



Card Game, Zweidorf, Germany

On arrival near Elkins, West Virginia, a period of particularly tough and vicious training began. Cold weather, deep snows and treacherous terrain combined, made this time a very memorable one. Another Army Ground Force Test proved the unit ready for combat.

In December, the organization moved to Ft. Dix, New Jersey, where inspections, issues of new clothing and furloughs gave proof to the belief that at long last the Company was really on its way to that for which so many months of training had prepared it.

Christmas and New Year's past, the outfit entrained for Camp Shanks, New York, where ten days of processing of records, final examinations and care passed swiftly. A final last fling at New York City ended our army life in the States, and on the 28th day of January, 1944, the unit boarded the



Pfc. J. E. Smith, Pfc. Weslowski, Sgt. Rice, Sgt. Caretti



Sgt. Francht, Pvt. Williams, Pfc. Hillis, Pvt. J. R. Smith,
Pvt. Longley, Pfc. Brooks, Pvt. Lindewall, Pvt. Newland, Pfc. Greene

Troopship *Acquitalia*, moored on the Hudson river, and with mixed feelings, said goodbye to the United States.

Sailing the following day alone and unescorted, the *Acquitalia* began its voyage across the Atlantic to an unknown destination. An occasional Catalina Flying Boat gave a little sense of security, and daily boat drills broke the monotony of the nine-day voyage. The fifth day at sea, two unidentified aircraft flew over the ship and the gun crews opened fire, sending up a terrific barrage which drove the planes off.

On February 7th, 1944, Company "B" debarked from the *Acquitalia* near Upper Glasgow, Scotland. A long but enjoyable train ride took the Company to Packington Park, located in central England, between Birmingham and Coventry. There, additional equipment and vehicles were issued and a training period started. Later the organization moved to Wales,



Jeep. Combat Loaded, Near Salzwedel, Germany



1st. Lt. Leon A. Rennebaum
2nd Platoon Leader
Evacuated To Hospital



1st Lt. Louis Duchscherer
2nd Platoon Leader



S/Sgt. Gilbert N. Moser
2nd Platoon Sgt.

bivouacing near Aberdare, where a refresher course of indirect firing was given and put to practical use among the beautiful hills of Wales. It was near here, that some of the men witnessed their first bombing raids. German planes struck at Swansea, Wales and many planes crashed to the ground in flames. This pleasant and interesting phase of training ended on April 1st, 1944, when the Company returned to Packington Park.

In the early part of April, a new job was ordered for the organization, to be marshalling units for the troops destined to make the initial invasion of the Continent on "D" Day. Company "B" was to operate Camp Marabout, or D-7 M, in Dorchester, near Weymouth, from where the Allies were to cross the English Channel and



S/Sgt William M. Stephens
2nd Platoon Sgt.



Sgt. Harding, Cpl. Janis, Pfc. Berardi, Pfc. Schwelgin, T/4 Valenti



Cpl. Ballard, Sgt. Pennetti, Pvt. Lambert, Pfc. Holcomb, T/5 Sission

strike with great force. The health and well being of the invasion troops was in our hands and we can say with pride, that we handled this important assignment with great satisfaction to the War Department, despite enemy bombing raids nearly every night.

Early in June came the time for Company "B" to be marshalled and the organization moved to D-2, near Bournemouth. The vehicles were combat loaded, a general review of tactics and firing was had and a last we pushed off for the combat which raged less than 35 miles away. On the 28th of July we loaded aboard LST's for the Channel crossing and made the trip without incident. What lay ahead no man knew, but all were filled with excitement and for the first time the men felt that stirring in the bowels that was to become so familiar in the next ten months.



Lighter Moments In the Field. Near Ohrdorf, Germany



A Gun Crew on V-E Day, Zweidorf Germany

Combat and Tactical History

The familiar saying, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country", was especially applicable to the men of Company "B" on 31 July 1944, when they debarked at Utah Beach, Normandy, to go into combat against Germany on the Western Front. The unit was extremely fortunate to have as its Commanding Officer, Captain Paul L. McPherran, whose leadership and soldierly qualities were recognized by all men in his command.

As the unit passed through Montebourg, it saw for the first time the destruction and horrors of war, for this town was now only a huge heap of smoldering rubble. It was during this initial march, on August 3rd, that



T/4 Tyrell, Sgt. Matchinsky, Cpl. Moore, Pfc. E. R. Crawford, Pfc. Supic



Sgt. Murphy, Pfc. Coley, T/5 Kell, Pfc. Feldman, Cpl. Maslowski

our first casualty occurred, T/4 George F. Morgan, a cook, was mortally wounded from the explosion of a mine, which proved fatal, the following day.

The march through Cosse-le-Vivien will long be remembered, because the column received its baptism of fire from snipers along the roads. At Houssay, the parent unit was attached to the 5th Armored Division in its entirety and Company "B" was designated to work in conjunction with CCB, having as its immediate objective the city of Le Mans.

As the main force approached its objective, the first platoon under Lt. Robert C. Jones contacted enemy ground forces, and engaging them at once, inflicted many casualties which opened a passage for the Combat Command. On August 13th, Lt. Roland A. Eubank, third platoon leader, along with his driver, T/5 Francis Crawford and Reconnaissance Corporal Harry L. Ray,



Firing The Bazooka At Road Block, Tangeln, Germany



Convoy Near Pufferdorf, Germany

encountered an enemy patrol near Sees. After a short but brisk skirmish of small arms fire, they returned to bivouac with only minor injuries.

On the following day, the second platoon, under command of Lt. Leon Rennebaum was assigned the mission to investigate enemy tanks operating near Le Merler-Ault. Although no tanks were found, the platoon did encounter a sizeable force of enemy infantry which was engaged and routed with many casualties. Pvt. Alphonse Witkowski was slightly wounded in this skirmish and evacuated.

On August 15th, the company was attached to CCR and near Wonant-le-Pin an enemy armored scout car was spotted and destroyed by T/5 Carl J. Bennett. The unit was relieved the same day, however, and the next day saw parts of the armored columns converging on the important objective of Dreux. During this march, one column was ambushed by enemy Tiger tanks



Pfc. G. C. Smith III, Pvt. Goff, Pfc. Morgan, Pvt. Haynes, Pvt. Ardillo, T/5 Grizzle, Cpl. Decker, Pfc. Migliaccio, Pfc. Lynn, Pvt. Moorman



Pfc. Bolic, Pfc. Freeman, T/4 Hackimer, Sgt. Molnar



1st Lt. Roland Eubank
3rd Platoon Leader

and the first platoon returned to engage the enemy armor. During the engagement that followed, Sgt. Edward Barth was seriously wounded. The platoon sprayed the woods thoroughly, forcing the enemy to withdraw. Later, verified reports showed that the Germans suffered 300 casualties and the loss of two Tiger tanks in the fight.

Meanwhile, southeast of Dreux the third platoon occupied positions overlooking the village of Muzy. A concealed 88 mm anti-tank gun, which had destroyed two friendly tanks of the 5th Armored Division a little earlier, was located and destroyed by the Tank Destroyers of Sgt. Mike Gazdayka and Sgt. Lawrence Elmore. Two other enemy tanks also were routed of their concealment and knocked out of action by the "Fighting Third" Platoon.

Simultaneously, the second platoon was advancing northeast of Dreux with missions to secure and hold strategic bridges across the Eure River. While moving into position, Pvt. William Grizzle



S/Sgt. Marvin R. Phillips
3rd Platoon Sgt.
Returned To U. S. A.



S/Sgt. Edward G. David
3rd Platoon Sgt.



B Company C. P. At Zweidorf, Germany

spotted a camouflaged enemy armored car which was destroyed by accurate fire from Sgt. Gilbert Moser's guns. This unit also repulsed light enemy attacks on the bridges, inflicting many casualties and destroying one enemy machine gun.

On August 25th, the offensive to reach the Seine River west of Paris was started. Several towns were liberated, large areas of woods cleared of enemy troops and our forward elements reached the heights dominating the river along the main Paris road in the vicinity of Orgeval.

The last day in August saw the company attached to CCB for the march through Paris. As the company passed through the city, the men were showered with kisses, fruit and other tokens of gratitude from the jubilant French, and every man knew that a great milestone toward the destruction of the Nazis had been reached.



Pfc. Waldrup, T/5 Boldt, Cpl. Meehan, Sgt. Gazdayka



T/4 Kennard Pvt. Caudill Cpl. Verbecke Sgt. Louisa

"Gay Paree" and the beautiful French girls were soon left behind, although not forgotten, for the unit turned north toward Belgium. Passing through Chantilly, Montlville, and Fleurnes enroute, the platoons established road blocks at all critical points for passage of the main body. On Sept. 2 the advance was stopped at 0400 when two friendly half-tracks in the leading elements of the column were destroyed by enemy 88 mm fire.

By early afternoon, units were reported to have reached their objective three miles north of Conde, France. However, while passing through Conde, the Company Headquarters section was attacked by mortar and small arms fire. Before the enemy was forced to withdraw, Pvt. Wellington Brundage, a machine gunner, was wounded, his wounds were fatal the following day.



View North of Diekirch, Sept. 1944



Heiligenstadt, Germany, May, 1945

The unit left bivouac on September 4th, and moved southeast with new missions toward the Meuse River. The following day the outfit was relieved from attachment to CCB and then attached to CCR, with the objective of taking Sedan from the enemy. While advancing, a body of Germans halted the column at the small village of Tilly, but supporting fighter planes took over and practically demolished the town, forcing the Krauts to wave the now familiar white flag.

The attack was then resumed and Sedan was taken without opposition in the late afternoon. Our fathers who fought there in 1918 would have been amazed at the speed with which this important objective was seized. It was during this advance that Pfc. Edward Mickacinich met his death.

On September 8th, the unit moved through Florenville Belgium, and into Mersch, Luxembourg, where it was temporarily halted by enemy action



Pvt. Demersion, T/Sgt. Bratton, Cpl. Crawford, Sgt. Giacomina



Sgt. Ray, Cpl. Edwards, Pfc. Kaskas, Pvt. Coe, Pvt. Herrera, Pfc. McDonough, Pfc. Van Pelt,
Pfc. Reimler, Pfc. Osborne, Pfc. Mars, Cpl. Frick, Pfc. Ward

and a blown bridge, the usual trouble when there was a stream to be crossed. This time, however, we were fortunate, since the retreating enemy left a railroad bridge across the stream, still standing. In a matter of two hours the enemy forces were killed or scattered and the company continued into Schrondeweiler.

Six days later, all platoons moved into direct fire positions on high ground overlooking Reisdorf. From these positions the mighty Siegfried Line was plainly visible and the TD's blasted away at the concrete pillboxes. Late in the afternoon the company crossed into Germany at Wallendorf, the first American troops to drive into "Der Vaterland". The much vaunted Siegfried Line had been pierced and units had reached their objective, a hill about 1,000 yards northeast of Freilengen.



Tec. 4 Peterson, Tec. 5 Keller, T/4 Pursel, T/5 Minekime, T/4 Culp, T/4 Tope, S/Sgt. Nodler,
T/5 Bauguess, T/4 Westervelt, T/Sgt. Allred

This hill, now famous as Hill 408 or, "Purple Heart Hill," was the object of fierce counter-attacks by the furious Germans attempting to breach our lines. Meanwhile, to the northeast toward Bitberg, on the unforgettable Hill 298, the second platoon, under Lt. Leon Rennebaum, was engaged in desperate fighting. This platoon was supporting the 112th Regiment of the 28th Inf. Division, our old "comrades in arms". In close support of the foot-sloggers, the platoon was successful in repulsing several enemy counter-attacks attempting to dislodge the Tank Destroyers from their excellent firing positions. Sgt. Thomas R. Kearney and Sgt John Kalis had fired all their ammunition and accounted for many enemy dead and wounded. Sgt. Michael A. Kull, while firing Sgt. Moser's light machinegun, was wounded and evacuated and Pvt. Grizzle and Pfc. Mastro accounted for a good many casualties among the attacking force. After three Destroyers were hit and damaged by enemy fire and the remaining forces were just about out of ammunition, Lt. Rennebaum gave the order to withdraw. During this operation, Sgt. Kalis was killed while leading his destroyer on foot from the position, and Cpl. Leo S. McCartney was seriously wounded while rendering first aid to another soldier. Others wounded in this engagement included Cpl. Louis Matchinsky, T/5 Nicholas Valenti, Pfc. Alfred B. Ames, and Pvt. Henry J. Maslowski.



T/Sgt. Marvin Allred
Company Motor Sgt.

For this brave show of arms, the second platoon was recommended for the Presidential Unit Citation and Lt. Rennebaum subsequently received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Meanwhile, on "Purple Heart Hill," the enemy artillery barrage was increasing in intensity. On September 19th, the first and third platoons



Pfc. A. Bowers, T/4 R. Peterson, T/4 Pursei,
T/4 Tope, T/4 Culp, T/5 Bauguess



Maintenance At Work, Zweidorf, Germany

smashed a determined enemy counter-attack, with Sgt. Charles A. Mead and his gunner, Cpl. Ben E. Rice credited with destroying three Tiger tanks. In this action, too, Sgt. Herbert A. West and Cpl. Oscar F. Martin knocked out another Tiger tank and Sgt. John R. Ross and Sgt. Freeman P. Caretti destroyed still another. Under cover of darkness and despite terrific artillery shelling, the units withdrew back into Luxembourg, where two days later Pfc. James A. McClintock was killed by the continuing barrage.

The middle of October found Company "B" attached to CCA, just southwest of Herleen, Holland, in mobile reserve, guarding against possible enemy counter-attacks at Aachen. Daily showers and movies were a godsend to the weary men and their morale was again high.

On November 2nd, the company moved to Faymonville, Belgium, for reorganization and it was during this rest period the outfit received the new M-36 Tank Destroyers, equipped with the recently developed 90 mm gun. The unit was released from attachment to CCA on November 8th, and returned to Battalion control to effect changeover to the new Destroyers. For the remainder of the month, the company went into indirect fire positions near Kalterherberg and Rotgen, Germany.

In early December the company entered the treacherous and furious fighting of the Hurtgen Forest. The first platoon, now under command of Lt. Basil Belew, while occupying positions overlooking Bogheim was under continuous enemy artillery fire and anti-tank rockets fired by enemy patrols, resulting in the wounding of Sgt. Caretti, Sgt. West, Cpl. Martin, Pfc. Edward C. DeWitt and Pvt. Joseph F. Keller. The second platoon, occupying high ground near Strauss to repel possible attacks, also suffered casualties from artillery, when Lt. Rennebaum, Cpl. Adrian Smith and Pvt. Ames were seriously wounded.

The middle of December saw the company engaged in the Battle of the Bulge. The battalion was detached from the 5th Armored Division and moved south to meet the armored spearheads of General Von Rundstedt's

speedy offensive. On December 24th, the company was attached to the 83rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and occupied defensive positions around Grandmeniel. The determined enemy armor and infantry attack began at midnight Christmas Eve. This unit, after hours of desperate fighting, was forced to evacuate the town and occupied high ground overlooking the city. During this battle, Sgt. Moser's Tank Destroyer knocked out two enemy Panther tanks at 30 yards in almost total darkness, but Cpl. Patrick P. Pennetti, T/5 Grizzle and Pvt. Kent were wounded when their own TD received a direct hit and burned. For this exploit, Sgt. Moser received the Silver Star and Cpl. Pennetti the Bronze Star Medal.

On January 1, 1945, the Battalion was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, in the vicinity of Chevron, Belgium. The following day the second platoon, led by Lt. Robert Joyce, and attached to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, occupied positions near Haute Badeaux where, in the subsequent fighting, S/Sgt. Willie M. Stephens' Destroyer knocked out a Mark IV tank. While withdrawing for refueling the Destroyer was hit by an enemy shell and Pfc. Mario A. Mastro was killed, along with Pfc. William T. Waldon, attached to the platoon from Reconnaissance Company.

On January 6, 1st Lt. Frank E. Hurt, Jr., formerly of Company "C", took over command of the company. Capt. Mac Pherran was transferred to another organization. Lt. Hurt, whose bravery and leadership while with Company "C" set an example for all his men, was welcomed eagerly by the men of this company, whose faith in him was soon justified.

The third platoon moved into the attack the sixth of January and the following day will never be forgotten. Moving toward the town of Renschaux, the Destroyer of Sgt. Gazdayka, was hit by a concealed German tank and in the explosion, Cpl. Chester W. Kuta, T/5 William Ayers, Pvt. Charles A. Hill and Pfc. Theodore Spalte were instantly killed. On the right flank the other section of the platoon under S/Sgt. Marvin R. Philips had advanced to engage in a fierce battle with a Tiger Royal, the pride of the German Armored forces. Both TD's of this ill-fated group were firing at the retreating juggernaut when an anti-tank gun hit Sgt. Lawrence Elmore's TD from the flank. Undaunted, the brave little sergeant and T/5 William J. Walters attempted to recover the vehicle but were killed when a direct hit penetrated the TD. Meanwhile, Sgt. George De Lia had ranged the German monster and halted it in its tracks. Then a freak artillery burst landed right in the open turret of the Destroyer, killing the game little sergeant and his loader, Pfc. Tandy Carpenter, and wounding T/5 Frank A. Hackimer, Cpl. Adam Kiwior and Pvt. Floyd Freeman. The heretofore lucky third platoon was hit hard that day, but for its gallantry and heroism beyond the call of duty, the platoon was cited by the commander of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Finally on the 16th of January the company was relieved and assembled for a well deserved rest in the vicinity of Roanne, Belgium.

On February 6, the company was again in Holland, assembled near Herleen. Still under Battalion control, Company "B" was again ready for combat and the latter part of the month found the unit once again inside Germany. It rolled east across the Roer River and maintained constant guard against

armored attacks on the flanks. None came, however, and on March 10th the three platoons were hurling their shells into the bomb blasted city of Dusseldorf from the vicinity of Osterath. Now came the operation that everyone had long awaited — the crossing of the Rhine River and the drive to the Elbe River — and beyond this, perhaps, a drive into Berlin, itself.

On April 3rd the unit approached the Wesser River, south of Minden. Enemy artillery fire halted the column and the second platoon, now commanded by Lt. Louie Duchscherer moved into action and destroyed six 76 mm field pieces, thus enabling the task force to reach its objective. The destroyers of Sgt. James G. Harding, Sgt. James R. Murphy and Sgt. Perretti were commended equally for this creditable job.

Crossing the Wesser at Hameln on April 10th, and advancing rapidly against shattered and retreating opposition, the unit secured the main attacking force by establishing road blocks at dangerous points enroute.

The Elbe River was reached one mile west of Sandenau on April 13th, and with bridges blown, the unit never crossed this barrier. At this point, the company was approximately 50 miles from Berlin, the nearest of any American troops on that day.

Unfortunately, a sizeable enemy force had been by-passed in the vicinity of Rohrberg, Wittengen and Suder-Wittengen, and the Combat Command was ordered to withdraw to reduce the pocket. On April 18th, the first platoon attached to Task Force Anderson was fired upon while moving in platoon column through woods towards Ludelsen. The lead vehicle, a jeep, was hit by machine gun fire from two enemy tanks and Lt. Belew, Pfc. Jont R. Greene and Pfc. Orlando H. Longley bailed out seeking cover in a nearby ditch. The tanks disappeared into the woods before fire could be adjusted by the first platoon destroyers.

Lt. Belew ordered his platoon along with three platoons of attached infantry to surround the woods. The Lieutenant, Cpl. James R. Smith, Pfc. Raymond Brushaber, Pfc. Walter Lindewall and Pfc. Anthony Constantino then entered the woods on foot and discovered the enemy vehicles and an undetermined number of enemy infantry. This information was signalled to Sgt. West who immediately moved his destroyer into the woods. The destroyer gunner, Cpl. Ervin Prokucek, fired three rounds which destroyed the three vehicles. Lt. Belew was ordered to withdraw his small task force from the woods and let the Air Force take over. Twenty-four fighter bombers worked the area over with machine guns, rockets and bombs — really a sight for sore eyes. Later the woods were thoroughly searched and eight enemy vehicles were found in smoking ruins along with an undetermined number of enemy casualties.

On April 21th the company was relieved from attachment to CCB and all platoons assembled one mile south of Zasenbeck at the Company Command Post. This ended the tactical and combat operation of Company "B", and only a few weeks later the war against Germany came to a successful conclusion.

Much can be said about the firing Platoons and with due credit, pride and honor, but the Company as a team could not have performed so brilli-

antly without the help of the Headquarters Platoon. T/Sgt. Allred and his Maintenance Section kept the vehicles rolling at all times. His untiring efforts and the aggressiveness of his crew, T/4 Culp, T/4 Minekine, T/4 Peterson, T/4 Tope, T/4 Purcel and T/5 Bauguess, kept the Company vehicles in excellent condition. These men did more than their share of the work destined for them, often working with other companies. It was in the Hurtgen Forest where their Retriever was lost when assisting another company retrieve damaged vehicles, it was blown up by a mine. Luckily, no injuries were sustained. Artillery, mortar fire, snipers and mine fields could not stop the "Lucky Seven", when a vehicle was in distress. Many were the times this capable crew was subject to severe weather conditions, but on they worked until their job was completed.

S/Sgt. Nodler and the Supply Section was combined with Maintenance until the "Battle of the Bulge", when it became necessary for the separation. The Supply had a very hard job, keeping the Platoons supplied with rations, ammunition and equipment, T/4 Westervelt and Pfc. Keller travelled many roads that were never taken, but the Platoons were located and the supplies got through.

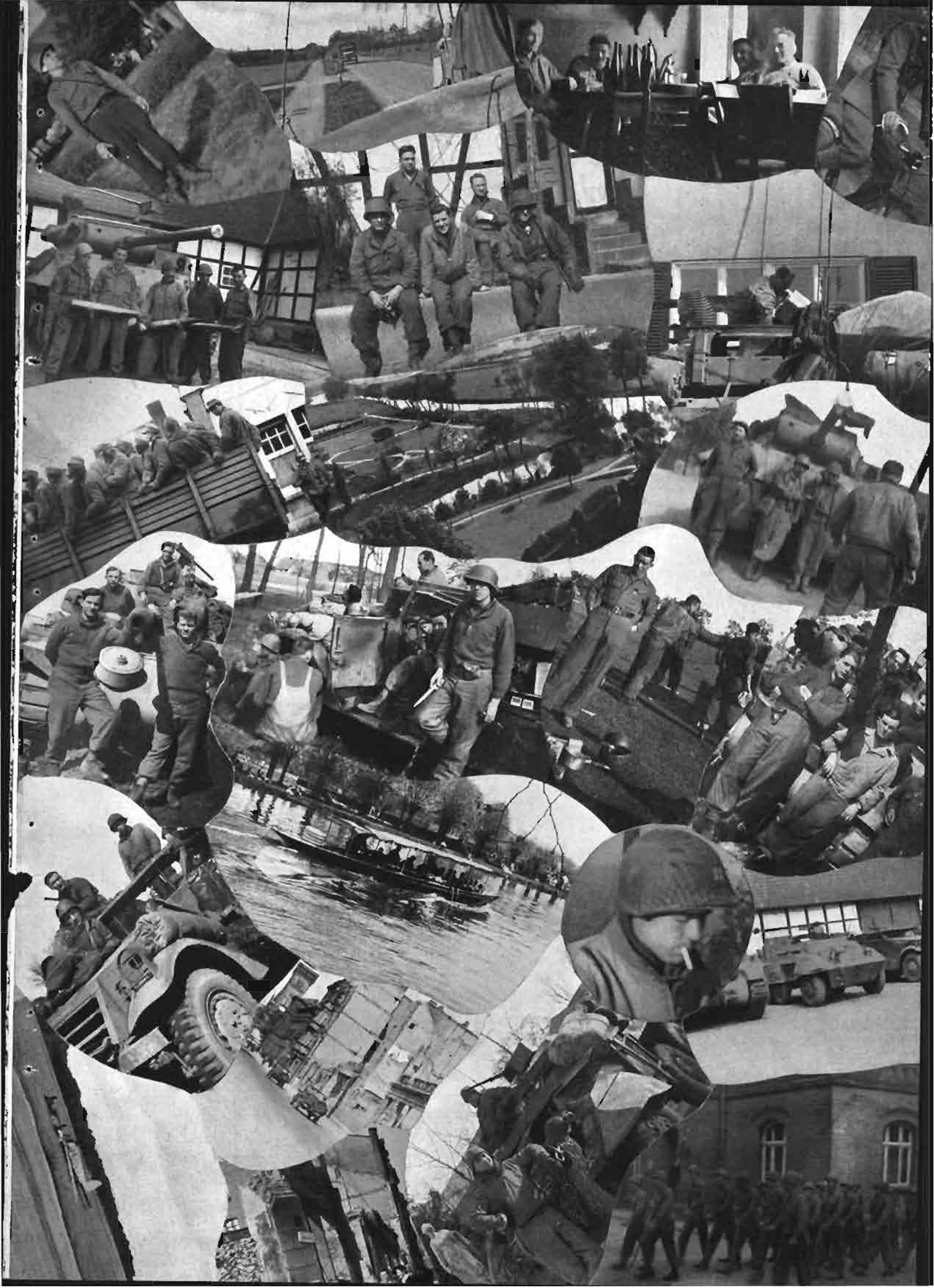
The kitchen, under the supervision of S/Sgt. Hutchinson played only a minor role in the Company's combat, but it must be remembered that the first casualty within the Battalion was a cook, T/4 George F. Morgan, who was fatally wounded when the vehicle in which he was riding set off a mine. Many were the times the kitchen was forced to set-up in cellars to prepare a hot meal, but much to the liking of T/4 Iacona, who could relax only in bomb-proof shelters, when there was "in-coming mail". More than one meal was rudely interrupted by the remnants of the "Luftwaffe", who undoubtedly got a whiff of Ingweillers' braised beef. After Bastogne, the cooks were suffering from "Barracks Bag" fatigue, but shortly, all had recuperated. The time can be remembered when the kitchen was setting-up in a town still burning, that had just been taken. The building was a former SS Gestapo Headquarters and due to the quick acting kitchen force all records and valuable documents were captured before they could be destroyed. T/5 Charles, Pfc. Banks, Pfc. Skole and Pfc. Bourland often guarded prisoners and needless to mention, not one ever escaped.

S/Sgt. Kohlage, along with T/4 Hyatt and T/4 Leiterman made up the Radio Section, whose very important job was to establish and maintain communication at all times. The tiring task of listening and reporting 24 hours a day was their job, but this job was efficiently performed and the Company was seldom out of contact. Radio adjustments and repairing were additional duties to operating, but these men handled their job with ease.

The Company is proud of the Headquarters Platoon, with it a smooth working team was developed and the successful performance of Company "B", proved it second to none.



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History of Fighting Company "C"



1st Lt. Seymour Feldman
Executive Officer



Capt. Robert C. Jones
Company Commander



1st Sgt. Luckey
First Sergeant



2nd Lt. Robert Joyce
Liaison Officer

Company "C" was one of the original Companies that formed the nucleus around which later was built the 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Away back in 1941 we were known as the 28th Division Anti-Tank Battalion (Provisional). Our first taste of army life started at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. We received men from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, who had just finished their thirteen weeks basic training. While at the Gap we did quite a bit of firing, the anti-tank weapon at that time, was an American 75 mm. We moved from our home station to A. P. Hill, Virginia, where we undertook a series of field problems. We had our taste of living outdoors in tents; the flies and mosquitoes certainly were a menace. At the end of our training those who could make it were given a pass to go home. Others were given furloughs when we returned to the Gap.

In October, we moved out for the Carolina maneuvers; this was our first experience at maneuvering against other units. At the time we didn't have



S/Sgt. Kratz
Supply Sgt.



S/Sgt. Peterson
Communications Sgt.

many weapons, so we had to simulate quite often, yet we managed to survive. These maneuvers brought out our mistakes, which were many. On weekends we were given passes to near-by towns, where we were greeted with much Southern hospitality.

On 3 December 1941, maneuvers ended and we started back to Indiantown Gap by convoy. While en route we bivouaced at South Boston, Virginia, where we were informed that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japs Air Force. We proceeded to our home station, where we were again given furloughs. They were cut short and we were called back. We then proceeded to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, by motor convoy. This trip will always be remembered by the men, it was early January when we started out, and bitter cold. Nights we would stop at army camps and move out in the mornings. After many cases of sickness we finally arrived at Camp Livingston.

While at Camp Livingston many candidates were sent to OCS and a short time later several cadres were sent out. We received recruits which were given thirteen weeks of basic training by Officers and NCOs from our battalion. The remainder of the Company participated in tactical problems while the recruits trained. Once again we heard that wonderful word "furlough" and off we started for fifteen days of freedom.



Cpl. Goering, S/Sgt. Kratz, Pfc Fearon,
Pvt. D. Wilson, T/4 Itzkowitz, T/5 Goodwin



Sgt. Rodriguez, S/Sgt. Peterson, T/5 Miles,
Pfc. Libby, Pvt. Bessett, Pfc. Eckenrode,
1st Sgt. Lucky, Pvt. De Lernia, Pvt. Rathaj



T/4 Leo, T/4 Knopf, T/5 Davis, T/5 Pena, Cpl. Linane
S/Sgt. Howlett

In August, 1942 we moved to Camp Hood, Texas, which was the Tank Destroyer Headquarters. At this camp we received training that proved to be very helpful. We were taught how to improvise charges for destroying tanks and armored vehicles, how to use small arms weapons and "Judo", in close quarter fighting. We also went through a place called "Nazi Village" where a team consisting of three men supporting each other would proceed down the street, cleaning out each house as they progressed. For this type of fighting, one used such weapons as a rifle, pistol, sub-machine gun, hand grenades, or knife. It was very exciting. Further training consisted of going through the infiltration course, which was our baptism of fire.

We crawled under barbed wire fences, under machine gun fire, with explosions going off all around, as we moved slowly through the mud and water. Another interesting part of the training was "Judo" where we were taught the art of self defense. For many weeks men went about crippled up with sore muscles from being thrown around. Our training was strenuous but we really enjoyed it.

On 20 November, 1942, we proceeded to Camp Bowie, Texas, where we took tests in small arms firing. It was here that we broke the camp record for the fastest twenty-five mile bike with a full field pack.

In January, 1943, we moved by rail to Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida, where we received our first Tank Destroyers. Many weeks were spent learning to drive them and on care and maintenance. Next came amphibious training with the 28th Infantry Division, which was commanded at that time by General Omar Bradley. This training covered such operations as beach landings, with the use of everything from rubber boats to LSTs. We ended our training with a large scale amphibious landing of the entire division and



S/Sgt. Howlett
Mess Sgt.



Sgt. Crawford, Pvt. Smith, T/5 M. Pena
Pvt. Foster, Cpl. Hassen



1st Lt. James Martin
1st Platoon Leader

attached troops on a near-by island.

It was during this operation that several men of the division were drowned due to the bad weather and rough seas. Weekends were usually spent on pass and Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, was one of our favorite cities.



S/Sgt. Gutterman
Returned To U. S. A.

In early May, 1943 we moved to Camp Rucker Alabama, where we received more training in small arms firing and also fired our three-inch guns. Much time was also devoted to sports and physical hardening exercises. It was here that we were greeted by a major from the Tank Destroyer School. He was nicknamed by the men "Major Midnight" because of his persistency in forcing the men to work eighteen hours each day. He was sent for the sole purpose of teaching us motor maintenance, and this we can truthfully say, he did. During those trying days we would ride a few miles on dusty roads, return to the motor park, change oil, clean and then grease the Destroyers. He really tried to work us to the stump and when he could draw no more blood he left. To say that we were glad to get rid of him, would be putting it mildly.

After several weeks we moved to the Tennessee maneuver area. Tennessee proved to be wonderful country for tank fighting. We maneuvered with,



Tank Trailer

and against tank and infantry divisions. Here all our previous training proved to be worth while. Maneuvers ended and we returned to Camp Rucker.

This time our stay here was short, as we moved to Camp Pickett, Virginia, on 27 September 1943. It was here that we took one of those strict physical examinations that even Frank Sinatra could have passed. Our stay was short and we made a side trip to Camp Bradford, Virginia, for advanced amphibious training. Then we moved to West Virginia for mountain training. During our stay there we lived like a bunch of gypsies. We were issued sleeping bags and winter boots. Some of the more fortunate managed to find sleeping quarters in small huts. The people of Davis, Thomas and Elkins, West Virginia, will always be remembered by us for their generosity and hospitality in providing us with sleeping accommodations during week-ends.



T/5 Carroll, Pvt. Hand, Sgt. Fritz,
Pvt. Lopez, Cpl. Herman



T/4 S. C. Williams, Sgt. Van Vliet, Sgt. Galle
Pfc. Fields, Pvt. Kissel

In early December we moved by rail to Fort Dix, New Jersey. We turned in our Destroyers, did some additional small arms firing and drew personal equipment. Here we received our last furloughs and soon after, traveled to Camp Shanks, New York, the P.O.E. At Camp Shanks we were given a last physical examination to determine our fitness for overseas. On 28 January 1944 we boarded an English ship, the *Acquittania*. On 29 January we left port and proceeded on our journey to Scotland. A number of the men proved they were not good sailors, which was due mainly to the food, a type to which we were unaccustomed.

On 6 February 1944 we landed in Scotland and proceeded by ferry, train and truck to Packington Park, in the vicinity of Coventry near Birmingham, England. While here we received new Tank Destroyers, trained for a while



Butchering, Fosse, Belgium



Changing A Tank Motor Near Elbe River

and on 17 March 1944, we moved to Brecon Range, South Wales, for firing. We fired approximately 2000 rounds, and had a firing test that proved successful. On 3 April we moved out via Packington Park to Dorchester, England. It was here that the company was used to marshall troops who were to participate in battle on "D Day". We stayed here until 6 of July at which time we moved to Camp D2 near Bournemouth. Here we put new tracks on, greased our tanks, drew our basic load of ammunition and moved into a marshalling area. Leaving this area on the second day, we loaded ship and crossed the English Channel on our way to France. Arriving on the Continent on 29 July 1944 Company "C" was ready for battle. As being appropriate they started singing the song which they had adopted way back in 1941. The words of which are:



Pvt. Zarate, Cpl. Sarnecki,
Pvt. Majors, Sgt. Singleton



Sgt. Bordas, T/S Plataniotis, Sgt. Riley, Pvt. Atkins, Cpl. Kwiek,
T/S Jenks, Pfc. Kluska, Pvt. Kustos

THE FIGHTING COMPANY "C"

For when the doughboys are in the trenches,
And the Cavalry is out on patrol;
They'll be fighting in the air,
The airplanes are there,
They're all right as far as they go;
There is one thing you'll have to agree;
The guts of the whole damn army,
Is the fighting Company "C".

The arrival in France of Company "C" started what was to be a long list of firsts for this unit. The Headquarters, which consisted of 4 officers and



Pulling Into Firing Position, Near Ohrdorf, Germany

34 enlisted men, were the first members of the Battalion to land on the continent; this, was itself, a great thrill to all concerned. The eventful hour and day was 2300 hours, 30 July 1944 and at 0115 hours the next day, the remainder of the Company arrived. From transient Area B. where the Battalion assembled, the units moved to Le-Valdecie, France. Thus, we spent our first day on French soil.

The fateful, long awaited day finally arrived. At 1715 hours, on the 2nd day of August 1944, the Company received its alert order for combat. Morale immediately shot up and a bit of nervous tension was felt by all.

For the next four days nothing but movement was done trying to catch the ever moving forward units. Finally on the move from St. James, France to Aussey, France, our first contact with the enemy occurred. Alas and alack, snipers. A report submitted read as follows: "First contact with



1st Lt. Herbert A. Pratt
2nd Platoon Leader



2nd Lt. Roth
2nd Platoon Leader



S/Sgt. Dominick Tomburrini
2nd Platoon Sgt.



S/Sgt. Zeifelder, T/4 W. J. Guinn, Sgt. Winget, Cpl. Bridge, Pvt. Dixon



Pfc. Kimbley, T/5 Richardson, Cpl. Apling,
Sgt. Meecham, Pfc. Sarello

enemy snipers this date. Damage done by enemy snipers this date, nil; morale of men, excellent. Result of enemy action causes alertness among men“.

After this preliminary introduction to fire, Company “C”, now known as “Victory C”, was attached to CCR. of the 5th Armored Division, with whom the Company was later to shine in glory and tragedy. Further attachment was to Task Force Hamburg and the first mission was to seize bridges along the river at Monce, Averres, and Rutiz. The company’s mission was to provide flank protection in form of road blocks at the various road junctions.

August 10th found the company in a lone role while protecting the flanks of the main column. The following actions took place; captured 3 prisoners at RJ 1 C 75 and N 155. Captured 15 prisoners at La Perriere. Knocked out



Shaef Photographers Near Voerendaal, Holland



Convoy At Everswinkel, Germany

one command car and killed 5 Germans at RJ GC 4 and GC 77. Attacked the town of Le Mesle, knocking out 3 half tracks, 2 motorcycles, one Mark IV tank, took 3 prisoners and killed approximately 15 men. Road blocked the town until the column moved through and then proceeded on with mission, and to sum up an eventful day another command car was destroyed 2 miles east of Le Mesle.

Thus the fighting Company "C", brought its first active encounter with the enemy to a successful conclusion and thenceforth continued attack took place. Closing of the Falaise Gap, Le Bouz, St. Leonard, Le Pry and Hanas, just specks on the map, took on a meaning to all the men. Slowly but surely the men became hardened. The three firing platoons were attached to Task Force Boyer and Task Force Hamburg and set up road blocks. German 88 mm



Pvt. Helton, Sgt. Womach, Pfc. Newbill,
Pvt. Ottamar, Sgt. Baloch



T/4 Schneider, Cpl. Gamma, T/5 Stancil, Sgt. Madix, Sgt. Van de Streek

guns, German OP's etc, all began to fall victim to the striking power of the company. Following is the day by day account of the company's actions, the days are taken at random so we will say — August 12 through August 19th: August 12 — CCR's mission changed to that of securing and road blocking at Le Bourg, St. Leonard and Gace. 1st Platoon attached to Task Force Hamburg; 2nd Platoon attached to Task Force Boyer; 3rd Platoon attached to 95th Field Artillery. Task Force Boyer reached road junction at La Puy au Hanas and also Task Force Hamburg. 1st Platoon assisted Task Force Hamburg in knocking out 12 vehicles (2 half-tracks, 3 trucks, 5 command cars, and 2 ambulances, the latter being used to transport arms and equipment) 2nd Platoon knocked out one 88 mm gun and a German OP. First casualty, S/Sgt. Drost, who was wounded by enemy artillery fire. August 13: 1st Platoon supported married company at Le Bourg St. Leonard; 2nd Platoon remained in position; 3rd



In Firing Position At Pufferdorf, Germany



S/Sgt. Tamburrini, Sgt. Lepkowski, T/5 Rondo, Sgt. Lusk, Pfc. Lamb,
Cpl. Sine, Pvt. McComb, Pvt. Ashley, Pfc. Yaksetic, Pfc. Amorando, T/5 Taylor

Platoon supported company from 15th Infantry in taking Exames and setting up road block. Aug. 14; Company attached to CCB located 2 miles Northeast of Sees. CCB's mission was to seize Dreux and the river crossing South of Eure river. Company moved with column, with the mission of providing protection against tank attack. The column continued its march. Aug. 15; Company pulled into bivouac area at Marville. 3rd Platoon assigned road block mission at Marville; 2nd Platoon attached to 71st Field Artillery for anti-tank defense, 1st Platoon attached to 95th Field Artillery for anti-tank defense. August 16: Supported 15th Infantry in attack on Dreux. 3rd Platoon road blocked Dreux from North; 1st Platoon plus one Infantry Platoon seized river crossing and Eure River bridge was blown up. No losses by enemy action. Company crossed river with CCB. 1st. Platoon attached to 15th Infantry; 2nd Platoon attached to 71st Field Artillery; 3rd Platoon in reserve. Aug. 17: CCB's mission was to set up road block two



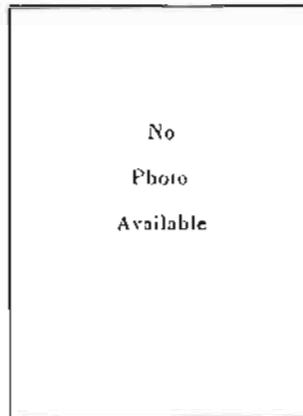
Security Section Near Voerendaal, Holland, January 1945



T/4 Maloney, Cpl. Marshall, Pfc. Jindra
Sgt. Kieler, Sgt. Fuchs



1st Lt. Ben J. Smith
3rd Platoon Leader
Killed In Action



1st Lt. Daniel L. French
3rd Platoon Leader
Wounded and Evacuated



1st Lt. David Frattil
3rd Platoon Leader



S/Sgt. Daniel Scanlon
3rd Platoon Sgt.

miles East of Bonnières and 5 miles West of Pacy. 1st and 3rd Platoons attached to task forces on this mission. 2nd Platoon attached to 47th Field Artillery. Aug. 18: No change in situation. Aug. 19: CCB given mission of attacking north of Seine River. 1st Platoon supported 15th Infantry in attack on large wooded area and the 1st and 3rd Platoons provided anti-tank defense for the Southeast sector of the woods.

Thus we find "Victory C" a hardened fighting unit, spearheading, fighting for what we feel is right; time and again friends have fallen, disfigured bodies litter the roads, but on and on, the slinking figure of death continuously hovers over your head



Aid Station, Near Bomal, Belgium. Dec. 1944

— but on and on — Senlis, Mantes, Compiègne Forest, Paris, Noyon, Valenciennes, Conde, Belgium; cities one never dreamed of seeing; La Victoria, “Vive les Americans”, “Vive les Allies”, were the cries of the liberated. More fighting, on and on until finally the words “Vive les Allies” died out: in its place was “Ich nich Nazi”; so was our campaign through France and Belgium. The move continued to the border of Luxembourg, the next country for liberation.

On September 13, Company “C” was attached to CCR of the 5th Armored Division. We were given the mission of breaking through the Siegfried Line and penetrating into Germany near the town of Wallendorf. We moved into Wallendorf without much trouble, capturing 10 prisoners from



Cpl. Schnoll, Sgt. Chamberlain, T/5 Livingston,
Pvt. Stephens, Pvt. Embrey



Cpl. Bush, Sgt. Basak, T/S Hoffman Pfc. Bishop, Pvt. Weeks

pill boxes. We had road blocks north and south of the town and consolidated our positions for the night. From the way we went in it looked like the going was going to be easy. We moved through fog to attack Hommersdingen and Cruchten. Part of the company provided flank protection for the 10th Tank Battalion; the rest of the company remained at road blocks for CCR Headquarters. The objectives were taken and consolidated. On the 15th of September we were assigned with the 10th Tank Battalion the mission of taking Bettingen from the west. We moved through Stockern without contacting the enemy. On the outside of Oldorf we were met with intense enemy artillery fire from the south and east. We then moved back to Oldorf and consolidated our positions. All during the evening we were shelled. From 15 September to 19 September all positions were held against German counterattacks and artillery fire. Due to the distance that had been penetrated into Germany, it was not possible to attempt further movement until the flanks were protected. Orders to withdraw were given on 19 September. The third Platoon knocked out three tanks and suffered three killed and



Chow Time At Lank Latum, Germany



Time Off From Firing, Latum, Germany

one wounded, due to artillery fire; counterattacks were many. We withdrew to the vicinity of Diekirch, Luxembourg completing the assembly on the morning of 20 September. From 20 September to 28 October we did very little fighting, doing mostly road blocks and performing maintenance. We remained at Obr Forsbach, Germany. On October 29 we turned in our M-10 Tank Destroyers and were given M-36's. On 1st November the Company was given the mission of supporting fire of the 95th FA Battalion. We moved south of Kalterherburg, Germany. The 1st and 2nd Platoons secured positions and set up for indirect fire mission; the rest of Company stayed in assembly area near Camp Elsenborn. Poor weather hindered movement. Platoons stayed in position until 11 November. At that time they then moved by way of Eysen and Kettinis to bivouac area west of Wallhorn, Belgium. CCR was given the mission of supporting the 4th Infantry Division in the



Sgt. Calle, Pfc. Eckhardt, Sgt. Siemenda,
T/5 Yusko, T/4 Malvestuto



S/Sgt. Scanlon, T/5 Wood, Pvt. Rimkus, Pfc. Littleton, Pfc. Hyjek, T/4 Cacich,
Pvt. Witkowski, Pvt. Kavers, S/Sgt. Shafstall, Cpl. Flynn

attack of Hurtgen, Brandenburg, and Bergstein, Germany, and to hold Brandenburg and a near-by town after they had been taken. The Company closed into bivouac area just before darkness and set up for the night. Enemy artillery fire was heavy and it was determined that we could expect to encounter a great many mine fields. 30 November we moved to Roetgen. An attack was attempted on Hurtgen but was repulsed due to enemy action such as mines, artillery, mortar fire and anti-tank guns. Company remained in position for the rest of the time and occupied defensive positions.

The battle for Hurtgen and surrounding towns turned out to be the bloodiest battle ever known. Both the enemy and our lines suffered heavy casualties. You couldn't find a tree in Hurtgen forest which wasn't marked by shell fragments. Our losses in the Company in deaths and casualties were heavy. In the battle for Hurtgen, on 6th December, we lost 10 men killed, 10 men wounded and one man missing in action. On 8th December we moved to a bivouac area at Rahrath, Belgium and rested up, performed main-



Prisoners Of War Near Fosse, Belgium

tenence and awaited reinforcements. On the 14th Dec. we received men and started to train them. On 16th Dec. we moved to the east to an assembly area in Rotgen, Germany where the Company was attached to the 10th Tank Bn. The enemy counter-attacked and the battle of the Bulge started. The Company on 1st January moved from billets in Abee, Belgium and joined the 82nd Airborne Division. The 1st platoon was attached to the 504th Regiment (Inf.) in defensive positions. The 2nd platoon was with the 504th Regt.; the 3rd platoon was with the 325th Airborne Regt. We pushed forward and recaptured Ameomont, Fosse, and Odrimont. All through the bulge our losses were light. We had one man killed and one wounded. On 17th Jan. we were relieved and put in the XVIII Corps (AB) Reserve. While in reserve, we performed maintenance on our vehicles, white washed our destroyers and rested.

On the 26th Jan. we rejoined the 5th Armored Division and moved to Herbesthal, Belgium and stayed in 9th Army reserve for the rest of the month. On 5th Feb. we moved to Colmond, Holland and conducted orientation classes, maintenance, and enjoyed a rest period. On 25th Feb. we moved to Beggendorf, Germany and finally crossed the Roer River. All through March we slugged our way up to the Rhine River. The rest of the story happened so fast is hard to describe. From 31st March to 5th April the break through from the Rhine River to the Wesser River was in progress. 8th April found us crossing the Wesser River to the Elbe River, where we were held up. We then went back for mopping up operations from Salzwedel, Germany to Dannenberg, Germany. Finally on 9th May the Germans surrendered unconditionally.



T/Sgt. Joseph S. Drost
Motor Sgt.



T/4 Auling, T/4 Dyda, T/5 Whaley, T/4 Bik,
T/5 Wohlgenuth, Pvt. Monte, T/4 Smith, T/Sgt. Drost