf, Oklahoma
 Russell, John H., 319 S. 6th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Saiz, Tony, Route No. 1, Holcomb, Kansas
 Schwartz, Elmer, Route No. 1, Box 304, Wellington, Colorado
 Scott, Henry W., 1022 N. Oak St., Ada, Oklahoma
 Seward, Jesse E., 1625 S. W. 31st St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Sides, Carlton J., General Delivery, Dialville, Texas
 Sisk, Willie R., 204 River St., Belton, South Carolina
 Smith, Harold L., 1321 S. W. 23rd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Sorrels, James W., General Delivery, Owassa, Oklahoma
 Stewart, Basil, 921 S. 7th St., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Sullum, Sidney L., 306 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
 Tomlinson, George R., Hawthorne, Nevada
 Turner, Freddie, General Delivery, Claud, Oklahoma
 Underwood, Victor D., 800 Davis St., Clovis, New Mexico
 Ussery, Raymon N., Box 43, Willow Brook, California
 Van Beber, William V., General Delivery, Kersey, Colorado
 Vertrees, Richard E., Dow City, Iowa
 Wood, Jesse F., Route No. 2, Caldwell, Texas
 Woodward, George E., 1102 E. Haskell St., Tulsa 6, Oklahoma
 Wyatt, Theodore R., 105 "A" Ave., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Yost, Clyde R., Route No. 1, Milliken, Colorado
 Yost, Percy R., Route No. 1, Milliken, Colorado
 Zoromski, John M., 1011½ West St., Wausau, Wisconsin

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Austin, Daniel H., 2714 B Ave., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Cannon, Morris S., Route No. 2, Center, Texas
 Carpenter, Frank H., Box 905, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
 Davis, Billie, General Delivery, Lawton, Oklahoma
 Fisher, Matthews H., 5339 S. Shields, Chicago, Illinois
 Galloway, Fred A., Route No. 1, Box 65, Bristow, Oklahoma
 Hanecak, Edward J., 52 Vliet St., Cohoes, Albany, New York
 Kirk, James E., Springfield, South Dakota
 Lopez, Benito H., 509 Joy St., Corona, California
 Moreno, Jesus, 420 N. Carrizo St., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Pate, Johnnie J., Route No. 3, Mt. Vernon, Arkansas
 Phillips, Oscar L., Route No. 1, Germanton, North Carolina
 Ponchard, John L., 308 N. 6th St., Crystal Falls, Michigan
 Presley, Asa C., c/o Fire Department, Elk City, Oklahoma
 Robertson, Doffies D., General Delivery, Modesto, California
 Ross, Cornelius W. Jr., Route No. 1, Collinsville, Oklahoma
 Simpson, Johnce R., 517 Choctaw St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma
 Tewell, Thomas E., General Delivery, Villa Grove, Illinois

BATTERY "C"
693RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
May 8, 1945



Abendschein, Carl, PO Box 55, Wauneta, Nebraska
 Achino, Anthony F., 924 N. Sedgwick St., Chicago, Illinois
 Allen, Noble, General Delivery, Choctaw, Arkansas
 Baltrus, Joseph F., 6838 28th Ave., Kenosha, Wisconsin
 Barrick, Earl E., Belleville, Arkansas
 Benn, Robert L., Chelsea, Iowa
 Bentley, Virgil, Route No. 2, Box 477, Lewiston, Idaho
 Bradley, John H. Jr., Box 93, Leonard, Oklahoma
 Brletic, John J., 818 Peach St., Erie, Pennsylvania
 Brletic, Matthew J. Jr., River Station, Detroit, Michigan
 Brown, William A. F., 1117 E. Hattie St., Fort Worth, Texas
 Cherry, Troy A., 900 W. 12th St., Ada, Oklahoma
 Chick, Robert F., RFD No. 1, Kennebunkport, Maine
 Cook, Arthur L., 984 Valencia St., San Francisco, California
 Copeland, Buddy E., General Delivery, Earlsboro, Oklahoma
 Cortez, Arthur M., 428 E. Santa Barbara St., Los Angeles, California
 Downey, Eugene M., 1219 Orange St., Muscatine, Iowa
 Durbin, William E., Route No. 2, Wilburton, Oklahoma
 Edwards, James Jr., 137 Reynolds Ave., Corning, New York
 Elliott, Charles T., 423 E. 5th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Evans, Robert L., 2106 Ravine St., Cincinnati, Ohio
 Faludi, John J., 501 Columbus St., Joliet, Illinois
 Feusi, John A., 1620 Basler Ave., Sacramento, California
 Fleming, Carroll, Derma, Mississippi
 Fox, Orville P. Jr., Exposition Park Hotel, N. Aurora, Illinois
 Fultz, James C., Route No. 6, Box 817, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Gay, Allison C., General Delivery, Yeager, Oklahoma
 Gibson, Cornelius, Route No. 1, Wiggins, Mississippi
 Goodnough, Lawrence A., 110 N. 19th St., Escanaba, Michigan
 Gruenewald, Harry F., 3718 77th St., Jackson Heights, New York
 Hall, Esmond W., 15 Francis St., Claremont, New Hampshire
 Hause, George B., RFD No. 3, Seminole, Oklahoma
 Hernandez, Pete S., 811 N. Frio St., San Antonio, Texas
 Horn, William E., Route No. 1, Paxinos, Pennsylvania
 Howard, L. V., 1504 S. 9th St., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Hurley, Robert G., RFD No. 1, Lowell, Michigan
 Jahn, Oliver A., 1914 Rhine St., N.S., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Jones, George A., 701 W. 22nd St., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Josephson, Walter H., 572 N. Kellogg St., Galesburg, Illinois
 Kane, Frederick W., 6712 Hope Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
 Keegan, Vernon N., 2135 N. 73 Ct., Elmwood Park, Illinois
 Kelso, Glen O., Route No. 3, McCune, Kansas
 Kidd, Eddie L., Bracey, Virginia
 Kinyo, Steve, Box 66, Bradley, Ohio
 Kitchen, Floyd J., 2324 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Krawczyk, Chester, 2218 W. 21st Place, Chicago, Illinois
 Kreason, Frederick W., 7020 E. Forest Ave., Detroit, Michigan
 Lane, Richard C., Box 224, Turley, Oklahoma
 Locagno, Louis M., 30 Morrell St., Brooklyn, New York
 Louthian, Paul E., General Delivery, Ione, Arkansas

Macaluso, Anthony D., 1302 Avenue "L", Galveston, Texas
 Martinez, Willie C., 1508 Howard St., Corpus Christi, Texas
 McReynolds, Floyd, Route No. 2, Rush Springs, Oklahoma
 Moore, Harold L., General Delivery, Atlanta, Kansas
 Moore, Valton, Route No. 2, Commerce, Texas
 Moticka, Joseph F., 2101 S. Allport St., Chicago, Illinois
 Mullin, Alfred D., 505 Pine St., Texarkana, Texas
 Murray, John E., 678 E. 46th St., Brooklyn, New York
 Neff, William H., Route No. 2, Box 8, Stilwell, Oklahoma
 Nickerson, Howard B., 3447 Aldrich Ave., South Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Nixon, George A., Route No. 2, Greenbier, Arkansas
 Noto, Vincent J., 4355 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, Maryland
 Orsak, Charlie E., Route No. 5, Box 157, Yoakum, Texas
 Owens, Charles D., 427 N. E. 12th St., Apt. 5, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Pettit, Harvey P., 532 S. Maryland St., Claremore, Oklahoma
 Pierce, James L., 611 Tracy, Peoria, Illinois
 Powers, J. C., Box 524, Celina, Texas
 Powers, Jesse E., PO Box 13, Lamesa, Texas
 Pruitt, Clyde H., Route No. 5, Box 13, Atoka, Oklahoma
 Rains, Louis E., Route No. 1, Mesquite, Texas

Ramirez, Joe F., La Jara, Colorado
 Robards, George M., Box 102, Chelsa, Oklahoma
 Runkle, Robert L., 316 W. Spring St., Freeport, Illinois
 Salazar, Rafael P., 315 Bridge St., Del Rio, Texas
 Schroeder, Aloysius F., Route No. 1, Cuba City, Wisconsin
 Shade, Johnnie E., 906 E. State St., Enid, Oklahoma
 Smith, T. J., Route No. 2, Center, Texas
 Spangen, Lloyd J., 1768 E. 32nd St., Brooklyn, New York
 Sparks, Paul C., 1439 Lombardy Drive, Houston 3, Texas
 Stutts, Royal A. Jr., Route No. 2, Vass, North Carolina
 Tate, Charles E., Box 141, Palmer, Texas
 Thoma, Bernard E., Cold Spring Rd., Liverpool, New York
 Tolson, Roy L., 18272 S. Burnham Ave., Lansing, Illinois
 Trask, David L., 9 Flagg St., Augusta, Maine
 Trejo, Pete, 107 W. Goddard Ave., Trinidad, Colorado
 Tucker, Emmitt M., Route No. 2, Ovett, Mississippi
 Utley, Melvin, Harveyton, Kentucky
 Vela, Hilbert L., 717 S. Hudson St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Washenberger, Michael J., General Delivery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma
 Williams, Donald H., 5502 Junius St., Dallas, Texas
 Wilt, Orville B., 414 Pitkin St., Fort Collins, Colorado
 Wood, Bert J., 1220 S. Carson St., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Zakian, Haig, 3813 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

OTHER ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVED DURING COMBAT

July 14, 1944 to May 8, 1945

Adams, Marvin E. C., Route No. 1, Calvin, Oklahoma
 Alley, Wiley E., 6706 Carson Ave., Seattle, Washington
 Beam, Charles O., Route No. 3, Box 250, Ramer, Alabama
 Boggs, Jim D., General Delivery, Bentley, Oklahoma
 Daley, Robert E., 855 Pelanconi St., Glendale, California
 DeNu, Cornelius A., 309 S. Wenzel St., Louisville, Kentucky
 Everson, Marvin W., RFD No. 2, Fennimore, Wisconsin
 Garrett, James T., Route No. 1, Wesley, Arkansas
 Ginder, Clyde G., 2709 Dodge St., Omaha, Nebraska
 Harper, George C., 1365 E. 62nd St., Chicago, Illinois
 Lovcy, Eldred H., Box 8, Saguache, Colorado
 Neal, Ace P., Chestnut St., Marianna, Arkansas

Padilla, Frank R., 656 6th St., Douglas, Arizona
 Padilla, Manuel M., Box 2300, Gilbert, Arizona
 Ravndalen, Olaf, Roosevelt, Minnesota
 Reedy, Oscar W., Route No. 3, Eupora, Mississippi
 Sandel, Laney L., 322 E. 11th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Sevetsky, Peter, General Delivery, Munson, Pennsylvania
 Smith, Eddie H., 729 Aldridge St., Amarillo, Texas
 Tafoya, Manuel B., Holbrook, Arizona
 Webb, George H., Box 1384, Jacksonville, Texas
 Wenrick, Richard H., Linfield, Pennsylvania



PERSONAL NOTES



**ADVANCE OF
SIX HUNDRED NINETY—THIRD
FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
ENGLAND TO AUSTRIA
JULY 14 1944 TO MAY 8 1945**



Campaign Stars - France - Normandy - France
 Campaign Stars - Rhineland - Germany
 Ribbon Bar - 1944 - 1945
 Submitted by: [Name] Approved by: [Name]
 LT COL PA



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