

6 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Field order received from Division called for preparation of plans for resumption of attack to the east if the enemy in front of us did not surrender. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

7 May 45 Word was received of the unconditional surrender of all German Forces. There was jubilation, but no celebration. Most evident was the speculation as to future disposition of the Battalion. The arrival of the first mail in over a week caused as much excitement as the surrender news.

8 May 45 The official announcement of V.E. Day came as an anti-climax. Two hundred eighty prisoners of war surrendered to Company B, and all morning, streams of prisoners, practically all of them in vehicles, came through our lines.

APPENDIX II
COMPANY A
602nd TANK DESTROYER
BATTALION
“ATTACHED AND DETACHED”



DAY TO DAY UNIT JOURNAL
24 AUGUST 1941
TO
9 MAY 1945

INTRODUCTION

This book is dedicated to those men who have made its successful conclusion possible. Our first thought is of our comrades, our fellow soldiers, who have fallen along the way never to rise again but never to be forgotten either. Let there never again be a world conflict so these men shall not have died in vain.

THESE MEN WE SALUTE.

Brown, Kenneth F.
Haggard, Doyle C.
Phillips, Freddie
Pratt, Philip V.

Our second thought is of those who started on this long journey with us or joined us on the way but who due to illness or wounds sustained, left us before our task was completed. Let their wounds bear further testimony that a free country will fight whenever necessary to retain that freedom. Such is the birthright of a true democracy.

THESE MEN WE ALSO SALUTE.

Lt. Considine, Roy

Appling, Robert
Bethea, Robert L.
Crosby, William
Downey, Alfred R.
Fuchs, Eldo E.
Girgenti, Alfio
Glowski, Frank P.
Henne, Clifford J

Hendel, Henry
Krych, Tom
Lowery, Grover
Marcelliano, Daniel
Minikel, Edward
Moore, Marvin
Shelton, Henry
Womack, Kenneth

MISSING

Bornemann, Leonard
Gumienny, Stanley

Our last thought is of those still remaining. They have seen the end and see a bright future ahead with this war behind them. Some may return to civilian life, to these let us offer our congratulations and say "Good you deserve it". Others may continue on in this battle against greed, brutality, aggression and every other good thing all Christians abide by in the daily conduct of their lives. Let these men be guided by the powers above and let them go on and defeat our Japanese enemy with the same courage and determination that has characterized their actions in this campaign.

This dairy started as a personal hobby of T/5 Philip V. Pratt. It soon was looked upon as a company institution, even under the severest conditions men would pause and ask "Are they still keeping the company diary"?

We owe our thanks to T/5 Pratt and those that took up where he left off for making this record possible. These people in turn were Sgt. Raymond Young, S/Sgt. Daniel Wollman and T/5 Tony Balsama.

This book has not been altered or edited in any way. Instead it appears as taken from the original notes.

During this period we have been attached to the following units:

First Army
Third Army

(We were with the third army for all but the last few weeks of the war)

Eighth Corps
Twelfth Corps
4th Armored Division
11th Armored Division
101st Airborne Division
17th Airborne Division
26th Infantry Division
28th Infantry Division
87th Infantry Division
89th Infantry Division
90th Infantry Division
2nd Cavalry Group
6th Cavalry Group
7th T.D. Group
9th T.D. Group
738th Field Artillery
5 Separate task Forces

Four battle stars have been earned:

Battle of France
Battle of the Ardennes
Battle of the Rhineland
Battle of Germany

It will be noted that at one time (with the exception of one day) this organization spent 131 days "on the line" without rest or any relief.

We owe our appreciation also to Sgt. Raymond Young and T/5 Paul Portnowitz who have prepared this book in its present form.

We pause in our thoughts and remember too Capt. Ivan H. Curry, now Major and 1st Sgt. M. Q. Breland, now Master Sgt. who guided this company in the earlier stages of the campaign and got us started off on the right foot. Both have moved up to higher positions in Battalion Hq's. Their value to "A" Company can not be evaluated in words.

Also the assistance obtained from our men who have gone to other companies and their men who have come to us made our task all the easier.

AUG. 24 Today we left the breakwater at Portland Harbour aboard an LST equipped with barrage balloon. Our destination was Omaha Beach. In mid afternoon we sighted Cherbourg, France. We read in Stars and Stripes that it had been reopened to traffic only a day or two before. In early evening we sighted the first of the invasion beaches. Thousands of ships of all sizes were discharging all kinds of cargo along miles and miles of beach. The beach extended without a noticeable break from the twin lights of Barfleur port to the Roches (rocks) DE GRAND CAMP. Beyond these rocks the beach began again with American Beach "OMAHA" and continued on to the English landing beaches. We reached Omaha just after dark at low tide and anchored in about eighteen feet of water to await high tide. PFC. Beebe fell and hurt his knee while doing K.P. aboard the boat.

AUG. 25 At about 5 A.M. I was awakened by a double bump and lurch of the ship. We were beached at 0530. We arose, ate chow and found the bow of our LST high and dry on land. The bow door had been opened and by 0730 all our equipment had been driven ashore. Omaha Beach is located at St. Laurent sur Mer. We proceeded inland about a mile, thence about two miles north to an assembly area where we spent the day learning to our consternation that even the officers of other units mistook our new M-18's for German Tanks. We spent the evening hours painting more stars on them. Pvt. Girard spilled on the runway of the LST but was unhurt and the cycle was not damaged. In the early evening we saw our first anti-aircraft fire. The remainder of the night was very quiet.

AUG. 26 We got the right of way early this morning so we took off by some narrow roads which passed by or wound around the hedges and hills of Normandy. We passed through Formigny, Treviers and Cantgny. We passed about two kilometers south of Saint Jean de Daye on highway GC-8. At L'Hommetda we turned southward on GC 77 and passed about seven kilometers west of St. LO. It was in this area that we saw our first knocked out Tiger Tanks. Some Mark IV and ground mounted 88's were seen before. The southern sides of all the towns and villages had been badly wrecked by shell fire and in some places the streets were wide enough for only one vehicle at a time. Our route lead us through Canisy, Villebaudon, Percy and Villedieu all on N 799. We continued on through St. Hillaire to a point a few kilometers north west of Landivy where we bivouacked for the night. The maintenance crew worked nearly all night on Moores destroyer and it was finally pronounced OK. There was a small pond nearby this area and nearly all men not busy doing necessary maintenance took a bath.

AUG. 27 We left as soon after day break as possible and proceeded through Landivy, Ernee and Maygune eastward out of the hedgerows and hilly country of Normandy and Brittany into the more rolling land on the north shore of the Loire River. Our days travel totaled about 227 km. The countryside was quite interesting and not as beat up as that of Normandy. The battles for this area apparently raged only in the edges of towns or around the bridges. Wrecked German vehicles were strewn here and there along the highway, and also a few of ours, mainly jeeps and light armored cars. We ran out of maps early in the morning so we followed generally the course of the Loire River. We camped in the late evening in a forest near a large airport. The port itself was out of sight a short distance to the east. The French people, dressed in their Sunday best, lined the highway offering us wine and sugar plums and throwing all sorts of flowers at us. The march was made without a stop for gas. As a result, five M-18's ran

out of gas about 5 miles short of our destination near Chateau Dun.

Aug. 29 It dawned a nasty day with just enough dampness in the air to make one wish that it either would or it would not, finally it did. Pvt. Girard was hurt when an M.P. jeep skidded into his motor. Pfc. Beebe, though not completely recovered took over the bike riding. We passed through Montagris, Courtenay and Sens, all on N60. We camped in the early afternoon near the town of Theil sur Vanne. In the morning about nine o'clock after we had passed through Orleans sur Vanne we passed a monument to Joanne of Arc, to us from the states and used to monuments on a grand scale to famous people this roadside shrine seemed inadequate. The hillsides east of Theil sur Vanne are of lime and flint and defy the ambitious digger of fox-holes. The weather which at times was a drizzle made one wish for the sand of McCoy. Reconnaissance Co. had not secured the areas so Sgt. K. F. Brown and jeep crew were sent to see if any Krauts in force were in the neighborhood. Investigation of all the roads in "A" Company's area revealed only tricolors and a few well armed Marquis. The night was quiet and not too wet.

Aug. 30 We left Theil sur Vanne and proceeded on N60 through Villeneuve to Troyes. Just beyond Troyes we took up positions to protect the town from tank attack from the east and southeast. Our positions were in the vicinity of Luyeres and Luxembourg. This was, we understand, the battalion's secondary mission. The primary mission, to spearhead through the Foret Du Giraud Orient would have found the battalion very much handicapped in line of communication. Prisoners were taken by the battalion during the night at these positions. The radios were retuned and other minor difficulties removed. Maps arrived of nearly all the areas which we had passed through and detailed maps of the Brittany sections and the Loire Valley, also maps of the area immediately to our front, north and south. The weather cleared during the afternoon and remained so till midnight. After dark the battalion changed it's defensive plan which changed "A" Co.'s position and made necessary a guard for nearly every vehicle. Pvt. Girard was evacuated this morning. On today's drive T/5 Simpson skidded off the road but straightened out and regained his position without slowing down.

Aug. 31 Last night was a rough one. It began to mist and rain about 0200. The moon set and it became real black. The wind rose and rattled the tin cans fastened to a scarecrow in a potato patch. Visibility was reduced to zero. T/5 Pratt nearly changed the color of a glow worm by shooting out his light. This morning our mission changed and we moved north eastward through Arcis and Somphis to a hillside about two miles west of Blacy. The battalion was organized for support missions in that neighborhood. Late in the afternoon the C.O. and the Executive Officer together with the platoon S/Sgts. and Sgt. Brown with crews crossed the Marne River north of Vitry le Francois at Loisy. It was a ford crossing. They then proceeded south through Vitry then eastward on N4 to Perthes. At Perthes the group split into two parties to reconnoiter for gun positions to protect the just taken Vitry from an attack from the forest to the east. We understand that we were the first allied troops to enter St. Elilien, at which town smoke still issued from the chimneys of the Kraut barracks at the airport, and Hglitz le Huiltgur. We returned through Vitry just after dark and crossed the Marne over a bridge still in the process of repair by the engineers. Shortly after our return the first platoon was suddenly

alerted and sent to Vitry to protect the bridges. The light from the action at St. Dizier was visible from our hilltop. Sgt. Brown taken unaware by T/5 Pleva's approach in the darkness nearly stabbed him.

Sept. 1 Last night's action resulted in the capture of a trainload of gas. This morning at about 1030 the Battalion was alerted on the report of the Free French that 700 Krauts were dug in the Champs de tir de Mailly. Our first platoon was sent for. It was finally decided to send only "B" Co.. Prisoners were taken. The number of Germans finally determined on was 70 - 100. The remainder of the day was spent in personal maintenance and the evening in the consumption of a liquor ration, our first rationed liquor in France. This morning, the first platoon was treated by seeing the action taken by the Free French against a female collaborator.

Sept. 2 We were marched ordered this morning and proceeded in the rain through Blacy to Vitry de Francois. The orders were changed when we were in the center of town. We proceeded to the northeast to Vitry in Perthois where an assembly area was selected and the confusion removed. A bivouac area in the immediate vicinity was then arranged. The area "A" Co. was assigned bordered on the Saulx River.

Sept. 3 Today is Sunday. It appears that we are to remain all day since it is rumored church services are to be held. Policed equipment and exchanged haircuts with T/5 Young. In the afternoon I visited the Saulx River with a cake of soap, had a bath and a close shave with a fragmentation grenade which some G. I. from Hq. Co. tossed at a fish to blast him out of the water. So much of this went on that it sounded like a small war in our Bn. area. The night was clear and sometime that night we were introduced to "Bed Check Charlie" who came in despite ack-ack and gave the road leading past our area a bit of a strafing.

Sept. 4 Today I was assigned to write an account of the 602 "A" Company in France. We were given orders not to leave the area, not even for the purpose of trading. Late in the afternoon our crew left to find a 90mm ack-ack outfit to obtain some shell cases for our maps and to locate a water point. We did not find the ack-ack but did locate the water point. The regular truck left soon after our return. During our absence the duffel bags were collected and stored in Vitry Le Francois.

Sept. 5 The Exec. Officer went for the payroll losing by the Guard post five cans of spam which I picked up and left at the post. Bed-check Charlie made his appearance in the northeast at 0012. Found that the A.A. boys were still awake so he took off. The payroll arrived shortly after noon and the company was paid off in invasion Francs. S/Sgt. Haynes remarked on the shortage of playing cards. It seems that all decks had been left in the duffel bags. To the best of my knowledge bed-check Charlie failed to appear though Hq and Recon Co. fought a lively battle with the phantoms.

Sept. 6 Left our area on the Saulx at Vitry en Perthois and proceeded southward by dirt road across the Marne Au Rhine Canal to Marolles, thence eastward on the main road to St. Dizier. From there we went to Ligny in Barois. At this point we again encountered dirt roads which led us generally eastward through Ogy toward Chenne Vieres near which we camped. The noisy boys at once got busy and an order was finally put out which

provided that the men caught expending ammunition without enemy cause were to be arrested and brought before the Colonel for summary action. The woods became quiet and bed-check Charlie could be heard making his rounds several miles away. During the evening several deer were seen by the security sections.

Sept. 7 Spent the morning in bivouac. We were alerted in the early afternoon and proceeded east, southeast via Boviollles, Vau Couleurs, Colombey-les-Belles, Crepey, to Goviller. We camped in the forest at the base of the eastern slope of Mount D'Anon. In this area was the 42nd Calvary to which we became attached for a mission to the southeast. Deer hunting was the order of the day when we were march ordered. The 1st Sgt. and several S/Sgts. were in the hunting party. The march was fast. T/5 Marcelliano spilled the kitchen trailer. Sgt. Bragdon's destroyer crashed into a tree wrecking the final drive on the right side. We were advised by the 42nd Calvary to dig deep as they expected an air attack.

Sept. 8 Proceeded southward via Souverain Court, Laloeue, Etagnal, and Chachille to the vicinity of Sion (Basilica). Our mission was accomplished by the Airforce. We then proceeded north passing through Forcelles-St.-Gorgon, Vezelise, Houdreville to Houdelmont where we joined up with the 2nd Calvary squadron. We then went east through Tantonville and Haroue where we passed an old castle complete with moat. Then north to Ormes and Bonney. The executive section returned to Govillour. The remainder spent the night at the northeast end of the Foret D'Ormes. The C. O. and his group returned to Goviller at about midnight. Sion was one of the best natural C.P.'s our captain has ever seen. Besides the Basilica at which nearly continuous services were held there was a souvenir shop a hotel and a bar at which beer could be bought.

Sept. 9 The unit we are at present attached to took a prisoner in an engagement with a German patrol in Benny this morning. We had no mission we could fulfill so at 11:20 we left that area. The platoons were assigned separate missions and were strung out from Ormes, Haroue to Sion. Our C.P. was still in the Foret Dominale De Goviller. Sgt. Brown's jeep returned there with a delay in route at the liquor warehouse at Tantonville we acquired on the credit of the 93 Inf. 3 cases of liquor. Hq platoon had a fairly fine evening. Our platoons took up defensive positions to protect the southeast flank from Haroue to Sion.

Sept. 10 Our crew (Sgt. K. Brown, T/5 Pratt and Pfc. Gale) was aroused at the ungodly hour of 0255 with instructions to proceed to the vicinity of Tantonville and open a relay station. Our orders were to report every hour. We did that but got no response from the C.P. at 0600, 0700 and 0800 so we returned to the C.P. and found only a rabbit awake in the M-20- and such are the effects! During the day the platoons moved and consolidated themselves generally in the Sion area. The C.P. remained in the Forte Dominale De Goviller. Part of the 2nd and third platoons moved into the Bois Du Hans which is just north of Sion. Lt. Considines platoon trapped two Krauts in a church steeple at Haroue where they had been drinking beer.

Sept. 11 This morning the C.P. moved to the Bois Du Hans. We learned that the third platoon had taken a prisoner (our first). He was a superman of Hamburg who threw himself on McWhorters mercy at 0300 A.M. Sgt. Womack

searched him. We spent the remainder of the morning delivering him to intelligence and in the afternoon all the company in the Bois Du Hans moved out through Praye and St. Firmin to the small wooded area west of St. Firmin. We understand that this is an informal rest period. Portions of the first and third platoons remained in their over-watching positions. The night was uneventful. During the day several trips were made by various platoons to Tantonville for additional refreshments. The Kraut prisoner said that he had not eaten anything except carrots since he had fled Troyes fourteen days before. He was very thin and his clothes were ragged. His shoes were broken at the sides. His eyes were bloodshot.

Sept. 12 The day began as planned with a police up of the area. The 1st Sgt. found flies near the latrine in the afternoon so he required that two more be dug. We had just finished these about 1700 when we were march ordered. The column was delayed by shell fire between Xirocourt and Haroue. At Haroue the T.D.'s lost contact with the lead vehicles which caused a further delay. It was black dark when we passed through Laneuville DeVant Bayon and nearly midnight when we arrived at the Moselle. At the Moselle the engineers said "wait five minutes we will have the bridge finished" we waited. Our unit was the first to use the pontoon bridge over the Moselle at Bayon. After reconnoitering a mile to the south we returned about half way and parked bumper to bumper beneath a row of trees just to the west of the road. PFC. Beebe remained south of Haroue for the remainder of the night. Our mission was to reinforce the bridgehead at Bayon for the expected counter attack. The infantry had been driven back three times during the afternoon. Not a sound disturbed our crossing. All was stealthily silent and we waited expecting. After we were across the rest of the night was a nightmare of noise and blinding flashes.

Sept. 13 At daybreak the platoons were posted to protect the bridge. The night had been anything but pleasant. The noise from the shelling prevented sound sleep. We moved the C.P. about one fourth mile south achieving some dispersion. As the noise of the battle grew fainter some of us had hopes of spending a quiet night. It was warm in the afternoon and several members of the company went down to the river for a bath. We were alerted in the late afternoon. Hq and the third platoon proceeded to Lamath. The mission to protect the bridges and road junction at Lamath and Xermanenil. These platoons had an uneventful but wet night. The first and second platoons went to Chamois where they were attached to the 8th Tank Battalion (4th Armored Division). The 2nd platoon outposted Blainville and Damiliveres. The towns were still burning. There was considerable sniper action and the roadside was jammed with long lines of German vehicles and material. Long lines of German prisoners stood hands raised by the roadside. They were kids of 15 to old men of 60. "Enemy" patrols closed in on Sgt. Connor's vehicle. He had the air for about an hour. He sounded very unhappy. The 1st platoon forded the Meurthe River in about four and one half feet of water. The T.D.'s looked like ducks. T/5 Simpson tried to drive fast and water flooded into the destroyer. The wheeled vehicles crossed on a pontoon bridge. Just beyond the river was a canal through which the majority of the wheeled vehicles had to be towed. After all had got across it was about 2100 and very dark and rainy. Led by the C.O. on foot the 1st platoon with the C.O.'s M-20 proceeded about half way to Dombasle. The movement was very slow and the road was full of shell holes. We proceeded at about two miles per hour. We traveled for about a mile

when the column stopped. The crew of the C.O.'s vehicle inquiring as to the course and to the cause of the stop where informed by a recon jeep ahead that they had not seen the C.O. for about one half hour. At about that time our artillery registered on a railroad center to our left with one round of 155mm or 240mm. Not knowing whether or not we were on the right road and with more salvos falling about us the 1st Sgt. turned the column around. The C.O. finally located us so we turned again and proceeded about 800 yards to an area in the open. The woods all about us were being heavily shelled by our own artillery. The shelling continued all night. What few men that did slip in fox-holes slept with full pack on.

Sept. 15 Hq and the third set out to join the rest of the Co. at Blainville, we received a message requiring us to send the third platoon security back to Lamath to guard the remains of the bridge. The rest of us went via Mont across the Meurthe River and through the Foret De Vitrimont to a point just east of Hudiviller. The first and second platoons had meanwhile moved north toward Crevic. The third platoon less its security joined them there. We were able to bring the chow up just before dark. It was a noisy night. The Exec's M-20 broke a valve just prior to arriving at our destination.

Resistance in force was encountered at Crevic and all along the canal. The day was spent firing into German positions.

Sept. 16 The platoons crossed the Sanon River and the Marne Au Rhine Canal. We brought the chow up to Haraucourt but the battle for Gellencourt and Drouville was too hot up here. The captain radioed us "it's too hot up here, stay where you are". Just about then the shells began to zip into that town. When the situation cooled we returned to the canal where we were met by the captain's M-20 and led to a wooded area where we were able to transfer the chow to the security vehicles. We then returned to the C.P. where a quiet night was spent. The exec's M-20 is still deadlined.

Sept. 17 Sgt. Brown's jeep together with the supply truck left at noon to bring the chow, gasoline, spare parts and other items up. We spent most of the afternoon in Cour-Besseaux but finally got word to proceed northward through Riverville and Erberviller to Mazurulles. We met the Co. there but dark before we arrived at Erberviller so we spent the night with the gun platoons.

Sept. 18 Began the day by delivering our supplies. We found that we had brought insufficient gasoline, so Sgt. Brown was sent to borrow some from the 8th Tank Battalion. He was successful. The remainder of the day was spent putting our crippled rear echelon up to Erberviller. The M-20 which had broke a valve at Hudiviller was repaired. Connor's destroyer could not be fixed by our mechanics due to a shortage of parts and was left with the battalion. S/Sgt. Haynes M-18 which developed a gas tank leak this morning was also sent to Battalion. We heard the C.O. commend Cpl. Otis for good shooting over the radio. Sgt. Brown's jeep was sent to Sorneville at which point he was able to get communication with the forward elements. Our instructions were to be ready to move with the company at daylight.

Sept. 19 We were shelled out of our Happy Home last night. Shells

straddled the spot on which our creeping Fortress sat and literally perforated the pup tent in which Pfc. Portera and other mechanics slept. The M-32 acted up for the first time and was driven from the area by Sgt. Marsh on the "Primer". Pvt. Robotnick put his shoes on the wrong feet and did not discover his error till daylight. We moved by forced march back through Maxie and Dunville to Vitrimont and became immediately engaged with some tanks which had infiltrated into Foret De Vitrimont during the enemy counter attack on Luneville. We were again shelled and this time lost our beans when a shell landed close to the kitchen trailer. The enemy tanks withdrew. Our C.P. set in a valley to the south of the main Luneville-Nancy Road about one mile west of Vitrimont.

Sept. 20 Our destroyers moved into Luneville. There was much shell fire and sniper activity. Our C.P. moved from its isolated location on N-4 to the edge of the Foret De Vitrimont. We heard our first Burp Guns which fired all night in the vicinity of Luneville.

Sept. 21 Luneville was definitely secured and our unit went northeast about noon to take part in the Great Tank Battle about Burres and Reichicourt. Our C.P. was established in the Forest south of Arracourt and north to protect the southern flank along the Marne Au Rhine Canal. The Germans were secure in the Forest De Paroy. Sgt. McCarthy's destroyer was slightly damaged by a round falling from a rack in the destroyer. Prompt action by Sgt. McCarthy prevented further explosions within the turret, extinguished the fire and saved the destroyer from complete destruction. Cpl. Luttrell and Pfc. Peck were injured by the blast.

Sept. 22 The platoons further extended their positions until they extended from Bethelmont to Coincourt. On our evening ride with the rations T/5 Pratt had the spare tire on which he was sitting punctured by a shot. Shortly after that the jeep nearly buried itself in a shell crater in the middle of the road. A mile further down the road another shot rang out. Our trip was finally completed by our return through the burning town of Reichicourt Le Petit.

Sept. 23 A quiet day was spent sweating out the Bosche. The platoons moved about a little but their positions remained nearly the same. The ration trip proved to be a milk run.

Sept. 24 The platoon positions are nearly the same as yesterday and Sgt. Brown's jeep made the morning trip leading the gasoline truck. Lt. Considines' platoon took two prisoners early this morning. The gun platoons have been collecting souvenirs in the form of abandoned equipment. The evening ration trip was made without incident.

Sept. 25 It has rained every day since we arrived at this C.P.. This afternoon the C.O. got his M-20 too close to some Kraut H.E. shells while directing the action in the second platoon's area. The M-20 was put out of action. Shrapnel holes in the right hand fenders, both front tires and in the operating mechanism of the clutch. The C.O. transferred to Sgt. Brown's jeep and continued the direction from there.

Sept. 26 Lt. (Bert) Oliver went out to the positions today. It rained and it appeared that the day would end without activity for us. About 1700 Hank's platoon suddenly found itself out flanked. S/Sgt. Wilson on the

C.O.'s radioed orders and took charge of the situation and extricated all the heavy equipment and all except six of the personnel. The ton and one-half truck was lost and the jeep abandoned. At about 1930 Hank and Douthit walked into camp. Lt. (Hank) Altergott and his driver had been surprised while reconnoitering a position on foot and had been unable to return to it because of machine gun fire. Both men crawled about half a mile through the mud before getting to this area. The four men still unaccounted for are Sgt. Williams of the security section, T/5 Gummienny, M-18 driver, Pfc. Bornemann, driver of the 1½ ton and Pvt. Robotnick (Rubberdick), security rifleman. We spent an uneasy but hopeful night.

Sept. 27 This morning the jeep was reported returned by a Frenchman. Sgt. Williams returned in good health reporting to the first platoon and from there he and the jeep returned in the afternoon to Hank's unit. Robotnick returned in the afternoon with fifteen prisoners. One man from R'cn and one man from the Calvary (both unarmed) returned with him. We officially escaped from the jurisdiction of Old Baldy (Col. Withers). We are again attached to the 2nd Calvary Squadron. The remaining two men are still missing. We had word the truck was stripped. The C.O.'s M-20 returned to action late in the afternoon.

Sept. 28 Our sleep was disturbed by a German patrol operating in our vicinity. At 0800 our area was shelled so suddenly and much we moved out. Our new C.P. was located in the woods just north of Serres. It was a rather quiet area. The nearest shells fell about 500 yards away.

Sept. 29 Hanks platoon operating in the vicinity of Bathelmont. His unit got three tanks (tigers) definitely with a fourth disputed with the air corps. At the C.P. the day was quiet till late in the afternoon when ammunition and supplies arrived. The night was very quiet.

Sept. 30 This afternoon, a F.A. Battalion moved into a field near us. The 1st Sgt. suggested that the C.P. be moved. We moved to a meadow about 800 yards southwest of Serres.

Oct. 1 Sunday. The country now shows signs of much hard battle and the counter attacking forces were definitely stopped and the push to the east resumed. It is slow since we are supposed to be holding in this sector now.

Oct. 2 We could not hear small arms fire from our C.P.. The big guns kept a steady roar during the night. It is reported that the first platoon sighted tanks but were ordered not to fire since they were not definitely in our sector though they were within range. When Lt. Whitman left and the tanks had approached closer S/Sgt. Orsak fired and knocked out one tank.

Oct. 3 The Third platoon has advanced beyond Bathelmont and has the plain about Burres under observation. The First platoon moved to Baugemont. The Third platoon returned to our area for a rest in reserve and was sent back to their positions within an hour.

Oct. 4 We were supposed to have gone to rest camp today, but the Second platoon relieved the Third. The Third reverted to reserve.

Oct. 5 The areas remained stable and quiet. Today was payday and card

games helped distribute the wealth.

Oct. 6 Another quiet day. Pay was collected for transmission home. The night was very noisy from the roar of big guns.

Oct. 7 A well with a steel water trough was put to use to provide hot water. The Third platoon relieved the first which then reverted to reserve.

Oct. 8 The rumors today were that after several false alarms we were actually to go to rest camp. The C.O. said he had heard of such an order but that it did not say when or who was to relieve us. The French were out in their Sunday clothes today. The front has become stationary in this sector with the artillery dueling all night.

Oct. 9 We did move today. To a rest camp in the woods about two kilometers south of Laneuvelotte. This required a move from our area through Hoeville, Remerville, Erbeviller, Champenaux and Laneuvelotte. We left behind the Parroy Arracourt area and the towns of Arracourt, Reichicourt, Burres, Valhey, Bathelmont and Baugemont. We would all have liked to have been able to search Burres before we left. We detached ourselves from the 2nd Calvary squadron with whom we had worked since "Old Baldy" was shifted from executive command of the 9th T.D. Gp.

Oct. 10 We find out today that this rest camp is Battalion Reserve and we are subject to call at a moments notice. It rained hard all day today.

Oct. 11 This nearly became an uneventful day filled full of rain and maintenance. This evening we heard the first German plane strafing since the evening at Vitry En Perthois.

Oct. 12 Today was the same as yesterday. This afternoon we were given an opportunity to go to Nancy to a movie. Some of the fellows would have liked to go but balked at the idea of being marched to and from the movies. The out skirts of Nancy is badly wrecked but the center of the city was in very good condition.

Oct. 13 Today was very quiet. More maintenance was done. Heard today that in the action at Reichcourt Le Petit that Sgt. Haynes leaped on all fours into a Kraut slit trench which they had been using as a straddle trench. It seems that the Krauts don't cover their feces.

Oct. 14 Today was very quiet till late in the afternoon. About half the company were loaded for the movies when the platoons got march order. The word was that the Krauts were expected to counter attack from north west of Chateau Salins. The platoons positions were near Mazrubs and Sorneville. Hq. platoon made ready to move but did not.

Oct. 15 No action developed and it was decided to sweat them out another day.

Oct. 16 Today the platoons were attached to A., B. and C. Batteries of the 738 F.A. Battalion as supporting artillery for 155mm and 8 inch howitzers. The 738th is Twelfth Corps Artillery. Base point

registrations were fired.

Oct. 17 T/5 Pratt spent the day in Hindleg fire direction center. The base point for our platoons was a railroad bridge over a canal northwest of Chateau Salins. In the late afternoon our guns plus A. and C. battery fired a time on target for the press photographers.

Oct. 18 The platoons are being kept reasonably busy with harassing and intradiction fire. Our guns seem to be ideally suited for this purpose. Rations for the gun platoons are supplied and cooked by the 738th.

Oct. 19 We signed the payroll today. From our C.P. area we heard trains passing on the Nancy-Luneville track. There was no new news from the platoons. The trains we saw today were the first trains we had heard since we left England. We received four replacements.

Oct. 20 Sgt. Brown's section spent the day sorting maps. The platoon situation is the same.

Oct. 21 Still nothing new. The C.P. boys including us have all started or finished building wind proof and rain proof shelters. A supply of tin has been located at Nancy airport.

Oct. 22 Today was Sunday and as usual we were informed that there would be church services about ten minutes after the services had started. Building continued.

Oct. 23 We are still building. The weather is still very bad. A few new tarps arrived today.

Oct. 24 We finished our new house and moved in. Most of the others are finished also. The C.O.'s crew have begun on living quarters. Colds are prevalent in the company with several men having evacuated to the hospital.

Oct. 25 More men are sick. Sgt. Shelton and Sgt. Henschen are two of the boys in the hospital.

Oct. 26 Rumors are afloat today that we are to move, and just after we had finished our new homes. Sgt. Marsh has acquired a German prime mover (not running) which he plans to repair.

Oct. 27 The 602 T.D.Bn. is now attached to the 26th Infantry Div. We moved back near Arracourt. The platoons are about one km southwest of the town of Hartauville. Hq platoon is about 600 yards south of them. We are in reserve in active support of C. Co.. C. Co. is attached to the 101st F. A. Battalion

Oct. 28 We organized our first F. D. C. in E. T. O.. On our first concentration No. 19 (101 F. A.) we hit an ammunition dump in Moyenvic. Base point registrations were fired while the center was being organized. Our F. D. C. was located in a dugout which was about four feet high. Our lights were improvised from jeep head lamps.

Oct. 29 Sunday. We are still in reserve for C Co.. We had church services today which were announced in time. The day was quiet and sunny.

Oct. 30 We were detached from the 101 F.A. today. We are at the moment still in firing position in Battalion reserve. The weather is bad again. We were alerted for a tank attack at 2230, to be ready to move at 0500.

Oct. 31 Nothing developed even though the moon was real brilliant. The alert was called off. The day was fair and we all expected the alert to be reinforced at dark. We had a very heavy frost.

Nov. 1 The night was quiet. The day notable since T/4 Beaudoin laid 600 yards of wire which resulted in getting Brown's jeep stuck in the mud. The M-32 was sent for, laying was finished by hand.

Nov. 2 The 2½ ton was sent after the stuck jeep. This operation was successful. The M-32 required another M-32 and two M-18's to free it from the mud. It rained hard this afternoon.

Nov. 3 The Reconnaissance section on its return from a day in Nancy heard a rumor that the second platoon had expended some ammunition. No one had any details, so we assumed it was spent in educating the 26th division.

Nov. 4 Today was very quiet but the rumor presents the fact that big doings are afoot. There is a colored tank battalion in the neighborhood.

Nov. 5 It seems two guns of the second platoon fired into Besange la Petite two days ago and did some good.

Nov. 6 Today was quiet. T/4 Marsh took his newly salvaged Kraut mobile for a spin. It is a success.

Nov. 7 Today, election day, we spent sweating out rumors of a big push. The company was generally in the positions they had first assumed when they moved into the area. The platoons were near the intersection of the Athienville, Arracourt, Besange La Brande road intersection. Hq. platoon was in a draw to the south,

Nov. 8 Generally speaking last night was much the same as other nights in this area. The artillery engaged in its usual harassing fire until about 0430. For the next two hours there was a continual roar and thereafter throughout the day nearly continued support fire. The first platoon changed its position today moving to the vicinity of Vahley. We were alerted for march order in the afternoon. Since S/Sgt. Walker's and Sgt. Brown's jeeps were both at battalion for repairs all the equipment which belonged on them and some that belonged on the maintenance trucks were loaded aboard Marshes newly renovated German prime mover. Just before dark the move was canceled. Instructions were that first call would be at 0430 the following morning. There was much less noise. We heard that the president had been reelected.

Nov. 9 Arose at 0430 and were ready to leave the area on a minutes notice an hour later, except that we could not get the Kraut car to start. It's daddy, T/4 Marsh finally came over and it started right up. We traveled through Athienville toward Valhey to the road junction then through Arracourt where we saw a G. I. truck packed full of German prisoners. We took the Moyenvic Road. Near Moyenvic we acquired a ton and

a half trailer which had been afire and abandoned. Bert's M-20 fell out of the column at this point and returned to battalion due to motor trouble. Lt. Oliver then changed his C. P. to the M-32. The third platoon which was following some tanks immediately behind us was caught in a shelling just after we had passed through Moyenvic. T/5 Smith M-18 driver was slightly injured in the nose by a shell fragment. Pvt. Robotnick was certain that he had won a purple heart when another fragment lodged in his combat jacket. When we drew abreast Salival the infantry had just finished driving the Jerries out of that walled hamlet and from the C. O.'s position in the column, they could be seen fleeing over the next ridge. The first and third platoons took up positions on a hill to the west of the road about one and one half km's southwest of Morville Les Vic (Morheim). In mid afternoon the third platoon reconnoitered and assumed positions on a high ridge next to the forest east of Morville. Meanwhile the second platoon working with another column had crossed the canal and river at Vic Sur Seille.

We camped for the night on the ridge first occupied by the platoons. During the day we had sunshine, rain, sleet, snow, hail and wind, short intervals of each and none in succession. During the early part of the night enough snow fell to cover the ground but by morning it had disappeared. Our colonel was wounded in Morville today.

Nov. 10 Our combat force spent the day in over watching positions as the 37th Tank Battalion and other units of the 4th Armored Division passed through our positions and drove through the forest in the direction of Obreck. Our attention was diverted in the afternoon by the terrific shelling administered to a pocket of Krauts holding out on a hilltop and woods just east of St. Chappelle. At about dusk we were march ordered and moved to new positions about one km. west of Morville where we spent the night. Neither the first or third platoons saw any action today.

The second platoon was engaged in the Chateau Salins area. On this day two prisoners were taken, 3 machine guns were destroyed and eight Krauts were killed in a strong point in Chateau Salins.

Nov. 11 During the night several units of field artillery moved up around our position. By mid morning a grasshopper flying field had been opened not more than one hundred yards away. T/5 Pleva put chains on the half track. Spent the day trying to figure on what was to happen next. The first and third platoons saw no action. We were march ordered at dusk and moved back past our positions of the day before to a new bivouac area on a hillside above the flooded Seille River at a point about half way between Moyenvic and Vic Sur Seille. The night was very quiet. The second platoon is still with the other column.

Nov. 12 The third platoon moved out on a mission.

S/Sgt. Walker's jeep returned to action today just after we finished putting side boards on the Kraut car.

The third platoon's mission was support for infantry. Both light and heavy tanks had bogged down in the mud at the edge of the woods near Hampont so they were not able to get to shooting positions. They were ordered at dark to make camp south of Obreck. It was a pitch black and rainy night. Sgt. Wilson, while securing this area trod upon some dead Germans who lay so thick there about, that it was impossible to move many yards in any direction with out coming across one or more.

It snowed today. At Wisse today the second platoon took three

prisoners.

Nov. 13 The first platoon was alerted to move this morning. At about 1000 they were joined by the third platoon which had returned from the vicinity of Hampont. Lt. Oliver was sent for. Shortly after noon they moved about three hundred yards closer to Vic Sur Seille. The C. P. moved behind them about 100 yards outside the town limits. The F. D. C. was set up in a granary. The base point was set up in St. Midard and was a church steeple about 8000 yards away and registrations began on it at about 1530. Our communications were by radio to Salival by voice around a corner and upstairs thence by phone to the O. P.. We are again attached to the 101st. F. A.. S/Sgt. Wilburn had charge of the voice relay at Salival.

Nov. 14 Last night was very quiet. The morning spent in personal and light arms maintenance. In the afternoon the C. O. arranged in Vic Sur Seille for two rooms which he had fixed with heat and men from Hq. platoon (Gale in charge) kept the fires going and hot water ready so that the men could come there and wash their feet and dry their blankets and clothes. The shooting in the morning was only a single round from back at the platoon area, one round each from each platoon on the base point. About mid-afternoon on St. Medard we had zone fire. St. Medard was asked for and delivered. The first and third platoons fired sixty-eight rounds into the town in five minutes. The results were unobserved since the main action at that time was directed at Haraucourt sur Seille.

The phone line to Salival was completed about five P.M. today. A plentiful supply of beef was obtained.

Nov. 15 We at the F. D. C., were aroused from a sound sleep at about 0330 this morning by our phone ringing. The message "there will be no firing between 0230 and 0300". By order of Iesberg C. G.. This morning the platoons were alerted to move, but the movement was canceled about one hour before we were to move out. It was definitely ascertained that we were still in support of infantry, temporarily attached to the 101st. F. A. and our mission now was to be in the vicinity of Vic Sur Seille and Moyenvic in case the Krauts should decide to push down the Seille River valley.

Nov. 16 The entire day passed without incident. The beef ran out and it was suggested among some of the men that another supply be obtained. The rooms in Vic Sur Seille did a good business and nearly all the men got cleaned up.

In the meantime the second platoon has been attached to the 104th Infantry, the 328th Infantry and the Division C. P..

Nov. 17 This morning passed very quietly. Shortly afternoon the first platoon was suddenly alerted and sent to the vicinity of Juvricourt to join the second Calvary Squadron.

The second platoon is in the vicinity of Hampont. Its mission at present being to protect the 26th Division C. P..

Late in the afternoon the third platoon was alerted and sent to Obreck. Hq. platoon was told to be ready to move up the following day. As a result of these moves the first platoon is 16000 yards as the crow flies from the third platoon. Both the first and third are about 11000 yards from Hq. platoon.

The supply of beef was replenished this morning.

Lt. B. J. Oliver became acting commanding Officer during the absence of Capt. I. M. Curry.

Sgt. Haynes section of the 2nd platoon is with the 26th Cal. Recon. Unit.

Nov. 18 Hq. platoon moved to Obreck today via Vic Sur Seille, Morville Les Vic, Hampont and Obreck. The C. P. was established in a building diagonally across the square from the church. The remainder of the day was spent in an attempt to make the place livable.

Today the first platoon moved to the vicinity of Litzingen where action was encountered. Forty one rounds were expended knocking out two O. P.'s and an antitank gun. Three prisoners were taken by S/Sgt. Orsak. Two Checks and a Pole. The Sgt. had a conversation with them.

Nov. 19 Hq.'s platoon spent the day re-adjusting themselves in the building. The maintenance section located some working quarters and general maintenance was done. In the evening Lt. Oliver conducted an informal information session after which S/Sgt. Wilburn and T/4 Beaudoin were given company citations concerning that 600 yards of wire at Athienville.

The 1st platoon moved from Lizey to Bathelemont Chateau which is about one km. south of St. Midard.

Lt. Considines section of the 2nd platoon moved from Hampont to Wuisse with the 26th Divisions C. P.. Sgt. Haynes section which was at Conthill moved to Rodabbe. The third platoon is in position northeast of Obreck.

Nov. 20 Today passed much the same as yesterday. Except that it began to rain again after three days of reasonably good weather. The first platoon moved through Mulcey to Dieuze. There was some sniper action in the town. The positions of the 2nd platoon plus the 3rd platoon remained practically unchanged.

Nov. 21 This afternoon Young and Brown visited the first platoon at the Dieuze Railroad station. The third platoon was alerted for immediate movement to Marimont and moved out shortly afterward. Sgt. Haynes section of the 2nd platoon moved to positions just north of Neufvillage. It was generally understood that Lt. Considines section would move on the day following to Bassing.

This evening Lt. Considine was seriously injured and Sgt. Brown less seriously when the jeep in which Sgt. Brown was driving Lt. Considine to Wiesse collided with a three-quarter ton truck. It is believed Lt. Considine suffered a broken hip and other cuts and bruises. Sgt. Brown suffered a bruised left leg and a seriously bruised left arm. His arm was done up in a splint. The jeep was demolished.

Nov. 22 We moved this morning from Obreck to Marimont via Wiesse, Guebling, Bourgalstroff, Beidersdorf to Marimont. This town was badly shot up and some difficulty was encountered finding dry or roofed rooms for the nights shelter. For a few minutes we thought we might have to pitch or camp near the town. This afternoon T/5 Sherdel, Young and Pratt went in search of the first platoon in Dieuze. They were finally located at Bellevue farm, about five kms. east of Dieuze. They were detached from the F. Troop 2nd Cav. Squadron about 3 P.M.. They decided to spend the night there and to rejoin the Co. at Marimont the next morning. Sgt. Deering in charge of Lt. Considines section remained in Wiesse. Sgt. Haynes section

of the 2nd platoon is still at Neufvillage. The third platoon is division reserve at Marimont.

Nov. 23 The first platoon arrived at Marimont this morning. Sgt. Deering's section of the 2nd moved to a hill just north of Bassing. Sgt. Haynes section of the second is still at Neufvillage. The third is at Marimont. Sgt. Brown's jeep was stripped today and the remains left by the roadside. Sgt. Brown's leg has improved and he is now able to get around unassisted on it. His arm still gives him some pain. We had Turkey this evening without the fixings.

Nov. 24 Sgt. Haynes section began a movement about noon which was to bring him through Altdorf and to a position south of Lening.

Nov. 25 This morning we were alerted and so began the day of the wild goose chase. We moved out (HQ., 1st and 3rd) at about 1000 from Marimont back through Dedesstropp, Burgaltdorf, Guebling, the forest of Bride and Knocking, turned right to Linderchen, Conthill, Zarbeling, and finally to Lidrezing. At this town which was completely deserted, we collected stoves and mattresses and prepared to stay awhile. About an hour later we were re-alerted. The first and third platoons moved out almost immediately. HQ. platoon followed within an hour. From Liederzingen we passed through Guebling, Burgaltdorf, Beidersdorf and Bassing. The 1st and 3rd went from Bassingen to Lehr and Inswiller. HQ. proceeded from Bassing, Dommse, Cutting, Lestdorf, Gunzling, Lohr and Inswiller. Hq. bivouacked in Inswiller. The 1st and third took up positions.

Sgt. Deering's section of the 2nd platoon is in and around Bassing. Sgt. Haynes section moved back through Neufvillage thence north eastward to Remning where they took positions to the east of the town. About two hours later they moved to Inswinger.

Nov. 26 HQ. spent the day shifting quarters and doing maintenance. Sgt. Deering's section moved to Albestroff today. Sgt. Haynes section spent the day sweating out tanks, reported in the next town to the east.

Nov. 27 HQ. platoon spent the day waiting to move. We were officially detached from the 26th Div. at 1600 today. Sgt. Haynes section rejoined Sgt. Deering's section at Ablestroff. HQ. was rejoined by the first and the third and retraced the long route to Liederzingen via Lohr, Gunzeing, Lostdorf, Donnon, Lunzeingheim, Guebling to Leidersingen. We arrived about dark.

Nov. 28 The second platoon rejoined us early this morning. At about 1000 the entire company moved northeastward to Virming. Upon arriving we were alerted almost immediately so only minor and necessary maintenance was done.

Nov. 29 This day was much the same as yesterday. More maintenance was done especially as our alert was called off in the afternoon. Several of the fellows changed their locations. The mechanics were very busy.

Nov. 30 Today was payday, we signed the payroll and were paid at the same time. This morning it was announced that there were hot showers a short distance away. Some of the fellows went down but returned as the line was exceedingly long. We were alerted again and again nothing came of

it. Rumor from the second bowl over says that we are to be attached to the 26th Division again.

Dec. 1 We are attached to the 26th Div.. We moved with battalion via Francaltroff, Lening, Abestroff, Torchville and Gienslingen to Lohr. At Lohr we halted while a new destination was decided upon. We were to go to Burbach by way of Inswiller and Fentrang. At Fentrang the column halted while inquiry was made as to the best route to our destination. During this halt General Paul 26th C. G. inquired of S/Sgt. Orsak the reason for the delay. When told he instructed S/Sgt. Orsak on the route and ordered him to take the column to its destination. HQ. platoon set up in a field about 300 yards west of Burbach.

The first platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion and moved to a front line position S. E. of Sarre Union.

The second platoon was in reserve and bivouacked near the headquarters platoon area. The third platoon was attached to the 3rd Battalion and moved to a front line position south of Sarre Union.

Sgt. Orsak left Finstinger and proceeded up the west bank of the Sarre River through Nerdusting. We crossed the Sarre at Wolfkirchen thence to the southern limit of Pisdorf where we turned southeastward to Burbach.

Dec. 2 HQ. platoon spent the day doing maintenance. The mechanics were especially busy. The 2nd platoon was attached to the 104th Infantry and moved to a position south of Sarre Werden. Third platoon moved to a firing position south of Sarre Union and supported the 3rd Battalion with direct fire into Sarre Union about 100 rounds were expended. Effects are as yet unknown.

The first platoon moved northward to a point overlooking Sarre Union from the southeast.

Dec. 3 Today was rough, the third platoon moved into Sarre Union in support of the 104th. The second in support of the 104th also moved into Sarre Union. Sgt. Grahams destroyer was destroyed by a Tiger tank. No men were injured. The first platoon made some gains in this sector.

The second platoon security had one tire ruined by shrapnel in Sarre Union. The maintenance section said it was impossible to repair it but they repaired it as no replacements were possible. Part of Sarre Union was retaken by a Kraut counter attack.

Dec. 4 This morning Bert went out to the gun positions to determine why Sgt. Graham's destroyer met misfortune and to check on other needs of all the platoons. In the afternoon the 3rd platoon was detached from the 3rd battalion which had its C. P. located in Rindorf. The second platoon remained in Sarre Union, its security section in a bank. The 1st platoon is still in the area southeast of Sarre Union.

Dec. 5 This morning all the gun platoons began a rapid advance to the north. The first platoon moved from east of Sarre Union to the vicinity of Ormingen. Enroute T/5 Phillips, M-18 driver was killed when his destroyer hit a mine on the road shoulder. It is not determined how badly the other men in the crew were injured. The second platoon in direct support moved from Sarre Union to the vicinity of Wollerdingen. The third platoon moved to the same general area.

Dec. 6 This morning we reverted to active reserve of the 26th Division.

The first and third platoons remained in their positions and Sgt. Haynes moved his platoon C.P. to Sarre Werden where each man had a feather bed on which to sleep.

Dec. 7 This morning the 1st and 3rd platoons were attached to the 328 Infantry. HQ. and the second platoon moved through Sarre Werden and Sarre Union to Oermingen. HQ. platoon took the buildings left vacant by the third platoon. The first platoon and the third platoons were attached to the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 328th who were located in the vicinity of Kalhausen. Lt. Oliver and the C. P. half track and T/5 Pratt and Pfc. Gale moved to Kalhausen. The remainder of the company except the medics who were still at Burbach remained at Oermingen. It was a rather rough evening at Kalhausen. The house in which Bert and T/4 Garcia, T/4 Johnson and Pfc. Murray were housed was hit by shell fire.

Dec. 8 This morning Sgt. Moore's destroyer was knocked out by a mine in a ford just northeast of Kalhausen. Cpl. Downey was seriously injured in the leg. Sgt. Moore suffered a broken arm and lesser injuries. Anti-aircraft Smith was slightly injured as was Cpl. A. L. Alexander on S/Sgt. Brown's destroyer who was cut by flying steel. All four were evacuated but A. A. Smith and A. L. Alexander asked us not to put in for replacements as they would soon be back.

Late in the afternoon the 328th moved its C. P. to Kalhausen. T/5 Pratt and Pfc. Gail went along to act as liaison. The medics moved up to Oermingen.

Dec. 9 S/Sgt. Haynes unit had one of his sections assigned to guard the Division C. P. at Orming. S/Sgt. Wilson's section of HQ. platoon and the remainder of Sgt. Haynes plat. moved to Walhausen. Lt. Oliver's section moved to Kalhausen Station. The first and third platoons are quite busy in the vicinity of Wittring and Achen. Most of the fire is directed at pillboxes.

Dec. 10 The 328th C. P. moved this morning to Wieswiller. The half track followed taking the long loop through Achen thence north to Wiesviller. The 1st and 3rd Plat. were engaged in a tank battle in the vicinity of Woelfling. The 1st platoon had moved southeast of Weisviller.

Dec. 12 The platoon situation is generally the same as yesterday. We understand the 1st platoon knocked out two German tanks today. The Regimental C. P. (328) is crowded with officers of the 87th Division which is to relieve the 26th Division. Patrols from I Co. of this Division (26th) crossed into Germany last night in the Obergailback woods but withdrew before day break. One section of Sgt. Haynes platoon is still with the Division C. P.. Hill 360 was taken and also a portion of the Obergailback Woods in Germany.

Dec. 13 The 87th today relieved the 26th. The 1st and 3rd platoons are now supporting the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 347th Regiment. There was little activity as positions were consolidated. There was some tank activity. Lt. McProud joined the company as Executive Officer today.

Dec. 14 Lt. McProud, T/5 Pratt and Pfc. Gail left this morning on a billeting party. It is understood that the company is to follow tomorrow.

Dec. 15 The third platoon was relieved at 1620. The first platoon though officially relieved at 1620 stayed with the infantry till 1880. Members of the first and third platoons had an opportunity to put their feet on German soil in the vicinity of Obergailback woods.

Dec. 16 The company arrived at Leidersingen at 1300 today. It is definitely a rest camp for maintenance and relaxation. S/Sgt. Tye set up a kitchen and the company enjoyed its first completely Sgt. Tye cooked meal since the company lost its kitchen truck at Vitry la Francois.

Dec. 17 Today maintenance was done with a vengeance, everyone fell to and the equipment was checked over and all work done that was possible to do. New equipment and repair parts were put in for. In the late afternoon it was decided that the work had progressed enough to warrant passes. A movie was given in Zarbeling this evening.

Dec. 18 The pass truck left for Nancy this morning. The remainder of the company continued with its maintenance business. In the afternoon Bazookas and some of the other weapons were checked and fired. Robotnick was engaged in a game of fisticuffs with Cpl. Douthit and Pvt. McWhorters dukes.

Dec. 19 More maintenance was done today. The pass truck left bright and early today. The day was very quiet and the evening unusual. Civilians prowled the streets till long after midnight, the cause, G. I. Wolves and a fairly good looking cow manure girl. The early part of the evening was spent sweating out the pass list.

Dec. 20 The pass truck left this morning. The company was alerted for night movement before the pass truck returned. We left at 2220 for "somewhere in Belgium. It was rumored that the Krauts were counter attacking there."

Dec. 21 We arrived in Belgium this morning after traveling all night. Our first really Belgian city was the industrial town of Longivy. What a change from the cow shit towns of Lorraine and Alsace. For the first time since we hit the Moselle most of us again felt that perhaps the war was worth while. We traveled from Longivy to Arlon where missions were assigned and thence to the vicinity of Neufchateau. The change in atmosphere from France to Belgium is terrific. There are large spots of snow on the ground here.

HQ. platoon is bivouaced in Straimont. We are attached to the 8th Corps. and the 28th (Pennsylvania) Division.

Dec. 22 The first was tangling with the Krauts again this morning northeast of Petit Rosieres. As a result of the action the Krauts are short a light tank and three personnel carriers. Three men are reported injured (wounded) Simpson, Luttrell, White and Newman. S/Sgt. Haynes is in charge of the T. D's, which are in reserve or in need of minor repairs at Straimont. Lt. Altergott's platoon is astride the Neufchateau Mortelange road. His report is negative so far.

Just at dusk today Sgt. Meredith took five tanks under fire while supporting a tactical maneuver and withdrawal from Vaux. Two of the tanks were believed damaged before Lt. Whitman displaced his platoon to the vicinity of Longiver. It snowed this morning and is very blizzardy.

Dec. 23 There was little change from last night's position today except that positions were integrated and consolidated.

Dec. 24 Today's action was the same as yesterday's. It continued to be cold and wintry.

Dec. 25 HQ. platoon moved from Straimont to Offing today. We had mail call today, the first since we arrived in this area.

Dec. 26 We had our Christmas Turkey today cooked up by Sgt. Tye and dispatched to various positions by jeep. The fixings were missing.

Dec. 27 Neufchateau was bombed today and the C. O.'s half-track bears evidence of the effectiveness of great bombing. There is a hole about the size of a silver dollar in the rear door. The right front windshield and mounting are kaput. The platoons are in the same relative positions. The command section moved from Neufchateau to Straimont.

Dec. 28 Things were rather quiet today and this business here about is beginning to look as if we would move again soon. The platoon positions are more extended today and farther apart. Traffic on the roads is becoming very heavy. Guards on post every mile, stop all persons and G. I. vehicles to check our dog tags and hear the pass word. It seems the Krauts are infiltrating our lines dressed as G. I.'s and wearing dog tags of dead G. I.'s.

Dec. 29 We were detached from the 28th today and immediately assigned to the 11th Armored Division C. C. B.. The evening found us moving from our positions to their assembly area (assigned us) at Massul. The gun platoons had a good deal in this town, while it lasted.

Dec. 30 C. C. B. jumped off this morning with A Co. in general support. Our mission was to guard the rear and flanks. The first and second platoons are located near the cross roads south of Jodenville.

The third was in the vicinity of Morhet. The third took three prisoners tonight.

Dec. 31 The morning was rather quiet. During the day the third platoon moved to the vicinity of Lavasselle. The first platoon moved to Flahamont and the second to Jodenville. HQ. Platoon moved to Rosiers. It continues to snow every day and men are freezing their feet and hands. Due to the snow covered terrain all vehicles have been camouflaged with whitewash.

Jan. 1 The third platoon took 3 prisoners last night. During the day this platoon moved north of Lavasselle. The first and third remained in approximately their same positions.

Jan. 2 The first platoon took some prisoners today and moved up to the town of Chenogne. The third platoon moved to the ridge north of this town. The second platoon remained just north of Jodenville. A bitter cold wind continues to blow every day now and snow is drifting in huge drifts. The Krauts are offering stiff resistance and the going is really tough.

Jan. 3 The 11th Armored was relieved today by 17th Airborne Div. HQ.

platoon moved back to Massul. The gun platoons remained in position.

Jan. 4 This morning the gun platoons returned to Massul to do needed maintenance. At about noon the company was alerted and attached to the 101st Airborne in the vicinity of Bastogne. The gun sections moved to Isle Le Pre. HQ. platoon remained in Massul.

Jan. 5 At noon today our allegiance was changed from the 101 Airborne Div. to the 513th Parachute Regiment Infantry. The gun platoons moved to the vicinity of Monte Mande St. Etienne. Lt. Oliver's C. P. was in Monty. 17th A. B..

Jan. 6 Today we moved from the vicinity of Monty to the woods north of Chenogne. The C. P. was in the woods northeast of that town. The weather was very close and foggy.

Jan. 7 Today was very cold and foggy. Visibility was limited to about 100 yards. The platoon positions remained nearly the same.

Jan. 8 Visibility was much improved today. Late in the afternoon Bob's platoon got a tank. We are now with the 507th Reg. and in the woods north of Chenogne.

Jan. 9 Today Hank's platoon got a tank. Bob's got his second in less than 24 hours.

Jan. 10 The 507th moved to the woods northeast of Chenogne. The platoons had a rather quiet day sweating out the Krauts.

Jan. 11 Today was quiet. Hank's platoon spent the day getting Henschen's destroyer out of a bomb crater.

Jan. 12 Situation remained the same and platoons moved from forward edge of the woods to rear positions in Regt. reserve mobile positions.

Jan. 13 Platoons remained in mobile reserve positions with 507th Regt. of 17th A. B.. No activity.

Jan. 14 T/5 Pratt was killed by a C-2 grenade. Platoons moved to Salle and Flanaganille. We attacked with the 17th A. B. 3rd platoon moved to new Regt. (194th) early in the morning.

Jan. 15 C. P. is north of Chenogne. Platoons moved to Frenet. We went to the 11th Div. in the afternoon and attached to C. C. B. and took up defensive positions north of Foy, just prior to darkness. Our C. P. was in the woods south of Foy. Platoons out posted Ingantry at night.

Jan. 16 Attached and attacked with C.C.B.. Platoons moved to covering positions south of Noville. Moved into woods along Noville-Bourcey at night.

Jan. 17 C. C. B. continued the attack north. Platoons remained in positions in the woods. No activity.

Jan. 18 11th Armored C. C. B. relieved by C. C. R.. Platoons moved to

positions east of Bourcy and dug in along ridge with Co. "A" of 55th Inf..

Jan. 19 Platoons remained in position and the enemy attacked the company from the north. No tanks in our sector.

Jan. 20 Bourcy with C. C. R. 55th Inf.. We were alerted to move to a new O. P. at 1630 and changed to C. C. B.. We did not move after all. Our C. P. is at Noville.

Jan. 21 We are still at Bourcy but stood alerted to move with C. C. B. and again we didn't move.

Jan. 22 Our company moved to Morhet for a rest. This was a long promised rest period and the men settled down in houses in the village to relax and get some rest.

Jan. 23 During the A.M. a plane crashed near and Lt. Bush and Haynes reached it in time to salvage a pistol and sundry items. HQ. platoon joined the gun platoons and had just settled down when "March Order" was called and the whole company again moved to "rest" camp now located in Hemroulle. Some slight inconvenience was experienced due to the fact that one outfit which was supposed to move out didn't. Somehow amicable arrangements were made to house all of us even if some slept in barns. Two lucky E. M., Marchese and Appelt and one officer Lt. Hank Altergott left for a spree in gay Paree.

Jan. 24 Today was the first real day of rest. Didn't have to move, so the men had a chance to do some personal maintenance. About twenty went back to Izel for a movie or what have you ????. Slug Orsak is back on the job again though his foot isn't 100% yet.

Jan. 25 A very cold but bright day with nothing, not even a rumor to disturb us. Nine replacements, excuse it, reinforcements, out of H. Q. and Recon. came in to make up for our shortage of men lost in battle of the past week or so. Bert left for a day and maybe a night in the city of Luxembourg. The mail situation is still a situation in spite of Wollman driving all the way to Izel to improve it. H. Q. is so far back they are in danger of buzz bombs.

Jan. 26 Not much to report today except the usual activities associated with relaxation. Lt. Oliver returned with tales of real bathtubs and flush toilets in Luxembourg. Anthony turned in again after a stay in a hospital.

Jan. 27 Continued to enjoy all the benefits of garrison life with hunting for deer, parachutes or women to while away the time. Church services were held.

Jan. 28 Rudely awakened at 6 A.M. with the news that we were alerted once again and were attached to the 87th Inf. Div.. The gun platoons moved out about 8:30 to be in mobile reserve at Maldange. HQ. remained behind to repair couple of destroyers.

Jan. 29 H. Q. platoon moved out at 8 A.M. to keep in touch with the gun platoons. The route carried us through Bastogne, Noville, Houffalize, (which has been pounded to bits) Cherain, Beho and thence to Maldange. A

few hours later the gun platoon moved out and stopped in the town of Galehousen. At 12 midnight Altergott's platoons was sent out in support of the 3rd Battalion of 345 Inf..

Jan. 30 At 2 A.M. Young was called to Reg. C.P. and at 3 A.M. called back to march order the other two platoons. Finally at 4 the platoons moved out with 4 destroyers in support of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of 345 Inf.. The roads were terribly congested with every sort of unit and in poor condition at that. Passed the town of St. Vith which has been terribly blown up, worse than Houffalize. The route went through Medell and ended at Herresbach at 5 P.M., a mere 12 hours. The snow was so deep that bulldozers had to grade snow out of the road before our vehicles went down into the town. The ground was littered with Krauts so thick that you could hardly see the snow at the side of the road because they were laying on it.

At dark the 2nd Battalion attacked and the 1st and 2nd platoons went into position. Hank's position nearby had been subject to artillery and mortar fire and during the morning S/Sgt. Brown was killed by a shell fragment.

Jan. 31 Remained in Herresbach all day but saw no action. The first platoon had direct fire from small arms, however a counter attack was stopped by Inf. and F. A.. Finally pulled back a few hundred yards. Orsak's destroyer dropped into a shell crater and Marsh's Creeping fortress came to the rescue. Fortunately no damage or injuries were sustained. The day was warmer and for a change we had rain.

For a wonder there was a big mail call today and to top it all off the men in Maldange were paid. Barclay was the only lucky man to go to Paris.

Feb. 1 McProud went out to the platoons to pay the fighting men. No change in positions and no advance made due to the blown out bridge. Lt. Oliver went back to the medics at Battalion HQ. at Ourthe, with a high fever and Lt. Whitman became acting C. O.

Feb. 2 The platoons moved to positions near Auw, Germany and Manderfeld, Belgium to outpost there around the mentioned towns. The road into Allmagne was rough but no enemy was sighted. We were detached from 346 and 347th and back to 346th in 7 minutes. Whitman set up our first C. P. in Germany.

Feb. 3 Still remained in defensive positions with rumors of an impending relief. HQ. platoon moved to Dayfelt to prepare billets and contended with a railhead outfit for houses.

Feb. 4 HQ. found better billets in Huldange, Luxembourg and moved there. The platoons were relieved about noon, and attached to the 11th Armored Div.. They then moved back to Huldange. Whitman's section had the novelty of going into 3 countries in 3 hours, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Feb. 5 Rest and maintenance. Sweating out a recall to the front as "B" Co. experienced, lots of back mail came in. McProud is now allowed to wear a silver bar instead of the gold one he now has.

Feb. 6 More rest and maintenance and all is serene. Lt. Oliver

returned and assumed duties as C.O..

Feb. 7 Nothing new has developed except that a big group of us took a shower, the first in months for most of us. Barclay returned from Paris having been delayed at Reims due to bad roads.

Feb. 8 Situation unchanged. Due to a new regulation, a number of our perennial privates stymied by the T. O. are now sporting their first stripe.

Feb. 9, 10, 11, and 12 Were spent in this town. Plenty of relaxation and maintenance was the order of the day. The snow is all melted now. Each day we sweat out being moved again to the front.

Feb. 13 The entire Co. moved out at 3 P.M. to relieve "B" Co. who have been supporting C. C. R. of 11th Armored (63rd Inf.). HQ. platoon set up in Steffechausen, Belgium on the Our River while the 2nd and 3rd Platoons took up positions overlooking the Siegfried Line right behind the towns of Lutzkampen and Berg. The 1st and Bert's C. P. remained in reserve at Weweler. Due to the bad condition of the roads it took 7 or 8 hours to make the move. As usual Bert's half-track went out before going two miles and had to be towed through the worst of the road and he completed the journey with Beebe.

Feb. 14 No action though there was some S. A. and Artillery fire in or near the positions. As the road to the 3rd platoon was under observation, the chow, gas and mail were run out at night under Lt. McProud who spear-headed into Lutzkampen and narrowly escaped being blown up by mines. HQ. platoon moved across the Our to facilitate access to the platoons and set up about ½ mile north of Weweler. The half-track went back to battalion with A. K. Phillips in command while Kapoot took its place.

Feb. 15 After dark the 1st Platoon took over the 3rd Platoon's position. One Radio S/Sgt. Wilburn while fixing the 2nd Platoon's half track radio came under Artillery fire and it is reported left the scene hastily without mounting the set. The 3rd went into reserve in Weweler.

Feb. 16 No change, save for repairs to motors and radios. Communications in these hills is very poor.

Feb. 17 The 3rd Platoon relieved the 2nd, which went into reserve at Weweler.

Feb. 18 No change today. There is quite a rumor going around through the E. M., it is something about "Haystack Katie" whoever that is.

Feb. 19 The 2nd Platoon relieved the 1st which went into reserve in Weweler.

Feb. 20 Lt. Whitman took over as Executive Officer and Lt. Menard is now 1st Platoon Leader.

Feb. 21 Nothing different happened today. From the platoons positions the rows of dragons teeth of the Siegfried Line Defenses can be plainly observed and Krauts can be seen occasionally about the pill-boxes on the

other side of the line overlooking it. Occasional burp gun and machine gun skirmishes fill the air with lead as they chatter at each other. Between our platoon positions and the positions of the Krauts across the valley on the other hill is strictly no man's land. They're watching us and we are in turn watching them as neither side dares try to cross the rows of dragons teeth.

Feb. 22 The second platoon moved from its position near Berg to join the 3rd, which was on the slope in front of Lutzkampen. Late in the day the 1st relieved the 3rd which moved into reserve in Lutzkampen. HQ. Platoon moved into Lutzkampen also and Bert had his C. P. in that town. On this day Johnson presented Bert with Captains, now Major's Curry's old helmet with two bars, Lt. McProud left us for Battalion and gave us a demonstration of driving in "Sometimes" throwing Sgt. Graham into a mud pile.

Feb. 23 About 10 A.M. the 2nd Platoon moved through the Siegfried Line into position near Eschfeld to cover dough-boys and tanks entrance into that town. The 1st Platoon remained at Leidenborn. No firing was done.

Feb. 24 HQ. and 3rd Platoons moved into Arzfeld while the forward C. P. moved into Neurath. Early today the 2nd went into a spear-head near Heilbach and took Upperhausen by nightfall after first shooting up the town. The first went into action near Heilbach and after shooting up four towns took Berkoth after dark. We were attached to the 90th Division and part of a small task force consisting of five tanks, besides ourselves and the 773rd T. D.. We were known as Task Force Speice. The 2nd took eleven prisoners, killed two and knocked out two motor-cycles and fired about 40 rounds into the town.

Feb. 25 The forward C. P. moved to Krautscheid while the 2nd Platoon held Upperhausen, but did no firing. The 1st held Berkoth and observed Krauts digging in on a hill 2500 yards away but did no firing. Sgt. Orsak directed artillery fire on various targets. Late today we were attached to the 6th Cavalry and contacted "C" Co. on the radio after all these months. The 2nd Platoon was split and Haynes section guarded a cross road near Oberpierscheid. In the evening two destroyers carrying dough-boys went into Rottersdorf and blocked the road to Phillipsweiler. Haynes directed artillery fire on a long Kraut column south of that town.

Feb. 26 The 1st Platoon was relieved by the 6th Cavalry and went to Krautscheid while the 2nd remained as they had at Upperhausen. We are sweating out a relief by "B" Co.

Feb. 27 Rear C. P. moved up today to Ringescheid but before they settled down "B" Co. arrived to relieve us. The 3rd Platoon took up position overwatching Waxweiler on the Prum River. HQ. Platoon started the long trek to Huldange. Bush's section overwatched the Cavalry taking Waxweiler. The 3rd was split in two sections. Barclay was finally satisfied after he had a field day and the score was finally: one vehicle knocked out, two mortar positions annihilated, an O. P. that the Squadron Commander wanted down to split yards also was knocked out, two mortar positions annihilated, an O. P. that the crew sighted. The machine gun that harassed the dough-boys and kept them from advancing was silenced. We returned to Krautscheid for the night after being relieved. HQ.

Platoon returned by way of Dasberg on the Our River which is set on the river amidst towering mountains. Our planes have taken their toll of this town and the entire route is strewn with knocked out enemy vehicles of all types. Marsh made the trip on his Kraut Motor-cycle and had no difficulty except for the mud which covered him completely. The Kraut truck piloted by Pleva nearly caught fire on the long hill out of Dasberg but prompt action and some repairs brought it in under its own power.

Feb. 28 The last of the T. D.'s arrived and the day was spent doing maintenance on vehicles and weapons. Bob took off for Brussels, Belgium.

Mar. 1 Bert took off for Brussels with Hank, Young and Portnowitz as a part of the passenger list. Had a dental survey. About 3 P.M. the Co. was alerted. When final details were given ninety men under Lt. Bush left aboard Q. M. trucks to guard railway grounds and bridges in Luxembourg. T. D.'s and other vehicles were left behind with a guard of twenty men of HQ. Platoon. Another rumor "Imagine the 602 as M. P.'s". No not that!

Lt. Whitman returned from Brussels, Happy but somewhat the worse for wear. Bragdon, long in the hospital returned to duty today.

Mar. 2 Nothing to report, except that our boys are scattered along miles of railroad at bridges and tunnels. The weather is wet and some have little protection but others are fairly well located.

Mar. 3 We surprised ourselves by receiving a group of new replacements twenty four strong and "A" Co. will give them the right about slant on things before they have to go on the line at the front. Brinkley, an old familiar face also returned to the company.

Mar. 4 Budnick and Goforth were the lucky ones to get a Paris pass and left today. The new men received training or rather familiarization with the T. D.'s. Lt. Menard left for Vitry Le Perthois to store the duffel bags of the new men. Picked up two more recruits today "Trouble and T. D." two pups, who are now, no longer under the Hitler yoke.

Mar. 5 Nothing much new today. Continued training of the new men and reports of very interesting developments on the railroad on a social scale.

Mar. 6 Bert and Barnwell took off for Paris this evening. Today was payday and Bob Whitman spent most of the day traveling the entire length of the railway and paying off the men.

Mar. 7 No change today except that we will be relieved tomorrow from guard duty. Peck and Hanley brought their T. D.'s back to the area from Battalion.

Mar. 8 As of noon today we were relieved from guard duty and reluctantly the men returned to Huldange with stories of trout, deer and women. 1st. Sgt. Wilson took a detail to secure quarters in our new home. We are about the only outfit left this far back now. News comes that the 1st Army crossed the Rhine and rumor has it, the 3rd has also. Matesic has a brand new M-32 now.

Mar. 9 At 0800 hours the entire Co. took off for Bleialf, Germany and made it in 1½ hours. Appelts and Atkins destroyers had to be towed in by

the M-32. We set up in several houses and remained in Corps Reserve. We are so far from the front we can't hear any big guns. The only amusement is watching the procedures of a P.W. cage near by.

Mar. 10 Another uneventful quiet day.

Mar. 11 Capt. Oliver and Barnwell returned from Paris. The Capt. took command again and preparations were made for a long road march in the A.M.. The half track crew went ahead and liberated a white terrier. Looks like the C. P. is beginning a menagerie.

Mar. 12 At 6 A.M. the entire Co. pulled out and drove down the Prum Valley through Waxweiler and Bittburg to Ohrdorf a distance of 35 miles. Settled down there and were officially attached to the 89th Division (another Green outfit), Lt. Whitman, Carlson and Portnowitz left for Paris. Bob was well heeled with Scotch and cigarettes and in search of a 37 inch bust. Some unkind remarks were made about his U. S. O. attire. Another move to take place in the A.M..

Mar. 13 At 6:30 the entire Co. moved out with the 3rd Platoon trailing. They dropped out of the line of march at Wittlich to support the 353rd Infantry at Luxem. The rest of the Co. stopped at Greimerath for about 4 hours during which time we found a stock of liquor, another motor-cycle and sundry plunder. Resumed the march and finally came down into the little town of Bad Bertrich which nestles in a deep canyon along a good sized stream. It is a health resort and untouched by war. It was a charming wealthy town filled with beautiful \$65 questions. Actually the town had been taken only this morning. Settled for the night in homes and hotels of the residents there.

Mar. 14 The only change today was that the 3rd Platoon took up positions overwatching the Moselle River near Alf. Fishing and sundry activities kept the rest of us amused during this warm spring like day.

Mar. 15 Hq. and the 1st and 2nd Platoons moved about 4 miles to the outskirts of Alf. The 3rd Platoon fired about 70 rounds of H. E. across the Moselle at a high ridge neutralizing an O. P. and a M. G. nest.

Mar. 16 The Infantry crossed the river but we had to sweat out our crossing until a pontoon bridge was constructed. About dark the entire Co. crossed into Bullay. Hq. and 3rd Platoons spent the night there while the 1st, 2nd and C. P. stopped at Merele. A lot of S. Arms fire was experienced from high ground along the river.

Mar. 17 Hq. moved to Merele while the gun platoons moved on to positions near Tellig where our C. P. remained. Lt. Whitman, Carlson and Portnowitz returned from Paris. Beaucoup champagne and wines were discovered at Merele.

Mar. 18 Hq. moved to Kappel and after refueling and chow moved to Kirchberg. The 2nd was at Dillendorf, the 1st and 3rd at Dickenscheid and Gehlweiler. The 3rd with infantry aboard were the first Americans to enter Gehlweiler.

Mar. 19 The next morning the 1st and 3rd moved to Lindenscheid for two

hours and then the entire Co. was assembled in a field at Raversburen. The Co. took the town of Immenach in conjunction with part of Recon. Killed 1 and captured 47 Krauts.

Mar. 20 This was a busy day. The Co. left Immenach at 0730 and after a long march through Lotzburen, Lauzenhausen, Laufersweiler, Gosenroth, Bundenbach, Halnenbach, Grielbelscheid, Fishbach on the heels of "B" Co. took Sien. Hq. prudently stayed behind but entered Sien in the evening. Recon did the spear-heading while being overwatched by the T. D.'s. We accumulated about 100 prisoners and Sgt. Jeter had the problem of getting them back to a P. W. cage. Even the M-32 crew captured a lone Kraut.

Mar. 21 The 2nd and 3rd Platoons took two more towns and Recon sent back about 80 more prisoners. Cpl. Phillips taking out chow found about 20 more looking for peace and loaded them aboard the truck. The 1st Platoon in reserve gathered up horses indulged in some wild west tactics.

Mar. 22 Our job here seems to be complete and the entire company assembled at Sion to relax. Any number of pistols have been found. Haynes and Meredith caught two suspicious looking Krauts in civies and turned them over to Battalion.

Mar. 23 Nothing new today except that Lt. Bush was injured when his horse fell. Prepared for a march to the Rhine. We are transferred to the 8th Corps. again along with the 89th. Wilburn rescued a burned recaptured jeep and Marsh a similar three quarter ton. Worked on these most of the night and by morning the 3/4 ton was ready to replace the maintenance Kraut truck.

Mar. 24 March ordered at 0730 and passed through Kirn Gemunden and Simmern and finally settled in Klosterchumbd a distance of about 45 miles. The three quarter ton made the entire trip very well but Wilburns was towed by "No Letter Today". Peck left his mark on Phillips chow truck and broke two bottles of champagne in the process. Just before we left there were three Krauts that gave themselves up, we took them along for the ride.

Mar. 25 Nothing new today. Prepared for another move. Wilburns jeep is now a success.

Mar. 26 The Platoons began to move out about 2 A.M. and took up positions near Oberwessel overlooking the Rhine. The 89th began to cross at 2 A.M. and during the morning some Ducks and auxiliary Navy boats were sunk by German artillery fire. Our heavy artillery failed to stop this fire with their salvos which was either coming from or directed from an old castle so Menard's destroyers threw in about 25 rounds of A. P. and a few H. E.. No further annoyance from this source. Bert moved his C. P. to Oberwessel about 9 A.M.. Some shelling on this town and Young and Portnowitz have a souvenir of shrapnel to show for a close one. Hq. moved to Perscheid about 1100. A combat team of our T. D.'s and an 89th Recon unit was made up and had to travel north to a bridge in order to get across, consequently the entire unit assembled, except for the 2nd Platoon and crept northward to Boppard where we crossed on a pontoon bridge at 8 P.M. in the dark. No difficulty whatsoever. Proceeded southward and bivouaced on the river road. A little excitement occurred when a few Krauts tried to float by, about 4 were killed and 15 captured.

Mar. 27 About 9 A.M. we started southward again and stopped at Kaub. The Recon unit captured 14 or so more Krauts that came in with a white flag. The terrain is rugged with steep vineyard covered hills and peaks topped by ancient castles. The 2nd crossed the river today by boats at Oberwessel and is supporting the Inf. at Weisel. The combat team pulled out in the afternoon and split up to reach Lorch by two parallel roads. Met stiff opposition from flak guns and the advance halted. Pulled back to Kaub late that night, but not before Scott knocked out a 20 mm gun with 4 rounds and killed 5 Krauts.

Mar. 28 McCarthy's destroyer was stopped on the road due to some defect. Just at dawn a small boat with about 14 Krauts was seen trying to cross the Rhine from the west bank. At midstream Mac cut loose with his 50 cal. machine gun and that was that. Peck meanwhile heated his carbine with 50 rounds to get one man.

In the afternoon our 1st and 3rd Platoons moved out again in the direction of Presberg with the 1st in the lead of the infantry. On this march some opposition was put up by 20 mm guns and the action resulted in 3 knocked out flak guns by Henschen and his crew, 2 killed and 14 captured Krauts plus several neutralized buildings which had been firing small arms. Orsak spotted a 75 mm gun and with his 30 cal. M. G. chased the Krauts and disabled the gun. Took Presberg and moved on to Authausen for the night. Anderson took a bead on a Kraut Capt. who rode into the town on a bike with a can of gas on his shoulder. Wounded, the very much surprised officer threw himself at Andersons mercy.

Mar. 29 The 1st Platoon without further opposition went thru Rudesheim and down the river road to Eltville. No activity and Lt. Menard and Bergmann picked up two prisoners.

The 3rd while bivouaced for the night was a reception committee for 8 krauts mounted on horses and wagons. They had mistaken our T. D.'s for a Panzer outfit.

Over-watched the town of Giesenheim while the infantry took it, thence the route was through Johannisberg, Winkel, Mittelheim, Ostrich, Hottenheim, Erbach, and Eltville. No opposition of importance until then.

The infantry was held up by 20 mm guns so Otis and Barclay put their destroyers in front. Otis knocked out a vehicle and drove some Krauts out of the house. About 15 surrendered to the infantry. Barclay fired about 100 rounds of 50 cal. at a M. G. and that was quieted. He then put 9 rounds of 76 mm at another M. G. and 20 mm gun and knocked them out. Barclay covered the infantry advance while more Krauts surrendered, and also fired at a booby trapped house that contained a lot of 20 mm ammunition and took 50 prisoners in all, many of whom were boys of 13 and 15 years of age. Hq. Platoon moved to Geisenheim on the Rhine and took over a building which was discovered to have a large underground factory. The 3rd Platoon after reconnoitering beyond Eltville and meeting no opposition returned to Geisenheim as did the 1st and 3rd, and the company was placed in Corp. reserve. Champagne flowed freely. Krych who was riding in the chow truck suffered a broken leg when a cartridge box fell on him.

The 3rd took Hellgarten, Eichberg and Hedrich and destroyed an abandoned 20 mm with a grenade. Light opposition was met.

April 1 Easter Sunday and April Fool's day. We are in Corps. reserve and all is quiet. The 89th took over and we had to move to Johannisberg in

a beautiful mansion that has us all inspired with it's furnishings.

April 2 Sometime in the afternoon we were alerted for a long road march and about 4 P.M. were ready to move but it wasn't until 11 P.M. that we moved out. We passed through Weisbaden and Frankfurt but since it was a black night we hardly knew where we were. Somewhere we entered the Autobahn (Hitler's version of our highways) and the drive was much easier.

April 3 After a trip of 125 miles we reached Kirchheim about noon. We were somewhat tired after the journey but were able to rest for the night.

April 4 The company moved along the highway and split up near Homebach. The C. P., 2nd and 3rd Platoons crossed the Werra River on a pontoon bridge while the 1st crossed it at Spichra. Hq. remained at Worman. The 2nd and 3rd moved to Wartha with the infantry which cleaned up several towns. There was an attack by enemy aircraft which were fired upon. The C. P. stayed at Bauchroden.

Barbato and Menard both knocked out an anti-tank gun which was covering the Reich Autobahn also killing 5 Krauts.

April 5 The C. P. moved to Wartha while the 3rd had a quiet day. The 2nd moved southward through Unterellen and thence east in support of the Infantry. The Infantry was pinned down by M. G. fire. The 2nd Platoon destroyers finally ended the opposition by knocking out five M. G.'s.

Haynes and Bush made a reconnaissance on foot and narrowly escaped death being fired upon by several machine guns at close range. Both put their Camp Hood training to use and after crawling to safety, had their revenge when the T. D.'s took care of the machine guns. Harriman too made a wrong turn and ran into M. G. fire damaging the jeep. Harriman and Hines also hit the dirt and escaped being hit by the machine gun fire.

The 1st over watched the infantry attack and both McCarthy and Henschens destroyers knocked out a M. G., personnel and an enemy strong point.

April 6 The platoons and C. P. joined at Eisenach, a big city and after a couple of hours there moved on to the highway to Wutha. This town was hotly contested and the 1st Platoon poured in some fire. The 2nd spotted and knocked out an ambush. Occupied one part of the town while fighting went on at the other end. The 3rd overran a tank and destroyed it with grenades. Portnowitz, Girard and Johnson captured 5 E. M.'s and one officer in the woods.

April 7 Early this morning Young captured two Krauts. Hq. moved into Wutha while the 1st and 3rd Platoons followed the infantry. The 1st had no difficulty and stayed at Schonau. The 3rd hit opposition though. The doughboys were pinned down and the T. D.'s moved ahead of them. Otis using his 76 mm and 50 ca. drew fire from the flank which Barclay silenced with his guns. The infantry was again pinned down and Atkins moved in front spraying woods with his 50 ca. M. G. then the team moved down into Farnrode firing their 50's. They destroyed 2 A. T. guns and forced eleven Krauts to surrender. All opposition quit and the infantry took many prisoners. Atkins had put 2 rounds in a house from which small arms fire came and Scott fired his 50 at an observer in a house. All in all it was a great day.

April 8 Hq. moved to Sattelstadt and the C. P. at Langenheim. The 2nd also are at Sattelstadt while the 3rd moved to Rodichen after passing through Walterhausen as did the 1st.

April 9 The entire company assembled at Fredrichsroda and waited on further orders. Stayed at a hotel converted to an office building for refugees from Berlin to carry on their office work.

On this date, upon moving into this hotel building, a civilian gave Portnowitz a clue and upon investigation he and several other men found two of Hitler's S. S. troopers dressed in civilian clothes. They were apprehended and taken to M. P.'s.

April 10 The only excitement this A.M. was a visit of some of us to one of Hitler's infamous crematories that had just been liberated. We came away more aware of what we were fighting for.

The company was march ordered and left Ohrdruf about 7 P.M. to be in reserve at Grafenhain. While Young was preparing billets for the company, proceeding their arrival at Grafenhain he captured five Krauts. Barclay drew a lucky number to leave for a week's furlough at the Riviera. Wee! Other numbers were drawn for 7 day furlough to Riviera.

April 11 March ordered at 1900 and went to the town of Holtzhousen. At that point we fell in with A. and B. companies of the 353 Reft. and went as far as the town of Hohenfelden and we bivouaced there for the night. T/Sgt. R. O. Walker and T/4 Simpson returned from the hospital to duty today.

April 12 Lt. Whitman held a Hq. Platoon meeting and told us plans in regards to the Task Force operations. We left the town of Hohenfelden at 1230 for our mission. The town that was included in our mission was Badberka but others that proved to be in our trip were Sallborn, Kleirsthoma, Sallnitz, Tromlitz, Milda, Zimmeritz, Schreinneuritz and Alterdorf. The purpose of this Taskforce was to reach the Saale River and capture the bridges before they were blown out so that the Armor could proceed. The Fourth Armored Division was making a drive parallel to us on our left.

Digiglio on the way up to Milda captured 6 Krauts. Mission was completed at 2000 hours.

The 1st Platoon fired on Kahla, then proceeded to enter it. Sgt. Henschen fired on and hit and probably crippled an ME-109. 1st Platoon captured 4 S. S. Troops dressed in firemen's uniforms. Little activity during the night.

April 13 The C. P. moved to Altenberg. 1st and 2nd Platoons late at night moved to Kahla. 1st Platoon formed O. P.'s to observe east bank of Saale River where enemy was known to be dug in. Henschen fired 10 rounds of 3 inch at dugouts and personnel. Number of killed is unknown. He fired H. E. into a house where occupants of a jeep that he had knocked out hid. No sign of life there after that. Enemy shelled our vicinity with heavy mortar and artillery. We moved to west side of town due to our position being under shell fire.

April 14 The 1st and 3rd Platoons moved from Kahla into position near Buckendorf. 1st and C. P. moved from Altenburg to Hammelshain.

April 15 Hq. Platoon moved to Lichtenan. C. P. moved from Hummelshain to Tripitz. 2nd and 3rd Platoons were supporting infantry. The 1st Platoon was in reserve in Hummelshain.

April 16 Hq. Platoon moved from Tripitz to Mehla. C. P. moved from Tripitz to Langeswetzendorf. Platoons were in position and supporting infantry on the drive. A small amount of artillery was encountered but many many prisoners were taken with out any resistance.

The 1st Platoon supported infantry across the Weida River. We took the town of Tries after firing a few rounds of 50 cal. and moved into the town of Griez. We slept in a hotel there.

April 17 Hq. Platoon and C. P. both moved from Mehla to Reichenbach where T/4 Roy Barger captured 6 Krauts.

1st Platoon supported the infantry in assault on town and fired 10 rounds of 3 inch into enemy O.P.'s in a tower. At 1400 hours the 1st crossed the Elster River. At 1500 hours the city of Reichenbach surrendered. Infantry was shuttled into town on our vehicles. Crossed autobahn and entered the town of Waldkirchen. We liberated nearly 100 American prisoners of war here and 70 British. During the present drive we have liberated thousands of Polish and Russian slave factory workers.

April 18 Hq. Platoon and C. P. moved from Richenbach to Unterheinsdorf. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoon assembled in the latter town. This evening on 1st Platoon guard post between 0200 and 0300, Sgt. Anderson observed 2 enemy officers while on post. He fired on them wounding one (a Lt.) in the sittter downer.

Aril 19 Entire company remained assembled in the town of Unterheinsdorf. In the P.M. Lt. Whitman, Lt. Altergott, S/Sgt. Orsak, S/Sgt. Haynes, 1st Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Meredith, CPL. E. T. Brown, John McPherson and Sgt. McCarthy went over to Battalion to receive the Silver Star and Bronze Stars. Lt. Whitman has an injured left arm.

April 20 Company still assembled in the town of Unterheinsdorf. In the afternoon part of the company went to Battalion to see a movie. Cpl. Grissom of 1st Platoon while on guard between 0100 and 0200 spotted 4 Krauts and fired on them and took one prisoner.

April 21 Company still assembled at Unterheinsdorf. Some of the men went into Battalion to see a movie. We are holding here and it is rumored that the Russians are only a short distance.

April 22 CPL. Brown, CPL. Binotto and Pfc. Colvin were the lucky men to draw passes to Paris. Today some men went to a movie at the Battalion and others went swimming while others slept to make up for lost sleep from the night before.

April 23 Nothing happened today.

April 24 Company still assembled here. Some of the men today went to the Battalion to see a movie. The show was interrupted many times due to the projector not working well. The projector purchased for the Battalion has proved many times to be worth its price even though there may be bad nights and the machine doesn't always work perfectly.

April 25 Sgt. Barclay returned from a furlough to the Riviera. He looks none the worse for his trip and reports its a real place.

April 26 Usual movies, ball games and rest. T/5 (Five Fingers) Dan Wollman was promoted to Staff Sgt. in charge of Company supply.

April 27 We were issued four bottles of Coca-Cola per man today at 5¢ each. Boy was it a treat. It is the first thing civilized that we have had to drink for a long time.

April 28th and 29th Usual rest and movies. There is very little activity out in front of us and we are still holding forces.

April 30 Men were paid today and a large group of the men went to quartermaster showers and were issued a clean suit of clothes. In the evening Hq. Platoon played the 2nd platoon a game of softball, the 2nd Platoon won by the score of 13 to 10.

May 1 T/4 Boaudoin, Sgt. Deering and Sgt. Connor were presented today with the Bronze Star. Events otherwise are as usual.

May 2 Pfc. Girard, T/5 Sikorsky, T/5 George were the lucky ones chosen to go on pass to Brussels, Belgium.

May 3 CPL. Binotto and Pfc. Colvin returned from Paris. The third Platoon defeated the second Platoon by a one point lead in a closely contested ball game. Williams (old faithful) pitched an excellent ball game striking out seven men. CPL. Lenane won the game for the third platoon with a base hit, with bases loaded.

May 4 Sgt. Otto Henschen of the first platoon is to go on a Riviera furlough. T/4 Harry Johnson of Hq.'s plat and S/Sgt. Orsak, Pfc. Hines and S/Sgt. Alexander were the lucky men chosen to go to Paris on pass. Lt. Bush is the officer to go.

The 1st Platoon defeated the Hq. Platoon today in a ball game 16 to 15. The game went to the 1st Platoon when Orsak singled with the basses loaded in the 13th inning.

May 5 Weather has been really bad with rain putting the damper on everything. Men have continued to go to the movies daily at the Battalion. Today Pvt. Robotnick, our wandering boy, was brought in after being AWOL since April 20th.

May 6 We awoke this morning to find it still raining. The weather has been bad the past few days. There was Catholic and Protestant Church services held this morning and a large group attended each service. Service was held in a beer hall. Rumor has it, the war is near ending.

May 7 Men played ball, went swimming and relaxed. We understand something big is cooking and that this war may soon be over. Last night the Krauts marched hundreds of Russian, Polish and other slave labors with American and British prisoners into our lines.

May 8 According to the radio today the war is nearly over. Our activities here are same as usual.

May 9 Today is proclaimed as V-E day since officially all resistance is supposed to have ceased at 0001 this morning. There were no celebrations. Things were as usual and men went for the movies.

Deep in the hearts of us who had spent many long hard bitter months for the cause of freedom, there was a feeling of relief and thanksgiving that the war was over here in Europe. Most of us spent a quiet day remembering, wishing and hoping.

It had not been easy and our comrades and brothers in arms less fortunate than us would have liked to have been with us today

The score is before us "TWO DOWN AND ONE TO GO".

COMPANY ROSTER, 0001 HOURS
MAY 9th, 1945
V-E DAY

Capt. B. J. Oliver
1st Lt. Robert W. Whitman *
1st Lt. Henry F. Altergott **
2nd Lt. E. Bush
2nd Lt. Bernard Menard

Alexander, Walter
Amos, Kenneth
Anderson, James
Anthony, Murden ***
Appelt, Victor
Arth, Nicholas
Atkins, Thomas ***
Aubrey, Dewey
Balsama, Anthony
Barbato, Louis
Barclay, Raymond
Barger, Roy
Barnwell, Charles
Beaudoin, Lorne **
Beebe, Charles
Bergmann, Albert
Binotto, Bruno
Bragdon, Jesse
Brinkley, William
Brown, Eldred T. **, ***
Browne, Patrick
Budnick, Edward ***
Caprariello, Vincent
Carlson, Harold
Chance, William
Clement, J. D.
Colvin, Edgar
Connor, Thomas **
Dannenhoffer, Charles
Davis, Elliot
Deering, Willie **
Dice, Charles
Digiglio, Salvador
Douthit, Harold
Ernsthausen, Gilbert
Erwin, Bennie **, ***
Fisher, J. K.
Florida, Kaffman
Frontz, Robert
Galuska, Walter
Garcia, Jesus
George, Grady ***
Gilbee, Clarence ***

Girard, George ***
Graham, James
Grenke, Elmer
Grissom, Orville
Grumbley, William
Hammett, John
Hanley, Robert
Harden, Garland
Harriman, Robert
Hartley, Chester
Haynes, Harold **/*
Haywood, Marvin
Hendrix, Pleas
Henschen, Otto
Herwaldt, Paul
Hines, Welford
Hinse, Carl
Hinshaw, Calvin
Holzhauser, Rex
Huff, J. D.
Humphreys, Vernon
Hunt, Ralph
Iverson, Arnold
Jeter, Frank
Johnson, Harry
Kantowski, Frank
Kelley, Billie
Langdon, George
Lenane, Frank
Lisanti, Bartholomew ***
Marchese, Guy
Marsh, Glenn
Matesic, Joseph
McCarthy, James **, SM
McLaughlin, Billy
McMurray, Herman ***
McPherson, John **
McWhorter, Jack
Meredith, Marion **
Minardi, Dominic
Murray, Almon
Newman, Robert
Orsak, Julius **

Otis, Lawrence CdeG/EdeB
Owens, Jack
Palmo, Victor
Peck, Levi
Phillips, A. K.
Phippen, Harold
Pleva, Alexander SM-F
Portera, Anthony
Portnowitz, Paul
Roberts, Lawrence
Robotnick, Max *
Saenz, Fernando
Sanders, Bud
Scott, James
Shelton, Walter
Sherdel, Robert
Sikorsky, Anthony
Simpson, Reuben ***
Smith, Arthur A. ***/*
Smith, Obria
Spinato, Anthony
Suppa, Dominick
Threlloff, Albert
Todd, Elbert
Tye, L. D.
Van De Putte, Henry
Walker, R. O.
White, Paul ***
Wilburn, Dewey
Williams, Robert
Wilson, James **
Wolaver, Harace
Wollman, Daniel
Wolkamp, Charles ***
Wright, Carl
Wright, Merle
Yahnert, Harry
Young, Drexel
Young, Raymond

The name of our "Diary" was suggested by Pfc. Wm. Chance
* Silver Star **/* Bronze Star W/cluster ***/* Purple Heart W/cluster
** Bronze Star *** Purple Heart SM-F Soldiers Medal - French.
*, *** Silver Star and Purple Heart SM Soldiers Medal
C.deG/EdeB. French: Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Bronze; 4 issued to 602 TD Bn.
Lawrence Otis was selected to be the Company "A" Recipient.