

336TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

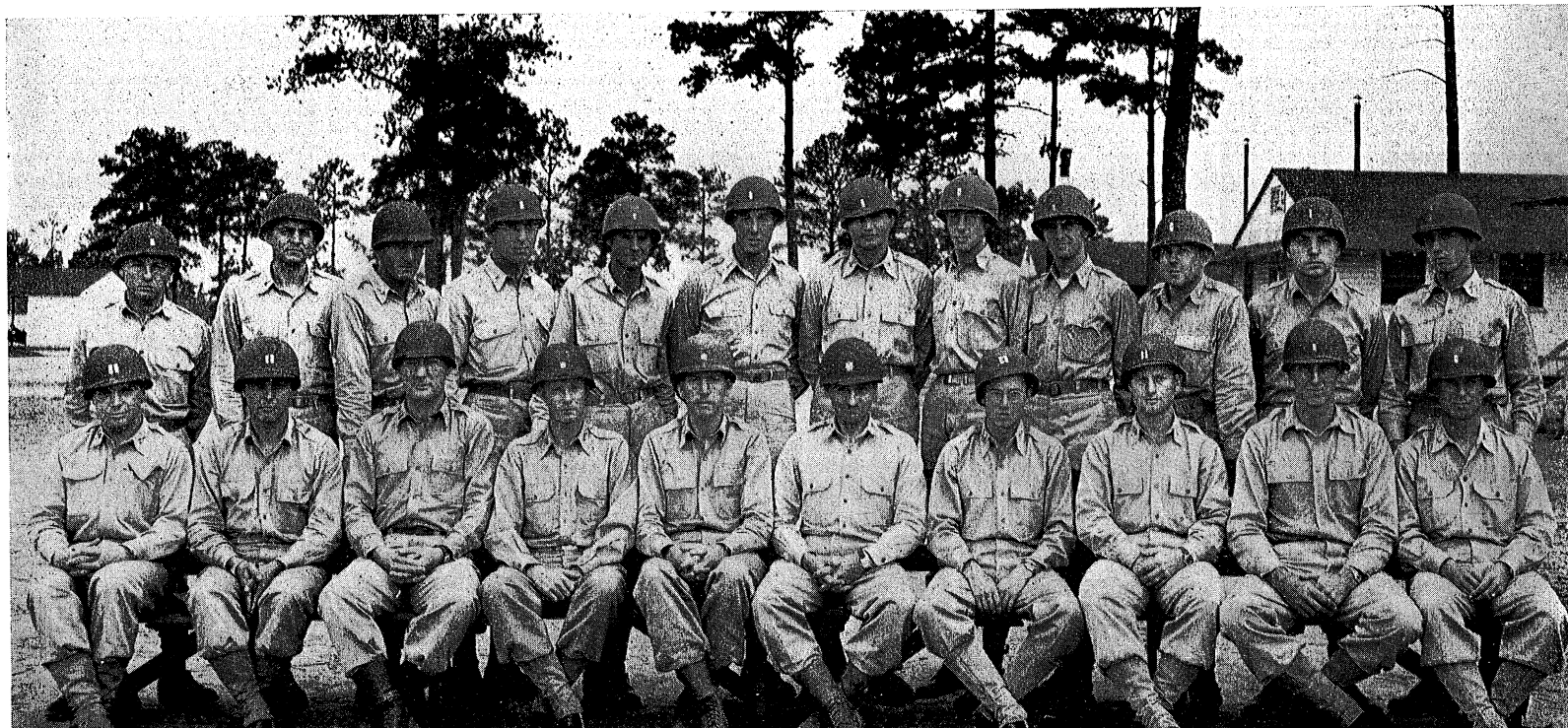




*Lieutenant Rutledge, Captain Magee, Captain O'Neal, Lieutenant Colonel Tague,
WO(jg) Elam and Major Horr*

BATTALION OFFICERS PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR E. T. O.

TOP ROW: Lt. Cala, Lt. McGinnis, Lt. Dieudonne, Lt. Ellsworth, Lt. Barrow,
Lt. Fowler, Lt. Rhea, Lt. Wenstrup, Lt. Hollaman, Lt. Cox, Lt. Sowash, Lt. An-
drews; BOTTOM ROW: Capt. O'Neal, Capt. Snyder, Capt. Barter, Maj. Lynah,
Maj. Horr, Lt. Col. Tague, Capt. Napier, Capt. Hingston, Lt. Choate, Lt. Rutledge.





BATTALION OFFICERS ON RETURN TO STATES

First Row: Lieutenant Podell, Lieutenant Ellsworth, Lieutenant Totten, Lieutenant Stuckey, Lieutenant Strain, Lieutenant Cox, Lieutenant Welton, Lieutenant Fowler, Lieutenant McDonald, Captain Smith.

Second Row: Lieutenant Leonard, Lieutenant Jackson, Lieutenant Rafal, Lieutenant Benicky, Captain Hingston, Captain Lee, Lieutenant Roberts, Lieutenant Sowash, Chief Warrant Officer Resch.

Third Row: Lieutenant Andrews, Captain Sala, Major Lynah, Lieutenant Colonel Tague, Major Becker, Captain Thompson, Captain Choate, Captain Snyder.

Fourth Row: Lieutenant Rhea, Lieutenant Connolly, Lieutenant Miskill, Lieutenant Spencer, Lieutenant Wenstrup, Lieutenant Moore, Captain O'Neal, Captain Rutledge.

OFFICER ROSTER AND ASSIGNMENTS

BATTALION OFFICERS

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

TAGUE, Marcus Lt. Col., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 LYNNAH, John H., Major, Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 BECKER, Wilfred C., Operational Training Staff Officer.
 HINGSTON, George R., Capt., Operational Training Staff Officer.
 LEE, Garnett O., Jr., Capt., Intelligence Staff Officer.
 O'NEAL, Phillip J., Capt., Combat Liaison Officer.
 RUTLEDGE, Lawrence A., Capt., Combat Liaison Officer.
 ROBERTS, Chester G., 2nd Lt., Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.
 WINSTRUP, John J., 1st Lt., Combat Liaison Officer.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

ANDREWS, Donald F., 1st Lt., Commanding Officer.
 JACKSON, Phillip R., 1st Lt., Air Observation Pilot
 PODELL, Jerome E., 1st Lt., Air Observation Pilot.

LENORD, Edwin A., 1st Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.
 MISKILL, Robert D., 2nd Lt., Commanding Officer.

BATTERY A

CHOATE, Thomas H., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 RHEA, Boyd B., Jr., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 MOORE, William M., 2nd Lt., Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.
 SPENCER, Gaylord H., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.
 STUCKY, John W., Jr., 2nd Lt., Forward Observer, Artillery.
 STRAIN, Carl D., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.

BATTERY B

THOMPSON, Robert H., Capt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 ELLSWORTH, Edward C., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 FOWLER, Vernon R., 1st Lt., Forward Observer Artillery.
 RAPAL, Martin 1st Lt., Motor Officer.

BATTERY C

CALA, Joseph M., Capt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 CONNOLLY, John E., 1st Lt., Forward Observer Artillery.
 COX, Walter L., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
 BENICKY, Joseph M., Jr., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.
 SOWASH, Richard G., 1st Lt., Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.

SERVICE BATTERY

SNIDER, Frank J., Capt., Supply and Evacuation Staff Officer.
 TOTEN, Edward F., 1st Lt., Munitions Officer.
 WELTON, Francis C., 1st Lt., Motor Officer.
 McDONALD, Alexander A., 2nd Lt., Motor Officer.
 RESCH, Robert B., CWO, Supply Officer General.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

SMITH, Miles B., Capt., Medical Officer General Duty.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

CLASBY, John J., M/Sgt., Chicago, Ill.
 BEYE, John R., 1/Sgt., Marshalltown, Iowa.
 DUNN, David W., T/Sgt., Detroit, Mich.
 VINCK, Charles F., T/Sgt., Chicago, Ill.
 BARNES, Floyd W., S/Sgt., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.
 BROWN, Frederick J., S/Sgt., Saginaw, Mich.
 GULLY, Lennox E., S/Sgt., Preston, Miss.
 JERMAN, James J., S/Sgt., Lebanon, Ind.
 MARNACH, Arnold M., S/Sgt., Caledonia, Minn.
 McCARLEY, Harold O., S/Sgt., Greenville, S. C.
 NATH, Paul J., S/Sgt., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 WASSER, S/Sgt., Reading, Pa.
 WASSER, Donald R., S/Sgt., Reading, Pa.
 BAGLEY, Claude E., T/3, Alexandria Ind.
 BELLA, Nicholas J., Sgt., Plant City, Fla.
 BURT, Marlon F., Sgt., McGraw, N. Y.
 ELDRIDGE, Julius W., Sgt., Newton Grove, N. C.
 FOERSCHLER, William T., Sgt., Chapman, Kan.
 BLOOMSTOCK, Harold J., T/4 Springfield Mo.
 FINK, Jesse F., T/4 Jefferson, Ohio.
 GAMEZ, Gilberto, T/4, Laredo, Tex.
 GREEN, James L., T/4, Green Castle, Ind.
 HEMMER, Paul W., T/4, Covington, Ky.
 JOHNS, Myron H., T/4 Grundy Center, Ia.
 KLING, Robert F., T/4 Turlock, Calif.
 LOVOY, Leland M., T/4, Glens Falls N. Y.
 NUSSEL, Wayne H., T/4, Brazil, Ind.
 POOL, Cranston A., T/4, Des Moines, Iowa.
 PRAET, Walter V., T/4, Napoleon, Ohio.
 SOPHER, Dellner O., T/4, Steger, Ill.
 SPRADLIN, Ansel R., T/4, Portsmouth, O.
 WETTEROFF, Lester A., T/4, St. Louis, Mo.
 SZAFRANSKI, Joseph A., T/4, Buffalo, N. Y.
 BELL, Wendell D., Cpl., Miltonvale, Kan.
 DEL PRATO, Enriaco J., Cpl., Syracuse, N. Y.
 HILDEBRAND, Richard G., Cpl., Mansfield, Ohio.
 LEMASTER, Clyde H., Jr., Cpl., Purcell, Okla.

LENKOWSKY, Murry, Cpl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 McCALL, Willard Murry, Cpl., Norwalk, Calif.
 POELOT, John W., Cpl., Plainfield, N. J.
 RUFF, Julius L., Cpl., Staten Island, N. Y.
 SANDERS, Robert F., Cpl., Scotia, N. Y.
 SNOW, Edward J., Cpl., Mohawk, N. Y.
 S'OUGH, Robert G., Cpl., Oklahoma City, Okla.
 WEAVER, Nathan M., Jr., Craddock, Va.
 YOKEY, Kenneth R., Cpl., Buffalo, N. Y.
 ALIZ, Ulisse L., T/5, Greenville, N. H.
 BENTZ, Paul R., T/5, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 BISBACH, Clifford H., T/5, Platteville, Wis.
 BIZZOZZO, Aldo C., T/5, Montpelier, Vt.
 BRUMLEY, Milburn M., T/5, Giltner, Neb.
 BURDE, Theodore O., T/5, Bronx, N. Y.
 CHAPPLE, Harold L., T/5, Winston Salem, N. C.
 CLACK, Edward R., T/5, Rocky Mountain, N. C.
 GALILEO, Rocco D., T/5, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 HOGAN, Calvin G., T/5 Mobeetle, Tex.
 LEAVEN, Thomas F., T/5, Oelview, Iowa.
 LEET, Eugene B., T/5, St. Louis, Mo.
 MANLEY, Carl J., T/5, Drumright, Okla.
 MARCKS, Donald F., T/5, Waverly, Neb.
 MARLER, Ralph W., T/5, Springfield, Mo.
 PEPE, Pasquale A., T/5, West New York, N. J.
 RICHEY, John B., Jr., T/5, Toledo, Ohio.
 ROCHE, Paul F., T/5, Scranton, Pa.
 SMITH, JAMES M., T/5, Sioux Falls, S. D.
 TICHY, William, T/5, St. Louis, Mo.
 ULFERS, Durward D., T/5, Omaha, Neb.
 WILSON, Johnnie E., T/5 Milltown, Ky.
 BOYLE, James A., Pfc., Hamilton, Ohio.
 CARLSON, Kenneth E., Pfc., Rumford, R. I.
 BRADY, William J., Pfc., Philadelphia, Pa.
 DIXON, Junior R., Pfc., Sinks Grove, W. Va.
 DRIER, Elmer J., Pfc., Rockland, Mich.
 DRISCOLL, Lenord E., Pfc., Columbus, Ohio.
 DULDT, John, Pfc., Laurenburg, Tenn.

ELKINS Joseph L., Jr., Oak Hill, W. Va.
 EHRMAN, George F., Pfc., West Amana, Iowa.
 FINALDI, Anthony, Pfc., Newark, N. J.
 GOLDMAN, Issadore, Pfc., Philadelphia, Pa.
 GARANDA, Edward P., Pfc., Jersey City, N. J.
 HOKIE, Kenneth, Pfc., Granite Quarry, N. C.
 LOWERY, Kenneth S., Pfc., Houston, Mo.
 MAGUIRE, William S., Pfc., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 MILLER, Donald R., Pfc., Buffalo, N. Y.
 MISHOE, Charles W., Pfc., Conway, S. C.
 PETERS, George O., Pfc., South Hero, Vt.
 PETERS, Paul R., Pfc., Bowman, N. D.
 PIERCE, Frank J., Pfc., Ridgeway, Pa.
 PRANSKY, Kermit, Pfc., Bronx, N. Y.
 RAMIREZ, Frank H., Pfc., Roswell, N. M.
 SPAHR, Charles E., Pfc., Ebensburg, Pa.
 SMITH, Francis E., Pfc., Willimantic, Conn.
 STEWART, Wilford B., Burlington, N. C.
 SUTTER William B., Pfc., New Paris, Pa.
 TURNER, Ismal, Pfc., Crockett, Tex.
 WRIGHT, Ensley W., Pfc., Somerset, Ky.
 BARBOUR, William E., Pvt., Chicago, Ill.
 BARNES, Erwin W., Pvt., Sioux City, Iowa.
 CLARK, Edward F., Pvt., Anon Park, Fla.
 FIELD, Paul, Pvt., Bronx N. Y.
 HARDING, Orville T., Pvt., Wausau, Wis.
 HENDERSON Peter J., Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 JACKSON, Clyde L., Pvt., Saluda, N. C.
 KNOTTS, William T., Pvt., Newburg, W. Va.
 MEGEN, Edward J., Pvt., Chicago, Ill.
 MEYER, Ralph, Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 MOODY, Bruce R., Pvt., Belle View, Fla.
 MOORE, Howard E., Pvt., Armstrongs Mills, Ohio.
 PANTAZIS, James P., Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 PARSONS, Elfred J., Pvt., Saugus, Mass.
 PATTON, Glenn W., Pvt., Hartford, Ky.
 PAWLUK, Emil E., Pvt., Queens Village, N. Y.
 ROSPLOCHOWSKI, Richard H., Pvt., Milwaukee, Wis.
 SUSSMAN, Selig, Pvt., Philadelphia, Pa.

BATTERY A

NICKUS, Vincent 1/Sgt., Olympia, Wash.
 BERRY, Curtis C., S/Sgt., Turtle Creek, W. Va.
 CIPRA, Raymond V., S/Sgt., Prairie du Chien, Wis.
 LURA, DeLOSS C., S/Sgt., Joice, Iowa.
 LINLEY, Michael E., S/Sgt., Mazomanie, Wis.

ALLEN, Gean E., Sgt., Richmond, Mo.
 CORREN, James H., Sgt., Dravosburg, Pa.
 DE COCQ, Henry W., Sgt., Purdy, Mo.
 HUTCHINS, William F., Sgt., East Point, Ga.
 KOHORST, Rembert C., Sgt., Norwood, O.
 PHILLIPS, Boyd E., Sgt., Lake City, Kan.

POW, Frank C., Sgt., Saluda, S. C.
 SCHOONOVER, Ernst E., Jr., Sgt., Topeka, Kan.
 BIELA, Jerry T/4, Bridgeport, Ohio.
 CRONIN, Carmie M., T/4, Evansville, Ind.
 HOPKINS, Melvin L., T/4 Vandalia, Ill.
 JEMC, Raymond R., T/4, Chicago, Ill.

TROSTLE, Arthur W., T/4, Terre Hill, Pa.
 ZOLLICKER Thomas M., T/4, Windsor, Mo.
 ALOISI, Samuel D., Cpl., Harrison, N. Y.
 CARLIS, Salvatore, Cpl., New Haven, Conn.
 FELIX, Edward J., Cpl., Bessemer, Mich.
 GONZALES, Maurice, Cpl., Albuquerque, N. M.
 HENZEL, John H., Cpl., Philadelphia, Pa.
 JONES, Wallace L., Cpl., Little Rock, Ark.
 MOOTHART, Robert O., Cpl., Wellman, Ia.
 MURPHY, Howard M., Cpl., Patton, Pa.
 PRINZ, Raymond B., Cpl., Elgin, Tex.
 WALLACE, Lenord, Cpl., Saluda, S. C.
 ALBERS, Clarence A., T/5 Monteno, Ill.
 BARNES, John J., T/5, Bethany, Mo.
 CARPENTER, William L., T/5, Fort Edward, N. Y.
 DICKERSON, Donald E., T/5, New Lexington, Ohio.
 LEBEDNIKAS, John J., T/5, Utica, N. Y.
 NEARAN, Willie M., T/5, Union Grove Ala.
 PHILLIPS, Claud S., T/5, Clinton, Mo.
 STEBLE, Eddie L., T/5 San Francisco, Calif.
 TIBERII, Guido, T/5, Charlton, Mass.
 ALLEN, Floyd M., Pfc., Albion, Mich.
 ALVAREZ, Louis P., Jr., Pfc., Tempe, Ariz.
 ANDERSON, Edward D., Pfc., Battle Lake, Minn.
 ARENA, Louis L., Pfc., Waterbury, Conn.
 ARAZA, John H., Pfc., North Adams, Mass.
 BECKWORTH, John E., Pfc., Stephenville, Tex.
 BELDEN, Lawrence G., Pfc., Hudson Falls, N. Y.
 BLOOD, Clarence A., Pfc., Minneapolis, Minn.
 CARVER, Floyd W., Pfc., Camden Me.

CALDWELL, Arthur W., Pfc., Long Beach, Calif.
 CHULA, Stanley M., Pfc., Greenfield, Mass.
 CLARKE, Harold H., Pfc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 DAILEY, Freddie E., Pfc., Parkersburg W. Va.
 D'AMBRA, Samuel, Jr., Pfc., Providence, R. I.
 DAVIDSON, Robert W., Pfc., Havre de Grace, Md.
 De SANTIS, Dominic, Pfc., Pittsfield, Mass.
 DOUGHERTY, Carl A., Pfc., Richland, Mich.
 DYE, George, Pfc., Stanford Ky.
 EMMEL, John M., Philadelphia, Pa.
 FATYLAK, Michel, Pfc., Manchester N. H.
 FOSTER, Carl H., Pfc., Indian Mills W. Va.
 GILBERT, Alfred W., Pfc., Honey Grove, Tex.
 GRANT, Howard W., Pfc., El Paso, Tex.
 GULASA, Stephen J., Pfc., Dayton, Ohio.
 HAWKINS, Andrew E., Pfc., Alton, Ill.
 HOADLEY, Lawrence W., Pfc., Baraboo, Wis.
 HOGAN, Raymond B., Pfc., Methuen Mass.
 LEDGER, Douglas R., Pfc., Malone, N. Y.
 LOW, Thomas W., Pfc., Andover, Mass.
 McCUNE, Thomas L., Pfc., Columbus, Ohio.
 MAXWELL, Burdette B., Pfc., Santa Anna, Calif.
 MAY, Edward A., Pfc., Chicago, Ill.
 MILLER, Glen L., Pfc., Long Beach, Calif.
 OSTROMBIAK, Ignatius S., Pfc., Chicago, Ill.
 PETROSKY, Edward J., Pfc., Columbus, Ohio.
 PUES, Vergil C., Pfc., Neenah, Wis.
 RICH, Luther C., Pfc., Ranger, N. C.

RICHTER, Arthur, Pfc., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 SIBBLECKI, Raymond J., Pfc., Flint, Mich.
 SHIELDS, Earl, Pfc., Rapleje, Mont.
 SOMMESI, Vito J., Pfc., Cicero, Ill.
 TORRES, John S., Pfc., Dallas, Tex.
 WACKER, Ervin, Pfc., Petaluma, Calif.
 WARREN, Harvey W., Pfc., Alexandria, Ind.
 WARNER, MILTON J., Pfc., Mitchell, Neb.
 WHITE, Tommie C., Pfc., Waterview, Ky.
 WILLEY, Norris W., Beaver City, Neb.
 WISE, Stephen A., Pfc., New York, N. Y.
 BERGER, Ralph Jr., Pvt., Cicero, Ill.
 BOWLSBY, Levi F., Pvt., Olympia, Wash.
 COLLINS, Robert E., Pvt., Springfield, Mo.
 DAILEY, Marlon J., Pvt., Parkersburg, W. Va.
 DOSS, Charlie, Pvt., Chicago, Ill.
 FULK, George W., Pvt., High Point, N. C.
 GARCIA, Arturo, Pvt., Kingsville, Tex.
 GREEN, Edward M., Pvt., Spartansburg, S. C.
 KINLAW, Hoyle B., Pvt., Fayetteville, N. C.
 LEON, Vincent A., Pvt., Bronx, N. Y.
 MORTIMORE, James E., Pvt., Lamonia, Iowa.
 HALL, Owen B., Pvt., Corbin, Ky.
 HARRIS, Jennings, Jr., Pvt., Akron, Ohio.
 HANSON, Russell E., Pvt., New Briton, Conn.
 OLSON, Donald E., Pvt., Delemere, N. D.
 PUTMAN, Artur P., Pvt., Joplin, Mo.
 ROTONDO, Pasquale, Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 SEELIGSON, Jeff L., Pvt., Gollad Tex.
 SCHAFER, Lyle E., Pvt., Hollywood, Calif.
 STEFANO, Victor H., Pvt., Akron, Ohio.
 ST. PIERRE, Henry J., Pvt., Pawtucket, R. I.

BATTERY B

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 RAFAL, Martin, 1st Lt., 1610 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, Va.
 BETZ, William T., S/Sgt., 3024 Mahaska Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.
 KRANIG, Harold J., S/Sgt., 445 Sherry Ave., Park Falls, Wis.
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 HABBYSHAW, Matthew R., Sgt., 13310 Saybrook Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 KASPRZYK, Michael A., Sgt., 4844 Magnolia Ave., Hammond, Ind.
 LAMBERSON, Junior C., Sgt., 926 E. Liberty St., Mexico, Mo.
 BERRYHILL, Alney M., T/4, 813 River-view Dr., Jackson, Miss.
 DICKINSON, George O., T/4, Monett, Mo.
 HUNDT, Joseph W., T/4, 501 N. Jackson St., Charles City, Iowa.
 LATSHA, Daniel L., T/4, Rt. 1, Box 217, Elysburg, Pa.
 RACHFORD, George R., T/4, Camp Rd., Cold Springs Ky.
 SANFILLIPPO, John B., T/4, 239 President St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 VONDER HOYA, Herbert A., T/4, 1111 Walter Dr., Dallas Tex.
 BAEHR, James E., Cpl., 593 Jersey St., San Francisco, Calif.
 CARRIERE, Alva J., Cpl., Shannock R. I.
 ELLER, Stanley H., Cpl. 7229 Whittaker St., Detroit, Mich.
 FRANCHINI, Primo, Cpl. 406 Woods Rd., Solvay, N. Y.
 FRITSCH, William F., Jr., Cpl., 120 E. Broad St., Savannah, Ga.
 GALLOWAY, John W., Jr., Cpl., Box 145, Nichols, Fla.
 GOULD, Grady L., Cpl., 468 Avondale Dr., Danville, Va.
 LEVILLIER, Roger A., Cpl., Rt. 7 Box 416, Mt. Clemmons, Mich.
 MONTI, John, Cpl., 114 E. Orchard St., Woonsocket, R. I.
 SULLIVAN, James R., Cpl., 733 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 VAN LAAK, William E., Cpl., 3425 19th St., San Francisco, Calif.
 WILLIAMS, Frank L., Cpl., 915 Snyder, Scranton, Pa.
 BRACKEN, Walter B., T/5, 1605 Monterey St., Alhambra, Calif.
 DEUTSCH, Louis J., T/5, 257 S. Second St., Coplay, Pa.
 FLOTH, Harold, T/5, Rt. 1, Miniture, Neb.

GOLDEN, Joseph B., T/5, 414 Beach 123rd St., Rockaway Beach, L. I., N. Y.
 GOLDSTEIN, Ruben, T/5, 149 Grafton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 HOUSEHOLDER, George E., T/5, Rt. 1, New Lexington, Ohio.
 MAGRAY, John A., T/5, Star Rt., Box 149, Crystal Falls, Mich.
 ORR, Kenneth A., T/5, 3576 Champion Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 RATZLAFF, Ernest O., T/5, Rt. 1, Roxbury, Kan.
 WILHERE, Joseph M., T/5 483 Andrews Ave., Glen Olden, Pa.
 YAKEL, John, T/5, 21st and Gardner Rd., La Grange, Ill.
 BALLAGH, Hamilton C., Pfc., 1823 Grace St., Lynchburg, Va.
 BARNETT, Roy E., Pfc., Loretta, Tenn.
 BILL, Joseph, Pfc., 216 E. Main St., Flushing, Mich.
 BLACK, Fenton G., Pfc., 852 E. Patterson St., Lansford, Pa.
 BOHON Rufus A., Pfc., 1102 Stauton Ave., Roanoke, Va.
 CASSADY, Henry S., Pfc., Rt. 2, Adolphus, Ky.
 CHOPP, Matt, Pfc., 20 Third St. Roland, Wash.
 CLARK, Kenneth R., Pfc., 1478 Novara St., Detroit, Mich.
 CLARK, Robert G., Pfc., Rt. 1, Festus, Mo.
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 CORNET, Edward Pfc., Rt. 3, Eatonton, Ga.
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 DINE, Donald F., Pfc., 12110 Glenfield Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 DOVE, Linwood J., Pfc., Rt. 6, Box 209, Roanoke, Va.
 DOUGLAS, Walter A., Jr., Pfc., Brewton, Ala.
 DRUMM, John E., Pfc., 58 Erie St., Jersey City, N. J.
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 HAYES, John N., Pfc., 6920 Agnes St., Kansas City, Mo.
 HOLMES, Robert E., Pfc., Monument, Ore.
 HOOVER, Leon, Pfc., Rt. 1, Columbia, S. C.
 JANNOITA, Alfred J., Pfc., 45 Pearl St., Quincy, Mass.
 JOHNSON, Nolan K., Pfc., Alden, Kan.
 KEBNER, Dale L., Pfc., Leacock, Pa.
 KENNEDY, Lester S., Pfc., Fort McDermit, Nev.
 LOWER, Donald G., Pfc., Laddonia Mo.
 LUX, Ferdinand W., Pfc., 121 Harding Blvd., East Peoria, Ill.

MAYORYK, Stephen Pfc., 214 W. 14th St., Northampton, Pa.
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 MOODY, R. L., Pfc., Hiawasse, Ga.
 MORELLI, Bernard J., Pfc., 8406 1/2 Franks-town Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 MOTSINGER, Roy E., Pfc., Rt. 2, Pekin, Ind.
 NORTH, Milton N. G., Pfc., 2915 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 OFFENBERGER, Randall R., Pfc., 1609 Roland St., Chariton, Iowa.
 OGLE, Verl H., Pfc., 212 Paharn Ave., Maryville, Tenn.
 PALMERINO, Amos A., 1763 Ulster St., Schenectady, N. Y.
 PARKER, George N., Pfc., Rt. 2, Roachdale, Ind.
 PARKS, Arthur W., Pfc., 402 Washington St., Portage, Wis.
 PIPPIN, Alvin W., Pfc., 315 Greenwood St., Wichita, Kan.
 RAHERTY, William P., Pfc., 15 Marmion St., Jamaica Plain Boston, Mass.
 RAGAN, Joseph E., Pfc., 611 Reservoir St., East Durham, N. C.
 RANCOURT, Marcel R., Pfc., Rt. 2, Litchfield Corner, Lewiston, Me.
 SAXTON, Lamar C., Pfc., Drury's Run, Renova, Pa.
 SCHENCK, Ernest A., Pfc., Rt. 2, Greenwood, Ind.
 SEYMOUR, James R., Pfc., 1422 Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio.
 SWIDERSKI, Anthony S., Pfc., 939 E. Laurel St., Reading, Pa.
 TARWACKI, Stanley F., Pfc., 444 1/2 S. Chapin St., South Bend, Ind.
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 THOMPSON, Hurlay E., Pfc., Box 45, Waxhaw, N. C.
 TYMON, Jack E., Pfc., 1453 Miller St., Kingsport, Tenn.
 WEAKLEY, David M., Jr., Pfc., Birmingham, Ala.
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 VOLK, James G., Pvt., 3218 Holmes St., Erie, Pa.
 WEIN, Sigmund, Pvt., 313 E. Fourth St., New York N. Y.
 WIEGAND, John J., Pvt., Rt. 5, Lancaster, Pa.
 CATALFAMO, Tony, Pvt., 13 Hassart St., New Brunswick N. J.
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 MORGAN, Lynn R., S/Sgt., 345 E. Michigan St., Marquette Mich.

BATTERY C

FISCHER, Carl, S/Sgt., Glen Dean, Ky.
HEMBREE, Howard S., S/Sgt., Gen. Del., Quebec, Tenn.
STRAUSER, Harold A., S/Sgt., Gen. Del., Orient, Iowa.
FLAHAVEN, Earl E., Sgt., 206 First Ave., S.E. Aberdeen, S. D.
GONSCHOREK, Walter H., Sgt., Poplar, Wis.
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MESTON, Frank F., Sgt., 3024 7th Ave., Council Bluffs, Iowa.
SAITER, Frank B., 33 S. Eighth St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.
TESLIK, Louis, Sgt., 205 Washington St., Colfax, Iowa.
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KRICK, Norbert A., T/4, Roundlake Minn.
MAHALSKY, Pavel, T/4, 222 Main St., Duryea, Pa.
THEWS, Wayne R., T/4, Rt. 2, Culver, Ind.
BAUSWELL, Russell H., Cpl., 1058 S. 25th St., Kansas City, Kan.
BULLARD, Cautley C., Jr., Box 94 White Springs, Fla.
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JONES, Paul A., Cpl., 544 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
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LINScombe, Robert W., Cpl., P.O. Box 242, Gueydan, La.
PEARSON, Clinton E., Cpl., Ortle, S. D.
PRINCE, William C., Cpl., 404 Hickory St., Duncan, Okla.
SHROUT, Charles C., Cpl., Rt. 5, Marion, Ind.
BUTLER, James T., T/5, Rt. 3, Opp. Ala. CAPPS, Fay G., T/5, Rt. 2, Eureka Springs, Ark.
CRAWFORD, Thomas H., T/5, Lincoln, Kan.
CARNEY, Jack A., T/5, Russellville, Mo.
ESTERLY, Warren A., T/5, 1011 Green, Reading, Pa.
FRISBIE, Dale L., T/5, 2506 Dean Ave., Bellingham, Wash.
HASSETT, Frederick A., T/5, 229 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, Calif.
PRIDE, William V., T/5, P.O. Box 381, Livingston, Calif.

REDDING, Roger L., T/5, Lake Nebagamon, Wis.
GENTRY, Ora V., T/5, Overbrook, Okla.
ASMAN, James M., Pfc., 2570 Cedar St., Philadelphia, Pa.
BANKSTON, Layton W., Pfc., Rt. 1, Roseland, La.
BAYERL, Anton C., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 190-A, Menominee, Mich.
BELL, John W., Pfc., 179 St. Nicholas Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
BLACKLEY, Harry A., Pfc., Box 133, Somerset, Tex.
BURNETT, Vetauh E., Pfc., Glen Dean, Ky.
COTTRILL, Billy E., Pfc., 124 S. Beach St., Flushing, Mich.
CAZARES, Joe J. E., Pfc., Corcoran, Calif.
EBEL, John P., Pfc., 915 Oakdale Ave., Chicago, Ill.
ERNST, John N., Pfc., 249 W. 108th Pl., Chicago, Ill.
FISH, Carl F., Pfc., Gilman, Wis.
GIGLIOTTI, Stephen S., Pfc., 210 Blaine Ave., Johnstown, Pa.
GUTGESELL, William, Pfc., 80 McKinley Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
HANSEN, William H., Pfc., 176 Willow St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.
LOPEZ, William J., Pfc., 315 State St., Trinidad, Colo.
McCOY, George E., Pfc., Chest Springs, Pa.
McGUIRE, Malcolm, Pfc., 3319 Glencaron Rd., Shaker Heights Ohio.
MONTIY, Joseph R., Pfc., 4847 Proctor, Detroit, Mich.
MULLINS, Cecil J., Pfc., Gen. Del. Breckenridge, Tex.
MURPHY, John J., Pfc., 594 Park Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
NOFTZ, Charles H., Pfc., 1531 W. Cortez St., Chicago, Ill.
PARRISH, Charles D., Pfc., 4 S. Ash, Momece, Ill.
PARSONS, Robert E., Pfc., 248 E. Knight Ave., Collingswood, N. J.
PAYNE, Charles F., Pfc., Box 75, Emhouse, Tex.
ROBERTS, Russell B., Pfc., Rt. 4, Harrodsbrug, Ky.
ROBINSON, Raymond D., Pfc., 514 Grant St., Clay Center, Kan.
ROEDER, Robert F., Pfc., 464 Kensington, Buffalo, N. Y.
SAUNDERS, Paul O., Pfc., 1145 Ramona St., San Gabriel, Calif.
SLOWINSKI, Henry P., Pfc., Rt. 2, Brownsdale, Minn.
STERNQUIST, Elmer A., Pfc., Rt. 1, Beaver Falls, Pa.

TUGGLE, Clomer B., Pfc., Rt. 3, Box 89, Malvern, Ark.
TUDOR, Raymond O., Pfc., 714 Highland Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
VAN DER CAMMEN, Wallace, Pfc., 1103 N. Hawthorne St., Chattanooga, Tenn.
VEEN, Victor C., Rt. 2, Cathay, N. D.
WONG, Wing Pfc., 1247 Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.
WULF, Otto E., Pfc., 3354 Decatur St., Denver, Colo.
YOUNG, William H., Pfc., Rt. 2, New Ringgold, Pa.
ZAVODNY, John M., Pfc., 4967 N. Kilpatrick Ave., Chicago, Ill.
ACREE, Orvill, Pvt., Gen. Del., Wilson, Okla.
AIZENBERG, Allen S., Pvt., 939 Mirror St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
DUNBAR, Maurice L., Pvt., 14390 Ashton Rd., Detroit, Mich.
EISA, George A., Pvt., 5544 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago, Ill.
FENSKI, Robert A., Pvt., 305 Linden, Benton Harbor, Mich.
FLADAGER, Per-Arne, Pvt., 246 75th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
HADLEY, William H., Pvt., Nanty-Glo, Pa.
JAGGERS, Alva J., Pvt., 144 S. Sixth St., Newark, Ohio.
KNUTSON, Donald D., Pvt., 336 Jennings St., Vallejo, Calif.
LEACHMAN, Clarence E., Pvt., 606 Main St., Enid, Okla.
LEHMER, Albert M., Pvt., 17 Renova St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MAZUR, John S., Pvt., 27 Arlington Ave., Warren R. I.
ORSINI, Harry E., Pvt., 1630 Third Ave., Arnold, Pa.
LUCCHI, Eugene P., Pvt., 9525 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights, L. I. N. Y.
ROBIDAS, Charles J., Pvt., 509 Fountain Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
SHIBROSKI, John E., Pvt., 932 E. 219th St., New York, N. Y.
ROGERS, Horace E., Pvt., 1921 W. 97th St., Seattle, Wash.
SUTTON, Lewis V., Box 15, Chloride, Mo.
TERWISKE, Gletus A., Pvt., Ireland, Ind.
WAGAR, Guy C., Pvt., 508 Wachtel Ave., Petosky, Mich.
BEYMER, Homer W., Jr., Pvt., 214 E. Willard, Muncie, Ind.
WITT, Orville E., Pvt., Gen Del., Cambria, Va.
DELANEY, Charles H., Valley Bend, W. Va.

SERVICE BATTERY

LOEWEN, Frank W., M/Sgt., Buhler, Mont.
BAILEY, Donald R., 1/Sgt., Nephi, Utah.
CLEMMER, Lander R., 1/Sgt., Gastonia, N. C.
COX, Woodrow, T/Sgt., Yountville, Calif.
DAY, John A., S/Sgt., Dayton, Ohio.
FETTERMAN, James R., S/Sgt., Rossiter, Pa.
LANE, Estle C., S/Sgt., Buckner, Mo.
MARTIN, William A., S/Sgt., Mt. Olivet, Ky.
FRICK, Frederick E., Sgt., Mattoon, Ind.
KREISHER, Charles E., Sgt., Sweetwater, Tex.
MOTTAR, Lee E., Sgt., Rochester, Ill.
NEEL, Donald T., Sgt., Campbell, Mo.
AARO, Mervin H., T/4, Bremerton, Wash.
GIGNAC, Fred L., T/4, Menominee, Mich.
RAITHEL, Walton J., T/4, Tulsa, Okla.
ROETHLER, Milo H., T/4, Riceville, Iowa.
SHEERY, Gerald H., T/4, Sheboygan, Wis.
SNYDER, Larence C., T/4, Tacoma, Wash.
BAKER, Stanley P., Cpl., Philadelphia, Pa.
BLEVINS, Larry C., Cpl., Pembroke, Va.
BROWN, Howard C., Cpl., Cleveland, Ohio.
PILLY, Charles, Cpl., Cleveland, Ohio.
WEVER, Henry L., Cpl., La Junta, Colo.

ANDERSON, Theodore M., T/5, Detroit, Mich.
BECETT, Harry L., T/5, Cleveland, Ohio.
BRECK, Michel, T/5, Scranton, Pa.
ETHORNE, Leighton E., T/5, Helena, Mont.
GILBERT, Carl W., T/5, Sioux City, Iowa.
MALCONIAN, Mike S., T/5, St. Louis, Mo.
MONROE, Maurice F., T/5, Gary, Ind.
MOMALA, Walter S., T/5, Webberville, Mich.
RENZ, Russell W., T/5, Lakewood, Ohio.
RUSSELL, Fred T/5, Findlay, Ohio.
SNELL, Donald F., T/5, Frankfort, Ind.
VERBECH, Walter J., T/5, Ridgway, Pa.
BLAIR, Bernard H., Pfc., Lima, Ohio.
BUCCIERE, Joseph, Jr., Pfc., Saugus, Mass.
CABALLERO, Eugenio G., Pfc., San Diego, Tex.
De MICCO, Joseph M., Pfc., Bronx, N. Y.
EVERBEST, Wilmer J., Pfc., Baltimore, Md.
FAULDS, Harold A., Pfc., Anderson, Ind.
GORDON, Brooks A., Pfc., Portland, Ore.
HOFFENBERGER, Nicholes J., Pfc., Unionville, Mich.
JOHNSTON, George M., Pfc., Perryopolis, Pa.

KAMPF, Lawrence, Pfc., Glidden, Wis.
LAING, Marvin R., Pfc., Bastrop, La.
LITTLE, William B., Pfc., Greenville, Ala.
MARRICKULA, Lauri T., Pfc., Fort Bragg, Calif.
MORGAN, James E., Pfc., Clarksburg, W. Va.
PARMELE, Calvin U., Pfc., Peoria, Ill.
ROBERTS, Richard E., Pfc., Et. Elmo, Ind.
ROSENBERG, Earl L., Pfc., Pittsburgh, Pa.
STONE, Gilcke S., Pfc., West Point, Va.
TRAVIS, James C., Pfc., Mayfield, Ky.
GARCIA, Eloy F., Pvt., San Berriito, Tex.
GLIDWELL, Jesse W., Pvt., Carriere, Miss.
LEE, Otha, Pvt., Frisco City, Ala.
LEMON, William B., Pvt., Akron, Ohio.
LIVINGSTON, Norman R., Pvt., Worth, S. C.
MAGIO, Joseph A., Pvt., Baltimore, Md.
MAZURKIEWICZ, Edward Pvt., Buffalo, N. Y.
MILO, William E., Pvt., Albany, N. Y.
PRATT, Milton E., Pvt., Floyd, Va.
RECTOR, Laura A., Pvt., Crawfordsville, Ind.
SACKIE, Thomas A., Pvt., Barnsboro, Pa.
SMIOVIC, Andrew, Jr., Pvt., Akron, Ohio.
ZIRLIN, Irving, Pvt., Chicago, Ill.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

SAPORITO, Robert M., S/Sgt., Everett, Mass.
REISMAN, Daniel M., T/3, Fulton, N. Y.
KLEBERGERMAN, Edward, T/4, Bronx, N. Y.
KLOOS, George J., Cpl., Cleveland, Ohio.

BLANCHARD, Harry L., T/5, White Plains, N. Y.
WILLIS, Harrison E., T/5, Springfield, Mo.
BUNN, Joseph L., Pfc., Cincinnati, Ohio.
SENER, John F., Pfc., Los Angeles, Calif.

DE HAMIDIAN, William S., Pfc., Marietta, Pa.
GIALANELLA, Oreste J., Pfc., Newark, N. J.
VITELLO, Joseph, Pvt., Chicago, Ill.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

KILLED IN ACTION

OFFICERS

DOUGLAS D. BARROW, 1st Lt., Battery A
GODFREY H. BERNHARDT, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery

ENLISTED MEN

RICHARD C. MERRIMAN, Sgt., Battery B
ROBERT W. MCCRUM, Cpl., Battery B
CHARLES F. DUTIEL, T/5, Headquarters Battery
JOHN J. GILDEA, Pvt., Battery B
HENRY PADLASOFF, Pvt., Headquarters Battery

PURPLE HEART

OFFICERS

FRANK C. NAPIER, Capt.
LAWRENCE A. RUTLEDGE, Capt.
JOHN E. CONNOLLY, 1st Lt., Battery C
WALTER L. COX, 1st Lt., Battery C
JOHN E. STUCKEY, 2nd Lt., Battery B
JOSEPH M. BENICKY, 2nd Lt., Battery C
EDWIN A. LEONARD, 2nd Lt., Headquarters Battery
WILLIAM M. MOORE, 2nd Lt., Battery A
RICHARD G. SOWASH, 2nd Lt., Battery C
GAYLORD H. SPENCER, 2nd Lt., Battery A

ENLISTED MEN

FLOYD W. BARNES, S/Sgt., Battery B
WILLIAM F. HUTCHINS, Sgt., Battery A
WILLIAM T. FOERSCHLER, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
FRANK F. MESTON, Sgt., Battery C
BOYD E. PHILLIPS, Sgt., Battery A
CLAIR W. ARNOLD, T/4, Battery C
EDWIN A. KOBOSZEIWISKI, T/4, Battery B
JOSEPH J. RAFFERTY, T/4, Headquarters Battery
JOHN B. SAN FILLIPO, T/4, Battery B
HERBERT A. VONDER HOYA, T/4, Battery B
ORVILLE E. WITT, T/4, Battery C
GEORGE F. EHRMANN, Cpl., Battery A
EDWARD J. FELIX, Cpl., Battery A
CURTIS N. LITTLE, Cpl., Battery C
HOWARD MURNY, Cpl., Battery A
WILLIAM C. PRINCE, Cpl., Battery C
JACK A. CARNEY, T/5, Battery C
ROBERT J. DIOPRE, T/5, Battery B
CLAUDE L. JACKSON, T/5, Battery A
PAUL F. STEPHENS, T/5, Battery C
EDWARD CORNETT, Pfc., Battery B
FREDDIE DAILEY, Pfc., Battery B
FAY C. CAPPS, Pfc., Battery C
WILLIAM E. BARBOUR, Pfc., Headquarters Battery
NICHOLAS S. HOFFENBERGER, Pfc., Service Battery
(With Two Oak Leaf Clusters)
GEORGE E. RACHFORD, Pfc., Headquarters Battery
ORVILLE E. ACREE, Pvt., Battery C
SALVADORE CARLIS, Pvt., Battery A
JOHN I. DUNHAM, Pvt., Headquarters Battery
JAMES P. PANTAZIS, Pvt., Headquarters Battery
GUY C. WAGAR, Pvt., Battery C
ALLEN O. WEIRICH, Pvt., Battery B

SILVER STAR

OFFICERS

FRANK C. NAPIER, Capt.
JOHN E. CONNOLLY, 1st Lt., Battery C
JOSEPH M. BENICKY, 2nd Lt., Battery C
CARL D. STRAIN, 2nd Lt., Battery A

BRONZE STAR

OFFICERS

MARCUS TAGUE, Lt. Col.
WILFRED C. BECKER, MAJ.
JOSEPH M. CALA, Capt., Battery C
THOMAS H. CHOATE, Capt., Battery A
GEORGE R. HINGSTON, Capt.
GARNETT O. LEE, JR, Capt.
LAWRENCE A. RUTLEDGE, Capt.
FRANK J. SNYDER, Capt., Service Battery
ROBERT M. THOMPSON, Capt., Battery B
DONALD F. ANDREWS, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
WALTER L. COX, 1st Lt., Battery C
EDWARD C. ELLSWORTH, 1st Lt., Battery B
VERNON R. FOWLER, 1st Lt., Battery B
JOSEPH M. BENICKY, 2nd Lt., Battery C
RICHARD G. SOWASH, 2nd Lt., Battery C
GAYLORD H. SPENCER, 2nd Lt., Battery A
JOHN E. STUCKEY, 2nd Lt., Battery B

ENLISTED MEN

VINCENT NICKUS, 1/Sgt., Battery A
CURTIS C. BERRY, S/Sgt., Battery A
JAMES J. RYAN, S/Sgt., Battery B
NICHOLAS J. BELLA, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
MARION F. BURT, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
HENRY W. DE COCQ, Sgt., Battery A
CLAIRE W. ARNOLD, T/4, Battery C
ORVILLE E. WITT, T/4, Battery C
RICHARD G. HILDEBRAND, Cpl., Battery B
JOSEPH C. MCKEE, Cpl., Battery B
WILLIAM C. PRINCE, Cpl., Battery C
(With Oak Leaf Cluster)
SAMUEL D. ALOISI, T/5, Battery A
RUSSELL H. BAUSWELL, T/5, Battery C
THEODORE C. BURDE, T/5, Headquarters Battery
JACK A. CARNEY, T/5, Battery C
CHARLES F. DUTIEL, T/5, Headquarters Battery
CLYDE L. JACKSON, T/5, Battery A
DONALD F. MARCKS, T/5, Headquarters Battery
ROGER A. LEVILLIER, T/5, Battery B
PAUL F. STEPHENS, T/5, Battery C
WILLIAM J. BRADY, Pfc., Headquarters Battery

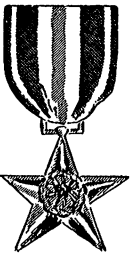
AIR MEDAL

OFFICERS

LAWRENCE A. RUTLEDGE, Capt.
PHILLIP H. JACKSON, 1st Lt.,
(With Two Oak Leaf Clusters)
JEROME E. PODELL, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
GODFREY H. BERNHARDT, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
DOUGLAS D. BARROW, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
EDWIN A. LEONARD, 2nd Lt., Headquarters Battery

RECEIVED BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

JOSEPH M. BENICKY, JR., S/Sgt.
JOHN W. STUCKY, JR., S/Sgt.
CARL D. STRAIN, S/Sgt.
ALEXANDER A. McDONALD, M/Sgt.



HISTORY OF THE 336TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Activation to Departure from Fort Jackson. 1942 to 1944

Mississippi! That name means home to some of us, Camp McCain to more of us, and very little at all to the rest of us. For those to whom it is home, anything we might add would be superfluous. For those who have only a brief idea of the place, anything we might say would not be enough. But for those who were a part of the life at Camp McCain, we can at least call back a few memories.

When the 87th Division was activated on December 15, 1942, a cadre of 82 enlisted men from Camp Rucker, Ala., and a staff of 29 officers from Fort Sill, Okla., were assigned the task of organizing the 336th Field Artillery Battalion. They attempted to make a home for more than 500 men out of tar-paper barracks set in barren sandy-clay cotton fields. It was a big task in the midst of a wet, cold winter. By the time the men began to arrive in February many improvements had been made, but Camp McCain could never be made more than barely comfortable.

With the arrival of the men, basic training began in earnest, and lasted almost ten months. There was drill, classes on wire, radio, fire direction, cannoners' hop, military customs, courtesy, and discipline. There were calisthenics, road marches, machine gun drill, exercises in motor maintenance, and many other phases of the artilleryman's life.

Due to the time of year and the fact that we came from all parts of the country, a virtual epidemic of minor respiratory diseases broke out, sending morale to a new low. However, as we progressed in our acclimatization and the medical officers were able to enforce precautions, we grew more resistant to wet weather and rigorous training. The enlargement of the PX system and the increase in the allotment of beer may have also had something to do with the improvement in morale.

Inspections were numerous and frequent. Barracks were inspected daily, clothing and equipment every Saturday. Superior officers were forever roaming the area, pointing out the advantages of proper cleaning. "Police that up" became a by-word.

As organization improved athletics grew in emphasis. Basketball teams were developed and boxing matches became popular. No champions were developed from the ranks of our battalion but we proved to have some clever and game fighters.

Each battery formed its own basketball team and then a battalion league was organized. Division Artillery held a tournament late in March, 1943, with Battery A 334, Service Battery 336, and Headquarters Battery 336 installed as favorites. Twenty-one teams entered the single elimination contest with A-334, Service 336, Headquarters 336, and Service 335 emerging as the semi-finalists. A-334 and Headquarters 336 entered the finals, an exciting contest in which the Headquarters group won the championship of the Division Artillery by edging out their opponent by a 32 to 31 score. The game attracted a large turnout with General Barkalow and his staff and the Battalion staffs of both 334 and 336 present. The Champs won 17 games and lost two during the season, both defeats being handed them by Service 336 squad by a one-point margin. The third game between the two resulted in a 15-point margin victory for the Champs. Members of the winning team were Pavelich and Ryan, forwards; Marler and Sanders, guards; and DeMio, center. Lieutenant D'Orazio gets credit for his excellent coaching ability.

But there came a day when our first live artillery ammunition was drawn for demonstration purposes and practice firing. It would be fun to have a moving picture of the gun crews breaking out those first rounds from their crates. There was quite a contrast to our present methods, but this was real stuff, high explosive, not to be played with.

The battalion moved out across a bridge into the vicinity of the water tank and the guns were placed in position. After much dickering about, there came the order, "Fire Mission!" Baker Battery went into action and leveled the bubbles. Oleson of Sergeant Seligson's first section snatched the round and pivoted, tripping over the trail and almost dropping his explosive missile. He turned pale as the round was slammed into the breach. Kammeyer and Harris rechecked their adjustments as Eller, Saens, Dorward, Delgado, and Young stood tensely by their positions. With the order, "Fire," Harris pulled the lanyard and the battalion's first round of ammunition took flight.

This was April 9, 1942. Before long, we learned to poop out those rounds in real fashion. Craters appeared at the base of Able Hill and Baker Hill's one crowning tree vanished. Meanwhile inspections and training went on as usual.

One day Colonel Bacon from Division Artillery inspected the artillery mess halls and pronounced Headquarters Bat-

tery 336 to be the best. An inspecting officer from the Division pronounced it the best in the whole Division. As a result we were granted the privilege of entertaining the movie actress Carol Landis. The mess hall was decked out, and clean white paper appeared on the tables. An elegant dinner was prepared and clean uniforms were donned by the last man. Headquarters battery men and officers filled the mess hall when the brunette actress was proudly ushered in. The Division Artillery band struck up a tune.

After ice cream and cake, Carol offered to dance with anyone who wished to dance. Pavelich, Asselmo, Spahr, and Calcagno involved her in a jitterbug session which soon had her exhausted.

But training went on.

September 21 brought a three-day field exercise at Holly Springs National Forest, Mississippi. This trip was followed by more training, battalion and battery tests, and finally D series maneuvers with combat team pitted against combat team. These problems were cut short, however, when a number of men were shipped from the battalion.

The last week in November the division moved out into the valleys of Camp McCain to make room for the 94th Division, which moved in as we went on to the Tennessee maneuver area.

Maneuvers started December 3, 1943, and ended on January 22. It is difficult to recall any part of the maneuver period that could actually be called pleasant. Most of it was spent in muddy areas in cold and wet weather. More than a few of us suffered frost-bit fingers, toes, and ears. It was battle training this time, and no fun. But it was good preparation for the kind of weather we were to endure later in combat, in the Saar and Belgium and Luxembourg.

In general, the problems consisted of three of the four divisions, the 100th Infantry Division, 35th Infantry Division, 87th Infantry Division, and the 14th Armored Division, being placed in a "blue" army and the remaining "red" army being assigned to defense of a certain area.

Our battle roles, attacks, and patrol action led to some amusing incidents. Early in the cold morning once, a cry rang out in Able Battery's area as the men were getting ready for chow. A sentinel of the second section had discovered that the firing locks of his howitzer were missing. The other guns showed missing locks, too. The area was searched to no avail.

Report was made to battalion headquarters and the missing parts were found there. "Enemy" forces had sent out patrols and sabotaged our weapons. The battalion commander, Colonel Tague, made certain that no such negligence would occur again, and members of Battery A still shudder when the incident is mentioned.

Christmas on Tennessee maneuvers was a cold and dreary day and found no one in a mood of good cheer. At breakfast, one man in Battery A showed up for chow. The turkey dinner, so carefully prepared, was eaten in a steady rain. Some received passes into Nashville or other towns. Meanwhile the ground continued to absorb water and become more of a morass. Every one of Battery A's trucks had to be winched out before it could move. Headquarters Battery was camped near a creek and three or four inches of water appeared in some tents before their occupants awakened.

On the last day of maneuvers Battery A occupied a small knoll. To the left was a road. The machine guns were covering that road, and there were guards patrolling. One of the patrols contacted an enemy tank and came back to report. The guns were quickly shifted to cover any advance the enemy might make.

Soon a convoy was sighted coming down the road and was identified as belonging to the enemy. Most of the cannoners and the fifth section were crouching along the side of the road waiting to ambush and capture the convoy. As the vehicles came creeping along the road, one of our men moved and was discovered by occupants of the jeep, which came to a sudden stop and began backing slowly down the road. Pursuit on foot was carried on for some distance, but abandoned when danger of capture was imminent. It developed that we had overlooked a rich prize: a general was the occupant of the jeep.

During that same problem Headquarters Battery pitched camp atop a rolling hill which was fairly well protected and concealed by woods. Since we were "red" at that time and on the defense against the vastly larger "blue" troops, our mission was a delaying one while the infantry pulled back its troops. We were to deploy to the rear "in echelon" by moving one battery at a time while it was being supported by another battery.

Arrangements did not come off quite as planned, how-

ever, and our supporting infantry, instead of being between us and the enemy, withdrew so rapidly that they were behind us before we could move. There was nothing we could do except remain where we were, more so after the enemy filled in the spaces between us and our rapidly retreating infantry.

The enemy drew closer and the ammunition train was captured as it tried to come through the lines. There we were, with little ammunition, and enemy closing in on us. Every available man was rushed to the perimeter to repulse patrols or possible attack. At the Command Post news came in as one battery position after another was overrun. Slowly the enemy was working its way into our lines, eating at them like termites. Finally there remained only Headquarters Battery which had not fallen. Permission was given for food and water trucks to pass through the "blue" lines to bring in the necessities.

Controlled by umpires, the enemy was permitted to advance slowly. They had had many casualties and had not yet located our position. Suddenly outposts reported sight of the enemy on the north side, and a number of us rushed to that side and moved the machine guns to cover the slopes behind which enemy half-tracks had been seen moving. Soon enemy personnel, too, could be seen moving in from that side. There they were repulsed, but attack became imminent from the west side.

After a brief skirmish the action was so undecided that the umpires called it a draw, ordering both troops to retreat to the sides of a gully. Neither had troops or ammunition left to have much effect upon the other. The situation remained the same for two days until the problem was declared officially over. By that time there were 14 miles of enemy territory between us and our supporting infantry.

We were happy to reorganize the battalion and move to a bivouac area near Shelbyville, Tenn., where we checked our equipment, resumed the routine of basic training and inspections, and attended the motion pictures shown by the Red Cross mobile units.

After a week or so, during which some men received furloughs, the battalion made an uneventful motor march to Fort Jackson, S. C., and moved into some welcome and comfortable barracks.

It took time to get our equipment back into first class condition again: hours were spent cleaning and lubricating mechanism, testing and painting signal equipment, and requisitioning lost personal equipment. Inspection by the army officials proved much of our materiel unserviceable, and replacements were requested. Meanwhile, classes and training went on as usual.

Mine training, practical and theoretical, was presented. The practical form was more interesting, a little danger adding spice to the routine of army training. Lieutenants Dieudonne and Fowler, enthusiastic and capable instructors, carried out this project in the summer of 1944 in the wilds of Fort Jackson.

The 336th was pretty good with the carbine, our primary small arm. Why shouldn't we be, with all those dry runs we went through. Sight pictures, shooting positions, nomenclature, mechanical functions—all phases of training played an important part in the earning of our numerous sharpshooter and expert badges.

Many of us spent some of our training hours leisurely awaiting our turn to blaze away 500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition at radio controlled planes. The machine gunners, with respect to their anticipated needs, were given more extensive training by means of the M-9 trainer. It was then a novelty in ordnance, a device which shot pellets at small models of planes to the accompaniment of battle sounds. Battle adaptation, they called it.

Most of us had memorable experiences with the bazooka, a truly formidable weapon, but less emphasis was placed on its proficient use because of the ease with which it is handled and the simplicity of its features, making extensive practice unnecessary.

We all got a kick, literally speaking, on the rifle-grenade ranges. The art of handling grenades was sufficiently mastered with comparatively little practice. Hand grenades and pistols, being secondary weapons, required little of our time, as familiarization was all that was necessary. We did devote some time, however, to dry-run practice sessions.

Men of Charlie Battery were a cocky lot as they walked the streets of Columbia, S. C., in late February. They had just received an invitation from the post commander of Camp Wheeler to pay the Georgia camp a visit and display their firing ability. These lads loved to shoot. They had the confidence of their able leader, Capt. Frank C. Napier, and were waiting for the time when they could show their loyalty. This was their opportunity: no wonder they walked with a swagger.

If they expected fanfare upon arrival they were disappointed. They were efficiently quartered in comfortable barracks upon arrival and resumed their rigorous training and athletic program of the previous year. Then the eventful day came.

They rolled their howitzers into position and fired, displaying all the careful skill and speed they had developed in months of hard work and constant repetition. Fire was directed by the battery commander with the assistance of S/Sgt. Powe, with the IRTC (Infantry Replacement Training Center) commander, General Brown, acting as kibitzer. The general kept asking Captain Napier to bring the fire closer to the doughboys lying in the holes they had just finished hacking into the plain.

Unflinchingly Captain Napier kept lowering his weapons in elevation until the rounds were falling 100 yards from the prone infantrymen. General Brown declared, "Close enough," and cease fire was given.

The men of Charlie had proved their worth: one single error in elevation might have caused a fatal accident.

The infantry was beginning to respect the artillery more and more when the question arose as to how efficient were 105-mm. howitzers in direct fire. The artillerymen set out to show them. Captain Napier provided competition by placing barrels along the hillside to represent tanks. At the starting signal, prime-movers with the gun crews were to start from a given point, move into position, fire, and knock out their targets. The section accomplishing this in the least time was the winner. The third section, under Sergeant Welty, with Corporal Tibbits as gunner, tied with the second section under Sergeant Weston with Corporal Buyerl as gunner, although it took the latter two rounds to hit the target while the former did it in one. The barrels were at least 500 yards away: some spectacular firing was witnessed that day.

Men of Charlie Battery were amply repaid for their hard work by a party, a howling success to say the least. With all due respect to the talents of Pfc. Allen "Ace" Aisenberg, the witty MC; Pfc. Charles Robidas, the battery's favorite groaner, and the members of the post WAC Detachment the highlight of the evening was Pfc. Fred Giner, dressed in a Wac skirt and a well padded sweater, jitterbugging with Sgt. Walter Tibbits. All who attended, WACs, PX employees, members of the town's fair sex, and the men of Charlie Town, enjoyed themselves hugely.

All good things come to an end, and Battery C was ordered back to Fort Jackson to prepare for the task they were to do, and to finish by June 12, 1945. It was farewell to Camp Wheeler after a pleasant month.

While Charlie Battery went to Wheeler, Headquarters A and Service Batteries made their longest and most efficient road march. Their destination was Fort McClellan, Ala.; time, February 28 and 29.

Facilitated by excellent motoring conditions, the three batteries rumbled across the IP (initial point) around 0800, and progressed steadily toward their destination of the day, Lawrenceville, Ga. It wasn't an unusual bivouac, that spot a few miles from town, but the surroundings were a bit unusual. Several cars of girls, interested in the proceedings or the men, clustered about the fence. Incidentally, this was leap year and the eve of the 29th. But there was no need to rush things, as passes were available that evening.

We had our passes, spent a chilly night, and moved onto the last leg of the journey at 0745. At 1315 we arrived at Fort McClellan. The barracks there were comparatively tumble-down, and either too cold or too hot depending upon the activity of the human stokers and the proximity of the individual to one of the two pot-bellied stoves that heated each barracks.

Our mission required that we demonstrate artillery procedure, technique, and weapons to the infantry replacements as part of their final pre-combat training. This was done by two battalion exhibitions and by numerous other demonstrations by Able Battery, involving live ammunition. That battery had the task of familiarizing the doughboys with the sounds of artillery in combat.

The first exhibition, however, was as much a novelty to us as to the audience. The battalion, even minus two firing batteries, presented a formidable and massive array of weapons and all the equipment to create a deadly lethal fire. Most of us remember the three long lines of vehicles surrounded by all our equipment in display fashion. The exhibition began with an orientation speech by Captain Naffel who related the mission of artillery in conjunction with infantry, and the TO.

The communications officer, Captain Barter, related the role of communications in combat tactics and Lieutenant Cala, the S-3, explained the operational aspects of artillery. The audience then inspected the weapons and watched an actual demonstration of how batteries go into position and how different sections combine their functions.

Our mission, to be more exact, was to exchange knowledge with the infantry, of each other's combat functions. One day toward the latter part of March, the infantry demonstrated for us exactly how various units operate in the capture of a hill. We, in turn, fired a few rounds of HE and smoke onto the hill. The one thing that made the demonstration so unforgettable, was that most of us heard and saw in effective combination, small arms and artillery fire—

real tracers, live mortars, actual HE and WP shells—the stuff that real battle is made of.

But not all was such an innovation in training. No indeed. Demonstrations required only a few days of the month. The remained of the days were not unlike those at Fort Jackson. Each morning was bound to include the usual evils of military training with which each of us is all too familiar. Each evening—provided there was no extra duty hitch—meant liberty of the camp.

Thus each day passed slowly and each evening sped past until the last day of March, 1944, when it became necessary to return to Fort Jackson.

Immediately following maneuvers, Lieutenant D'Orazio had picked an all-star team to represent the battalion in basketball. The team consisted of Linley, Ryan, and Marler of Headquarters Battery, Morgan and Sedlecki of Service Battery, Kammeyer of Battery B, and Lawless and Azmith of Battery C. Playing in Division Artillery league, the team started off very fast and had a record of five wins and no losses when the Battalion had orders to send three firing batteries to IRTC centers for demonstration and training purposes. Headquarters, Able, and Service Batteries journeyed to Fort McClellan, Ala. There a team was formed with Lt. William Moore and Lieutenant Wills (since killed in action) acting as coaches. Meanwhile, the team suffered the temporary loss of Ralph Marler, guard, one of the outstanding players on the team, who transferred to the Air Corps.

Entering the Post League, the 336th team replaced an outfit which had occupied seventh place in the eight team league before moving out. They had three losses and no wins.

Playing fast and colorful basketball against a crew of cocky doughboys, our team gained third place in two weeks with ten victories and three defeats—those losses being suffered by the team whose place we took. In a game with 17th Battalion which led the league, we dumped them in two overtime periods with a score of 38 to 37. Highlight of the game was the 17th's all-American center from Kentucky who collected 22 points. It was a long set shot by Jim Morgan with three seconds to go in the second overtime period that gave the 336th the victory before a capacity crowd.

Five days later, we challenged the 21st Infantry Battalion for a game to decide the Fort McClellan post championship.

Playing in a post field house before a jam-packed crowd, our team emerged with the title after a resounding 55 to 37 victory. The 17th, chafing after their only defeat of the season challenged us to a game which was again played in the field house. Proving that the first victory was no fluke, the 336th rounded out a highly successful season with a 61 to 40 win.

The season's record included 19 wins—no losses. We were champs of 87th Division Artillery, Fort McClellan, Ala, and claimed title to the championship of the 87th Division.

The period at Fort Jackson starting April 1, 1944, provided time to get the outfit up to combat caliber. It was in reality no different from other times in other camps except that the work was of a more routine nature—especially for those who experienced winter maneuvers. It was, to a great extent, simply a critique of maneuvers and a period of fixating correct combat procedures. The nature of the training and passes to Columbia probably claim equal shares of our memories of Fort Jackson—whether good or bad.

Training brings to mind battery and battalion tests one, two, and three; POM qualification tests, and the maintenance or enhancement of physical well-being. More than a few times the schedule read "practice Battalion Test I (II or III)." Test I meant getting up unusually early, preparation for a march, and finally, the test itself. Essentially the test consisted of the construction of an observed firing chart, registration, the massing of the battalion's fire, and finally the neutralization of a target. For the different sections, it meant, of course, training in their given duties; but, primarily, it was a test of speed in the establishment of a simulated combat position. Generally, Test II was similar to Test I, but here the object was to test survey. This was accomplished by setting up an unobserved firing chart, registering one battery, then massing the battalion. If survey were wrong, massing the fire effectively would be impossible. Test III was the longest and most nearly tested our combat efficiency. Positions were occupied at night, thereby adding the disadvantages of night to ordinary problems. Fire control was the chief subject of the test. There was considerable survey control, correction of map data through metros, elaborate communications involving a Division Artillery network, a high burst registration, and, in the morning, the test was completed by firing an observed mission involving the massing of entire Division Artillery.

The greatest emphasis was laid on these tests during July, 1944. Later, in accordance with Army Ground Force test schedules, we scored average on the tests, and under the strict surveillance of the Ninth Corps officials our work was approved.



Pfc Galloway, T/5 Householder, T/5 Scotch, Pfc., Chopp, Cpl. Morrell, Pfc. Wiegand, T/5 Dippre, T/5 Levillier, T/5 Bracken, Cpl. Williams, and Cpl. Parmelo taken at Fort Jackson.

During the month of July in particular, the firing batteries were annoyed—if we can describe the attitude thusly—by battery tests interspersed among the battalion tests. Speed and accuracy of fire delivered from a road-side position was the object of testing. It was a matter of "Fire Mission" from the FO and "Pull over and shoot." Battery test I was such a "quickie." The other two tests were designed to see whether the battery could perform the functions of the battalion, in a limited way, of course. Test II emphasized survey control including the use of metro messages and map data. Test III covered occupation of a position, camouflage, concealment, and field fortifications. Battery B came through this phase of testing in the best fashion; in fact, they were third highest in Division Artillery.

Training of the individual soldier was also an objective in the Fort Jackson program. This type of training played its part as a source of complaint, but sometimes there was a peculiar but common interjection of humor. Take the infiltration course for example. Ravet of Battery B dashed about on all fours under a hail of MG fire, picking up coins which slipped from the pockets of those rolling about under the tangle of barbed wire. Then, too, there was competition in the form of races. Side bets on prospective speed-masters furnished the incentive for such activity.

A day of reckoning in our training came in September, 1944, when a full drill day was devoted to POM (preparation for overseas movement). Groups went through such "collective tests" as physical fitness (including pushups and the duckwalk), grenade throwing, small arms quizzes, and other tests of manual dexterity and physical condition. Later the "book learning" tests were given, including quizzes on military discipline and courtesy, interior guard, and so forth. On the same day MOS (military occupation serial number) tests were given. With few exceptions and indications of more training needed, these tests were passed.

The result of the tests was successful only because of the months of grueling training and monotonous study we had undergone and many days passed, one like another.

Things began to happen to us in May. The first shipment of overseas replacements took place. It included 116 men destined to fill a variety of artillery vacancies overseas. They went via Fort Meade. To fill the gap in our battalion 163 men came in, chiefly from the 427th and 428th Armored Field Artillery Battalions, formerly the 66th and 668th Tank Destroyer Battalions. They still considered themselves part of the spirited Tank Destroyer groups and only the time and effort of older men and ruthless reduction in the ranks of the newcomers quelled and modified that famous Tank Destroyer enthusiasm. A few from the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) and a little residue from the Air Corps provided the remaining personnel replacements.

The arrival of the TDs and the prospect of overseas duty gave us plenty to talk about and relieved the monotony of training. The trip overseas came, all right, but not as soon as we expected. First came furloughs—the last before the final step.

Meanwhile, life at Fort Jackson went on, with passes, Columbia passes amended to include special privileges for married men, and week-end passes to other towns when there was no extra duty. Occasionally there was a free beer party or a chicken dinner. Those things, incidental though they are, played a large part in our daily living at Fort Jackson.

FORT JACKSON TO END OF BELGIAN CAMPAIGN

In the early hours of morning, on October 12, 1944, the 336th boarded the train at Fort Jackson and began the first leg of the long journey toward combat. We had practiced and prepared for this maneuver so that each man knew every step of it in advance, from the gruelling march to the train, with full packs, to the complex process of being seated in correct order in the train. The movement was conducted without a hitch; at least, no one was lost.

The train ride itself was both comfortable and pleasant, for troops moving overseas seemed to receive better than average service. We had regular troop sleepers—and constant entertainment provided by the ever-present clowns and comedians of the battalion. We arrived at our staging area, Camp Kilmer, N. J., at about 0900 the next morning.

The proximity of New York City and other eastern centers, the brisk cool weather unlike that of Fort Jackson, and the shows and excellent camp facilities combined to make Camp Kilmer and its associated memories an unforgettable and wholly likeable chapter. We listened (or dozed) through lectures on the art and the desirability of escaping from the enemy should we be taken prisoners, on how to abandon a sinking ship, on how and why we should put every last penny into war bonds before going overseas, and on the high VD rate in European countries. We all remember going over the sides of the good USS Rock'n Rye, by which we became familiar with the technique of getting off a troopship hit by the enemy. Each man was issued the clothing he lacked, including a new type gas mask. Then everyone had numerous passes, including one three-day pass so that many were able to pay their homes a quick final visit before going over. Others went to New York which at any time is rated a good, reliable soldier's town.

As it must to all outfits, the gangplank blues came to the 336th. Leaving Camp Kilmer after three memorable weeks, we went by train to Jersey City, then onto a waiting ferry to cross the dark Hudson River at night to Pier 54. Here we lined up, packs and duffel bags in order, forming a double line in a huge shed on the pier, while Red Cross girls appeared with coffee and doughnuts. There were no spectators, no one to bid us farewell, but a WAC band gaily played popular selections as we called out our numbers and trudged up the gangplank in our arranged sequence. All was carried out with the utmost secrecy and at no point were we exposed to the view of possible onlookers.

Life on a transport, we agreed, is akin in spirit to life in a sardine can, except for the movements necessary for living processes. We were jammed neatly into our compartments, which served as sleeping quarters at night and dining rooms at meal time. We slept on hammocks, on tables, on the floor. At chow we ate on the same tables.

Our transport was the fast new seven-hundred-foot French liner the *Louis Pasteur*, under the command of Captain R. B. G. Wollatt. She had been commandeered by the British and the crew included both French and British. The chow, however, was all British and exceedingly bad, served in meager portions and without sugar or any seasoning whatever.

At about 1600 on the day following embarkation, November 4, the ship eased out of its slip and nosed down the Hudson River past the Lady of Liberty and out into the Atlantic. It was without escort and to avoid submarines took a southerly course, thought to have been as far south perhaps as Bermuda and the Azores. As a further caution against torpedoes the ship changed course every few miles.

Living in these close quarters on a rolling transport is hard on a man's nerves but harder on his digestive system. During the first few days at sea men lined the rails the full length of the ship, afraid to leave that position.

Faces were pale and haggard, sometimes tinged with green, and the enlisted man's latrine resembled a scene from Dante's Inferno. Some men were afraid they would die; others were afraid they would not. But the first days of sickness wore off and the men began to look about for ways of filling the long hours of spare time. Once a day boat drill was held, followed by calisthenics while the ship was inspected. For recreation there were motion pictures, impromptu amateur shows, card games and crap-shooting, books to read, and plenty of batting the breeze, but most of us spent our time milling about looking for just a little floor space to sit or lie in. There was a wet canteen selling a soft cola drink and a dry canteen with cigarettes, candy,

and small necessities. Waiting lines at the canteens often extended halfway around the ship and occasionally became involved with each other and with the haircut and chow lines.

For the last two days of the voyage we had an escort of two corvettes which took us into the Irish Sea. Soon afterward we caught our first glimpse of foreign soil, the Isle of Hollyhead off the coast of Wales. We dropped anchor in the river outside Liverpool and waited there for a day until the tide rose sufficiently to permit the ship to enter Liverpool Harbor for debarkation.

On the afternoon of November 13 the HMS *Pasteur* docked at Liverpool, England, having zigzagged across the Atlantic in eight days without incident. She was greeted by a British Army Band and the troops lined the deck to the British airs of "Lambeth Walk" and "Waltzing Matilda," in contrast to the American jive tunes of the WAC band which sent us off at the docks of New York.

It was early evening over England when the time came for the 336th to debark. Laden with equipment we boarded a train at the pier and were served coffee and doughnuts by the pretty girls of the American and British Red Cross. The trip to our destination, Sandbach, England, proved interesting and the trains were different from ours. While we agreed that they did not come up to the standard of the American troop train, the compartments provided privacy from the eyes of officers en route.

Arriving at Sandbach in Cheshire County we were met by the advance party and guided through the blacked out streets of the town, invisible not only to any Jerry planes which might have come overhead that night but to each other.

The advance party included Colonel Tague, Captain Snyder, Captain Rutledge, and Sergeants Kranig and Szafranski, and had arrived in Sandbach several weeks prior to the advent of the battalion to make the arrangements for our short but pleasant stay there. The battalion, which had been commanded ably since leaving Fort Jackson by Major Arthur N. Horr, Jr., was now once more in the command of Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Tague. As our previous stations had been army posts we found billeting in town a distinct novelty. Battalion headquarters was located at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel and the batteries scattered through the town. Headquarters and service batteries occupied an ancient two-storied building which had served as a cheese factory, and before that as a silk mill. Able Battery was at Malkins Bank, a hamlet about a mile from Sandbach. Baker and Charlie were in an old mill just off the Square of the Crosses.

England was indeed a strange country to most of us, but GI Joe makes himself at home quickly. The pubs were well patronized from the first, in our leisure time, although the English beer, ale, and spirits seemed in no way comparable to the brew and whiskey we enjoyed in the States. Attractive and friendly girls turned out in numbers on social occasions during our short stay, and several dances and a church party were given for us. We found most of the girls a little behind the times on jitterbugging, but such British institutions as the Hokey Pokey helped break down the English reserve and unleash a spirit of gaiety. Undoubtedly, in years to come, when some of us get together over a drink and discuss past experiences, these English girls who helped make us welcome will be remembered pleasantly.

Our stay at Sandbach was by no means all play. We received the equipment we needed to help bring the German armies to capitulation—the jeeps and trucks and trailers, the 105-mm. howitzers and bazookas and ammunition. All these were to play a big part in the 154-day drive of the Golden Acorn division from Metz to Czechoslovakia and V-E Day.

When march order came Saturday evening, November 25, the battalion gathered full strength and fully equipped for the trip to a port of embarkation for France, where only six months before, on June 6, 1944, the American Armies under General Eisenhower had invaded the Continent of Europe. It was good-bye to the quaint pubs and the ale and orange blossoms, goodbye to the English girls and all the friendly, grateful, habit-conforming and war-weary English people.

By motor convoy our vast fleet of jeeps, three-quarter

tons, two and a halves, with the howitzers and ammunition trailing, started southward through the English countryside.

All Saturday night and Sunday we traveled, stopping only for gas and for meals of K and C rations heated on the motors of our vehicles or by small heating tabs which, like K and C rations, would become exceedingly familiar to us before we saw the day of victory. Sunday night was spent at Camp D 14 near Dorchester where we slept in Nissen huts despite the raw English cold and again ate C rations with the choice of stew, hash, or beans.

Early on the morning of November 27 we march ordered and plodded through the mud of D 14, or Stalag 14 as some of the men refer to it today, to resume our trip. The convoy rolled down the lovely Dorset coast to the port of Weymouth and on to Portland on the neck jutting out into the Channel. The vehicles and men loaded onto LST 72 and LST 532, after receiving the ever-welcome doughnuts and coffee from the smiling Red Cross girls. It was a cold English morning and many of us admit hitting the coffee line twice or more, officers included.

On board the ship vehicles were chained down and we moved out into the Channel. Later that day we formed our convoy and started across. On the first afternoon the convoy was forced to turn back to calmer water, but on Tuesday morning it resumed the voyage and continued for three days. The notoriously choppy Channel was as rough as its reputation and cases of acute seasickness developed even among those who had been considered old salts because they crossed the Atlantic without noticeable nausea.

The convoy skirted the south coast of England to a position opposite Kent, then crossed the Channel at a narrow point and dropped anchor in the Seine estuary outside Le Havre. More than 100 ships crowded the waters of this badly damaged port, whose rubble piles and gutted buildings were our first glimpse of the wreckage of war. At Le Havre, pilots were taken aboard who were to guide our LSTs up the Seine, still not considered entirely safe.

The pilots were Frenchmen of the picturesque school, some with the pointed black beards and florid gestures of French river men in a motion picture. The trip itself was dramatic. We saw many vessels sunk in an effort to block the river, many remains of combat pillboxes, shell-raked towns and villages, crumbling buildings and cathedrals and chateaux. There were quantities of Wehrmacht vehicles, abandoned on the south bank by the Germans when they had narrowly escaped General Montgomery's pocket the previous August. The French peasants, already at work rebuilding their ruined villages and farms, waved to us lustily and cheered us as liberators.

One man remarked the hundreds of head of cattle grazing in the fields of a people presumably starving. We resumed our voyage to the much-bombed but still usable port of Rouen on the morning after dropping anchor on November 30. One by one the LSTs painstakingly eased their noses into the bank of this tiny harbor and opened their mouths to disgorge a stream of trucks, jeeps, and guns which took to the road immediately, fully loaded.

The docks at Rouen were piled high with supplies, telling a story of the part of the people back home on the production line in winning the war. Everywhere we saw evidence of this vast supply line without which Americans could never have accomplished the things that had already been done when we arrived.

Before the last truck of the Service Battery had left the LST the head of the convoy had started for our assembly area. After a short, intriguing trip through towns with strange names and quaint buildings, through streets of

waving people shouting a joyous welcome, we arrived at the Red Horse assembly area at St. Saens. In the middle of a broad field the battalion pitched shelter halves in rigidly straight lines, set up kitchen and command post tents, and dug latrines.

The ground was saturated from weeks of rain, and it promptly began raining again, continuing a steady drizzle except for brief intervals during the five days we were to occupy this area. Mud became ankle deep. Our feet, without overshoes or sufficient socks, grew wet and stayed wet. One memory we will retain of France is of its mud, especially in the Red Horse area. We were mindful of the months ahead, of the even colder weather coming on and the rougher living, and were painfully aware of how unprepared we were by experience for this dread combat into which we were about to plunge. Men of the 336th will never forget the cold and mud of the hours spent on guard here.

Around the fires we discussed what would happen to us, and the latest latrine rumors. One fact we knew without argument: the 87th had a definite part to play in the eventual defeat of Germany. Those who had said confidently that we would never see combat, that we would be saved for occupation duty, now admitted silently that they were wrong in their deductions. Here, too, incidentally, the smokers met their first real shortage of tobacco. It was impossible to light a cigarette without bringing up a chorus of, "Butts on that." Even a Chelsea or a Fleetwood out of a C ration can was cherished almost with desperation.

Early in the closing month of the eventful year of 1944, the battalion saw its first days of combat. Our bivouac at Red Horse had been so cold, so wet and miserable that we were glad to leave it even for unknown dangers ahead. Soon, now, we would fire our first round, our forward observers and liaison sections would join the infantry, wire would be strung, radio communications established, fire directions set up. Our liaison planes would make their first trips over Jerry lines. All the countless detail jobs that make the battalion function would be handled efficiently, all preparations completed.

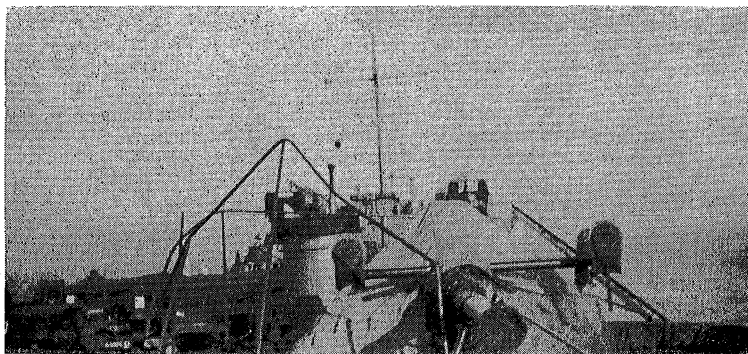
Such terms as fire mission, short, over, TOT, range correct, deflection correct, on the way and so forth would become a part of our everyday language. Our officers would no longer be referred to as Colonel Tague, Captain Choate, and Lieutenant Andrews, but would be known as High Side, Six, Twenty, Ten, and so on. The term High Side would become our code name, just as Half Bound was to become the code name for the other half of the combat team, the 346th Infantry Regiment.

The big day came on December 6, when the 87th was elected to relieve the Fifth Division at Metz, the almost impregnable fortress city taken only three weeks previously by the Fifth. The battalion moved out of the Red Horse assembly area the morning of December 3 and terminated that day's 205 miles of travel at Valleroy, France. Here we were billeted in buildings that the Germans used for a PW enclosure. Many of the men had an opportunity to take the first shower they had enjoyed since arriving in France.

Next morning we march ordered, and arrived at Metz at 1600 hours. After the necessary preliminary functions of going into battle were complete, we fired our first round in the battle that night. We were in action at last, having been committed as a part of the III Corps, Third Army. The mission was to deliver harassing fire on the forts, Driant, Jeanne d'Arc, St. Quentin, and Plappville, still held stubbornly and hopelessly by garrisons determined to be as great as possible nuisance to the Third Army's rear.

It is doubtful that our light 105s did appreciable damage

Aboard LST crossing the channel to Le Havre



WO(j) Elam gives Lieutenant Cox a trimming while Gully of Headquarters Battery referees.



Looking forward on front half of LST



Brady and Chapple sweating in out on the English Channel

to these bastions of steel and concrete with their walls ten feet thick. The fortress commanders held numerous conferences with their besiegers in order to gain time, ending each meeting with the statement that the Fuhrer wished them to hold out until a certain day when their food and ammunition would have been exhausted.

From 2125 hours on December 6, when Able, Baker, and Charlie first registered on Fort Driant, until their suspension of fire on the afternoon of December 8, the situation was relatively safe. Fortunately, no casualties resulted at Metz, the result of the enemy's depleted ammunition supply. Our infantry, however, had suffered its first casualties and liaison planes had been shot at while observing over the fortresses.

Fortress Jeanne d'Arc still had not surrendered when we were needed urgently elsewhere and so moved out on the morning of December 9. We were now assigned to XII Corps, which like III Corps was a part of General Patton's Third Army. After seven hours on the road we reached a woods in the vicinity of Saar Union, where we bivouaced. Along the route of march we met elements of the 26th, or Yankee Division, which had trained with us at Fort Jackson. There had always been rivalry between us, and many a YD boy took a riding from our fellows whenever they met. They usually replied with the basic remark, "You'll be sorry." Later we learned that our assignment was to replace a 26th Division artillery unit in the position they then held in the Saar Valley. After a one-night bivouac the battalion moved across the swollen Saar River and into position at Achen with the Service Battery located a few miles to the rear at Kahausen.

On the night of December 10 our battalion moved up to the little French town of Achen in the Saar region to relieve the 26th Division. It was in this vicinity that the battalion added many "firsts" to its then meager combat record. It was here that most of its members received their baptism of fire. A few men had undergone scattered and inefficient fire at Metz, but the battalion had suffered no casualties there. At Achen (the firing batteries were between Achen and Gros Rederching) German artillery fire was heavier and more effective, but the battalion suffered no casualties.

That first night many of us slept in attics and on the second floors of buildings. Not being able to distinguish

between incoming and outgoing "mail," most of us mistook the enemy fire for our own. The next morning, on inspecting shell holes around the buildings we had slept in, we decided it would be safer to sleep in basements or on the ground floor thereafter.

December 11 was the first day that our liaison and forward observer sections went on a "jump off" with the infantry. We had a preview of what we were to endure for the next several months. Later in the day the battalion command post moved up to Gros Rederching. Here again we learned to move into a town and establish ourselves quickly. We were to do that many, many, times in the future.

Next day, December 12, the battalion had its first casualties. John Dunham and William Indianos of Headquarters Battery, Third Liaison Section, were both on an observation post with too many others when a mortar shell landed between them. Both received leg wounds and Indianos also got a fragment in the abdomen. Battery B had two men slightly wounded by Jerry artillery fire that same morning. War began to mean something more disagreeable than eating K and C rations, sleeping on hard floors, and being cold and hungry for hours on end. It began to mean more than being far away from home. Here it began to mean blood and death, fighting and killing to stay alive. Sherman was right.

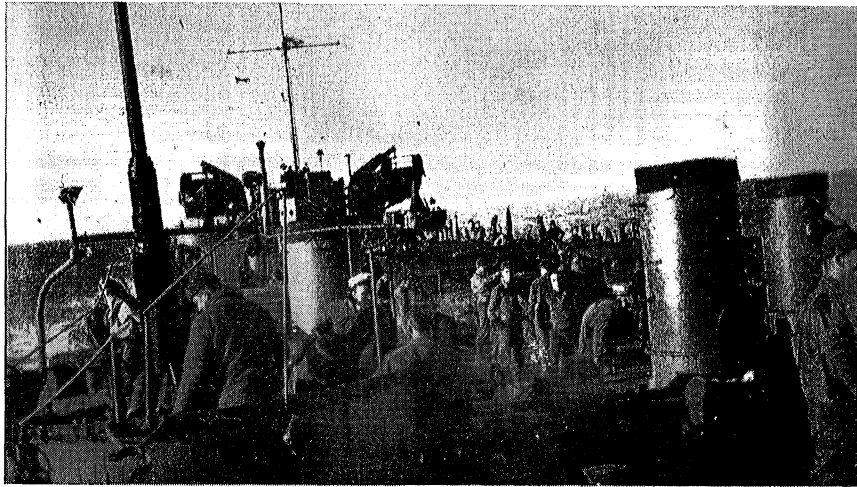
On the morning of December 15 the battalion moved up to Moronville Farms. We had learned much in the last few days and we were ready for almost anything. Still we were a little surprised to find that the doughboys had machine gun positions on a hill not more than 500 yards from the battalion command post. We found also that we were sharing our command post with the infantry and a medic clearing station. Battery A was a little shocked when it moved into position to find seven dead doughboys there.

The next few days were spent dodging in and out of foxholes as we found the tough veteran Eleventh Panzer Division. No one felt any regrets when we were alerted to move out of that position.

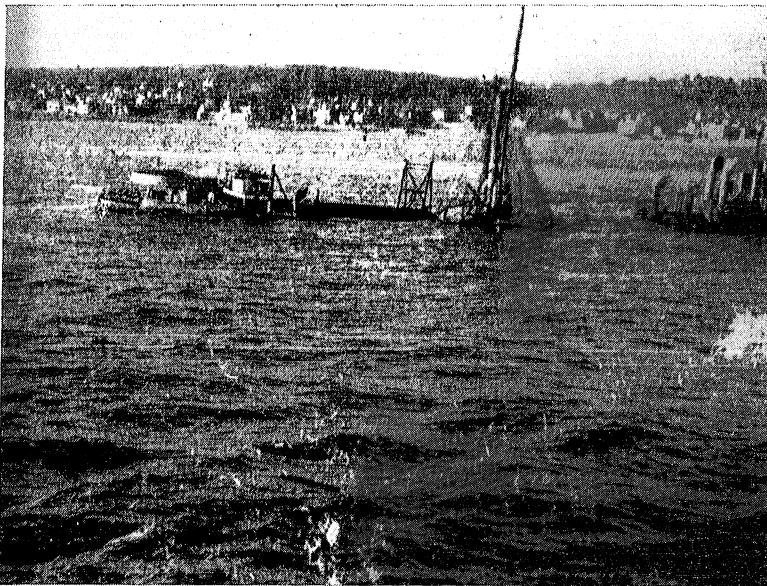
An advance party of our unit moved forward on the afternoon of December 17 into a town we will never forget, Erching. The wire crews got in all communications in all directions, part of the party staying there for the night,



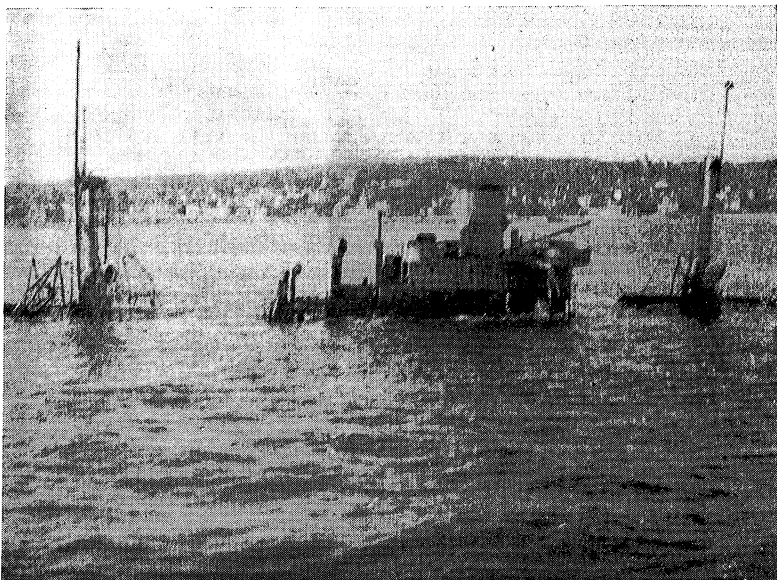
*Some of the gang on LST. Members of Headquarters Battery
Top row: Snow, Brady, Dunn, Harding, Marks, Bella, Richey,
Lowen, Stone. Bottom row: Hogen, Chappel, Cain, Forschler
and Garfield.*



Plenty of protection on the LST



Proof that the air corps did a good job



Watery grave for a ship in the Seine

and no one heard so much as a rifle shot. Next morning about ten o'clock, when the battalion passed those unforgettable crossroads, Jerry opened up on us. He had been watching our every move from the moment the first of the advance party came into town, for we discovered later that there was a German gun position about a thousand yards in front of Battery C's position. It was here that the 336th suffered its heaviest casualties, in view of the time we spent there. Among those who were killed and wounded were Pablasoff and Barber of Headquarters Battery, Little of Battery C, Barnes, Dipperie, Kobb, McGinnis, Cornett, Weirach, Merman and Ctilday of Battery B.

We were not the only targets the enemy had in this position. There were a few tanks in and about the town which lost men. The corps artillery outfit, just outside the town on the hillside, took a continuous pounding from the 88s. It is a strange feeling to hear that cone-shaped sound directed at one. It seems to halt for a second, then all hell breaks loose. Maybe one, maybe a half dozen of them will come in. When the blue dusty smoke clears away, and you realize you have come through another one, you can hear men calling for the medics, and you wonder which of your buddies is hurt this time, and how badly, and whether you can help them.

It is a feeling hard to explain, but once experienced it can never be forgotten. Here too we got our first strafing by plane. We were visited overhead twice in this position. We knew when the enemy was overhead by the terrific anti-aircraft fire.

Next day we moved on into Bliesbruk, our last position in the Saar region. We had the enemy on the run back into his own country, but the Belgian Bulge was the topic of conversation. Jerry was driving hard into our lines up in Belgium. We were to organize the division to go up and try to halt that ever-enlarging salient. On December 24 we took off for Munster, France, where we were to spend Christmas. The ride up to Munster was, in a word, chilly. The only way to get warm was to stay in one's sleeping bag. We arrived finally, in time to have our Christmas dinner in a wooded area outside the town. There was turkey with dressing, and potatoes, cranberry sauce, buttered peas, fruit cake, candy, nuts, and of course one of those delicious D bars. The day was spent around the fires in conversation and cleaning up and resting. At night the fires were still aglow when Jerry arrived with his Christmas present for us, a little overdue. His package included a variety of parachute bombs which dropped on the infantry up the road ahead of us. After that we tried to keep warm without the fires. But earlier that day we had seen our own planes going over, and we knew they carried not parachute bombs but block-busters. The sky was streaked with the vapor trails of the huge bombers from one horizon to the other and crisscrossed with these were the smaller trails of the pursuit escort like decorations on a gigantic Christmas tree. We learned that Cologne received the missiles these planes were carrying.

That night under cover of darkness we left for Rheims where the final assembly of the division was to take place for the movement into the Bulge.

We arrived at Rheims after a cold ride in the late afternoon. Our next few days were spent in getting new equipment, cleaning motors, guns, materiel. There were inspections each day and guard was pulled in the cold: men were ready to ask to be put back into combat. Their wishes were granted.

On the morning of the 29th we took off for Neuf Chateau in Belgium. We bivouaced in a wooded area at Pays-les-Veneurs, Belgium, and in the morning moved up to within a half mile of Recogne. Here we were committed to the Battle of the Bulge.

The battalion moved out to a wooded area five miles out of Recogne, where it spent New Year's. It was terribly cold and men who had no sleeping bags were given them. From here we moved to a position a mile west of Freux. Reports had us virtually surrounded by the enemy and almost everyone stood guard at night. Cooks, drivers, and everyone who could be spared were put on guard duty, but the attack never came.

After two days in this position we moved up to the town of Remagne. Three miles out to the front was the beautiful Beau Plateau monastery, which was the only building in the vicinity and therefore had to be used as a command post for the infantry and a clearing station for all the medics. The men found the pictures on the walls of the building especially interesting. The monks never left their place during the turmoil and excitement, and Jerry knew we were using this as a command post and spared no shells on it. A delay fuse was used by the Germans in their shelling so that the shell would go through two or three floors before exploding, leaving the structure in a state of wreckage. We were working under the worst conditions due to terrifically cold weather and the fact that there was a lot of armor working with us. No matter where wire was laid, the tanks seemed to become involved with it and tear it out, which kept the wiring crews at work day and night.

The infantry at length took and held the town of Gerimont which was about a mile from the main objective, Tillet, a little Belgian town resting quietly in a valley which was doomed to be not only a military objective, but a formidable one.

For two days and nights the Third Battalion of the 346th Infantry Regiment tried to take the town. Company D succeeded in getting into the first four houses, and Company K got as far as a ridge two hundred yards away. They could neither advance nor withdraw, nor could supplies be got to them. On the night of January 8, it was decided to send Company L on a night attack to take the town, for the relief of the other two companies. Company L was to advance along a railroad track to surprise the enemy from the rear. There was a small building about three-fourths of the distance to be traveled. The men stuffed rations into their pockets and loaded their pistol belts. Officers had been briefed and given maps; all was in readiness. Time seemed to stand still.

Finally 2100, the zero hour arrived. The attack was on. The command post was a small dim room made dimmer by thick smoke. No one spoke, then a radio operator checked



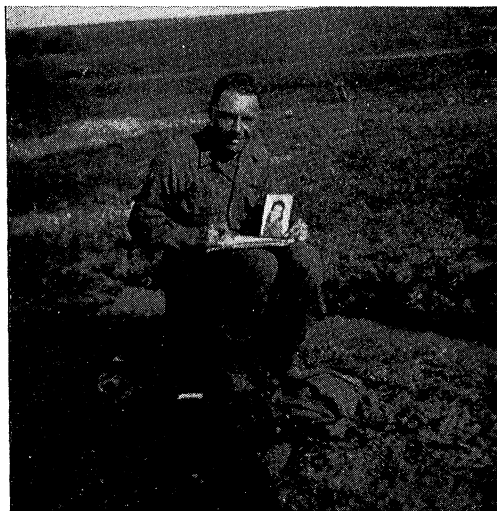
Captain Calla orienting forward observer party at Pfaffangrun before going to the front



Lieutenants Sowash and Connolly in a very unfamiliar pose

Captain Cala taking time out to write a letter or two

Lieutenant Sowash, Ferguson, Cottrell, Ernst and Lieutenant Connolly



communications. At 2115 all was still quiet. A phone rang: "Nothing to report." Suddenly at 2127, all hell broke loose. It was easy to distinguish the sound of the German burp guns from our own machine guns. It was impossible to even guess what was happening. As suddenly as it had started, the noise stopped.

About twenty minutes later the company commander, badly shaken, came back into the command post. The Germans had been waiting for them at the building. They had opened up with everything they had.

He had given the order to retreat but was afraid for his company.

Not five minutes later Lieutenant Sowash came in and said he thought he had lost his party, S/Sgt. Stucky, T/5 Frisbee, Cpl. Flahaven. The radio and SOI were also still out. He thought that he was deaf.

We learned the full story much later. One platoon had been sent down one side of the railway embankment, while the company commander and another platoon had gone down the other side.

Lieutenant Sowash and his party were with the commander. The third platoon was in reserve in the rear. Just before they reached the building the commanding officer had gone over the embankment to contact the other platoon. Lieutenant Sowash had followed to see why he had not returned, and was at the top of the embankment when the enemy let go the first tremendous burst of fire. The lieutenant tried to return to his men, and suddenly saw three Germans standing on the spot where he had left them. His heart stopped. He did the only thing he could: threw a hand grenade at them. In his excitement he forgot to duck and a piece of fragment hit his helmet, making his ears ring so that he thought he was deafened.

He called and searched for his men in vain. By then all the doughboys had started for the rear. His party had seen the Germans too, however, and had crept away from them, playing dead. They crept and crawled between two outposts, hearing the Germans call to one another. At last they decided that it was safe to walk; then they saw two more Germans. They hit the ground and captured these two. When they returned to the command post the reunion was one of heartfelt joy.

Next day, under a protective barrage, King Company was able to move to a more stable position. The Germans decided to withdraw from the town, and as they did our mortar crews enjoyed a field day. Little groups of men made excellent targets against the snow. The town was taken, and it was not yet dark that night when the 336th moved in.

We spent one day there and on January 14 moved to a position one and one-half miles southwest of Basse, France. We were now on our way to the little village of Biwer, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Third liaison section, Brady, driver, McCall, wireman, Bella, chief of section, Captain O'Neal, liaison officer, Chapple, driver. Brude, remaining member of party took picture.



Headquarters Battery B.C. staff, T/Sgt. Dunn, S/Sgt. McCarley, S/Sgt. Nath and 1/Sgt. Bailey



Lieutenants Roberts and Miskill of Headquarters Battery

Knots, (Mr. Now) Dixon, Smith, truck drivers of Headquarters Battery



L U X E M B O U R G T O V - E D A Y

Tillet had been taken and we were due a rest. Reinforcements were brought in and we began a long cold ride. Destination was Luxembourg, and a promise of billets in a fine hotel.

But the promise never came true; as we were making the hard journey toward the bright hope of rest and relaxation, the order was received: Back to the lines for the slugging 336th. This was the sixteenth of January.

We replaced the 29th Field Artillery Battalion of the Fourth Division. The battalion was scattered over several miles of snow-covered hills in the little duchy. Our mission was direct support of the 346th Infantry. The 29th Field Artillery Battalion had been in this position about five weeks before we moved in. Therefore the position was good, but as always in the military, there was room for improvement. We made the improvement, as always did the old 336th.

This was the first time the men had had a chance to sleep in buildings, an improvement over the snow-covered and frozen fields around Tillet. Most of them spread their bed rolls on the floors and slept in luxury.

The mission in which we were engaged was one of vigorous infantry patrol activity. Lt. John E. Connolly, T/5 Russell Bauswell, Sgt. Joseph Galleway, and T/5 Paul Stephens, at the request of fifty doughboys went with a combat patrol to Wasserbillig to lend artillery support. Lieutenant Connolly's job was highly praised; he was the hero of Wasserbillig.

Wasserbillig was a city of great strategic importance and was valued accordingly by the Germans. A border-town on the German-Luxembourg line, it was the last spot in Luxembourg we attacked before being relieved by the 76th Division. To two forward observer sections of Charlie Battery and the infantry companies they supported, King and Item, it was a city of cold fear, of utter horror.

Cold days and colder nights spent in hungry fear will be graphic memories to these men long after they have returned to civilian pursuits.

Wasserbillig was the only position held by the Germans west of the Moselle River in the Luxembourg area. It stuck out as a point into enemy territory, and if gained it could be used as a wedge to force our way through the Siegfried Line. Twice we tried to storm the city by frontal attacks over the bare hills that overlooked the area, forming a natural defense. Both attempts were repulsed with a heavy casualty list. This plan was abandoned and a new idea conceived so daring and fantastic that it had a chance to succeed. It had to succeed.

Lt. Bob Watson of Company I, 346th Infantry, was summoned to Regimental Headquarters to be briefed. He was told to use all the facilities the division had to offer to do the job in the most expeditious manner. He was given his choice of men, infantry and artillery. He asked for 50 tried and proven men from his own company and Lt. John E. Connolly's party from Charlie Battery. Lieutenant Connolly, who had already proven his intestinal fortitude, gave his men, T/5 Russell Bauswell, Sgt. Joseph Galloway, and T/5 Paul Stephens, permission to refuse the mission. All were indignant and replied, "Where 'Fire Mission John' goes, we go also."

The long dreary march that started at midnight and ended at 0330 the next morning was filled with thrills and chills that would have done credit to a movie thriller. The trail led around the southern flank, to a sharp turn north, along a railroad track and into the city. This mere handful of picked men had to scale icy mountains, wade streams, crawl

and creep upon their stomachs through open areas, always knowing that at any moment they might be discovered.

Plodding forward, creeping through deep snow, they crammed handkerchiefs or dirty sleeves into their mouths to stifle sneezes or rasping coughs. They were tired, having spent long winter days in foxholes awaiting the enemy's action, but not one showed signs of fatigue. Lives were at stake and the greatest alertness was necessary for all. They could not fail!

Never will these men forget the few seconds in which an ammunition carrier stumbled over a strand of barbed wire and dropped the case of 30-calibre ammunition upon the railroad track with a piercing metallic bang. Every heart stopped beating, but daring Sgt. "Stumpy" (now Lieutenant Watson) acted as a one-man point in an act of unforgettable bravery.

After an eternity of breathless waiting, the party made its way into the city and took up positions in three houses that fronted the river. No sleep was obtainable that day, in their precarious position. Machine gun positions were placed with accent on the field of fire. Small arms were used to give a good all-around perimeter defense.

As the first rays of dawn hit the town a small scouting party led by Lieutenant Connolly and Sergeant Messier (now Lieutenant Messier) stole out of the fixed positions to reconnoiter the town and pick a better observation post. Sergeant Galloway and T/5 Bauswell were left behind to man the observation post picked previously.

Heavy snow made it easy to pick up the trails left by the enemy. Disregarding the danger involved, Lieutenant Connolly led his party along one of these trails. It ended at the river where they found a boat and oars, hidden there by the enemy. An ax was brought and a hole was cut in the escape boat.

Another path led to a recently abandoned enemy command post where the patrol liberated a bottle of wine, a candle, and a swastika. Many other installations were spotted. Then the men made their way back to the main party where detailed plans for the destruction of each installation were laid.

The plans had to be abandoned when the Germans attempted to send another boatload of troops across the river under the cover of darkness. The alertness and keen eyes of the machine gunners detected them and they were cut down at once. Our men's location known, they could stand and fight or move to an alternate position. They chose the latter course and moved to the center of town where a large church was chosen as center of operations.

This provided ample cover, and an all-around field of fire, both of which were sorely needed throughout the next few days. Jerry struck with the fury and determination of a wounded animal at bay.

One counter-attack was repulsed by artillery: Lieutenant Connolly had to direct fire on targets as close as fifteen yards from his position. When relief came the small group agreed that none had prayed with more feeling than they did in that German church.

One phase of the battle for Wasserbillig was over, but there were others to come. At 0400 one foggy morning Lieutenant John W. Stuckey (then S/Sgt.), Sgt. Earl E. Flahayen, and T/4 Claire W. Arnold were called to the battalion command post at Lillig to be briefed. The battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Tague, told them their mission might be suicidal and asked if they still wanted to go. All said they were ready.

With their radio (tested and painted white), batteries,

food, and maps they left the command post and made their way to Wector, where they met Lieutenant Doman of Company K, 346th Infantry, who was to lead the patrol. They went over the plan of fire: all admitted they were scared. At 2000, trucks left from Wecker through Maternack, then as far as a road block where the men were forced to dismount. They were an eerie sight, 86 men in white snow suits and camouflaged equipment making their way toward Mertert, one mile distant, slogging along Indian fashion, one man after another.

They followed approximately the same route taken by the previous patrol a few days before, sending out two and three-man patrols two to three hundreds yards to the front. They made their way in this fashion across the difficult terrain, across a six-inch bridge covered with ice, up a steep mountainside until they came to a railway bridge. Here the enemy discovered them and let fire with burp guns. They merely despersed along the tracks and followed them into Wasserbillig, using a hedgerow for concealment, right through the railroad yard to the depot. There all hell broke loose.

The 610 wouldn't work and artillery was out, but after a quick skirmish the valiant doughs of King Company silenced the guns. It was now about 2400 but the moon was bright as day. The men crept and crawled through the snow to the church where they were greeted warmly by Lieutenant Connolly and the men who had set up there.

A dead German bazooka victim lay across the threshold of the church. He was brought inside and searched for papers. Then he was removed outside again, leaving a gory mess, whereupon Lieutenant Doman shouted, "Somebody bring a broom and sweep out his spare parts."

When they checked communications at 0600 they found that the infantry radios did not work. The party relied entirely upon the artillery for contact with headquarters. Lieutenant Stuckey and Sergeant Flahaven went to the top of the church, high into the steeple, with one 536 radio, leaving Arnold on the third floor with the 610 and another 536. In this way they conducted fire. Lieutenant Stuckey was firing upon an enemy command post. When he couldn't find one of his rounds, he reported it lost. Arnold, covered with smoke, retaliated: "Lost, nothing! That round hit the church!"

By this time the Germans were throwing so much fire at the church that observers could not tell whose fire was which. An 88 was heard whistling through the air. It was going to be a close fight, and the men retreated from their post in the steeple, and not a moment too soon, for a round hit it with such force that Sergeant Flahaven was knocked completely down one flight of stairs by the concussion.

When the position in the church became too hot they decided to move to the schoolhouse where more protection might be had. The men's morale was taking a beating. They were out of food and water. They melted snow in their helmets and drank that, tasting of paint and soap, for they had washed several times in their headgear.

Orders came to move out and return to the regiment. Answer was, "Impossible until after dark." At 2030 before dark, the patrol returned to the church and the men prayed as they had never done before. When darkness came, they began to file out and make their way toward the railway depot 400 yards away. They reached the point without being detected. Mortars began falling with terrific force upon the church. The men stole silently down the railroad tracks and away from the town. Stretchers awaited at Mertert for the wounded.

Through the night they trudged away from Wasserbillig while mortars still pounded the church, the sounds growing fainter all the time. Men waiting patiently at their howitzers, listening for the call for fire, sent their powerful



Command Post used by Lieutenant Connolly in Wasserbillig



Reminder of a cold winter in the Bulge

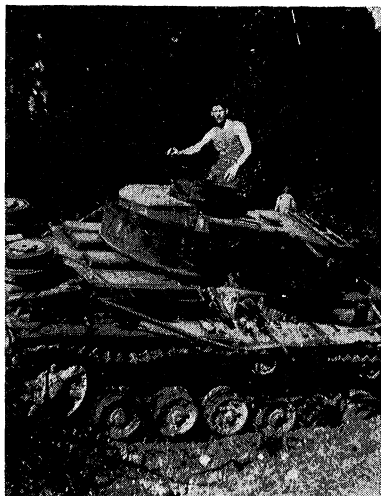
Chow time at Remagne, Belgium



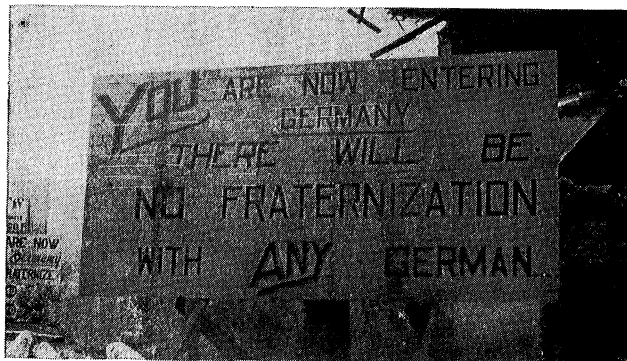


Having chow on the run

T /4 Vonder Hoya with captured German Panther tank



Forward observer party, Van Lack, Sanfillippo, and Pippin



missiles crashing with deadly accuracy into enemy positions while the grateful patrol was welcomed back into camp.

Brave deeds were many, but one story from Battery A must be told. On the night of January 22, 1945, a wire detail including Headquarters Battery First Liaison Section with Captain Rutledge, Sergeant Boyd Phillips, T/5 Melvin Hopkins, Corporals Manley, Leaven, Peters, Rougloff, laid a wire line in deep snow from Company A command post, a thousand yards east of Lillig in Luxembourg, to an isolated post some two and one-half miles distant. Here Captain Choate had his observation post overlooking Wasserbillig. The route was across rough country which was under sporadic artillery fire and was unknown to any member of the crew. In fact, it proved unknown to the infantry guide, but after a short reconnaissance expedition the mission was successfully accomplished and the crew returned to Lillig drenched with sweat which was not due to the temperature of that wintry night.

On January 26 march order was given. Back to the Bulge we went, a deeper bite into enemy territory this time. A cold night ride through Bastogne, a shadow of a city which had once been full of people who loved life and freedom, then on through Houffalize we went, and by forced march through St. Vith. These were only memories of cities now, filled with the twisted wreckage of barrage and bombings.

At St. Vith a right turn was accomplished and the dash to the Siegfried began. Artillery fire was held to a minimum. A few missions, several TOTs, then came march order. We were moving daily: it was more work, the snow was deeper and the weather even worse, but it was good to be driving hard, pushing the enemy back wherever we came in contact with him.

Thus the month of January saw us drive into the great German offensive and saw it crumble into non-existence. Was it our artillery? Perhaps. We were certainly in there shooting.

The layers of white snow through which we trudged in the biting winter of Belgium and Luxembourg became mud and slush when we began pounding at the bastions of the Siegfried in early February.

The battalion was in position in and around Manderfield, Belgium, anxiously awaiting the inevitable call. Firing batteries, their ammunition stacked for action, sat eagerly near their telephones. Headquarters radio operators kept a sensitive ear turned to their sets listening for the words which would mean the beginning of the end. Finally they came: "Fire mission!" They were sent down by one of the forward observers who had hit the road earlier, with the grim determined foot soldiers of our valiant combat team. An enemy bunker or machine gun position had been spotted.

The wheels in Lieutenant Colonel Tague's well-oiled machine moved as they were meant to do: the relentless bam-bam continued night and day. Day and night we kept up our pounding at Jerry's "impregnable" fortifications. Slowly but surely our efforts moved us forward. One town was taken. We moved up. Another town fell. We moved up. We were driving through the heaviest part of Germany's West Wall.

It was during this stage of operations that Second Lieutenant Joseph M. Benicky, holder of the Silver and Bronze Stars, Purple Heart and battlefield commission, first won recognition. During the early hours of February 6, when one company of the First Battalion, 346th Infantry, attacked the first line of heavily fortified positions near Krewinkle, Belgium, Benicky, then a staff sergeant, was a forward



*Battery B officers, Lieutenants
McDonald, Ellsworth, Winstrop
and Rafal*

observer. During the day several fierce enemy counter-attacks threatened to drive the doughs from their hardwon positions, but by skillful and well-placed direction of artillery fire he saved the day.

Under heavy enemy fire himself, he prevented the encirclement and complete annihilation or capture of the company. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions. His citation reads:

"Joseph M. Benicky, Jr., O-2010408, 2nd lieutenant, (then S/Sgt.) Btry C, 336th FA Bn, for gallantry in action against an enemy of the U. S. on 6 February 1945. While acting as Forward Observer with an infantry company, Lt. Benicky participated in a move to secure three crossroads near Krewinkle, Belgium, located his observation post on the top floor of a house near the middle crossroad. Lt. Benicky directed artillery fire on enemy counter-attacks which continued all day. Disregarding personal danger, he remained at his post while under constant enemy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire, leaving it only once to participate in a rescue of two wounded men, who were three hundred yards from his position. During this action, Lt. Benicky personally accounted for several Germans with his rifle. When the company received orders to withdraw from this position, Lt. Benicky was the last man in the column, carrying improvised litter. Lt. Benicky's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the US Army."

From this point it was touch and go. The terrain was rough, most of it wooded. The enemy put up a stubborn defense. They had orders to hold to the last man which made advancement slow and costly. From the city of Roth, Germany, which we took around February 7, to Goldbrick Hill, which became ours on March 3, it seemed an artillery duel to the death, with the 336th living up to its motto, "Nuli Secundus."

Communications were possible, even with our most forward elements, although wiremen had to work day and night because of the many vehicles moving over the muddy roads.

There was too much counter battery fire—most of it fell on forward areas and crossroads. Our crossroad near Roth became known as Purple Heart Crossroads because of the severity of the German fire.

Spring had come now, but with it our fancies did not turn to the traditional hearts and flowers. It was fire, fire, fire. The firing batteries and headquarters worked hard, but the orchids go to the service battery for valiant work in supplying ammunition and materiel despite the difficulties of the position plus a new German ally, spring-time mud. Their motto seemed to be, "The difficult we do right away, the impossible may take a little longer."

The krauts were fighting as they had never fought before as we kept taking bigger and bigger bites of the Siegfried, their strongest fortification in the west. Enemy mortars and artillery of all sizes were coming in, more and more frequently. The casualties of our forward party, up to this time not too heavy, began to grow. The Germans' furious artillery attacks centered more and more upon our forward elements and less upon the batteries. Who said the Germans hadn't any artillery? They threw everything at us but the kitchen sink, and as someone remarked, "Here comes that now."



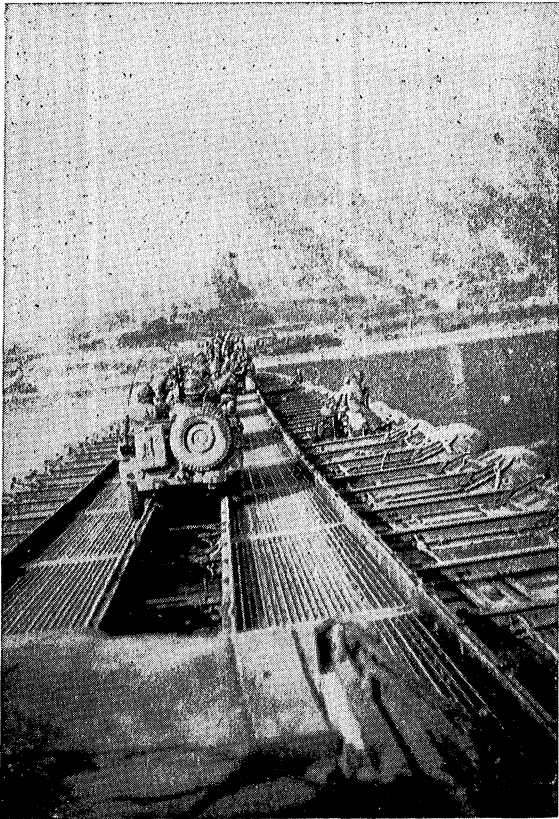
*Sergeant Lamberson and Wiegand
with trophy*



*Second gun section of Battery C, Parsons, Monty, Zavadny.
Front row: Beymer and Wong*

Teslik, Flager and Shrout





The 336th crossed the Moselle near Koblenz



*Lieutenants Sowash, Ernst, Flahaven, Ferguson and
Lieutenant Connolly*

On the night of February 12, 1945, the Second Battalion, 346th Infantry, with our liaison officer and forward observers, with sections complete, assumed the complete responsibility for the defense of Neuendorf, Germany. Like most towns entered in the Siegfried Line, it gave us a warm welcome—88s and mortars. For the first few days there was a friendly arrangement, the Germans living in one end of town, we in the other. Good judgment was shown in choosing a house for command post, for there was room for everyone to sleep on the floor if sleep had been possible. For days now we had been getting reports that the enemy was out of ammunition, but the eight-day shelling we took there did not seem to bear out the reports. Apparently the kraut CO had offered a 15-day furlough to the guy who could throw the most shells in Neuendorf per day. It must have been a close contest, all things considered.

The first day, 33 and party went in search of a well-camouflaged position that would serve as an observation post. A short search uncovered a small hole-in-the-wall of an old barn overlooking the town of Reuth. All went well for an hour or two; then the usual thing happened. The doughs set up a few heavy 30s a few yards to the left, a mortar section went into position about fifty yards to the rear, and a BAR took up its station to the right. About six times each day, all cut loose and fired at nothing, just to be sure that everybody in Germany knew exactly where we were. At 1500 each day they would run a tank destroyer up there and fire about 20 rounds of 90-mm. into Reuth. The same thing happened to S/Sgt. Strange, who was 31 at the time. One day while everyone else was firing away, the phone rang and he answered: "Task Force 31, Sergeant Strange speaking."

On February 16, 32 was wounded and evacuated and "Big Ed" came forward to replace him. Sergeant Farmer, who was left in charge of 32's party, met 30 to guide him to the observation post. Thirty asked if they were under observation and Farmer answered, "No." After they had crawled 500 yards, being fired at all the way," 30 remarked: "If they can't see us that is the best unobserved fire that I ever witnessed."

Outdoor latrines were quite unpopular for a time: as long as you were in a building you were fairly well protected against artillery and mortar fire, and few had any desire to expose themselves unless absolutely necessary. At Second Battalion Headquarters, 24-2 reported that one morn-

ing Captain Posie, Second Battalion S-3, went outside forgetting a very necessary item. He returned to the command post for it, and when he got back he found the latrine gone. A mortar had destroyed it.

During a heavy barrage on the Second Battalion command post area, Dutiel and Mishoe were caught outside working on a vehicle. They made a dash for the building and were forced to hit the ground three times. The third time a shell struck the wall of a building a few feet from them, several fragments hit Dutiel, who was in the doorway, but missed Mishoe. Dutiel was carried inside and given first aid by Sergeant Kasprzk while the wire truck was cleared to carry him to the nearest aid station in Olzheim. Mishoe, Granda, and Richey went with him over the roads under continuous fire, but he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

After eight days of heavy enemy fire, we returned to our battalion and prepared for a new attack.

Through all of this, our objectives were difficult to obtain because of dense woods and the stubborn resistance of Germans who had been ordered to hold their line at all costs. They held all the high ground and every natural defense in the area. In addition they had devised an elaborate system of mines, booby traps, and road blocks. It was a man-sized job for a man-sized organization.

The key to Jerry's defense was "Goldbrick Hill," 649 meters high, almost straight up in the air, its bunkers and observation posts commanding the terrain for miles around. The Germans said it could not be taken by storm. Yet on March 5, with an artillery fire plan drawn up by the battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Tague, with the assistance of his S-3, Major Becker (then Captain) and his liaison officer, Captain Napier, the infantry of the Third Battalion, 346th Regiment, with Lieutenant Cox, Cpl. William Prince and T/4 Claire W. Arnold, assaulted the hill. They advanced up the steep slope while 1200 rounds of light and medium artillery hit upon its top and sides. They reached the top and captured or killed all occupants of the bunkers.

The attack continued throughout the early part of March and after penetrations were made wide envelopments were attempted with much success. Our battalion displaced forward and gave continuous support to the advancing infantry. Liaison sections and forward observer parties worked long and hard. One of the interesting points of the attack was the manner in which our communications, particularly radio, held up. Portable SCR 610s were hand-carried for miles at a time, and gave excellent service throughout. Wire stayed in, despite heavy shelling and armored traffic.

At the start of the attack the battalion was in position in the vicinity of Roth, on the west side of the Siegfried Line. In a few days we moved to Ormont on the east side of the line. We did not stay long in Ormont, but moved on to Kirschenbach, then on to Junkerath on the Kyll River. By this time the enemy was moving so fast toward Berlin that we could not keep up with them. Our fighting stopped for a while.

After a well-deserved rest we moved to Rubenach, Germany, into positions from which we were able to fire upon the once-great city of Koblenz, the old fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, and other points east of the famed old Rhine River.

Forward observers and other battalion observers covered the Rhine by observation along a 12-kilometer front and most observers had a field day firing at enemy targets. Lieutenant Moore of Battery A, for example, fired at the following targets in a day's work, telling the story in his own words:

"On the 16th of March at 1730 I saw a Jerry chow truck across the Rhine from Neuendorf. There was some troop activity around it and I fired on it and knocked it out. About a half-hour later infantry small arms forced a Jerry truck behind a boxcar and I knocked it out. At 0900 the next morning a wagon train, five wagons, came into my field of view. All were knocked out. Two German Red Cross nurses carried the men away. About the same time, across the river, an officer crossed an open area to a dugout. I gave the dugout a little fuse delay, knocked it out. A little later I spotted an enemy barracks. Jerries were going from building to building, so I put a little artillery fire on them and set the buildings on fire. . . ."

At the junction of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers there had stood for many years a huge monument to Kaiser Wilhelm. The bronze statue of the proud German monarch is no longer on its concrete base: it now with legs outstretched, thanks to the sharp eye of field-commissioned Lt. John W. Stuckey of Battery A, who adjusted a medium battery on the target to dunk "Bill the First" in the Rhine.

A day or so later one of our liaison officers, Capt. Philip O'Neal, with the aid of two forward observers and an infantry company, Heavy Weapon Company M under Lieutenant Petric, caused the town of Neiderfell to fall into our hands. Armed with the 105s of our mighty battalion, we fired a volley at the house of the burgomeister, which was also the town hall. White flags, tablecloths, and petticoats began waving from windows and rooftops all over town. The townspeople had paid for the building and had no desire to see it in a shambles. The small SS garrison maintained for the protection of the town had no choice but to surrender.

After the fall of Koblenz, when all was cleared between the Moselle and the Rhine, we moved into the vicinity of Roldesch, Germany, where we could support the crossing of the Rhine, we had penetrated deep into the vitals of Germany. We wondered what the arrogant German super-race was thinking as we forced them to retreat behind their last great natural barrier of defense. We supported the infantry throughout the Rhine crossing, firing at artillery gun positions and direct-fire anti-aircraft weapons which were being used against personnel.

Our next position was near Boppard, for a day and a night. Then we crossed the Rhine to positions near Osterpai, where we started moving relentlessly forward. Our infantry were mounted on tanks and so were our forward observers and their parties. Everything was set to go, and we went, on and on, without letup. The enemy had no chance even to get set. They were disorganized and leaderless. Before our first day on the other side of the Rhine was completed, we had displaced three times, ending the day at a village called Sweigenhofer.

Next day we were at it again. We displaced twice more, ending in the vicinity of Limburg as our supported infantry moved steadily on and out the same Autobahn made famous by the Remagen bridge area. We moved on and on, again and again. Next day we went as far as Munster. The following morning we moved to Monteau.

Despite the rapid pace there were humorous incidents. Charlie Battery kept losing the pole that marked their orienting line. Bob Linscombe, tired of being called upon to replace it, decided to catch the culprit. Malcolm McGuire, the company bugler walked by and calmly lifted it out of the ground. Called into the command post tent for an explanation, McGuire said, "But sir, my feet were cold, and we were short on wood for the fire."

Throughout this constant moving process service battery and the S-4, Captain Snyder, did a fine job of keeping us supplied with gasoline to keep rolling, food for our stomachs, and mail and packages to keep up the old morale.

April 1 found the weather warmer, and our morale higher. It was Easter Sunday and we were around Mottau, patrolling the town and cleaning our equipment. Church services were held on a grassy knoll above Battery C's position. We had a chance to wash our clothes and catch up on letter-writing here. At any time during the day we could see the big C-47s going over, headed for the front lines with food and equipment for the men ahead.

On April 5 we started moving again, this time some 50 miles deeper into Germany, using the Autobahn. Such marching was a pleasure after the roads we endured west

of the Rhine. The move along the Autobahn also gave us our first extensive contacts with displaced persons. They all wanted cigarettes, and anything to eat we could give them.

At the end of this move we were east of Hersfeld, Germany, and across the Werra River. Here we stayed for a few days. Then came another long move to the southeast into positions in the Thuringian Forest. There was at this point a limiting line which kept our movements to a minimum for a few days.

On April 9 the battalion moved to the vicinity of Oberhof, with its large resort hotel and ski run, and the firing batteries in position on the golf course. Oberhof was the site of the 1936 Olympics, a fact which shared interest with the wine cellar in the basement of the hotel. We liked this position very well, even if our minimum elevations were considerably high. We also remember the look of that golf course when we left it, full of foxholes and gun pits on every green.

We began moving rapidly again on April 11. The pace seemed comparatively slow until the eastern edge of Thuringian Forest was reached, but from then on, we would have scarcely dug in when the orders came to move on and on. At the end of a week another 100 miles of German territory was behind us and the distance which separated us from the Russian forces was being narrowed by degrees. On some days three and four different gun positions were occupied. The fast-traveling infantry was supported all along the



Main Street, Plauen, Germany

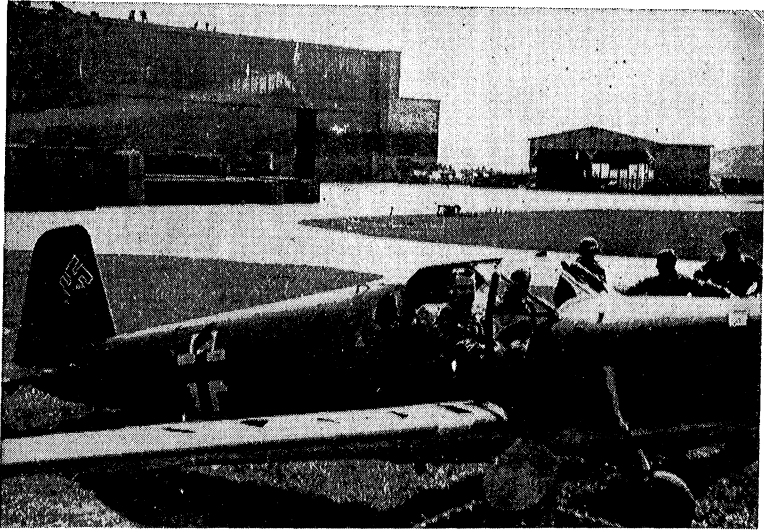
line by this fighting, slugging battalion or one of our reinforcing battalions.

The move was rapid and not all the towns through which we passed had been cleared. We cleared them ourselves when necessary. At times the best gun positions were in front of the infantry, so they were occupied as such and remained in front until the infantry passed through the battalion. Little wire was laid during this drive and the battalion was fortunate in having excellent radio communications throughout the operation.

On April 17 the battalion occupied positions east of the Autobahn in the vicinity of Pffaffengrun, Germany. Some 4,000 meters to the east the infantry had halted, so we stopped for a while. We had been subsisting on C and K rations for three weeks, and we did so during our three weeks in Pffaffengrun. Our cigarette supply was low but our morale was high for we felt that the Germans could not last much longer.

In this position Pvt. Albert "Brutus" Lehmer, with the assistance of Pfc. Russell Robert of Battery C, had a slight mishap which may not be remembered by the entire battalion but will certainly be remembered by Battery C. The two words "Fire Mission" were given. Albert, acting as chief of section, and Gunner Corporal, jumped to his post, calling his men as he went. One of his men was Roberts, ammunition man. The commands were: "Shell HE, charge 7, fuse Q." Roberts grabbed an M-48, rammed it into the gun, and stepped back.

Their gun was the first ready to fire. They fired. Albert



Captain Shackeford and Captain Mac in a Kraut plane at Plauen



Lieutenants Jackson and Podell on right with radar experts. Fraulein in Jeep is German manikin

The 336th A. C. Left to right: Lieutenant Leonard (observer), Lieutenant Podell, pilot of plane "Borrowed Time." T/3 Bagley and T/5 Hogan, mechanics. Lieutenant Jackson, pilot.



turned slowly and asked in a quiet voice, "Which shell did you fire, Roberts?" Roberts showed him. Then Albert turned to the telephone and announced to the executive officer, "Sir, I have just shot the powder thermometer."

While we waited for the Russians to join us from the East we were changed from the Third Army to the First Army. In spite of, perhaps due to, our rapid advance there was not a single casualty during the month of April.

The first of May found the 336th in a fairly stable position, still at Pffaffengrun. The war was not over, but we felt the end coming near. We did not see how it could last much longer, but we did not let this fact change our battalion habits. The boys worked harder, kept their guns and their equipment in better shape than ever before.

We remained in this position until the 346th Infantry jumped off. Objective Falkenstein, Auerbach, and Rode-wisch. At the same time we displaced to a position just outside Eich, Germany. Everyone will remember that morning—how it rained and rained and rained some more even after we had moved and taken up our new positions.

Here is the story of the men who went through Rode-wisch:

On the evening of May 5, 1945, the commanding officers of the First Battalion were called to Battalion Headquarters and issued attack orders for 0700 6 May 1945. The orders in general were, the capture of many small towns directly to our east, the first being Rodewisch, about four kilometers from the assembly area. The First Battalion's objective was to secure and hold the high ground to the east of Rodewisch while the Second Battalion, driving down from the north was to go through the town.

At 0700 6 May 1945, the First Battalion, commanded by Colonel Davis left with attached units from the assembly area near the Railway Station at Eich, Germany, in the order of march, Charlie, Able in column, supported by tanks and tank destroyers.

With the Infantry Battalion Commanding Officer were Captain Rutledge, as Liaison Officer, and Pfc. Marks, Peters, and McGuire as the remainder of the party. The forward observer parties were S/Sgt. Linley, Pvt. Bowsby, Pvt. Sidlecki, and Pvt. Gilbert with Company A. With Company B were Lt. Spencer, Pvt. Dailey, and T/5 Carpenter. With Company C were Lt. Moore, T/5 Frostle, and Pvt. Kammeyer.

One and a half kilometers before entering Rodewisch, a road block was encountered by the column but was quickly by-passed. As Charlie Company hit a crossroad at the northwest edge of the town, enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire were encountered halting the column for a few minutes. Those few minutes were just what the Jerries needed to bring their artillery and mortar fire on the cross-roads which they probably had zeroed in for the past two weeks of inactivity. Self-propelled tank fire by the enemy was also coming in.

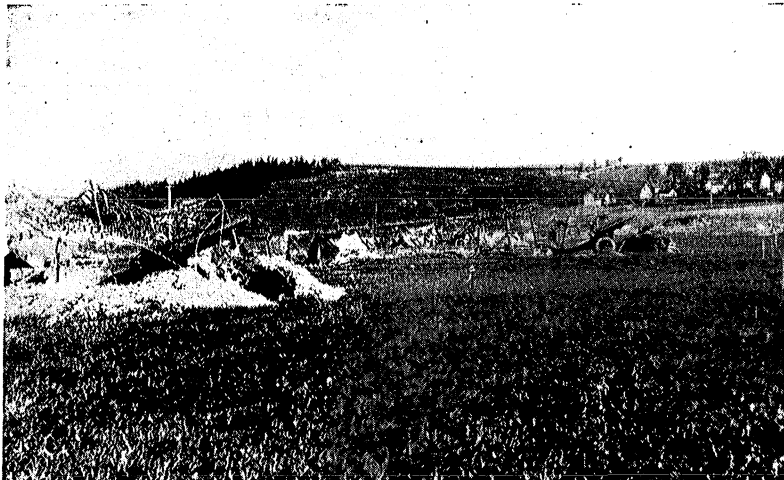
When the first rounds landed, the column immediately dispersed, the foot troops at the head of the column, disregarding enemy small arms fire, rushed the first two houses and took possession of them.

When Captain Rutledge, with the aid of the Infantry Battalion commanding officer spotted an enemy SP gun, he immediately brought effective artillery fire on his target and silenced it. Almost simultaneously the attack tanks and tank destroyers opened direct fire on all possible enemy positions. In the meantime the doughs were slowly but steadily moving forward, house to house, through the town.

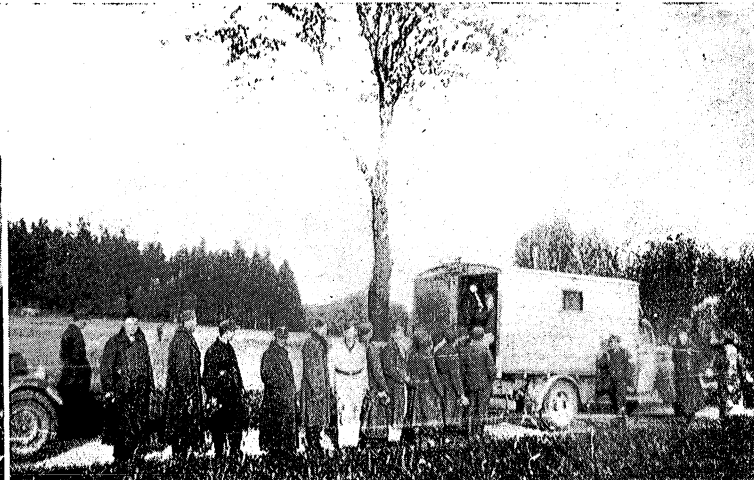
When resistance was first met, Colonel Davis, the Infantry Battalion Commander, changed his plans to cope with the situation. He saw that it would be practically impossible to move his whole battalion across the open ground to the high ground beyond the town without suffering a great number of casualties. For the Jerries were really "laying it in" and had excellent observation. He ordered Charlie and Able companies to continue their assault through the town and ordered Baker Company to circle back to the north in defilade to continue on to take the high ground beyond the town. This maneuver proved to be an excellent plan because the two companies in the town diverted the enemy fire from Baker who captured the ground without difficulty.

Captain Rutledge and Lieutenant Moore found themselves together in the attic of the first house. Together and with Lieutenant Moore's forward observer party they fired three missions which seemed to silence all enemy artillery and mortar fire permitting the infantry to continue with only small arms opposition.

While firing one of the artillery missions, T/5 Frostle was operating a radio from the jeep and receiving commands by relay. While he was so engaged, a mortar round landed



Battery B guns in position along autobahn near Pfaffersgrun, Germany.



German prisoners surrendering on May 7, near Eich, Germany.

not five yards from him. Fortunately the ground was soft here and Frostle received no fragment wounds, however, he and the jeep were literally covered with loose dirt. It did not seem to faze Frostle and he continued with his duties in a gallant manner.

The Jerries had used excellent judgment in setting up their small arms defenses, as the moving was fairly slow. It was just a matter of clearing one small arms nest after another for the infantry. Sometime around noon the head of the column reported back that the town had been cleared and all resistance was wiped out.

The First Battalion casualties for that morning were four killed and eight wounded; a very small number considering the four or five hours of intense fighting against prepared defenses of the enemy.

There were several valor awards presented to the infantry as well as the members of the forward observer parties attached.

On the morning of May 7 came the long awaited, long hoped-for, long dreamed-of message: "Cease firing! Operations cancelled! Accept any surrender."

First we were stirred to an outburst of joy and hilarity. Then came reverent thankfulness and prayer. For we had not forgotten the comrades fallen in the thick mud of the Saar, the slush of Luxembourg, the bitter cold of Belgium. We had not forgotten the men who gave their all in the Siegfried, Koblenz, the Rhineland, in order that we might witness and enjoy the momentous occasion, the fruit of all our combined efforts, the final defeat of Germany.

So the war with Germany ended.

German officers who surrendered on May 8, 1945



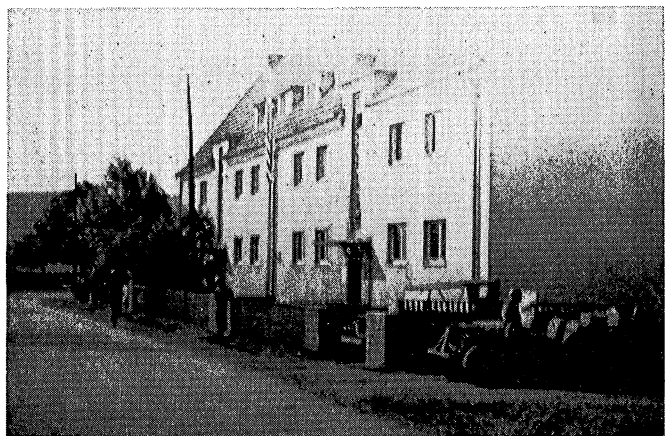
Lieutenant Rafal of Battery B with one of the famous 105's.



FROM V-E DAY TO DEACTIVATION

To men of the 336th those words held a fateful meaning. War in all its unholy ugliness had come to an end for western Europe and for them. May 7, 1945, will always be a memorable day in the hearts of the fighting men of T's battalion. For them, no more kill or be killed—no more of the times that try men's souls. And we had been tried. In mud, snow and bitter cold we proved our worth as fighting men.

On May 12, the 336th left its position at Eich, Germany, and proceeded to a large area just east of Saalfeld, Germany, to assume its duty of occupying, organizing and governing an area which included the towns of Konitz, Bucha, Hohen-



Battalion Command Post in Konitz

walde, Kaulsdorf, Birkigt, Ober and Unter Wellenborn and Gros Kamsdorf.

Headquarters Battery bivouaced in the vicinity of Konitz, Battery A at Unter Wellenborn, Battery B at Birkigt, Battery C at Gros Kamsdorf, and Service Battery also in Gros Kamsdorf. Among the major installations which were guarded by the battalion were the steel mills at Unter Wellenborn and the underground factory at Gros Kamsdorf.

As soon as the batteries were settled rumors became prevalent. Is it occupation? Straight to the Pacific? C.B.I. via home? Those were the questions asked, and no immediate answers were forthcoming.

So leaving the future of the battalion to higher head-

Retreat formation and inspection in Konitz.



Lieutenant Andrews of Headquarters Battery inspecting personal equipment prior to leaving Konitz for the U. S. A.

quarters we plunged into our own problems and started to assume some of our responsibilities.

Our battalion area, as well as others in the surrounding areas, was overflowing with displaced personnel. These men, women and children were the ones that the Nazis had used as slave labor.

Their health, physical and mental well-being were improved appreciably by the able work of the battalion surgeon, Captain Smith, his able assistant, S/Sgt. Robert Saporito, and the rest of the medical detachment.

Trucks of the 336th were among those used to carry many of the displaced persons to central points closer to their homes.

While in Germany our prime objective was the maintenance of peace and orderliness throughout the conquered German populace. The fact that there were no serious outbreaks during our stay in Germany attests the fact that our job was well done.

During our occupational period the men who were not actively engaged in patrol or guard duty attended classes and carried out specified drill schedules. Recreation and relaxation were provided through softball games, nightly movies and the drinking of beer at authorized gasthoffs within the battalion area.

To be sure, Captain Rutledge, the I and E officer, saw to it that certain points of interest were made available to us. One such was the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. The men who did see it observed all the sights of Nazi brutality, depravity, and the stark horror of such a place. They couldn't help but grasp just what Buchenwald had meant to those who had lived within its confines. The sights seen there will always be remembered.

The richer side of the educational program came when a tour of the castle Burgk, headed by the House of Royce, was arranged. For the first time many men were able to inspect at will the inner sanctums of one of the leading families of Germany. The grandeur and livid history that had come to this castle was not only reflected in the sumptu-

Footdrill and forced marches along the autobahn near Lingenfeld, Germany.



ous furnishings but also in the renowned people who lived and visited there. The Hessians, who fought against George Washington drew their name from the Duke of Hess. Kaiser Wilhelm's second wife was Hermina, a daughter of the ruling family. The Saal River which runs beside the castle and at one time a much used trade route provided beauty to the castle and bounty from robbed merchantmen to the robber barons of its heyday. The last German occupants were Nazi SS troops who gave up the castle to American soldiers without a fight. Only three times in history has Castle Burgk been conquered.

Probably the most unusual experience for many was the opportunity made available to them by the battalion to go for an airplane ride. The liaison planes and their pilots, Lieutenants Jackson and Podell were kept busy for many hours flying men over Rudolstadt, Saalfeld and the different battery areas. It was a get-friendly trip with no acrobatics but to those for whom it was the first time it will always be a pleasant memory.

To all who were there, May 18 is a day we all remember. Memorial services commemorating those of our comrades who were killed or died as a result of wounds received in action and those who were wounded in action were held by the 336th with Chaplain Erickson officiating. Out in the open field were the men who had come to pay their last respects to comrades and friends taken from their midst. Yes, V-E Day had come and peace once again came to us, but its cost was high in blood and men.

To all troops stationed in Germany the term "non-fraternization" had its own meaning. To most members of the 336th it was a rule to be complied with and that is what was done. It is a recorded fact that the 336th has an exemplary record for fine discipline and military bearing. Our list of Good Conduct Medal holders is endless, but when men have been through combat as we were, the sight of women, especially friendly women, was too much. So any violators of the non-fraternization policy who were apprehended were quickly dealt with. It should be listed here as "Memories that Bless and Burn."

It is generally supposed that German beer is the best to be had and the battalion was kept well supplied with Posneck's best by our famous deliveryman Lt. Welton and assistant Pfc. James Morgan.

The occupation of Germany was going along very well. Our duties, educational program and pleasures had to be abandoned when on May 16 the battalion was notified that the 87th Division had been chosen to be re-deployed to the Pacific via the United States. The thought of what a furlough would mean to all of us who had fought so hard and dreamed so long was enough to disturb our minds with great dreams. Only to those who have been away from their loved ones can this truth be really significant. Everyone settled down to await the division that was to relieve us.

On May 28 the 230th Field Artillery Battalion of the 30th

Saalfeld, Germany. The rest of the fatherland was in a similar condition.



Infantry Division came to relieve us of our occupational duties but we didn't immediately move out.

Finally, on June 14, we left Konitz for a three day trip to the staging area. We arrived at Camp Oklahoma City near Rheims, France, on June 16. Our ten day stay there was strictly a GI heaven. There was nothing to do but wait for our orders.

On June 21 the advance party, consisting of Captain Frank Snyder, 1/Sgt. Lander Clemmer, S/Sgt. Marnach, S/Sgt. John Day, Sgt. Donald Neel, T/4 Berryhill, Cpl. Bauswell, and T/5 Redding left Camp Oklahoma City for the United States. While at Le Havre they stayed at Camp Home Run. It was originally an old French fort overlooking Le Havre. Sleeping quarters were built in ancient tunnels within the fort. Movies were provided for entertainment. On the evening of June 27 they boarded a ship at Le Havre. They arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, on July 5.

The battalion left Camp Oklahoma City on June 26 and after a one-day trip arrived at Camp Lucky Strike. There, too, we enjoyed the facilities of the camp for ten days. Camp Lucky Strike is actually an immense air field used by the Germans for the bombing of England and later used by the Allies as a base of operations against the Germans.

In the camp movies were furnished by the Red Cross and USO shows were provided for our enjoyment. Probably the greatest enjoyment came from being able to do plenty of "bunk fatigue."

Even in Lucky Strike we had a mild disappointment. At the last minute after being told that we would travel home aboard the *West Point*, a converted luxury liner, which would have probably made us a lot more comfortable for the trip, the Air Corps took our place and our battalion had to wait once again for another ship.

Finally on July 7 the battalion loaded on trucks and took its last motor trip in Europe.

After riding a few hours the great port city of Le Havre came into view. Reminders were still there to show the havoc of the war. Still remaining were the shattered trees, broken and bombed homes and the smashed port of the city itself.

It was there that we finally caught a glimpse of the ship that was to take us home. Upon closer inspection of the ship it was revealed to be one of Henry Kaiser's victory ships by name, *Marine Robin*. Comments flew fast and furious. Wilmer Everest, Service Battery, who is a seafarer by nature said, "I was sick on the *Louis Pasteur* and that was a big one. God only knows what I'll be on this one." After seeing the size of the *Marine Robin* and remembering what the *Louis Pasteur* looked like, men couldn't help but be a bit pessimistic as to the type of trip that was forthcoming. Originally word had spread around the battalion that we would only be a normal load for the ship, but after just one glimpse at the immense number of men gathered on the docks we knew that it was not to be.

While waiting to board ship the Red Cross came and gave coffee and doughnuts to those lucky people that crowded around their truck. Before everyone could partake of these, the order to board ship was given. As each battery's turn came to go up the gangplank a procedure familiar to all of us was again repeated. Up the plank came T/Sgt. Charles Vinck, S/Sgt. Frederick Brown, Cpl. Kenneth Yockey, 1/Sgt. Vincent Nickus, Cpl. Salvatore Carlis, T/4 Herb Vander Hoya, Cpl. Frank Williams, Cpl. John Galloway, Pvt. Amos Palmerino, Sgt. Frank Saiter, Pfc. Billy Cottril, T/4 William Ferguson, S/Sgt. James Fetterman, Sgt. Charles Kreisher, Cpl. Howard Brown, and Pvt. Eloy Garcia, names of men we all know well.

As each man of the 336th boarded the boat he carried with him his duffel bag and his own little share of Germany. Once on board ship we were able to tell what other troops were with us. They were: 334th Field Artillery Battalion,

912th Field Artillery Battalion, 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion and special troops going home for discharge.

On board we were issued ration cards good for fifty meals and also our compartment number. B4 was our battalion compartment number. The men had to sleep in shifts. Without too much delay men were placed and those men who wanted to sleep on deck found themselves spots to bed down.

After all men were settled the only thing remaining was for the *Marine Robin* to pull out of the pier and begin its journey. At least five to six hours had elapsed before this happened during which time we had an army band play music for us and some French dock men played around with a crane machine. At 8 p.m., after what seemed like an age, the *Marine Robin* was ready to pull out. The call "All Aboard" was sounded and to the chug of tugboats pulling at her side the ship and we were on our way. The last lap of our trip home had started at last. Everyone who could possibly find a place stayed to get his last look at France. Everyone said in his own way his last goodbye to Europe. Then all turned their minds to the pending journey and what to do to keep occupied.

The food was good throughout the trip. The officers had their own dining room and the enlisted men were fed in the kitchen, three decks below. There were three meals a day. Every morning after the decks were hosed the loudspeaker would blare, "All men with blue cards will be fed first," and the mad scramble was on. At each and every meal the situation was the same.

Life aboard ship could have been very disturbing to a great many had we encountered rough weather but outside of one rain squall the weather was perfect.

The Transportation Corps, foreseeing the need for relaxation and means of occupying leisure time, supplied the entire ship with plenty of popular music, latest news and plenty of reading material. The men who handled the broadcasting during the trip were Pvt. George Hopkins and Pfc. Charles Payne.

From the first day on board ship until the last there were games of chance being engaged in all over the boat. Whenever anyone felt that his finances were in a healthy state and the urge to play for big stakes became prevalent B4 was the place to go. The rolling cubes were very popular and small fortunes were won and lost in short order. At least one member of the 336th came away from one game a wealthier man. He was Pfc. Joseph Bucchiere. Well, some are always winners and some are always losers.

For as long as most of us can remember we never had an overabundance of cigarettes while overseas but not so on the ship. After being aboard a few days we bought through the PX on the ship an allotment of two cartons of popular brand cigarettes, some candy and peanuts. The allotment of cigarettes was large enough to keep everyone who smoked satisfied.

When we first boarded ship everyone had their duffel bags with them but as they were too great a temptation to some people on board and as they were too bulky it was decided to store them all in one hatch. Before they were stored all arms and deadly weapons were turned in for safe keeping. It was purely a preventative measure.

Every evening after supper there were movies shown.

From the beginning of the trip, under the auspices of the Transportation Corps, men from the different battalions were recruited for a musical show. A few of the men who played in the band from the 336th were Lt. Jerome Podell, Lt. Richard Sowash, and Pfc. George Johnston.

When the musical was presented for its first appearance the mess hall served as the auditorium. The show, prepared in such short order, was very good. The second show was held on deck

Twice aboard ship lifeboat drill was held by the merchantmen. Everyone knew just what to do and the machinery was in good order so the drills passed without incident. Possibly the oddest incident that was noticed was the utter lack of seasickness of all aboard.

After nine days of travel a pleasant but tiresome journey came to an end when our ship docked at Newport News, Va. Many men were awake at the time the ship entered the port because the first glimpse of the United States was too important an event to miss.

When daylight came the ship worked its way about three hundred yards from the dock and stopped. From that vantage point we could see the band that was serenading us, the WACs on the docks waving to us and the Red Cross ladies waiting to welcome us.

As the tugboats secured their lines and began the job of docking the *Marine Robin* it began to drizzle and then really rain. Almost everyone was caught unprepared and got soaked.

Trains were waiting for us as we disembarked from the boat. WACs divided the men into sections and after some refreshments from the Red Cross, into the train we filed. Our homeward journey had begun.

After a short trip our train pulled into Camp Patrick Henry where we got off, formed into groups and marched off to an orientation lecture by an officer of the post. The lecture informed us on the things that would happen to us while in camp. Every man received his Welcome Home dinner and cigarette ration card. The dinner consisted of steak and all the trimmings.

Many men left that night for home and the rest left the next day. Our day was coming. Most men stayed no longer than two days at the reception centers.

No man can aptly describe the different types of homecomings but it is assumed that all were happy and joyous ones. Men, seeing their children for the first time, wives and girls and parents who had waited and prayed for this day.

For the men of the 336th, August 14, will be a day we will never forget. The end of the war in the Pacific could be a reality. The Japs wanted to quit. The atomic bomb had done its work well.

The next few days saw the Japs hedge. Finally the order to cease fire came. When the people realized that V-J Day had actually come everyone really did some celebrating. V-E Day's celebration seemed like only a squeak in comparison. For many, praying substituted for celebrating. The final terms of peace would come later.

When most of the men were returning from furlough they left hearing these words from friends and relatives, "They won't need you. You'll be back in a few weeks." "Maybe when you go to your reception center they will send you home with an extension." "No Pacific for you." Some might have believed this, but they were a minority.

After staying a few days at their respective reception centers, men entrained for Fort Benning, Ga, the new home of the 87th division. Upon arrival men learned that the area assigned to the 87th is known as the Sand Hill area. To most men it is known as the Hades on earth.

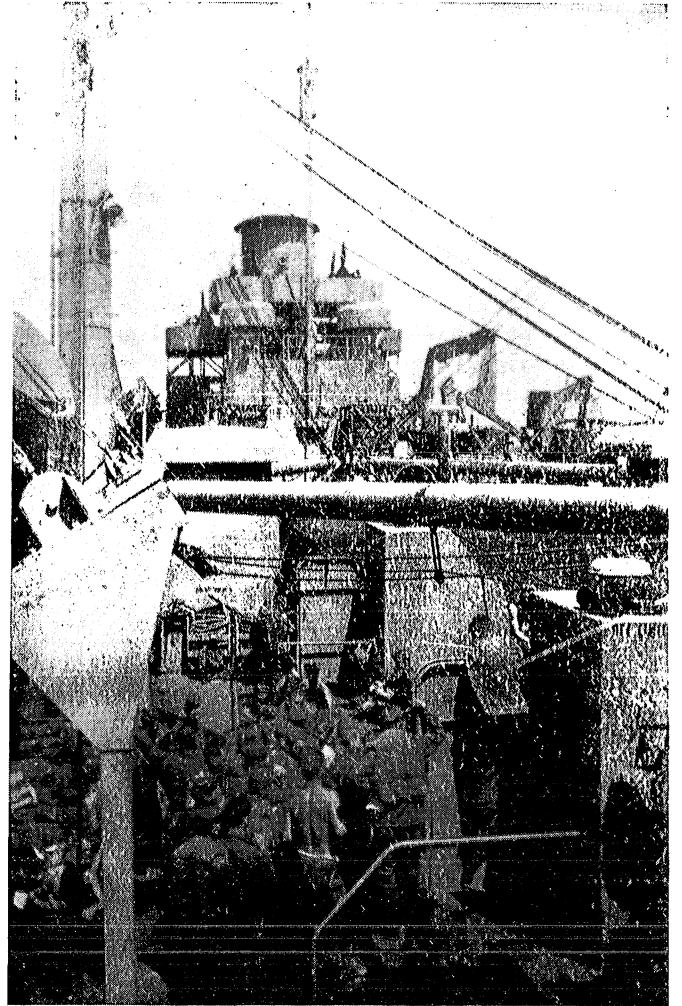
Naturally, while here rumors have been flying around at a terrific rate and everyone, to coin a phrase, is sweating it out.

At a parade for the 87th Division, Major General Culin told the men that the 87th would be the first division which had been in combat to be inactivated. He also explained just what would happen to the men of the division. Some were to be redeployed, some would go to service commands near home, and as it must to all men, discharge would come to some, eventually all.

On September 2, 1945, the Japanese signed the official peace terms. In our time, Peace to all men has finally come.

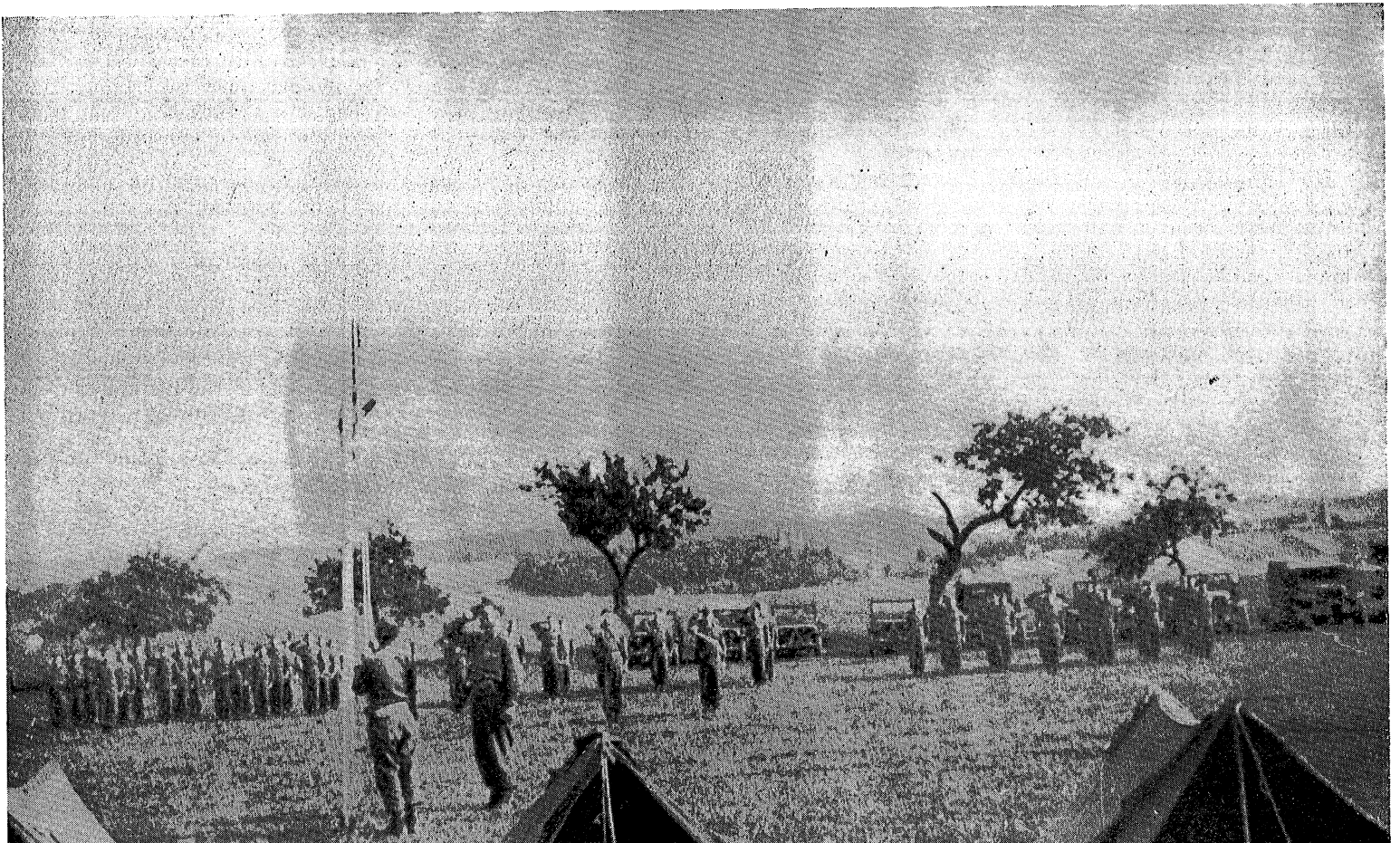


Aboard the Marine Robin, Granda, Harding, Yockey, Susman and Pantizis of Headquarters Battery



Chow time on the Marine Robin

336th at retreat in Germany



912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Activated 15 December, 1942 — Camp McCain, Miss.

Inactivated September, 1945 — Fort Benning, Ga.

In Memoriam

CAPTAIN WILLIAM F. BOTKIN

SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES E. HAMILTON

STAFF SERGEANT JACK T. REINHARDT

STAFF SERGEANT NORMAN K. SUTLIFF

CORPORAL CLARENCE A. RELIC

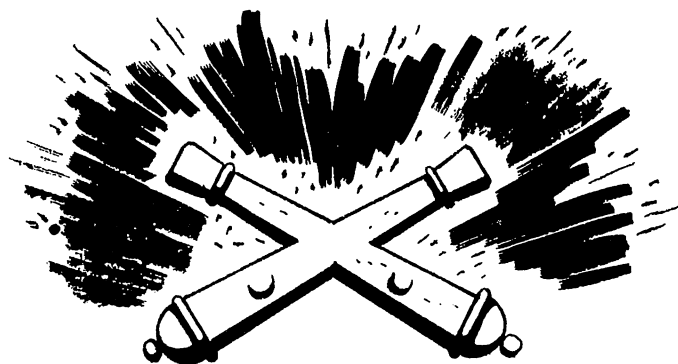
CORPORAL SHERMAN M. LONG

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HAROLD V. CRAWFORD

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GEORGE F. YEZ

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RAYMOND J. JOHNSON

PRIVATE JAMES J. WALSH



BATTALION COMMANDERS



THEA L. LIPSCOMB
Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery RA

Lt. Col. Thea L. Lipscomb, a West Point graduate, commanded the Battalion from date of Activation until 12 December 1943. He came to the Battalion a recent graduate of DAC No. 9, as a major and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel 19 December 1942. He left for the Tactics department of the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.



JOSEPH A. MONN
Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery RA

Lt. Col. Joseph A. Monn, joined and assumed command of the Battalion on 16 December 1943. He was commissioned a second lieutenant with ORC October 1929. Promotion to First Lieutenant came on 4 December 1932. He was appointed Captain 10 December 1936. He entered active duty 20 December 1940 and attended BOC No. 6 FAS, Fort Sill, Okla., and subsequently was assigned as Commanding Officer, Battery C, Fifth Battalion, FARTC, Fort Bragg, N. C. On 29 July 1941, he went to Albrook Field, Panama Canal Zone as Headquarters Squadron Commanding Officer, Sixth Bomber Command. He was appointed Major 11 December 1941. From here, on 9 March 1942, he joined the Second Field Artillery Battalion as Executive Officer at Fort Clayton, Panama Canal Zone. In 1943, he attended C and GS course No. 12. He returned in September 1943 to the United States with the Second Field Artillery Battalion and shortly thereafter was transferred to the 912th Field Artillery Battalion and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel 7 June 1944. Colonel Monn remained in command until February 1945 when he was assigned to duty of Division Artillery S-3.



Lieutenant Colonel Herbert C. Plapp, West Point graduate assumed command of the Battalion on 16 February 1945 near Manderfeld, Belgium. He began his military career with the 205th Infantry of the Minnesota National Guard serving from 9 March 1926 to 10 June 1929 and attained the grade of Sergeant. He entered West Point Military Academy on 1 July 1929 and emerged a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, on 13 June 1933. His first assignment was with the Third Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sheridan, Ill., where he served as Battery Executive and Battalion S-4. He was on CCC duty from 4 April 1934 to 15 May 1936 and was promoted to First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 12 June 1936. He attended the Regular Course, Fort Sill, Okla., from 1 September 1937 to 10 June 1938. From 13 July 1938 to 20 July 1940 he served with the 13th Field Artillery Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in the capacity of Battery Commander and Battalion S-3. He then joined the 80th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and served as Battery Commander and Battalion S-1 from 1 October 1940 to 10 April 1941. Promoted to Captain, Field Artillery, 1 September 1940. From 11 April 1941 to 20 April 1942 he served as Division Artillery S-2 and S-3 with the Sixth Division Artillery at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Promoted to Major, Field Artillery, 21 February 1942. He then attended the Field Officers Course No. 6 from 21 April 1942 to 21 June 1942 and the Cadre Course No. 5 from 22 June 1942 to 15 July 1942 at Fort Sill, Okla. He assumed command of the 903rd Field Artillery Battalion of the 78th Division at Camp Butner, N. C., and served from 16 July 1942 to 20 March 1943, being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery, 21 August 1942. From 25 March 1942 to 10 May 1943 he served as an Instructor and group supervisor of the combined arms advance course at Fort Sill, Okla. He became a member of the 87th Division Artillery in capacity of Division Artillery S-3 while Division was at Fort Jackson, S. C., and served in that capacity through England, France, Belgium, and Germany until 15 February 1945 joining the 912th Field Artillery Battalion as Battalion Commander on 16 February 1945. He led the Battalion through the Siegfried Line, across the Moselle and Rhine Rivers and through the heart of Germany to the Czechoslovakian border. He served as Commanding Officer of the 912th Field Artillery Battalion until it was returned to the United States at Fort Benning, Ga., and was inactivated on 21 September 1945.



HERBERT C. PLAPP
Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery

HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



The 912th Field Artillery Battalion was activated 5 August 1917 as an organic part of the 87th Infantry Division at Camp Pike, Ark. For a period of one year the 912th Field Artillery Battalion underwent strenuous and systematic training. In August of 1918, the Battalion, as a part of the 87th Infantry Division moved to a Port of Embarkation and sailed for England. It eventually crossed the Channel to France when it was assigned the duties of an Ammunition and Supply Train. Although not a Combat Battalion, a high standard of efficiency was set and maintained throughout its tour of duty in Europe to be perpetuated by its present members. After termination of hostilities the 912th Field Artillery Battalion was returned to the United States with "a job well done" inscribed across its record.

On November 15, 1942, a trained and efficient cadre of officers and men was selected from the 906th Field Artillery Battalion of the 81st Infantry Division and was assigned to the 912th Field Artillery Battalion. The 912th Field Artillery Battalion was to be activated as a part of the 87th Infantry Division at Camp McCain, Miss. Camp McCain is located in the north central part of Mississippi, 90 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee and nine miles south of Grenada, Miss., on highway 51.

Members of the officers cadre were Maj. T. L. Lipscomb, Maj. H. L. T. Koren, Maj. C. E. Sands, 1st Lt. F. M. Sammis, 1st Lt. P. A. Tutwiler, III, 1st Lt. W. F. Botkin, 1st Lt. A. W. Tupka, Jr., and 1st Lt. E. S. Tiffin, Jr. During the month of October, 1942, the group of officers trained in DAC 9 at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla., and reported for duty at Camp McCain on or about the 10th of November, 1942. The enlisted cadre, consisting of 75 non-commissioned officers, joined on or about the 15th of November, 1942, and began a short tour of cadre training.

During the first two weeks of December, 1942, approximately 75 per cent of the cadre, officers

and men, participated in a Third Army CPX in Louisiana.

The remainder of the cadre, under the command of 1st Lt. P. A. Tutwiler, III, were attached to the 335th Field Artillery Battalion for administration.

The 912th Field Artillery Battalion as a part of the 87th Infantry Division was officially activated in the morning of 15 December 1942.

Upon the return of the participants of the CPX, the cadre settled down to a strenuous schedule in preparation for the reception of the filler-replacements. The first filler, Pvt. Erra Witt, arrived on the 27th of January, 1943, and was assigned to Battery A. After approximately two weeks, the remainder of the fillers started to arrive, until about the 23rd of February, when the Battalion reached its T/O strength. Fillers continued to arrive until the Battalion was about 25 per cent overstrength.

The bulk of the fillers were selectees from the ranks of the eighteen, nineteen and twenty year old men recently inducted under the changed provisions of the National Selective Service Act. These fillers were drawn mainly from the New England and North Central States.

On or about the first of March, 1943, the Battalion embarked upon a strenuous period of training under the provisions of Field Artillery Mobilization Training Program. At the end of this three months period of basic training, the Battalion successfully passed the M.T.P. tests conducted by III Corps, Second Army.

Next, the Battalion underwent a three month period of Unit Training. During this period, approximately the months of June, July, and August, 1943, the Battalion lost many of its high ranking, well-trained staff officers. At the conclusion of this period, Battery tests were taken with Battery C taking top honors in the Division Artillery with the splendid score of 98.9% on AGF Battery Test I. The battery commander at that time was Capt. Adam W. Tupka, Jr.



Following this training period, the Battalion started the most intensive training up to that time, i.e., the Combined Training Period.

The 912th Field Artillery Battalion was assigned to the 347th Combat Team commanded at that time by Colonel L. R. Besse, and as such participated vigorously in the many Regimental Combat Team exercises. These maneuvers were climaxed by a week's field problem at the State Park located at Holly Springs, Miss., during the week of 4 to 9 October 1943.

The period of 9 October to 29 October was spent in detailed preparation for the "D" Series. On 29 October, the Battalion left camp and moved into the field to participate in the Division Field Exercises. The next three weeks were spent in continuous maneuvers about the Camp McCain Military Reservation. This three weeks maneuver ably equipped the Battalion for the large scale Tennessee maneuvers to follow shortly.

For the four days prior to departure from Camp McCain to the Tennessee maneuver area, the Battalion bivouaced in the field to make way for the 94th Infantry Division, the next occupants of the post.

On December 1, 1943, with high morale, the Battalion moved northward under Combat Team control towards the Second Army Maneuver Area. After an uneventful two day road march the Battalion went into bivouac in the vicinity of Shelbyville, Tenn. On the following Monday the Battalion entered the second phase of the Tennessee Maneuvers which were already in progress. Phases 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were participated in by this Battalion. At the conclusion of phase 6, the Battalion entered bivouac outside of Shelbyville to await departure



for the next permanent station, Fort Jackson, S. C.

On the 26th of January, the Battalion left the maneuver area on its journey to Fort Jackson and bivouaced at Tate, Ga., the first night. The second night of the march found the battalion bivouaced at Greenwood, S. C. A short third day's march brought the Battalion to Fort Jackson, S. C.

After a few days spent in organizing the area, the 912th Field Artillery Battalion started a training period with the ultimate goal, the successful completion of the A.G.F. Battalion Firing Tests. This training was interrupted by the departure of Battery B at 0800, 30 March 1944 for Fort McClellan, Ala., for the purpose of providing Artillery fire in the I.R.T.C. Battle Indoctrination courses. This battery under the command of Capt. William F. Botkin, made a fine showing and was verbally complimented by the Commanding General, I.R.T.C. for the splendid work done. Battery B rejoined the battalion at Fort Jackson 3 May 1944.

On 10 April 1944, Battery C, under the command of 1st Lt. L. W. Harding, departed from Fort Jackson to provide Artillery Fire at the I.R.T.C., Camp Croft, S. C. For the splendid work of this battery, written commendation was made by the Commanding General of the I.R.T.C. On 3 May 1944 Battery C rejoined the 912th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Jackson, S. C.

On 4 April 1944, a serious training accident occurred in Battery A. A rocket dud exploded during the training period resulting in the hospitalization of 21 enlisted men and one officer and causing the subsequent death of three enlisted men, namely, Sgt. Frank Marino, Cpl. Edward Krizon and Pfc. Ora F. Smith. On 14 August 1944, seven of these men were still hospitalized.

With the reuniting of the battalion training was

again resumed. On the 19th of May, approximately 25 per cent of the trained personnel of this battalion were sent out as overseas replacements. Shortly thereafter, men from other branches of the service, namely, Air Corps, Tank Destroyer, A.S. T.P. and Coast Artillery were received as replacements for men lost due to overseas shipments. This so hindered training that it was necessary for IX Corps, Second Army to postpone the A.G.F. Battalion Firing Tests to the first week in August.

As the date of the tests drew nearer, the training was intensified so that it enabled the Battalion to make a superior showing on the tests.

Throughout its history in World War II, the battalion has been characterized by high morale, which is clearly shown by its record of few men absent without leave, low venereal rate, and fine state of discipline.

From time to time, this battalion was called upon to supply combat trained soldiers and officers as overseas replacements. A partial record of the replacements furnished follows.

25 March 1943 1 Capt., 1 1st Lt., 2 2nd Lts., per par 1 SO 70 Hq Camp McCain, Miss.

4 November 1943 1 Capt., MC per par 7 SO 225 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

26 October 1943 3 1st Lts. per par 3 SO 246 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

2 January 1944 29 Enlisted Men per par 4 SO 297 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

4 February 1944 3 1st Lts., 2 2nd Lts. per par 1 SO 27 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

23 February 1944 1 2d Lt. per par 1 SO 43 AGF.

8 March 1944 1 Capt. per par 17 SO 54 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

8 May 1944 103 Enlisted Men per par 1 SO 105 Hq. 87th Inf. Div.

9 May 1944 1 Capt. per par 5 SO 53 Hq. 87th Inf. Div.

31 May 1944 1 1st Lt. per par 2 SO 23 Hq 87th Inf. Div.

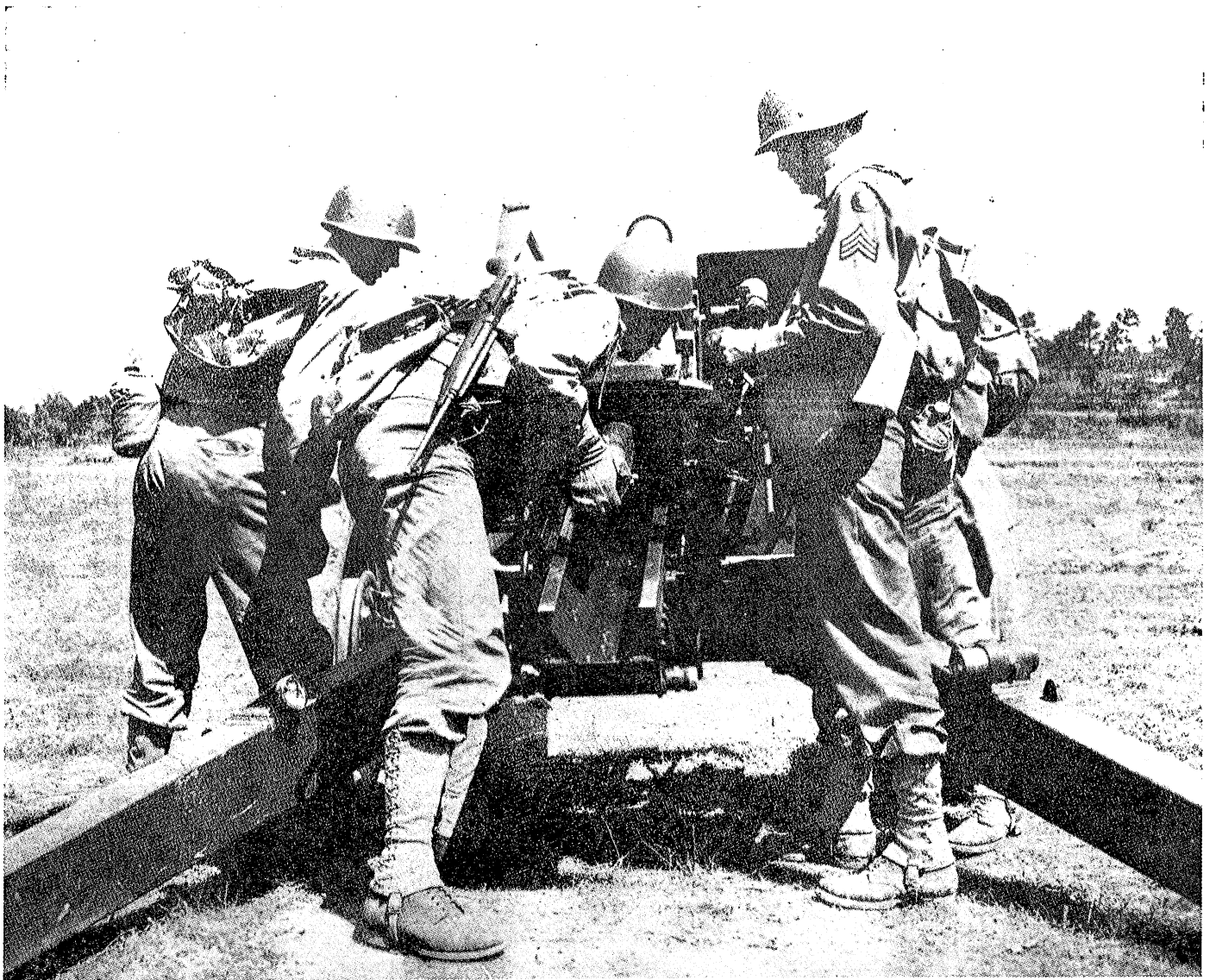
13 April 1944, 1 Capt. Secret Orders

18 May 1944 29 Enlisted Men

23 June 1944 1 1st Lt. 3 2d Lts. per par 7 SO 140 Hq. 87th Inf. Div.

19 August 1944 1 Capt., 1 1st Lt.







OFFICERS, 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

AUGUST 1944

Front Row, left to right: Botkin, William F., Captain; Prutinsky, Seymour, First Lieutenant; Fussell, James R., First Lieutenant; Mecham, Ross L., First Lieutenant; Monn, Joseph A., Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Battalion; Abt, Alan B., First Lieutenant; Cummings, Charles W., Second Lieutenant; Deininger, George A., Second Lieutenant.

Rear Row, left to right: Ramquist, Reuel T., Captain; Booth, Robert T., Second Lieutenant; Harding, Leonard W., Captain; Blair, Britt B., Captain; Pfeiffer, Richard C., Captain; Levy Gerald D., Second Lieutenant; Pfanz, Harry W., Second Lieutenant; Harris, Frederick H., Second Lieutenant; Regen, Walter D., Jr., Second Lieutenant; Peden, Preston E., Second Lieutenant; Capron, Charles E., Major, Battalion S-3; Mercovich, John J., Second Lieutenant; Schaubert, Harold W., Warrant Officer (jg); Helmscamp, Jack F., Second Lieutenant; Nussbaum, Willard R., Captain; Bender, Thomas W., Major, Battalion Executive Officer; Gisske, Hugo C., Captain; Sexton, George A., Captain.

THE 912TH IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE

On 16 August 1944 the 912th Field Artillery Battalion was officially notified that the 87th Infantry Division, of which it was a part, had been alerted for overseas shipment at a future date. Immediate preparations were made for necessary showdown inspections, immunizations, and for final phases of training.

All the inspections by Inspector Generals proved highly satisfactory as far as the battalion was concerned. The Administrative Inspection, too, proved to be excellent.

On 1 October 1944, an advance party from the 912th Field Artillery Battalion consisting of Major Thomas W. Bender, Captain Albert J. Foisy, 2d Lt. Lauren W. Dean, T/Sgt. Clair M. Jenniges and Cpl. Sherman M. Long, departed for an overseas destination to arrange for arrival of the battalion at a later date.

CWO Marvin H. Sandlin, Assistant Battalion S-4, departed under classified orders to Elmira H & R Point, Horseheads, New York, on 25 September 1944 for temporary duty in connection with supply matters for an overseas shipment of large items of cargo.

Finally, at 1603 12 October 1944, the 912th Field Artillery Battalion under the very able direction and command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Monn, entrained at Fort Jackson, S. C., on the first leg of its journey overseas.

The Battalion arrived at Camp Kilmer, N. J., at 1430, 13 October 1944 after an uneventful 22-hour and 27-minute train ride. Camp Kilmer, N. J., one of the many staging areas of the New York Port of Embarkation, was named after the poet, Joyce Kilmer. Processing of the troops began almost immediately after quarters were assigned. The processing from the date of arrival through 17 October consisted of: Physical inspections, issue of new type gas masks and the testing of them in a gas chamber, typhus inoculations, final clothing and equipment inspections, "abandon ship" procedure and drill and complete instruction in Personal Affairs, which afforded all officers and enlisted men a final opportunity to take care of wills, powers of attorney, allotments, insurance and war bonds. The "abandon ship" drill proved highly entertaining when a few of the men who used the single rope method swung way out into the air like monkeys on a trapeze.

From the completion of processing until the final call from the Port Commander, normal training was pursued and passes were given officers and enlisted men which permitted them to visit New York City, Philadelphia, and other points that were not too far distant. On the 24th of October, three-day passes were granted enlisted men and two-day leaves were likewise afforded the officers. This gave the great majority a chance to visit their homes and say their last farewells.

A parade was held on 31 October at which Brigadier General William W. Ford reviewed the troops of the Division which still remained in this country.

Finally at 0800, 1 November 1944, the battalion was alerted for movement to the Port of Embarkation. Final preparation for shipment began with packing of personal clothing and equipment. The battalion departed from their quarters area at 1830, 3 November 1944 and entrained at 1913 with destination Jersey City, N. J. Detraining came at 2019 followed by a march to the Ferry at 2040. Arrival at New York Harbor was at 2108. The men's spirits were raised considerably when they were greeted by a WAC band playing the Field Artillery "Caisson Song." Their aching backs straightened up despite their heavy packs and hand luggage and their step quickened. Just prior to going up the gangplank, the American Red Cross served hot coffee

and doughnuts, which afforded a welcome and refreshing pause.

Embarkation on His Majesty's Transport *Louis Pasteur* began at 2122. Corporal Robert L. Lowe of Headquarters Battery was the first enlisted man to hit the gangplank. At this moment, one to be well remembered, a spontaneous cheer went up from the troops. The embarkation was effected in an orderly manner with no loss of time. HMT *Louis Pasteur*, was formerly a French passenger ship which had been taken over by the British and was sailing under the British flag.

The ship sailed at 1355, 4 November 1944, and the decks were crowded with soldiers having their last look at land for a while and gazing fondly at the Statue of Liberty. During the voyage, emergency station drills were conducted daily at 1000 and at the same time the quarters of the men were inspected by a ship's staff. The quarters occupied by the 912th enlisted personnel received a rating of *Excellent* the first day and *Superior* the remaining days of the voyage.

On 6 November 1944, during a ship's gun drill, two men of the battalion were injured when the concussion from a stern gun blew in a bulkhead. Those injured were S/Sgt. William R. Parfitt, Battery B, who suffered a fractured skull, concussion of the brain and loss of sight in the right eye and Pvt. Gilbert C. Berry, Battery A, whose nose was broken.

At 0700, 10 November 1944, the seventh day at sea, an air escort appeared in the vicinity of the ship. At 1400 a destroyer escort appeared. On 12 November 1944 the ship moved into the Mersey River where it lay at anchor until the docking at Liverpool at 1300, 13 November 1944. The 912th disembarked at 1705 and after a short, but tough, walk up hill entrained at 1755 on another leg of its journey. Macclesfield, England, proved to be the first stopping-off place in the United Kingdom. Detraining came at Macclesfield at 2050 and the battalion was met by Major Bender, Captain Foisy and T/Sgt. Jenniges—the advance party.

Our billets in Macclesfield, England, were entirely within the town, which is one of the leading towns in the silk industry. Some of the townspeople stated that a lot of the former silk workers from Macclesfield are now in the United States working in the silk mills of New Jersey.

The battalion was restricted until it had received an orientation lecture on British customs. This orientation was given by Major Thomas W. Bender on 14 November 1944 and proved to be highly entertaining.

The first of our TAT shipment was received on 15 November 1944 and uncrating and inspection began. This continued until Thanksgiving Day, 23 November 1944 when the battalion was alerted for an anticipated movement on 27 November 1944. Thanksgiving Day was a half-work day and the battalion attended a lecture on "Escape and Evasion" given by an officer of General D. W. Eisenhower's staff. The lecture proved to be superb and was interspersed with brilliant pantomime on the part of the officer, who was a gifted actor in his own right. The following day preparations were made for our anticipated movement, the preparation continuing through Sunday, 26 November 1944.

Orders to move out came at 2135, 26 November 1944, and the battalion departed by motor convoy under the leadership and command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Monn, Battalion Commander.

After an uneventful 20 hour and 15 minute motor march, the battalion arrived at Camp D 14, Weymouth,



We knocked this one out

England, at 1750, 27 November 1944, were billeted and then fed a hot "C" ration meal which the enlisted men and officers thoroughly enjoyed after such a long and tiresome journey.

After a good night's rest, the entire battalion minus one enlisted man of Headquarters Battery, Pvt. James J. Walsh, departed Camp D 14 on 28 November 1944 and embarked on two LSTs in Portland Harbor at 1020. The embarkation was successfully completed in record time with no mishap. The LSTs did not immediately sail, but lay at anchor for the balance of the day and all that night.

At 0800, 29 November 1944, the LSTs weighed anchor for the voyage across the English Channel. The trip was uneventful and the sea was unusually calm, for which all concerned were thankful.

The battalion arrived on French soil at Rouen at 1630, 1 December 1944 after riding at anchor in the harbor at Le Havre a day and two nights and a scenic trip up the Seine River. Debarkation was completed at 1730 and the battalion moved by motor to a bivouac location in the Red Horse Assembly Area approximately three miles south of Saint Saens. The next day it rained constantly and the bivouac location became so muddy that one sank about a foot every step he took. Conditions were deplorable, but everyone's morale remained high and the mud was taken in stride. Galoshes were in great demand.

Private James J. Walsh, the missing man at embarkation, turned up on the third of December 1944 with the explanation that he got with the wrong battalion when moving out of the Camp D 14 area and made the journey to France as a casual.

At 0525, 6 December 1944, the battalion departed the Red Horse Assembly area and joined motor convoy with the 347th Infantry Regiment enroute to a new area of assignment.

At 2045 that evening the battalion arrived at Valleroy, France, where the entire battalion were billeted in town buildings.

The next morning while preparations were being made to move again, 2nd Lt. Ross L. Mecham, Service Battery and WO(jg) Harold W. Schaubert, Headquarters Battery, were approached by a civilian of Valleroy who wanted two officers to come with him in his truck to pick up a German reported just outside of the town in a haystack. They boarded the truck, rode to the designated place and found the German soldier in the custody of a Frenchman, who helped march him back to the Battalion Headquarters. The pris-

oner was turned over to Capt. Richard C. Pfeiffer, the Battalion Intelligence Officer. After some questioning, he was taken to Division Headquarters for disposition. This was the first German to be taken by any unit of the Division.

At 0900, 7 December 1944 the battalion left Valleroy, France, and closed in position at Metz, France, with mission to fire on Forts Driant, Jeanne D'Arc and San Quentin. The Battalion Command Post was set up in a home previously owned by a German doctor and Headquarters Battery personnel occupied a hospital previously occupied by the German Army.

At 1125, 8 December 1944, just three years and a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Battery B fired the battalion's first combat round. The round was addressed to Fort Jeanne D'Arc. Colonel Monn commented on the fact that on December 8, 1941, Germany declared war on the United States and on December 8, 1944, the 912th Field Artillery Battalion declared war on Germany.

At 1200, 10 December 1944, Fort Driant surrendered but we continued to fire on Fort Jeanne D'Arc. On this date, the Battalion Personnel Section was attached to the Division Administrative Center which remained in Metz, France, until Christmas Day.

At 0900, 11 December 1944, the Battalion departed Metz, France, and after traveling approximately 45 miles, closed in a bivouac area three miles northwest of Ormingen, France. Personnel slept in the vehicles.

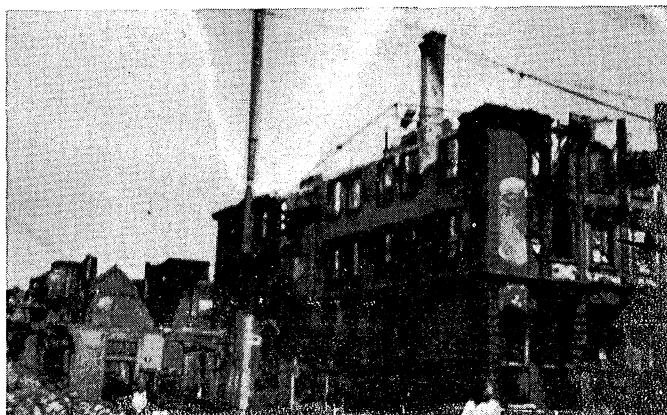
At 2030, 12 December 1944 the Battalion closed in position near Woelfing, France. The Division was relieving the 26th Infantry Division and the 912th's mission was reinforcing the fires of the 263rd Field Artillery Battalion.

At 1200, 13 December 1944, the Battalion fired the first mission on German Infantry in the vicinity of Obergailbach, France. The 253rd, 263rd and 180th Field Artillery Battalions were relieved and the 334th and 335th Field Artillery Battalions were assigned the reinforcing mission.

Late in the afternoon of 15 December 1944 the Battalion suffered its first casualty. Captain Leonard Harding, who was returning to his Battery after an assignment as a forward observer was hit in the shoulder by an 88-mm. fragment. The very next day came the battalion's first combat losses when Captain William F. Botkin and his radio operator, Pfc. Raymond Johnson, both of Battery B, were killed by an enemy artillery shell which landed in their foxholes. This was a terrific shock to all members of the battalion and from then on the troops went into position with a vengeance.

The infantry was making sizeable gains and so on 17 December 1944, the artillery displaced to new positions in vicinity of Obergailbach, which is approximately 100 yards from the German border. The batteries went into position

Some damage done by the artillery





The battalion marches on Hitler's super highway

along a creek bed which was infested with anti-personnel mines. No wounds resulted, however. This time only the 335th and the 253rd Field Artillery Battalions were reinforcing our fires. It was also on this day that events occurred which eventually led to the award of the Silver Star to T/5 Anthony Trapino, radio operator. After being wounded and before first aid was administered to him, T/5 Trapino continued to transmit fire commands. Capt. George H. Sexton, Liaison Officer, and his driver, Pfc. Clements Kohrman, were also wounded by enemy artillery fire. All three are deserving of the highest praise for their actions on this occasion.

During the next two days, the infantry had a holding mission and we suffered one more casualty when Pvt. Dawson E. May, cannoneer from Battery C, was slightly wounded by a German S-mine.

On the 23rd of December, 1944, word was received that the Division would be relieved during the night. The 912th to be relieved by the 156th Field Artillery Battalion of the 44th Infantry Division. The 87th was to be moved up into Belgium to help stop Von Rundstedt's "Bulge." At 0230, 24 December 1944, during an intensely cold and windy night, we moved out and were temporarily billeted in Lohr, France. It was a wonderful feeling to get into warm buildings and get a good rest on this day before Christmas. Christmas day, there was time for church services and for an excellent turkey dinner. That night the Battalion began a forced road march to Rheims, France, the longest and coldest of any experienced during the Battalion's entire stay

in the European Theater. The 912th Field Artillery Battalion arrived in the vicinity of Rheims at 1300, 26 December 1944 and was placed in SHAEF Strategic Reserve. The next few days were spent cleaning equipment and material and getting a much needed rest. The only tactical worry at this time came from enemy air attacks on Rheims at night. On 29 December 1944 orders were received to move from Rheims to the vicinity of Recogne, Belgium. The mission in the new position was one of reinforcing the fires of the 336th Field Artillery Battalion. The first mission was fired at 2100, 30 December 1944. New Year's Eve, Lieutenant Colonel Monn and the Battery Commanders with their reconnaissance parties searched for new positions near Freux, Belgium, to support an attack of the 347th Infantry Regiment. This reconnaissance was made at night under the most extreme conditions of weather. Snow was six inches deep over most of the roads and several feet deep in fields.

At 0900, 1 January 1945, the Battalion displaced from reinforcing positions in the vicinity of Recogne to the positions near Freux with the mission of rendering direct support to the 347th Combat Team. The objective was the bridge over the Orthe River at Ortheville, Belgium. With this displacement the 912th was thrown directly in the Battle of the Ardennes. Division Artillery assigned the 334th, 107th and 108th Field Artillery Battalions to reinforce the Battalion's fires. Despite the displacement and the extremes of weather, a good New Year's Day dinner was served.

On 2 January 1945 the Battalion fired secondary fires. At approximately 1400, Major Bender, the Battalion Executive, and a reconnaissance party were pinned down by adjusted fire. In the early evening, General Ford visited the command post giving the instructions that the Corps was on the defensive and that a counter-attack was expected and explaining the situation in detail.

At 0915, 4 January, when the counter-attack failed to materialize, the Combat Team moved in the attack with the 912th group, less the 334th Field Artillery Battalion supporting. At 1700 the command post was shelled, causing two civilian casualties. Later in the evening the battalion received the report that S/Sgt. Greenberg had been wounded near Pironpre, Belgium, while serving as a Forward Observer.

On 5 January it was reported that Lieutenant Pfanz had been wounded while observing near Pironpre, Belgium. The 107th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of its reinforcing mission and the 770th Field Artillery Battalion reported that it was in position to reinforce the Battalion.

The Battalion Commander returning from the Regimental Command Post on 6 January reported that the 347th Infantry was being relieved by the First Battalion, 345th Infantry, who would be on the defensive. The battalion's mission would now be direct support of the First Battalion, 345th Infantry. Most of the firing for the day was harassing and interdiction and Time-on-Targets.

At 1430, 7 January, Protestant services were held for the personnel of the battalion. At approximately 1700 the enemy counter-attacked against Bonnerue, Belgium, driving Company C, 345th Infantry from the town. Lieutenant Booth, the forward observer and S/Sgt. Cieslak and T/4 Watson, members of his party, stayed in the town and adjusted artillery fire on the attacking enemy. They were attacked from all sides and had to call for a box of artillery fire around the town to protect themselves. When the enemy was driven from the town, the forward observer continued firing on enemy tanks and horse drawn artillery which were moving into the woods north of Bonnerue. 614 rounds were fired by the 912th alone.

On 8 January the 108th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of reinforcing the 912th. The enemy again counter-attacked against Bonnerue. General Ford visited the command post and remained during the firing of all the support for the Bonnerue sector. All contact was lost with Lieutenant Booth and his party when the enemy reoccupied the town. At 2115 the report was received that Lieutenant Casper, Liaison Officer with the 345th Infantry, identified Lieutenant Booth as one of the three officers and 17 enlisted men observed being marched away as prisoners by the enemy. Although not identified, it was assumed that S/Sgt. Cieslak and Sgt. Watson, members of Lieutenant Booth's party, were captured also.

On 12 January the Battalion received the report that the Third Battalion of the Combat Team had occupied St. Hubert. At 1830 the battalion started displacing by echelon—the first night displacement—with Batteries B and C, half of the fire direction center and radio and wire personnel to new positions in vicinity of Jenneville, Belgium. The front was quiet. There was a report that French and British forces had joined the Third Battalion in St. Hubert, Belgium.

The next day at 1015 the remainder of Headquarters Battery and Battery A displaced to the new positions in vicinity of Jenneville, Belgium. At 1330, the Battalion Commander and reconnaissance party returned from forward reconnaissance and reported that the Infantry had contacted French forces in Lavacherie, Belgium, and that the enemy had withdrawn to positions across the Orthe River. The division objective had been attained. The Battalion was to



Damaged buildings in Plauen

remain in its present positions and maintain close contact with Regimental Command Post for orders.

At 1045, 15 January, after spending the day reshuffling and reloading the vehicles, the Battalion departed Jenneville under radio silence, marching in order of A, B, C, Hq. and Service. After a 76-mile road march the Battalion arrived at Flaxweiler, Luxembourg, at 1515. The next day the battalion proceeded to Berberg, Luxembourg to relieve the 44th Field Artillery Battalion of the Fourth Infantry Division with mission of direct support of 347th Combat Team. The Infantry was entrenched on the bank of the Sauer River overlooking the Siegfried Line with the mission of protecting their section of the Luxembourg border.

The Battalion spent the 17th of January digging in and improving positions. Firing was light. Bronze Stars issued to S/Sgt. Greenberg and Lt. Harris for heroic achievement were received. T/5 Turner, the Battalion's first reinforcement, reported and was assigned to Headquarters Battery. Battery A reported that their howitzer position had received fire.

The 18th of January, Lt. Jefferson W. Coe was received and was assigned to Battery C. Rear and alternate positions were prepared but were never used.

On the 21st of January the Battalion received its second jolt when the news was received that Lieutenant Hamilton, air observer, and S/Sgt. Sutliff, pilot, had been killed in a plane crash at the air strip. The remainder of the time spent in the Luxembourg sector was very quiet, marred only by a few rounds of enemy shell fire. General Ford held a Battalion Commander's meeting and the Division Artillery S-3 held a S-3 meeting at the command post during the period. On the 23rd the Battalion Commander and Executive were pinned down by fire while visiting Lieutenant



"Alles kaput" in Plauen



Polish lassies liberated at Plauen

Harris at his observation post had to wait for darkness before returning to the command post. On the 24th of January the Battalion received word that the 76th Infantry Division was to relieve the 87th, with the 302nd Field Artillery Battalion relieving the battalion by infiltration.

At 0500, 26 January, the battalion arrived at Basbellan, Luxembourg, after an 80-mile night road march and relieved

the 17th Airborne Artillery. Our kitchens fed the First Battalion of the 347th Infantry to speed up the attack. In moving into positions Pfc. Franklin, Battery B, was wounded and his jeep destroyed when he ran over a plastic land mine. The Infantry met light resistance and progressed rapidly, so on the 27th the battalion displaced to Lengeler, Belgium, arriving at 1800. The 704th Field Artillery Battalion was reinforcing the 912th. In this position, Battery B, firing map data with metro corrections, without registration, knocked out an enemy machine gun that was holding up a night attack.

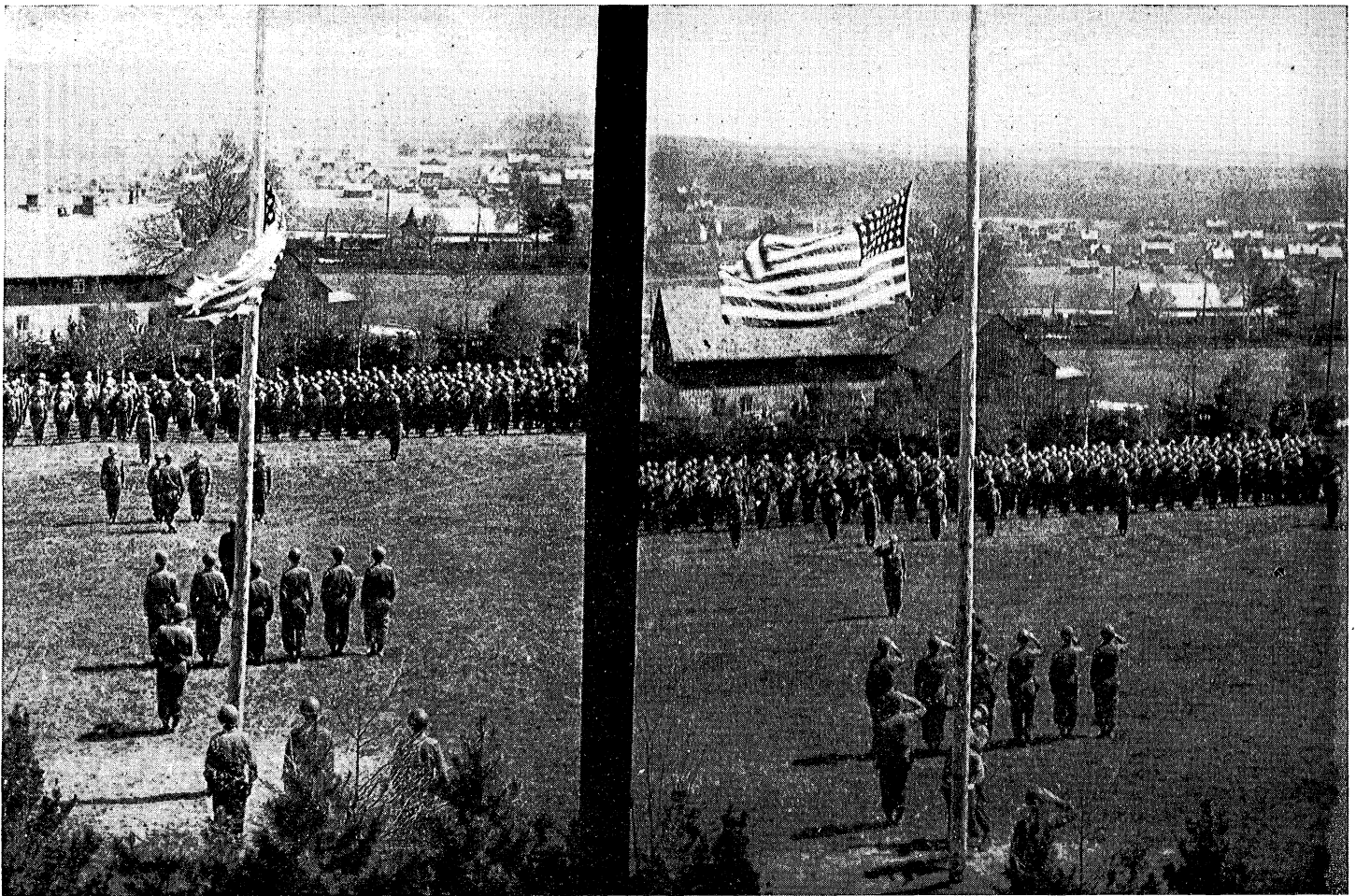
The morning of the 28th, orders were received that elements of the Division were being relieved by the Fourth Infantry Division and that the battalion was to be relieved by the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion. Upon relief the battalion was to reinforce the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion from its existing positions until orders were received to depart for an area in the vicinity of Saint Vith.

On the morning of the 30th, the Battalion Commander and reconnaissance party went to the new sector. They radioed for the battalion at noon. The battalion went into position in the vicinity of Neidingen, Belgium, where the command post received a shelling. There were no casualties.

The next day the battalion displaced to the vicinity of Heuem, Belgium, where they were greeted by a shelling from Screaming Mimi's. This shelling greeted two officer reinforcements, 1st Lt. John H. Jackson and 2nd Lt. Theodore R. Anderson, and brought to an end a month marked by hard fighting and hazardous road marches under extreme weather conditions of cold, snow and ice.

February was a month of relatively little action, for after crossing the German Border in several places the Division took up relatively stable positions facing the Siegfried Line. Then followed a long period of defensive action marked only by rather extensive patrolling on the part of our forward elements and harassing and interdictory fire by the battalion. The last days of February found the 347th Combat Team displacing to positions from which they could better exploit the break-through in the West Wall and start the offensives that continued throughout the remaining weeks of the war. As the month opened, the battalion was in position near Heume, Belgium. From this position, it displaced to Andler, Belgium, and then on the third of February to the vicinity of Manderfeld, Belgium, where it remained until the 27th of February, when it again displaced forward to Hulescheid, Belgium, one kilometer from the German border. During the month there were a few changes in personnel, the most notable being the transfer of Lieutenant Colonel





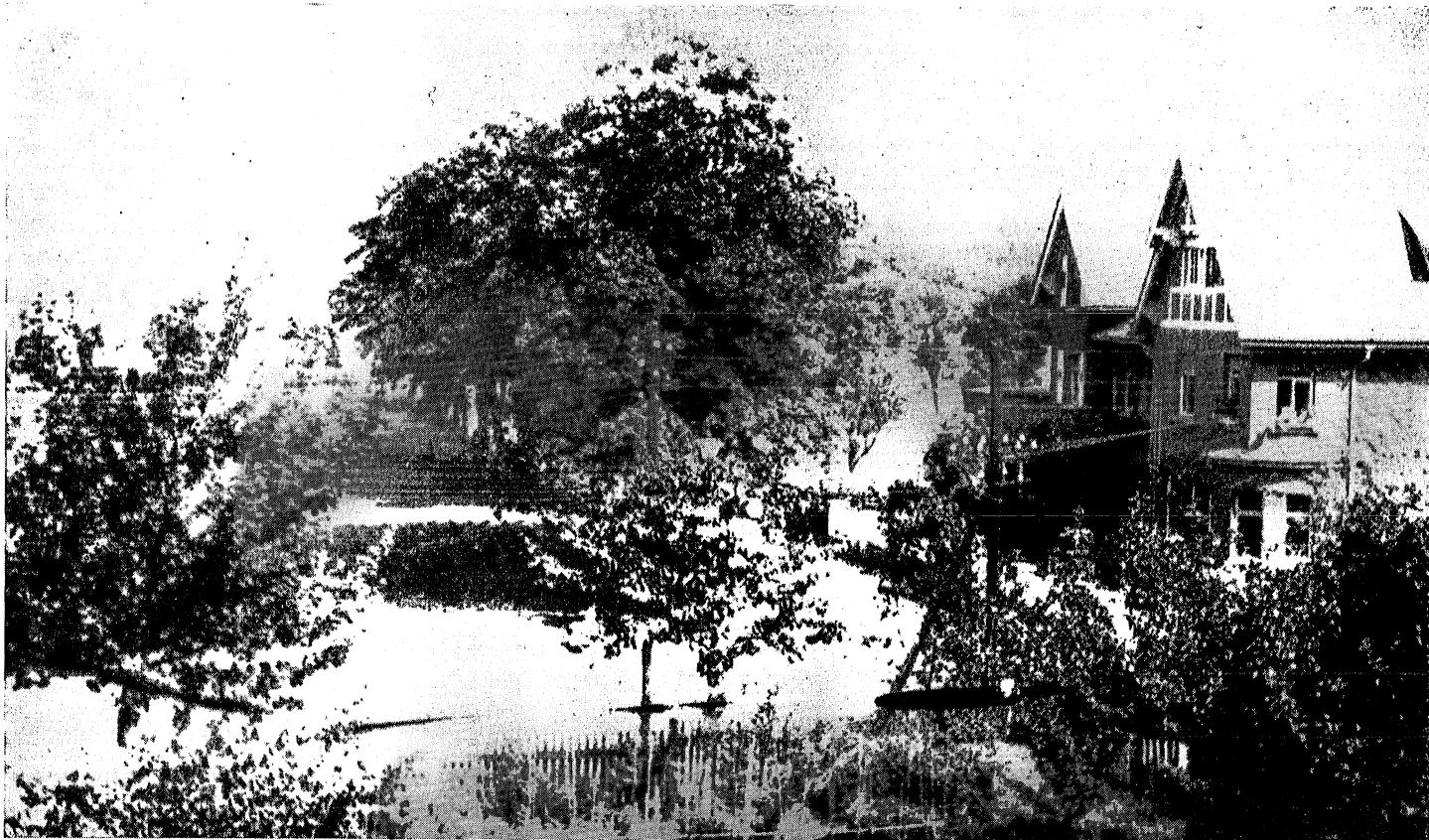
V-E Day at Hammerbrucke, Germany

Monn to Division Artillery as S-3 and the welcoming of Lt. Col. Herbert C. Plapp as the new Battalion Commander on the 16th. Major Bender, Battalion Executive also left to assume command of the 334th Field Artillery Battalion and was replaced by Capt. Charles T. Barter. Captain Harding, wounded in the Saar, was returned to duty and re-assumed command of Battery C. This period of relative inactivity enabled the Battalion to catch up on its problems of supply and maintenance. Inspections of ordnance equipment were held and defects were corrected. Many men were able to draw new clothing for the first time since they had entered combat and the "Rest" period sent morale to a new height. The disturbing factor of the month was the notable increase in enemy artillery activity. The positions near Manderfeld received some heavy shelling from a huge gun, estimated to be a 380-mm. The projectile, weighing approximately 1,640 pounds, was fired with a delayed fuze and its action upon hitting the soft ground seemed only to blow a large crater and did no material damage. Casualties were light during the month. However, Pfc. Crawford and Pvt. Walsh of Headquarters Battery were killed by an exploding mine while they were repairing a wire line. Pfc. Jacoby, Battery B, was wounded while forward with the Second Battalion, 347th Infantry, and at the end of the month T/4 Taylor, Battery C, received a slight wound while the Battery was moving into positions near Hulescheid.

The first of March found the long awaited push into the vaunted Siegfried Line in full swing with the 912th Field Artillery Battalion, from positions at Manderfeld, Belgium, in active support of the 347th Infantry in its assault on the bastions of that line. The 335th Field Artillery Battalion's

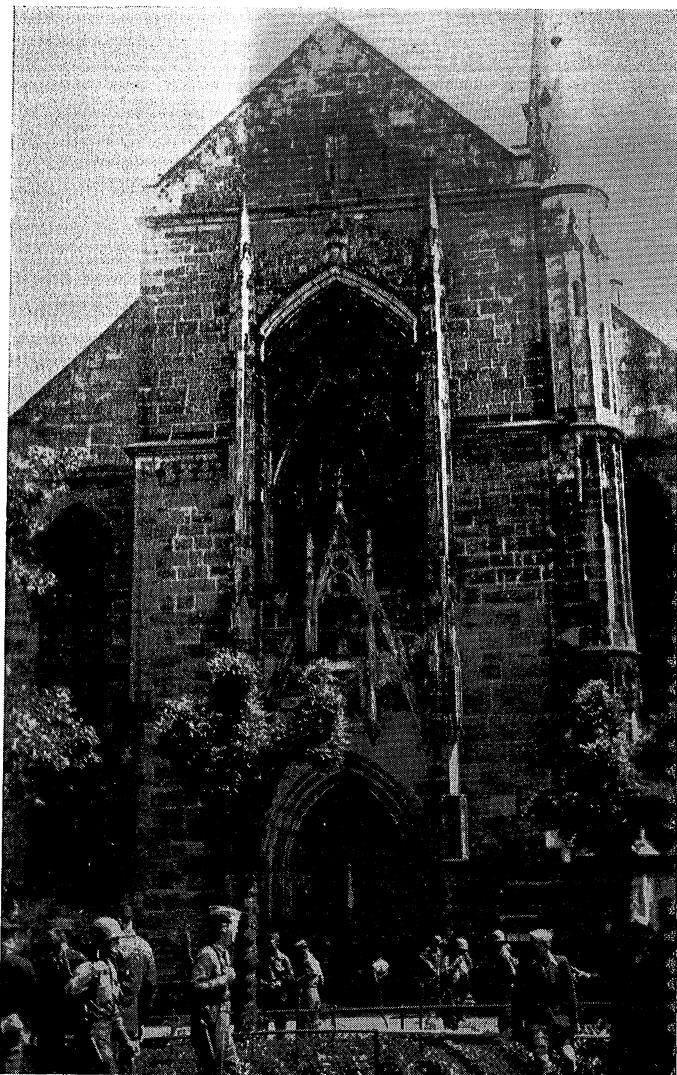
medium howitzers were reinforcing the 912th Field Artillery Battalion in this support. The advance of the Infantry through the Siegfried Line was at first slow and cautious, probing for the weak points, but as increasing infantry and artillery pressure were applied at its critical points, German soldiers began surrendering in droves. On different occasions the 912th's Artillery fire was lifted for definite time periods so that surrendering Germans could advance to our lines in comparative safety. The mop-up of the Siegfried Line became a German rout. By March 5 the Infantry had erupted through the West Wall and were moving forward rapidly. On successive days, the 912th occupied positions at Huelscheid, Schonfeld, Lissendorf, and Feusdorf, Germany, advancing a distance of approximately 40 miles into a then "untainted by war" part of Germany. The bad weather that was characteristic of the assault on the Siegfried had grounded the liaison planes on March 5, permitting a ceremony at Huelscheid, Belgium, at which the Air Medal was awarded to Pilot 1st Lt. Francis F. Holloway and Observer 1st Lt. Gerald F. Fritz. On March 8, the rapid advance of the 87th Division came to a halt with the securing of the Division objective at Ohrdruf, Germany. Cease firing orders were posted when the First Army's 28th Division, advancing from the left, crossed the Division's front. The "stand pat" order caught the 912th in positions at Feusdorf, Germany, and the Battalion remained there until the 14th of March. This well-deserved break enabled officers and men to get showers, wash clothes and attend a movie. Morale was excellent.

Orders for the 87th Division to move to and seize the shrine city of Koblenz, Germany, arrived on March 13. Ac-



Command Post at Saalfeld

We worshiped in this church in Saalfeld

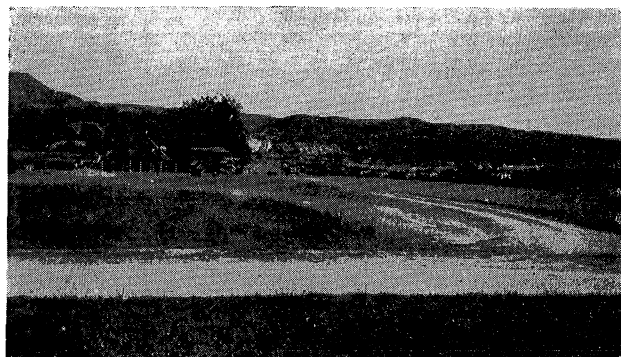


cordingly, Lieutenant Colonel Plapp and an advance party went forward to the scene of the impending action. The battalion followed on the 14th, making a march of 85 miles to the vicinity of Kunsterdorf, Germany, in preparation for the attack on Koblenz. The attack on Koblenz began at

Battalion ready to roll on long journey home from Saalfeld



Division artillery airstrip at Saalfeld



0300, 16 March with the 347th Infantry making a night crossing of the Moselle River, south and west of the city. The 912th, reinforced by the 687th and 177th Field Artillery Battalions, again was to furnish the firepower for the 347th Infantry. The 347th crossed the river successfully and meeting sporadic resistance moved to the Rhine River, sealing Koblenz off from the south. Immediately afterwards, the 912th crossed the Moselle on a hurriedly constructed pontoon bridge and moved to Lubuschof where it was soon engaged in the final shelling of Koblenz and the east bank of the Rhine. On March 16th, the battalion moved to Mariaroth, Germany, to get additional range east of the Rhine.

The Battalion remained in these positions while plans were made to cross the river. Forward Observers of the battalion kept German activity within range at a minimum.

The decision to cross the Rhine was made and the time was set for the early hours of March 25. The 347th Infantry, supported by the 912th, crossed from Rhens and met very heavy enemy resistance. The 912th was called on to fire many missions against the stubborn enemy. At times fire was needed in several places at the same time, so the battalion performed the most difficult task of firing on several targets simultaneously. The action along the Rhine showed the capabilities, training and teamwork of the 912th. As resistance on the east bank cracked, the battalion was ferried across the river, not taking time to await the completion of the pontoon bridge. Again the German resistance was only a shell and with the reduction of the forces along the river the resistance to the front vanished. Rapid progress was made. The 912th moved steadily, following the now motorized 347th Infantry. Position after position was occupied and abandoned without firing a shot. About 30 miles from the Rhine the 87th was halted by order of Corps and the 912th moved into an assembly area at Villmar, Germany, on 30 March.

From the first to the fourth of April the battalion was engaged chiefly in care, cleaning and maintenance of material Church services for the battalion and many small items were attended to. No rounds were expended in firing. On April 5 the battalion started a long motor march from the vicinity of Villmar, one hundred miles into Germany, to the vicinity of Asback, Thuringia. The batteries went into firing positions, but as no resistance was encountered by the infantry battalions in their advance, it was unnecessary to render support. A displacement was made to the vicinity of Unter Schonau, where a command post was established and batteries occupied firing positions. It was in this position that the battalion suffered another shock and terrible loss. While Lt. Holloway and his observer were adjusting artillery fire from their Cub plane, a Jerry 20-mm. AA gun got their range and knocked them out of the air with a short burst. The plane went down in flames, but not so fast that it prevented Lt. Holloway from parachuting to the ground. S/Sgt. Reinhardt, however, one of the battalion's most experienced air observers, went down with the plane, so seriously wounded that he couldn't get out and was killed. Lt. Gerald Levy, a forward observer with the First Battalion, 347th, saw the incident and immediately rushed out to attempt to save the pilot. He was immediately hit by enemy burp gun fire and was seriously wounded. Lt. Holloway was captured but later in the week he was released from a German hospital by the 90th Division. Considerable firing was done from these positions at Unter Schonau before the battalion displaced to the vicinity of Oberhof, a famed Nazi winter resort. On April 10, the First and Third Battalions of the 347th broke loose from the rough terrain of the Thuringen Wald and from then on encountered no heavy or determined resistance. The 912th then moved rapidly across the heart of Germany, closely following the leading infantry units, until the fall

of the city of Plauen on April 16. Firing positions were then occupied and a command post established in the town of Oberlosa, a suburb of Plauen. The mission of the division was changed at this time from the offense to the defense. There was very little firing from these positions and much time was consumed in the care and cleaning of material and in the improvement of the positions. Brigadier General William W. Ford addressed the troops in Battery B's area, covering the course of the war and the ultimate objectives of the division. On 18 April, Lieutenant Anderson and Sergeant Lasher, Battery B, were awarded Bronze Stars for heroic achievement at the Rhine River. During the remaining days of April, the Battalion fired light harassing and interdiction fires and engaged in care and cleaning of personal equipment and material.

From 1 May through 5 May 1945, the battalion stayed in position in the vicinity of Oberlosa, Germany, giving direct support to the 347th Infantry, who were maintaining defensive positions. The evening of May 5, orders were received and plans made to support an attack of the infantry at 0600, 6 May. Objectives were Klingenthal on the Czechoslovakian border, and a smaller town several miles directly north of Klingenthal. The battalion displaced three times on the 6th, keeping up with rapid advance of the infantry who met little resistance other than road blocks. The final position of the battalion was in the vicinity of Muldeberg, Germany, where harassing and interdiction fires were carried on throughout the night of 6 May. An attack had been planned for 0600, 7 May, which would take the combat team northeast along the Czech border. At approximately 0300, 7 May 1945, notice was received from Division Artillery S-3 that the attack was called off and the battalion would remain in position where it was. At exactly 0600, 7 May 1945, orders were received to do no further firing except on order or permission from Corps. The 912th's last round in World War II was fired at approximately 0545, 7 May, 1945, giving the battalion an approximate total of 40,947 rounds fired.

Later in the day of 7 May, the battalion moved to positions near Hammerbrücke, Germany, and until 11 May engaged in maintenance and minor training exercises.

On the 10th of May at Hammerbrücke, Germany, the 912th Field Artillery Battalion participated in a colorful flag raising ceremony. In front of the Battalion Command Post on the high ground overlooking the town, the Stars and Stripes were hoisted to the top of a pole erected for the occasion. The flag was fashioned from a Nazi banner by German people of Oelsnitz and presented to the 347th Infantry, who had loaned it to the 912th. The Division Band played, Division Artillery Chaplain Erickson offered a prayer, and Lieutenant Colonel Herbert C. Plapp, commanding the battalion, presented several awards to individuals of his unit during the ceremony.

On 12 May 1945, the Battalion was given an occupation area with headquarters at Saalfeld, Germany. From that date until 30 May, when the battalion was relieved by the 197th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Division, twenty-two German towns and villages in the Saalfeld Landkreis were under control of the 912th. Training, recreation, athletics and passes were most prominent during the period. On 13 May, Memorial services for those who made the supreme sacrifice were held in Saalfeld. On 15 May, the Bronze Star for heroic achievement was awarded to S/Sgt. George V. Bertaux of Battery B.

On the first of June, the battalion was still in position at Saalfeld, doing its maintenance, training and administrative duties. During that period awards were presented at battalion formations to seven officers and fifteen enlisted men listed in the award section. June 13, the battalion loaded vehicles in preparation for a move and the morning

of 14 June departed Saalfeld for Sissonne, France, under the command of Major Charles E. Capron. Having bivouaced in the vicinity of Gressin, Germany, the night of the 14th and near Trier, Germany, the 15th, the battalion arrived at Camp Oklahoma City near Sissonne, France, on the 16th of June. The trip was entirely uneventful. On the 17th of June, the turning in of equipment and processing for redeployment to the United States was begun. The 19th and 20th, members of the battalion visited Paris. On the 21st, the Advance Party, consisting of Capt. Albert J. Foisy, S/Sgt. Self, T/4 Rieman, T/4 Pryor, Cpl. Libbe, Pfc. Del Vigna, Pfc. Moats, Pfc. Stalter, departed for Le Havre and the United States.

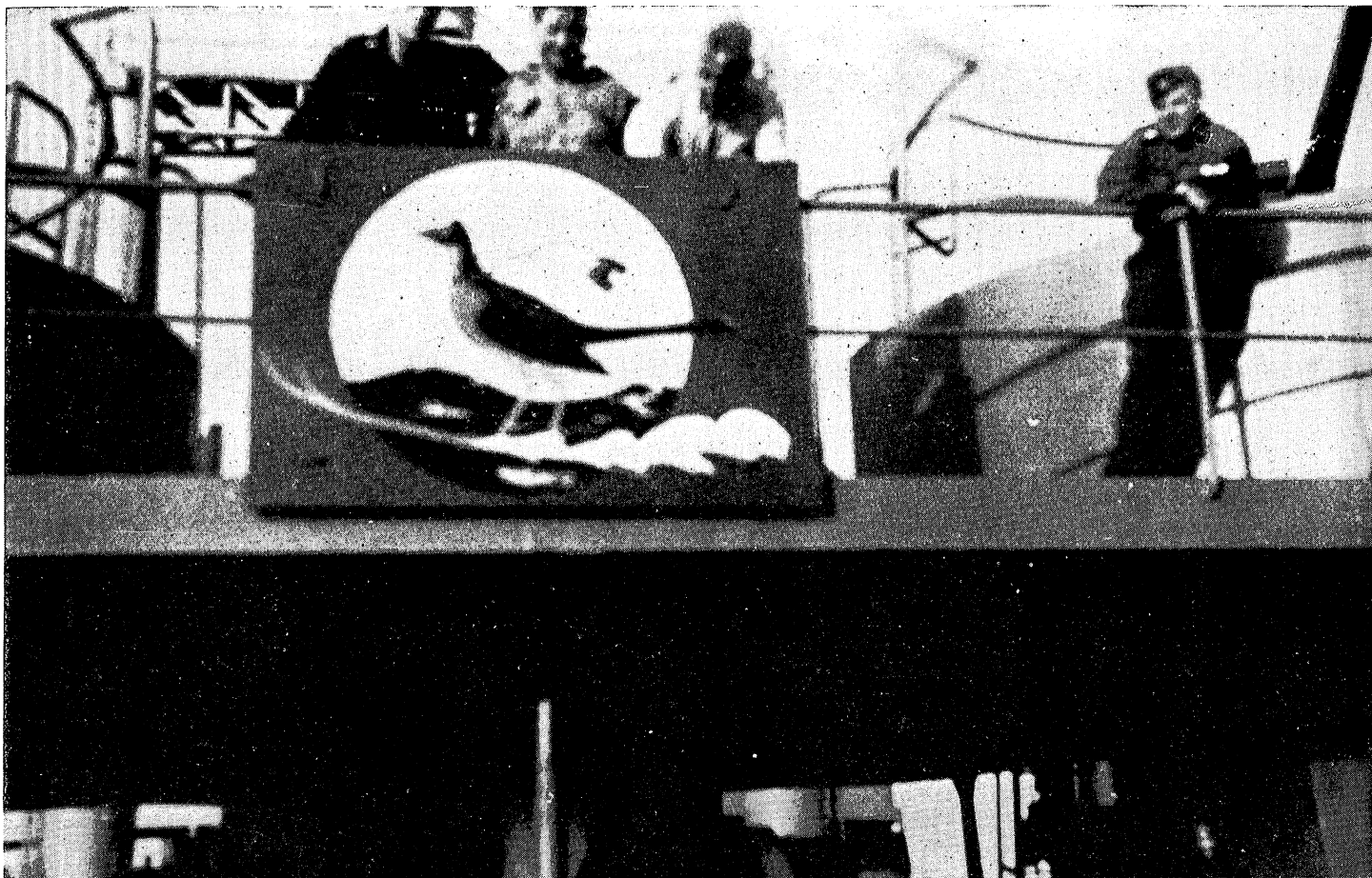
Processing was completed by the 26th of June. The 912th, with the 335th Field Artillery Battalion, departed Camp Oklahoma City by train at 0300, 27 June 1945 and arrived at Camp Lucky Strike near Saint Valery, France, at 1900 hours the same day.

The rest of the month was spent in training, rest and recreation while waiting transportation from Le Havre to the United States.

July was an important month for all, since it meant a return to "The States." The morning of July 7, the bat-

talion moved by truck to the port of Le Havre, embarked at approximately noon and sailed at 2000 the same day. The crossing was very pleasant, even though the *Marine Robin* was "loaded to the gills." The vessel passed through the Virginia capes and into Hampton Roads on July 16 and the battalion debarked to the music of a swing band and under the admiring eyes of WACs and Red Cross girls. From then on things happened so fast and so smoothly that most of the battalion was safely home within a few days. Most of the men were amazed at the efficiency of the redeployment system. The average length of furlough and leave was 34 days.

On August 10, 1945, troops of the battalion began arriving at the assembly station, Fort Benning, Ga., the first to arrive being the advance party. Most of the men were still on leave V-J Day. The 16th of August, it was learned that inactivation of the division had been directed by the War Department. This information caused sorrow among most of the men of the battalion but they brightened considerably when they learned that a majority of the personnel of the division would not be ordered overseas again. A few low-point men were shipped to the 95th Division for occupation duties in the Pacific. The majority were assigned to Separation Centers throughout the country, to be used as clerks and duty NCOs with service forces.

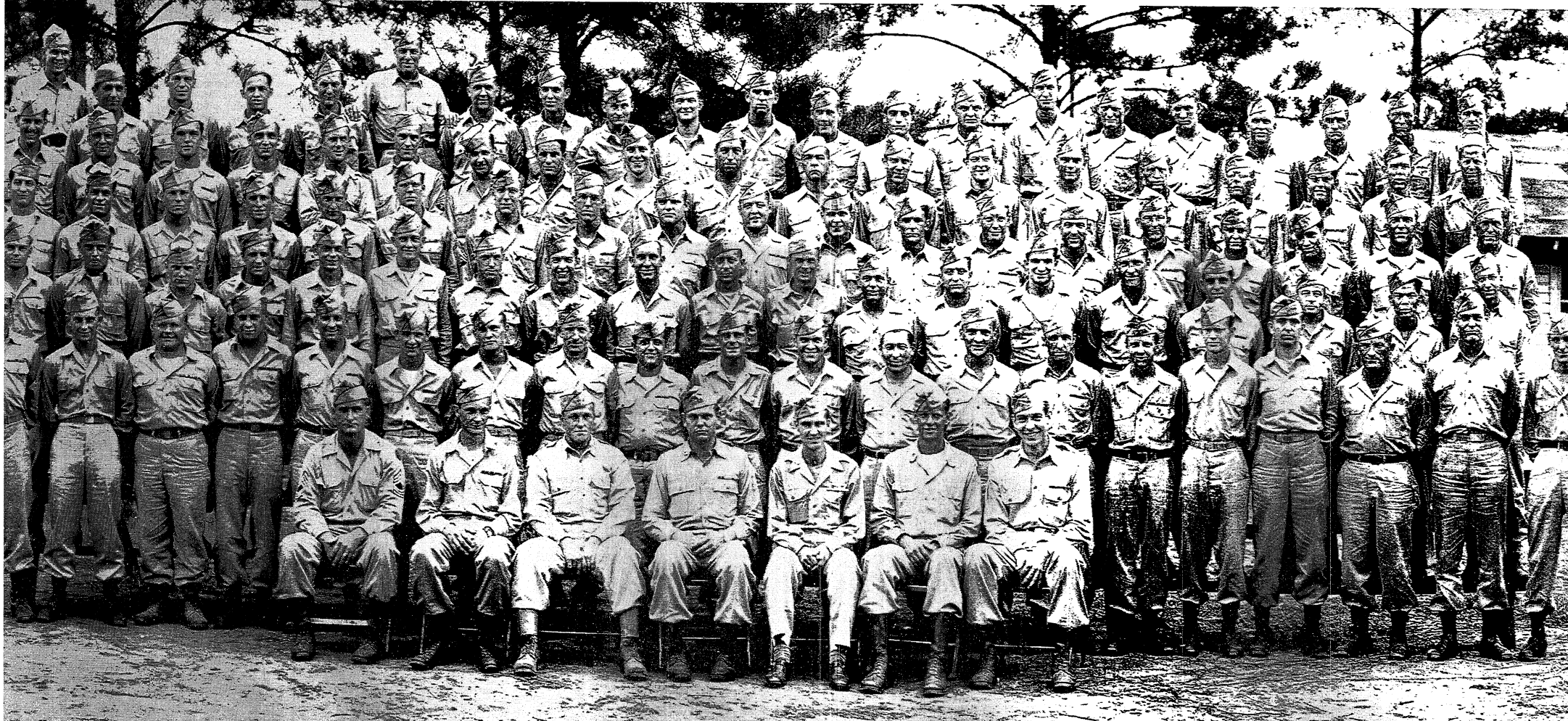


Aboard Marine Robin—destination U. S. A.

C O N C L U S I O N

The 912th Field Artillery Battalion, through the courage, devotion to duty, loyalty and teamwork of its members has accomplished its mission and made its mark in the history of the United States Armed Forces. The Battalion is especially proud of the 347th Infantry Regiment, which it supported, and of its forward observers and liaison officers who, with their sections, made possible the close co-ordination within the Combat Team. It is also extremely proud of the officers and men of the Fire Direction Center and of the gun crews, who labored unceasingly despite great physical and mental fatigue.

Every member of the organization feels deeply the loss of those men who gave their lives in battle. Only this can be said: The enemy has been defeated, but there still remains a mission. The men of this battalion will now devote their maximum efforts toward keeping world peace—and so in a small way atone for the supreme sacrifice made by so many.



HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

First Row, left to right: Hester, Sullivan, Fussell, Mahn, Helton, Darrow, Schaubert.

Second Row: Galati, Lunsford, Johnson, Baker, Ottendorfer, Cuthbert, Wielechowski, Gallagher, Lesarus, Connors, Hauck, Hari, Witthuhn, Meek, Bedrick, Harris, McDermott, Malieszewski, Sims, Monat.

Third Row: Rogowski, Burkhardt, Waldrod, Harrah, Weaver, Welp, Morgan Hall, Means, Kirk, Prickett, Carpenter, Jacoboni, Giarrizzo, Christinzio, Gemino, Zaun, Dong, Brown.

Fourth Row: Trapino, Macrillo, Gaul, Yesline, Burris, Crook, Karlson, Green, Butler, Echenberger, Kohrman, Hartley, Johnson, McLanson, Hester, Smatana, McAulay, Swanson, Olson.

Fifth Row: Mihalik, Barton, Gale, Dittberner, Chrapcynski, Pryor, Swaschnig, Fasula, Schaffer, Mitchell, Bowles, Smith, Roberts, Templer, Justus, Jacobsen, Puzzo, Nicklow, Shoemaker.

Sixth Row: Franczak, Orgel, Munro, Merryman, Trainer, Vanfleet, Patrick, O'Neal, Chase, Lonergan, Dolezal, Hall, LeFeburf, Reckus, Eidson, Crossland, Moseley, Larson, Ogden, Varner, Long.



BATTERY A

Seated, left to right: Lt. Ross H. Rasmussen, Lt. William T. Baker, Lt. George A. Deininger, Capt. Adam W. Tupka, Jr., Lt. Jack Johnson, 1/Sgt. Edgar G. Pederson.

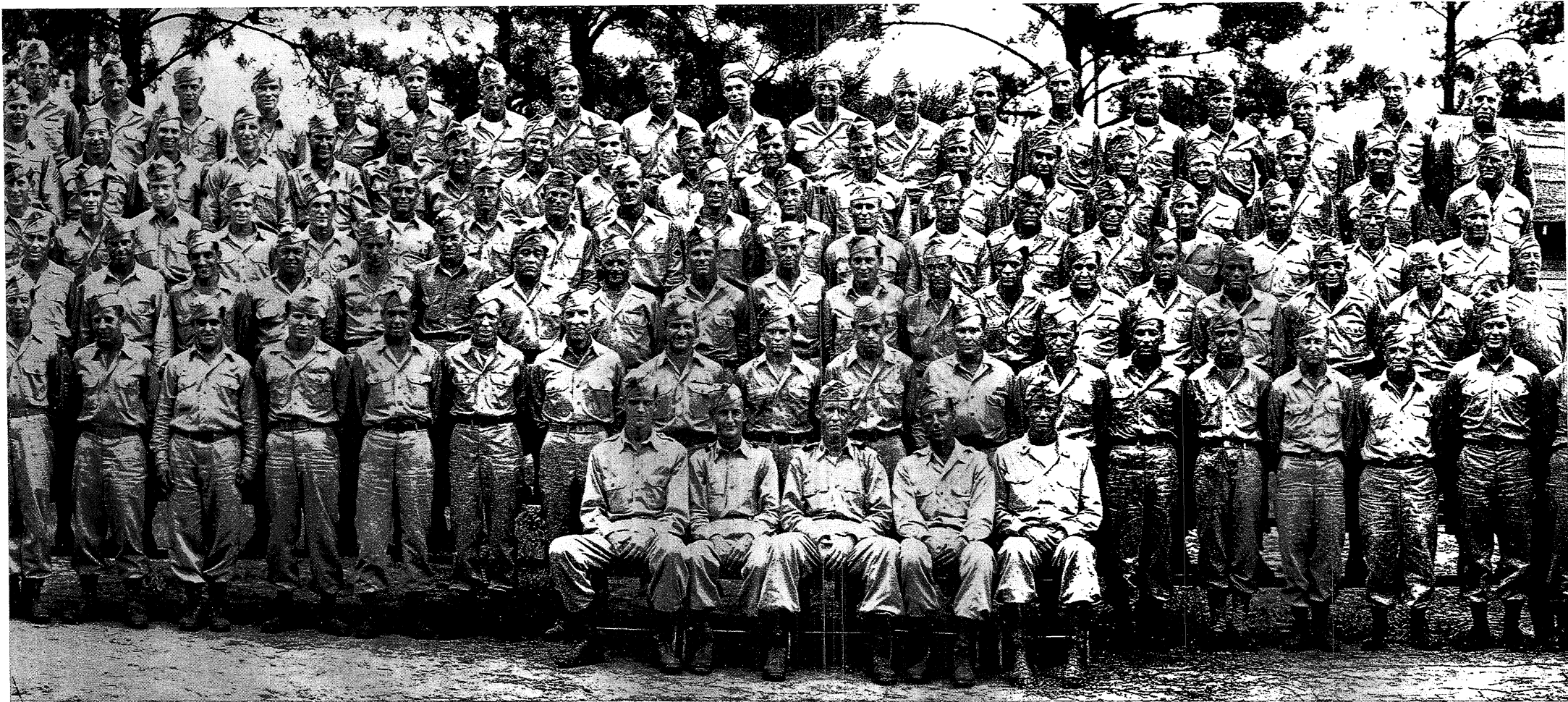
First Row: Anthony V. Centrone, Samuel K. Chatfield, Vyron G. Coronis, Frank Biamonte, Leon Becker, Earl H. Roberts, Charlie Piscacek, Ely B. Adler, Jack Bono, Anthony H. Mauro, Melvin E. Hill, Lillard D. Smith, Charles Crimone, Gilbert C. Berry, Don C. Montsinger.

Second Row: William C. Oliver, Josep Vitucci, Sanford Robertson, Dan Nestel, George Persell, Trevelone Matthews, John R. Goca, Samuel Lichtman, Anthony J. Mares, Clarence George.

Third Row: William Wise, George Hankins, Jack Josephson, Leo Driskill, Amos Catee, Felix Kutlarczyk, Andrew Gallegos, Aaron Young, Lyle Babineau, Murray Sender, Stewart Moore, Robert Biess, Eugene Bednarz, Ralph Fabrizio, Arnold Kartz, Llewellyn Beddow, Joe Bevers, Roland Prince.

Fourth Row: Dale Winey, Hector Dewomme, Albert Altschaff, Ralph Riffel, Earl Crane, Jay Norton, Harrison Seip, Howard Smith, John Murvay, Peter Wildenberg, Francis Schrappen, Michael Waner, Reuben Boydston, Ralph Harrity, Francis Welder, Cecil Gray, Melvin Miller.

Fifth Row: Donald Mizner, William T. Tucker, Calvin Buchanan, Thomas Bennett, William Montague, Herbert Buch, Merrill Weaver, Cleo Holt, Wayne Locke, Rocco Bonomo, Calvin Coran, Leonard Haynes, Talmadge Holland, John Duane, George Cranston, Joseph Lands, Arthur Merredith.



BATTERY B

Rear Row, left to right: Koranda, Williams, Wallace, Arnolde, Schubert, Arnold C., Gillard, West, Mehlberg, Poichik, Earley, Walden, Jolley, Egan, Roe, Brunk, Shalkham, Butwel, Lee.

Fifth Row: Greenberg, Paetow, Tucker, Thornton, Davis H., Justice, Otto, Bertaux, Hughes, Peck, Shepherd, Johnson, Smith D., Smith P., Smith F., Smith R., Comstock, Rohlman, Whitehurst.

Fourth Row: Quesada, Ragusa, Larson, Laird, Michener, DeGripp, Siecinski, David J., Jones, Eby, Travis, Carrasco, Simpkins, Havelly, Satcher, Wellmon, Graf.

Third Row: Malinowski S., Crevier, Hafer, Goldstein, Capone, Lockwood, Hochmiller, Louise, Malinowski G., McBee, Stoner, Weidlein, Zevitowsky, Spencer, Sloma, Kielbowick, Baer, Lasher.

Second Row: Del Monico, Chain, DePanfilis, Lopez, Goldberg, LeBree, Datkowsky, Cobb, Johnson, R., Shaw.

Front Row: Lt. Harris, Lt. Prutinsky, Capt. Schleck, Lt. Coe, Self.



BATTERY C

Sixth Row, left to right: Doyle, Jarmusz, McRoy, Tucker, Bordino, Tilley, Nanec, B., Libbe, Rohmann, Fearn, Woodward, Holmes, Larson, Calhoun, Byers, Trinkle, Hazleton, Daubermire.

Fifth Row: Reynolds, Grover, Szczepanski, Konieczko, McGinnis, Meadows, Troxell, Kalinin, Stoner, Lindauer, Thompson, Stevens, Linna, Ortega, Johnson, Reinhart, Lomelino, Valenzula, Kutney.

Fourth Row: Thiebault, Battistello, McCormack, Tamanini, Spielvogel, Raynor, Fongio, Hudson, Schneckner, Farrell, O'Hara, Schultz, Trail, Kinney, Costello, Curci, Roberts, Wanstreet, Sielski.

Third Row: McNamara, Beeckman, Vitale, Morris, Connelly, Prater, Hernandez, Luoma, Moose, Reed, Wheeler, Wyatt, Atkins, Naccari, Kelly, Moats, Kostyk, Polonchan, O'Rourke.

Second Row: Sulzona, Bania, Thomas, Goldenbusky, Reh, Cline, McCarthy, Ferraro, Tibbe, Myers, Decker, Crosby, Delgado, Straub, Taylor, Conniker, Medina, West.

First Row: Fritz, Taylor, Harding, Dean, Darrow.



S E R V I C E B A T T E R Y

Front Row, left to right: Mecham, Luguer, Sandlin, Abt, Ankuda, Clark.

Second Row: Plowman, Foster, Kobe, Holmes, Cripe, Ames, Surprise, Vernon, Carr, Ciccotti, Sullivan, Gorham, Colombo, Greenhoe, Joyce, Tallerico, Pound, Hannigan.

Third Row: King, Taylor, O'Brien, Poyerosky, Coyle, Brown, Obermaier, Clarkson, Ray, Pilz, Smart, Sierp, Del Vigna, Hartman, Ronie, Smith.

Fourth Row: Hemrick, Rasmussen, Gildwell, Wallace, Skellion, Reier, Sloan, Steinkolk, Hamacher, DePhillis, Nolan, Maquire, Pickell, Dolphin, Schwingamer.

912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OFFICERS

BATTALION STAFF

LT. COL. HERBERT C. PLAPP, Battalion Commander Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Cluster
MAJ. CHARLES E. CAPRON, Battalion S-3, Bronze Star
MAJ. CHARLES T. BARTER, Battalion Executive and S-1, Bronze Star

CAPT. RICHARD C. PFEIFFER, Battalion S-2
CAPT. GEORGE H. SEXTON, Liaison Officer, Purple Heart
CAPT. HENRY J. VOMACKA, Battalion Surgeon
CAPT. ALBERT J. FOISY, Liaison Officer No. 3, Bronze Star

CAPTAIN HUGO C. GISSKE Liaison Officer No. 2, Purple Heart and Bronze Star
CAPT. WILLARD R. NUSSBAUM, Assistant Battalion S-3, Bronze Star
CAPT. WILLARD D. DICKERSON, Liaison Officer No. 1, Bronze Star Unit Citation
1ST LT. WALTER D. REGEN, JR., Assistant Battalion S-2

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

CAPT. JOSEPH H. MAHN, Communications Officer, Bronze Star
1ST LT. JAMES R. FUSSELL, Assistant Communications Officer, Bronze Star

1ST LT. AUSTIN F. EPSARO, Liaison Pilot, Air Medal and Four Oak Leaf Clusters

1ST LT. DONALD C. BLATT, Liaison Pilot, Air Medal
WO(jg) HAROLD W. SCHAUBERT, Assistant Adjutant, Bronze Star

BATTERY A

CAPT. ADAM W. TUPKA, JR., Battery Commander
1ST LT. ROSS H. RASMUSSEN, Reconnaissance Officer

1ST LT. JACK H. JOHNSON, Forward Observer

1ST LT. GEORGE A. DEININGER, Executive Officer
2ND LT. WILLIAM T. BAKER, Assistant Executive Officer, Bronze Star

BATTERY B

CAPT. RAYMOND W. SCHLECK, JR., Battery Commander, Purple Heart and Bronze Star
1ST LT. SEYMOUR PRUTINSKY, Executive Officer, Bronze Star

1ST LT. JEFFERSON W. COE, JR., Forward Observer, Bronze Star

1ST LT. FREDERICK H. HARRIS Reconnaissance Officer, Bronze Star
1ST LT. THEODORE R. ANDERSON, Assistant Executive Officer, Bronze Star

BATTERY C

CAPT. LEONARD W. HARDING, Battery Commander, Purple Heart and Bronze Star

1ST LT. THOMAS R. TAYLOR, JR., Executive Officer
1ST LT. GERALD F. FRITZ, Air Observer, Air Medal and Three Oak Leaf Clusters

1ST LT. LAUREN W. DEAN, Reconnaissance Officer Bronze Star
2ND LT. PAUL H. DARROW, Assistant Executive Officer

SERVICE BATTERY

CAPT. ALAN B. ABT, Battery Commander and S-4, Bronze Star

1ST LT. ROSS L. MECHAM, Battalion Motor Officer, Bronze Star
CWO MARVIN H. SANDLIN, Assistant Battalion S-4

1ST LT. FRANK J. ANKUDA, Train Commander

OFFICERS TRANSFERRED OR OTHERWISE LOST

LT. COL. THEA L. LIPSCOMB
LT. COL. JOSEPH A. MONN
MAJ. THOMAS W. BENDER
MAJ. PASCAL A. TUTWILER
MAJ. HOWARD L. ROBERTSON
MAJ. CHARLES E. SANDS
MAJ. HENRY L. KOREN
CAPT. WILLIAM F. BOTKIN, Killed in Action with 912th
CAPT. TAYLOR CULBERT
CAPT. JOHN R. PHIPPS
CAPT. B. B. BLAIR
1ST LT. GERALD D. LEVY, Purple Heart, Bronze Star
1ST LT. FRANCIS F. HOLLOWAY Air Medal, Purple Heart
1ST LT. PRESTON E. PEDEN, Bronze Star
CAPT. B. H. HARMON
CAPT. S. MILES
1ST LT. JAMES H. WHITE
CAPT. FREDERICK M. SAMMIS
2ND LT. ROBERT T. BOOTH, Silver Star
1ST LT. WILLIAM B. MURNINGHAM, Killed in action with other units
2ND LT. JAMES E. HAMILTON, Purple Heart; Killed in Action with 912th
2ND LT. JACK F. HELMCAMP

2ND LT. HARRY W. PFANZ, Purple Heart
1ST LT. J. F. HOWE
1ST LT. ARTHUR R. BEIERSDORF, Killed in Action with other units
2ND LT. ARVIN BELL
1ST LT. PAUL C. BENTON
1ST LT. RALPH O. BISSEY
2ND LT. EDWIN R. BOWERS
1ST LT. BYRON BRITE
2ND LT. KILSHAW E. CLISBY
2ND LT. WILLIAM M. CONNORS
2ND LT. MONROE DEVRIES
2ND LT. RALPH W. DOREMUS
1ST LT. REUBEN P. ENGEL
1ST LT. LLOYD M. ERICKSON
2ND LT. ALFRED T. JACKSON
2ND LT. WILLIAM M. HODGES
2ND LT. JOHN J. MERCOVICH
2ND LT. C. W. CUMMINGS
2ND LT. RICHARD E. DIETRICH, Killed in Action with other units
2ND LT. E. H. ROGERS
1ST LT. SAMUEL ROSKER
2ND LT. C. W. SEARS
CAPT. MELUYN STILLWELL
1ST LT. EDDIE S. TIFFEN
2ND LT. KING TOLLIES

2ND LT. E. F. TOTTEN
2ND LT. K. K. WILSON
2ND LT. H. L. WINDER
WO(jg) HOWARD WEINZ
1ST LT. R. T. RAMQUIST
1ST LT. RAYMOND WALSH
1ST LT. F. GIBSON
2ND LT. BEN L. PFEFFERLE
2ND LT. CHARLES R. SNYDER
2ND LT. DONALD H. GALLEY
2ND LT. DONALD M. GRAVING
2ND LT. BEN P. HAWKINS
2ND LT. CHARLES S. HENAGEN
1ST LT. LAVERNE A. JONES
WO(jg) S. E. LARBAU
MAJ. J. LYNAN
2ND LT. KENDAL D. MASSIE
2ND LT. COLEMAN B. McGOVERN
2ND LT. H. L. MITCHELL
1ST LT. ALBERT L. PATÉ
2ND LT. WILLIAM A. PATÉ
2ND LT. CLARENCE W. PIERCE
1ST LT. J. E. RAY
2ND LT. G. RESNICK
2ND LT. FRED W. ROE

912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION OVERSEAS COMMAND POSTS

1 December 1944—Rouen, France
1 December 1944—3 miles south of St. Saens
6 December 1944—Valleroy, France
7 December 1944—Metz, France
11 December 1944—3 miles northwest Oerlingen, France
12 December 1944—Woelfling, France

17 December 1944—Obergailbach, France
25 December 1944—Lohr, France
26 December 1944—Vicinity Rheims, France
29 December 1944—Vicinity Bertrix, Belgium
29 December 1944—Recogne, Belgium
1 January 1945—Freux, Belgium
13 January 1945—Jenneville, Belgium

15 January 1945—Flaxweiler, Luxembourg
16 January 1945—Berberg, Luxembourg
26 January 1945—Basbellan, Luxembourg
27 January 1945—Lengeler, Luxembourg
30 January 1945—Neldingen, Belgium
31 January 1945—Heuem, Belgium
2 February 1945—Andler, Belgium

3 February 1945—Manderfeld, Belgium
 5 March 1945—Heulscheid, Belgium
 6 March 1945—Schonfeld, Germany
 7 March 1945—Llssendorf, Germany
 8 March 1945—Feusdorf, Germany
 14 March 1945—Kunsterdorf, Germany
 17 March 1945—Luhbuschhof, Germany
 18 March 1945—Marloth, Germany
 27 March 1945—Rhens, Germany
 27 March 1945—Braubach, Germany
 28 March 1945—Schweighausen, Germany
 29 March 1945—Birlenback, Germany
 30 March 1945—Villmar, Germany
 5 April 1945—Dienkilrode, Germany

6 April 1945—Asback, Germany
 7 April 1945—Unter Schonau, Germany
 10 April 1945—Oberhof, Germany
 11 April 1945—Elgersberg, Germany
 11 April 1945—Unterporlitz, Germany
 12 April 1945—Grafnau Arngstald, Germany
 12 April 1945—Rottenback, Germany
 13 April 1945—Bad Blankenberg, Germany
 13 April 1945—Aue Am Berg, Germany
 14 April 1945—Kamesdorf, Germany
 14 April 1945—Ranis, Germany
 15 April 1945—Kila, Germany
 15 April 1945—Vollkmandorf, Germany
 16 April 1945—Wustendiffsdorf, Germany

16 April 1945—Mehelheuer, Germany
 16 April 1945—Neuendorf, Germany
 17 April 1945—Oberlosa, Germany
 6 May 1945—Bergen, Germany
 6 May 1945—Grunbach, Germany
 6 May 1945—Muldeburg, Germany
 7 May 1945—Hammerbrücke, Germany
 12 May 1945—Saalfeld, Germany
 14 June 1945—Giessen, Germany
 15 June 1945—Trier, Germany
 16 June 1945—Camp Oklahoma City, France
 27 June 1945—Camp Lucky Strike, France
 7 June 1945—Boarded Marine Robin
 16 July 1945—Camp Patrick Henry, Va.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

M/SGT. HENRY A. HESTER, Bronze Star
 1/SGT. JOHN P. HICKAM
 T/SGT. HAROLD L. MBEK
 T/SGT. CLAIR M. JENNIGES, Bronze Star
 T/SGT. RAYMOND J. SULLIVAN, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. HENRY H. BAKER, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. GERARD CARPENTER
 S/SGT. JOSEPH F. DOLBEAL
 S/SGT. JOSEPH J. HORVATH, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. HARRY J. JOHNSON, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. WILLIAM J. McAULAY
 S/SGT. MALCOLM V. MBANS
 S/SGT. NORMAN K. SUTLIFF
 T/3 ORVILLE O. OLSON
 SGT. EDWARD W. CONNORS
 SGT. CLAUDE R. EIDSON, Bronze Star
 SGT. SILVIO GALATI, Bronze Star
 SGT. HAROLD L. LONG, Bronze Star
 SGT. REX A. NIVER
 T/4 LLOYD G. BROWN
 T/4 JOSEPH H. CHRAPCYNSKI
 T/4 LOUIS N. FASULA
 T/4 GEORGE L. FRANCAK
 T/4 ANTHONY J. JOCOBONI
 T/4 JOHN H. KARLSON
 T/4 COSMO A. KIRK
 T/4 CHARLES F. HOLLEY
 T/4 GEORGE J. LESARUS
 T/4 WILLIAM J. LONERGAN
 T/4 ALBERT J. MACRILLO
 T/4 WILLIAM G. MUNRO
 T/4 JACK L. PRYOR
 T/4 LINUS G. WELP
 T/4 BERNARD E. WIELECHOWSKI
 T/4 CHARLES G. YESLINE
 T/4 LOUIS ZAUN
 CPL. JACK E. BARTON, Bronze Star
 CPL. JOSEPH J. BEDRICK, Bronze Star
 CPL. EDWARD P. CANCIO, Purple Heart, Bronze Star
 CPL. LOUIS F. CHRISTINZIO
 CPL. DOUGLAS R. CUTHBERT
 CPL. GLEN J. GALE
 CPL. WALTER F. HARRIS

CPL. HARRY R. HESLAR
 CPL. ROBERT L. LOWE
 CPL. FRANK G. LUNSFORD, Bronze Star
 CPL. JAMES J. MIHALIK, JR.
 CPL. FRANK PHILLIPS
 CPL. BERNST C. PRICKETT
 CPL. EARLE B. SHOEMAKER, Purple Heart
 CPL. PAUL H. WEAVER
 T/5 DONALD L. BURKHART
 T/5 CALVIN W. BUTLER
 T/5 ELVIN A. DITTBERNER
 T/5 LAWRENCE J. ECKENBERGER, Bronze Star
 T/5 HENRY R. ERICKSON
 T/5 PATRICK G. GALLAGHER
 T/5 HENRY E. GEMINO
 T/5 GEORGE W. GAUL
 T/5 FRANK J. HALL
 T/5 WILFRED E. HAUCK
 T/5 MELVIN C. JOHNSON, Bronze Star
 T/5 WALTER W. LARSON, Bronze Star
 T/5 GERALD J. LEFEBVRE
 T/5 JOHN W. McDERMOTT
 T/5 ROGER E. MELANSON
 T/5 DELBERT F. O'NEAL
 T/5 EMIL OTTENDORFER
 T/5 WILLIAM G. PATRICK
 T/5 PHILIP J. PUZZO, Bronze Star
 T/5 JOHN F. RECKUS, Bronze Star
 T/5 EDWARD A. ROGOWSKI
 T/5 JOHN C. SIMS, JR.
 T/5 ANTHONY J. TRAPINO, Silver Star, Purple Heart
 T/5 IRVIN S. TURNER, Purple Heart
 T/5 CLARENCE C. VAN FLEET
 PFC. ODIS S. ATCHLEY
 PFC. RICHARD J. BBOTCHECK
 PFC. ARCH C. BOWLES
 PFC. KENNETH C. CHASE
 PFC. HAROLD V. CRAWFORD, Purple Heart
 PFC. BENJAMIN H. CROSSLAND
 PFC. ROBERT J. DIBBLE

PFC. JOSEPH GALANO
 PFC. JOSEPH L. HOCTOR
 PFC. SALVATORE L. GIARRIZZO, Purple Heart
 PFC. ARTHUR E. GREEN
 PFC. MARVIN L. HARRAH
 PFC. WILLIAM L. HALL
 PFC. BRUCE L. HARTLEY
 PFC. ALBERT S. HESTER, Bronze Star
 PFC. NEWMAN A. HUGGINS
 PFC. MONROE C. JACOBSEN
 PFC. GAITHER W. JUSTUS
 PFC. ABRAHAM J. KLUGERMAN
 PFC. CLEMENTS S. KOHRMAN, Purple Heart
 PFC. JAMES A. LAWS
 PFC. FRANK G. MERRYMAN
 PFC. JOSEPH E. MONAT, Bronze Star
 PFC. RICHARD L. MORGAN
 PFC. WALTER R. PIGSLEY
 PFC. WALTER V. MALISZEWSKI
 PFC. BERNARD L. MITCHELL
 PFC. ROY M. MOSLEY
 PFC. ROBERT W. CROOK, Purple Heart
 PFC. LLOYD W. DIFFENBAUGH
 PFC. STEVE HARI
 PFC. SAM ORGEL
 PFC. LAWRENCE H. OGDEN
 PFC. FRANK G. ROBERTS JR., Bronze Star
 PFC. RICHARD E. SMATANA
 PFC. THEODORE B. SMITH, Bronze Star
 PFC. JOSEPH J. TEMPLER
 PFC. FRANCIS J. TRAINOR
 PFC. LOWIS C. VARNER
 PFC. RALPH E. WITTHUHN
 PFC. DONG D. YUEN
 PVT. VERNON R. BENEDICT
 PVT. FINIS E. BURRIS
 PVT. ROBERT L. CLEMENT
 PVT. HENRY LANKFORD
 PVT. EDWARD K. OAST
 PVT. JOHN E. MOLOTT
 PVT. JAMES J. WALSH, Purple Heart

BATTERY A

1/SGT. EVERT L. FILIP
 1/SGT. ADGAR G. PEDERSON
 S/SGT. ELY B. ADLER
 S/SGT. WILLIAM T. BAKER, Battlefield Commission
 S/SGT. HAROLD VOGT
 S/SGT. ELBERT W. CROY
 S/SGT. HUGH ROY
 S/SGT. RICHARD J. CHAMBERLAIN, Bronze Star
 SGT. HERBERT H. BUCH, Bronze Star
 SGT. ROBERT L. JOHNSON
 SGT. CHARLIE W. PISCACEK
 SGT. ELMON ROSS
 SGT. THOMAS A. CRIST
 SGT. WILLIAM J. SHAFFER
 T/4 EUGENE F. BIXLER, Bronze Star
 T/4 GEORGE C. CRANSTON
 T/4 WILLIAM G. MONTAGUE
 T/4 DALE G. RIEMAN
 T/4 MURRAY SENDER
 T/4 ANTHONY E. QUALITZ
 T/4 RALPH S. FABRIZIO
 CPL. RALPH D. HARRITY

CPL. SHERMAN M. LONG
 CPL. GILBERT D. McCLURE
 CPL. DON C. MOTSINGER
 CPL. STANLEY T. NIEMCZYK, Bronze Star
 CPL. FRANCIS J. SCHRAPPEN
 CPL. WILLIAM T. TUCKER, Bronze Star
 CPL. DALE P. WINNEY, Bronze Star
 CPL. JOHN W. DUANE, Bronze Star
 CPL. FELIX S. KOTLARCYK
 CPL. EARL C. RAYBURN
 T/5 ALBERT ALTSCHAFFL
 T/5 LYLE J. RABINEAU, Bronze Star
 T/5 JOSEPH DANEVICH
 T/5 LEO R. DRISKILL
 T/5 HERMAN HONEYCUTT
 T/5 JACK L. JOSEPHSON
 T/5 SAMUEL LICHTMAN
 T/5 WILLIAM J. PASCARELL, Bronze Star
 T/5 GEORGE W. PERSELL
 T/5 RALPH H. RIFFEL
 T/5 MARTIN STEINER
 PFC. CALVIN H. BUCHANAN, Bronze Star
 PFC. EARL D. CRANE

PFC. HECTOR A. DENOMME
 PFC. ANDREW D. GALLEGOS
 PFC. CLARENCE E. GEORGI
 PFC. JOHN P. GOCA
 PFC. LESLIE M. LEE
 PFC. NICHOLAS A. MANTO
 PFC. ANTHONY J. MARES
 PFC. ANTHONY J. MAURO
 PFC. ARTHUR L. MEREDITH
 PFC. PAUL B. MIKELS
 PFC. STEWART E. MOORE
 PFC. LAWRENCE H. OGDEN
 PFC. WILLIAM C. OLIVER
 PFC. WILLIAM H. PLOWMAN
 PFC. EARL H. ROBERTS
 PFC. HOWARD R. SMITH
 PFC. LILLARD D. SMITH
 PFC. MERRILL A. WEAVER
 PFC. PETER WILDENBERG
 PFC. ROCCO J. BONOMO, Purple Heart
 PFC. REUBEN W. BOYDSTUN, JR.
 PFC. TREVELONE E. MATHEWS
 PFC. MICHAEL M. WANER

PFC. THOMAS BINNETT
 PFC. GILBERT C. BERRY, JR.
 PFC. JACK BONO
 PFC. HOYT C. BOZARD
 PFC. WILLIAM L. CARTER
 PFC. SAMUEL K. CHATFIELD
 PFC. THURL R. CONLEY
 PFC. JOE A. CORDIERO
 PFC. VYRON G. CORONIS
 PFC. JAMES H. FRISBIE
 PFC. FRED T. GARD
 PFC. THEODORE GRAMIAK, Bronze Star
 PFC. CECIL C. GRAY
 PFC. HENRY S. GULLBN

PFC. GEORGE F. HANKINS
 PFC. MELVIN E. HILL
 PFC. LEONARD L. HAYNES
 PFC. TALMADGE N. HOLLAND
 PFC. JOSEPH T. LANDS
 PFC. HERMAN J. McGOUGH
 PFC. MELVIN D. MILLER
 PFC. DONALD B. MIZNER
 PFC. MANON L. MOORE
 PFC. JOHN A. MURPHY
 PFC. JAY D. MORTON
 PFC. NOAH F. PHILLIPS
 PFC. HARRISON L. SEIP
 PFC. MORTON W. SOUTHARD

PFC. ROBERT B. STAUGLER
 PFC. RUDOLPH WEISS
 PVT. WILLIAM D. WISE
 PVT. AARON K. YOUNG
 PVT. LEWIS J. ZOOK
 PVT. VIRGIL D. CARR
 PVT. CALVIN T. CORAN
 PVT. CHARLES A. CRIMONE
 PVT. ARNOLD E. KATZ
 PVT. WAYNE B. LOCKE
 PVT. WILLIAM MOMYR
 PVT. DAN A. NESTEL
 PVT. JOSEPH P. VITUCCI
 PVT. FRANCIS M. WELDER, JR.

BATTERY B

1/SGT. RICHARD W. GAULKIE, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. THOMAS E. SELF, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. ELLIOTT S. GREENBERG, Bronze Star, Purple Heart
 S/SGT. HARRY W. STEINMANN
 S/SGT. NORMAN M. BENTZEN
 S/SGT. GEORGE V. BERTAU, JR., Bronze Star
 SGT. EDWARD A. CREVIER
 SGT. CAROL L. SAWYERS
 SGT. MURRAY SHAW
 SGT. LAMAR L. LAIRD, Bronze Star
 SGT. ALVAN B. HARRD
 SGT. WILLIAM R. PAETOW, Bronze Star
 T/4 LEONARD MARTIN
 T/4 VIVIAN J. SCUBERT
 T/4 DELPHIN F. WEST
 T/4 MAYNARD A. COMSTOCK
 T/4 LEON H. LOCKWOOD
 CPL. ELTON S. ARNOLD
 CPL. FRANK F. BAAR
 CPL. EDWARD J. BRUNK
 CPL. WALTER J. BUTWEL
 CPL. MELVIN K. BBY
 CPL. JAMES D. JONES
 CPL. CLARENCE A. RELIC, Purple Heart
 CPL. PAUL E. SHEPHERD
 PFC. DALE F. MEHLBERG
 PFC. MAX MENDEZ
 PFC. STANLEY L. MOORE
 PFC. DAVIS W. PECK
 PFC. JOSEPH F. POLCHIK
 PFC. JULIO M. QUESADA

CPL. DEXTER J. STONER
 CPL. MICHAEL M. TRAVIS
 CPL. EDWARD A. WALDEN
 CPL. ANDREW A. DATKOWSKY
 T/5 JOHN W. COBB
 T/5 JAMES E. DE PANFILIS
 T/5 RICHARD F. HAFER
 T/5 WILLIAM HOCHMILLER
 T/5 HERMAN R. JUSTICE
 T/5 ALFRED H. SATCHER
 T/5 JOHN B. SHAMHAM
 T/5 WALTER W. ZBYTOWSKY
 T/5 DARWIN B. LARIMORE, Bronze Star
 T/4 WILFRED J. LASHER, Bronze Star
 T/5 ALBERT R. TUCKER, Bronze Star
 T/5 HORACE W. MICHENER
 T/5 MICHAEL A. LOUISE
 PFC. HOMER A. CHAIN
 PFC. HOMER DAVIS
 PFC. JESSIE L. DAVIS
 PFC. EUGENE L. FRANKLIN, Purple Heart
 PFC. EUGENE V. GOLDBERG, Bronze Star
 PFC. WARREN C. HUGHES
 PFC. RAYMOND J. JOHNSON
 PFC. FIELDS M. LEE
 PFC. LEON H. LOCKWOOD
 PFC. JESSE A. ROE
 PFC. CASIMIR J. SIECINSKI
 PFC. CLAUDE SMITH
 PFC. MELTON J. TANTON
 PFC. GEORGE F. YEZ, Purple Heart
 PFC. JOE W. ZABAWA

PFC. NORMAN C. LODER
 PFC. RAMON C. LOPEZ
 PFC. ELTON E. McBEE
 PFC. JESSE A. MOORE
 PFC. FRANK J. OTT
 PFC. JOSEPH J. RAGUSA
 PFC. BERNARD L. ROHLMAN
 PFC. DAVID SMITH
 PFC. IRA J. WALLACE
 PFC. HAROLD B. WIDDLIN
 PFC. HUBBERT WHITEHURST
 PFC. CLARENCE D. ARNOLD
 PFC. THOMAS A. CAPONE
 PFC. DAVID R. CARRASCO
 PFC. FLORIAN P. DE GRIPP
 PFC. THOMAS W. EGAN
 PFC. HENRY B. GILLARD
 PFC. NAT GOLDSTEIN
 PFC. FRANK J. GRAF
 PFC. ALEXANDER ISHKANIAN
 PFC. ROBERT L. JACOBY Purple Heart
 PFC. THOMAS R. KIELBOWICK
 PFC. WALTER M. LA BRUE
 PFC. GEORGE H. MALINOWSKI
 PFC. STANLEY F. MALINOWSKI
 PFC. ARLAND V. McLAIN
 PFC. RICHARD L. McNEIL
 PFC. COSMO P. DEL MONICO
 PFC. SEABORN C. EARLY
 PFC. TRUMAN A. GLOVER
 PFC. GEORGE K. HAVELY
 PFC. GUY B. JOLLY
 PFC. STANLEY E. LARSON

BATTERY C

1/SGT. GLENN D. STRUBLE
 S/SGT. STEPHEN Z. CIESLAK, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. CHARLES J. McCARTHY
 S/SGT. JOSEPH J. SCHNECKER
 S/SGT. GEORGE S. SCHULTZ
 S/SGT. EUGENE MEDINA, Bronze Star
 S/SGT. JACK REINHARDT, Purple Heart
 SGT. FRANK JOHNSON
 SGT. JOSEPH E. KUNNEY
 SGT. ROBERT B. McKINNEY
 SGT. LAWRENCE W. REYNOLDS
 SGT. WILLIAM F. SMITH
 SGT. JOHNNY T. VALENZUELA
 T/4 JOHN F. FERRELL, Bronze Star
 T/4 CHARLES E. SANDERS
 T/4 NEIL TAYLOR, Purple Heart
 T/4 WINFRED D. TRINKLE, Bronze Star
 T/4 JOHN M. WATSON, Bronze Star
 T/4 KIRIL I. KALININ
 T/4 DONAUGH F. O'HARA, Bronze Star
 T/4 MICHAEL A. POLONCHAN
 CPL. ADOLPH A. CURCI
 CPL. JOHN A. FARRARO
 CPL. JOHN B. HAZLETON
 CPL. ALFRED W. LIBBE
 CPL. SAMUEL O. MOOSE
 CPL. EDWARD A. TRAIL
 CPL. FREDDIE G. TROXELL
 CPL. NORMAN B. VIALBE
 CPL. AARON C. WEST
 CPL. STANLEY S. KONIECSKO
 CPL. THOMAS H. RAYNOR, Bronze Star
 CPL. CHARLES F. FEARN

T/5 GILBERT BYERS
 T/5 CHARLES CHIDO
 T/5 KENNETH E. COSTELLO
 T/5 HAROLD E. DAUBENMIRE
 T/5 CARL D. ENLOW
 T/5 THOMAS M. GORHAM
 T/5 JUNIUS HUDSON
 T/5 CLARENCE C. MORRIS
 T/5 JOHN W. NANCE
 T/5 KENNETH E. PATTERSON
 T/5 JOHN W. ROBERTS
 T/5 CHARLES R. O'NEILL, Bronze Star
 PFC. WILLIAM ADKINS
 PFC. EMERY V. ALTMAN
 PFC. LAWRENCE L. BEECKMAN
 PFC. ROBERT M. BORDINO
 PFC. DENNIS J. COLLARD
 PFC. NICHOLAS C. FANGIO
 PFC. CHARLES D. GROVER
 PFC. PETER V. HERNANDEZ, Bronze Star
 PFC. LAWRENCE R. KINNEY
 PFC. JOHN J. KOSTKY
 PFC. EDWARD W. LINNA
 PFC. WILLIAM MASSARANA
 PFC. DIXON L. McCORMACK
 PFC. ROBERT L. NANCE
 PFC. STEPHEN S. O'Rourke
 PFC. ALOYSIUS J. SIELSKI
 PFC. NOBLE S. SKEGG
 PFC. AVORY L. WARD
 PFC. FRED G. WOODWARD
 PFC. GEORGE H. WYATT

PFC. C. G. GLENN, Purple Heart
 PFC. ERNEST W. LUOMA
 PFC. DARWIN E. MAY, Purple Heart
 PFC. LEONARD H. McROY
 PFC. BERNARD L. MITCHELL
 PFC. CLUSTER MOAT
 PFC. JACK C. PRATER
 PFC. FLOYD G. REED
 PFC. RICHARD M. REH
 PFC. GEORGE B. REINHART
 PFC. RICHARD P. ROHMANN
 PFC. WILSON L. SNODGRASS
 PFC. HOLMES H. SPONER
 PFC. MYRON G. TIBBIE
 PFC. ALBERT A. TILLEY
 PFC. THOMAS E. CLEARY
 PFC. CHARLES A. CLINE
 PFC. EDWARD F. KAWA
 PFC. FREDERICK P. NACCARI
 PVT. MELVIN M. WHEELER
 PVT. HARRY B. ZIMMERMAN
 PVT. EUGENE J. KELLY
 PVT. JOSEPH C. KORAN
 PVT. CARL R. LOMELINO
 PVT. ELMER L. McGINNIS
 PVT. DONALD E. MEYER
 PVT. HERBERT J. MATSCHENBACHER
 PVT. RAYMOND P. McNAMARA
 PVT. ALFRED M. LEONARD
 PVT. JESUS J. DELGADO
 PVT. SALVATORE DE ALTO
 PVT. JOHN F. CONNELLY

SERVICE BATTERY

1/SGT. SAM W. CONDR
 M/SGT. HORACE W. HOLMES
 T/SGT. JOHN C. RAY, JR.
 S/SGT. OWEN D. CLARK
 S/SGT. EMILIO COLOMBO
 S/SGT. DONALD A. DEPEW
 S/SGT. WILLIAM F. RILEY, Bronze Star
 SGT. JOHN K. DAVIS
 SGT. VIRGIL B. HEMRICK
 SGT. WILLIAM F. HENDERSON
 SGT. PERRY D. O'BRIEN
 SGT. GREGORIO A. SANEZ
 SGT. WILLIAM T. SULLIVAN
 T/4 NELSON S. COYLE
 T/4 THOMAS J. DOLPHIN
 T/4 ROY G. FOSTER
 T/4 LLOYD Q. HUMPHREY
 T/4 HANS F. RASMUSSEN
 T/4 BYRON F. TAYLOR
 CPL. KATH E. CRIFE
 CPL. ALBERT R. DUTES
 T/4 ROY G. FOSTER
 T/4 WILLIAM F. HENDERSON
 CPL. THOMAS A. MagUIRE
 T/4 PERRY D. O'BRIEN
 CPL. THOMAS F. POKOROSKY
 CPL. CARL D. WALLACE

T/5 ALVIN J. AMES, JR.
 T/5 ANTHONY ANTOSZ
 T/5 BLAIN F. CLARKSON
 T/5 BERNARD L. GREENHOE
 T/5 ROBERT H. HARTMAN
 T/5 EDWARD E. KOBE
 T/5 PASQUALE A. OBERMAIER
 T/5 ARTHUR G. POUND
 T/5 JEROME R. SCHWINGHAMER
 T/5 WILLIE B. SKELLION
 T/5 ROGER STEINKOLK
 T/5 RUFUS K. TURPIN
 PFC. CARL B. BROWN
 PFC. CHARLES E. CARR
 PFC. CECIL E. CHESNUT
 PFC. ANGELO M. CICCOTTI
 PFC. THOMAS W. COSGROVE
 PFC. PAUL DEL VIGNA
 PFC. ALBERT DE PHILLIS
 PFC. JOSEPH FUSCO
 PFC. JOSEPH R. FUSCO
 PFC. GILBERT F. GILCHRIST
 PFC. LOUIS W. GLIDBELL
 PFC. THOMAS N. GORHAM
 PFC. DELMAR D. HAMACHER
 PFC. ALBAN G. HANNIGAN
 PFC. CLYDE L. HOIT

PFC. HOWARD L. JOYCE
 PFC. GEORGE A. KING
 PFC. LORNE L. KNOUSE
 PFC. LAWRENCE E. MALONE
 PFC. ROLAND F. McCANN
 PFC. EDWARD C. NOLAN
 PFC. ROBERT C. PICKELL
 PFC. ROBERT C. PICKELL
 PFC. VERNON F. PILZ
 PFC. JOHN E. QUINN
 PFC. OLIVER ROINE
 PFC. ANTHONY SALAMONE
 PFC. WALTER J. SIERP
 PFC. JOHN C. SLOAN
 PFC. CLARENCE S. SMART
 PFC. GEORGE A. J. SMITH
 PFC. WILLIAM W. SPARKMAN
 PFC. KENNETH B. SWANSON
 PFC. KENNETH F. SURPRISE
 PFC. CHARLES W. TEMPLETON
 PFC. JOSEPH VERON
 PFC. FRANK WELLMON
 PFC. GEORGE RANDALL
 PVT. BERNARD ZELANKA
 PVT. SYLVESTER MOORE
 PVT. MARIO MESSINA
 PVT. GLENN E. ALLEY

87TH DIVISION AIR SECTION



LT. DOUGLAS D. BARROW
LT. GODFREY H. BERNHARDT
LT. JAMES E. HAMILTON
S/SGT. JACK REINHARDT
S/SGT. NORMAN K. SUTLIFF



These men willingly gave their lives for their country. Their names will always be remembered by those who worked, prayed, fought, and lived with them. This story is dedicated to these men and the part they played in the final victory, with the realization that without them, and the thousands of others like them, this story might have had a different ending.

STORY OF THE 87TH DIVISION AIR SECTION

The Air Section of the 87th Division Artillery is now a well-molded fighting team, and can point to its record in the European Theater of Operations with justifiable pride. It took many lessons and experiences—some humorous, some bitter, some tragic—to build this unit to its present state of efficiency. It is about these lessons and experiences that this historical narrative is written.

Major (then Captain) Schirmacher was the first pilot of our unit to go overseas. He, with the rest of the advance party, made preparations for the arrival of the remainder of the 87th Division in England. The pilots, observers, mechanics and planes arrived on November 13, 1944. The planes were in a complete state of disassembly, and the

bedded down at the RAF base at Atcham-Staverton. The second leg was a flight to Membury, and the following leg was to Greenham Common, a C-47 base. The pilots stayed here overnight. The next morning the last flight over England was made to Friston airport at Beachy Head, the debarkation point for France, the squadron arriving at noon the 30th, just in time to enjoy lunch at the RAF snack bar. During this flight two British Spitfire pilots decided to play with the slow-moving formation, and made several passes at the Cubs.

After lunch, Mae Wests were donned and the pilots made last minute checks for the hop across the English Channel. Accompanied by a British Walrus amphibian,



pilots, observers and mechanics, after the trip over on the topheavy "Louis Pasteur" were in varying degrees of same. The observers, at that time, remained with their respective battalions, and the mechanics, with the assistance of the pilots, assembled the airplanes. This work was done at A. V. Roe & Co., near Macclesfield, Cheshire, England. By the 27th the planes were ready to roll—complete with Allied markings and Divisional number (88). The planes were test-hopped, and, with some minor adjustments, declared ready for combat.

Weather delayed the take-off for France, and the pilots had to remain over night at Poynton. Late the following day, after a last-minute flat tire had been repaired, the squadron took off. That night, the 28th, was spent at the Red Cross hotel in Cheltenham—after the planes had been

the group made an uneventful crossing. The normally choppy sea was calm and the air was extremely smooth. There was a low overcast, however, and this made it necessary to make a low altitude flight. As the formation passed over Dieppe, the Walrus dipped twice, as a good luck salute, and headed back toward England—leaving the flight to its own devices. Unfortunately, the pilots did not know they were over Dieppe, since it had been planned that the Walrus leave the formation at St. Valery. Thus, the air section entered Continental Europe under slightly unusual conditions—lost. It was extremely difficult to get back on course as the weather was closing in, so the planes landed in the pasture of a French farmer—to wait for better weather and to obtain directions to Rouen, the destination. The farmer and his family were quite hospitable, even treat-

ing the members of the group with excellent pre-war cognac. After directions had been obtained (thanks to Lieutenant Podell and his Philadelphia French) and the weather had cleared, the flight prepared to leave. Lieutenant Schmit's plane developed engine trouble, so he had to remain at the farm to effect repairs. Lieutenant Shackelford, Lieutenant Podell and Sergeant Bawcom also stayed to assist. The rest of the flight arrived in Rouen that evening, and the others joined them the following day—December 1.

It was at Rouen that the mechanics (with the exception of Sgt. Bawcom and Sgt. Bagley, who had made the trip with the pilots) joined the section again. They had crossed the channel on LSTs. The living quarters at Rouen were shared with a medical detachment in a large warehouse located about five miles from the air base. The frequent trips from quarters to the airfield gave the section its first glimpse of the destruction wrought by air bombing.

At Rouen additional adjustments were made on the planes, and on December 7 orders were received to proceed to Metz. Captain Schirmacher managed, while on a reconnaissance flight to Paris, to lose his bedroll. Since it contained most of his personal possessions, the Captain lived in primitive style for some time thereafter.

The first leg of the new flight was to Rheims. Since it was late in the day when the section arrived, Rheims was picked as an overnight stop. The mechanics, who had proceeded by vehicle, arrived there shortly after the planes had landed.

The flight was resumed the next morning—the initial stop being at Etain, a P-47 fighter base. On the flight to Etain the pilots had the opportunity to see the historic battle-grounds near Verdun. Etain was a sea of mud, and it was here the pilots encountered the first of the many muddy fields from which they were to operate later. After a lunch made more pleasant by the discussion of the fighter pilots of the mission from which they had just returned, the section took off on its final hop toward Metz—arriving late in the afternoon of the 8th. The initial landing was at a field near a large chateau on the southeast side of the

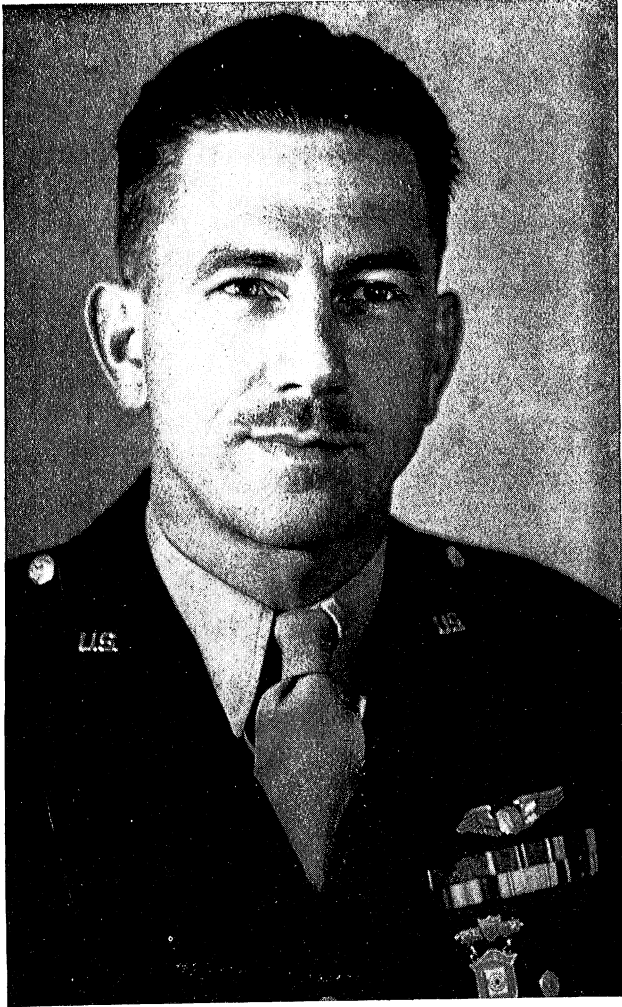
city, but late that evening the planes were flown to a strip being used by the Fifth Division. On this latter flight, Lieutenant Jackson became separated from the rest of the squadron and, unable to locate the strip, landed at a captured German airport. His plane remained there that night.

The mission of the 87th Division at Metz was to continue exerting pressure on the forts of Jeanne D'Arc, Driant, and St. Quentin, all of which had refused to surrender when the city was taken by the veteran Fifth Division. It was here the Golden Acorn pilots flew their first combat missions, most of which consisted of orientation flights. Prophetic of the future close cooperation between artillery and infantry, General Ford flew the first mission (a registration), and General Culin was at the guns. Because of the combined infantry-artillery attack, the forts surrendered in short order, and the 87th received orders to proceed to the front lines near Saar Union.

Lt. Shackelford and Lt. Bernhardt went forward by vehicle to reconnoitre a strip, and the air section prepared to displace. On the 10th, Lt. Shackelford returned to Metz and led the planes forward. Because of inclement weather the formation was forced to land at the XII Corps strip at Saarlbe. The section stayed there until the 15th. While at Saarlbe officer observers and enlisted men drivers, machine gunners, cooks and guards joined the roster to form a true Division Artillery Air Section. On the 14th and 15th the pilots were given orientation flights by the pilots of the 26th Division, whom the 87th was relieving.

On the 15th the section displaced forward to Schmittviller and was on its own. It was here that actual combat was first encountered and that, after many mistakes had been made and corrected, the section began to show promise of developing into a smoothly-operating unit. Most of the hazards normally accompanying front line combat were encountered. The enemy ack-ack was persistent and heavy—88 high bursts predominating. It was bitterly cold. The strips (both at Schmittviller and Gros Rederching, where the section moved on the 18th) were short and tricky.

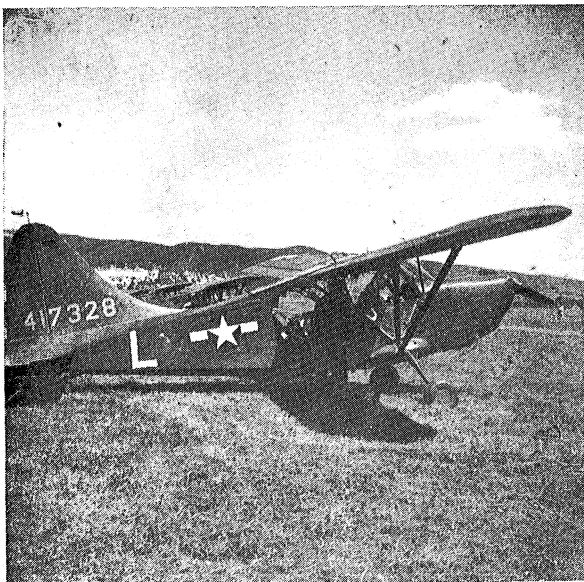
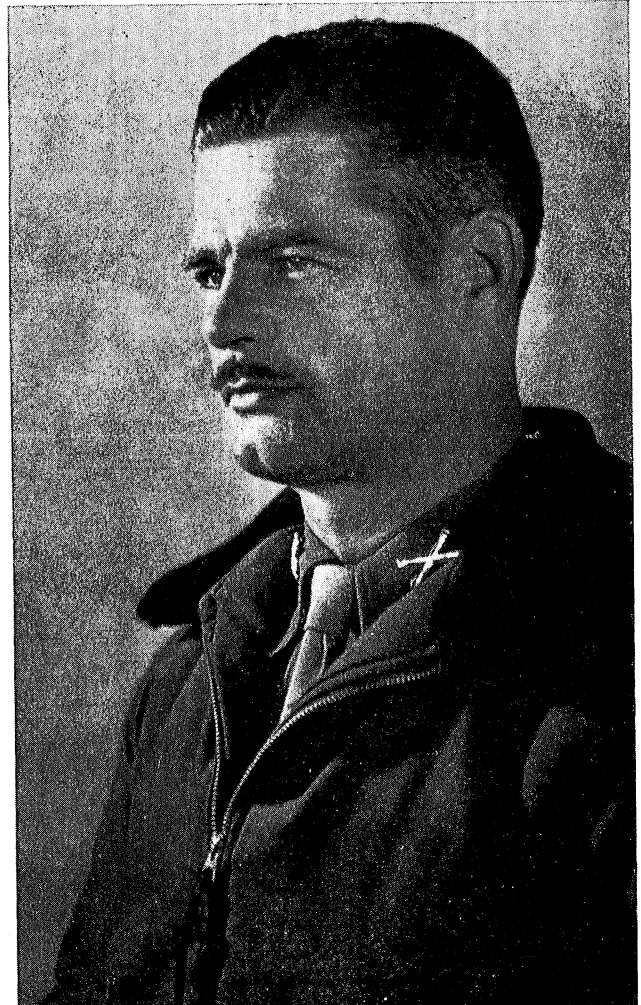




General W. W. Ford, U.S.M.A., started the Grasshopper Program. He was first Director of the Department of Air Training, which he organized, at F.S.A., Fort Sill, June, 1942.



Major Theo F. Schirmacher, civilian-instructor of the Experimental Field Artillery Liaison Pilots Class and later Assistant Chief of Flight Instructors, Department of Air Training, F.A.S., Fort Sill.



The area near Gros Rederching was subjected to constant artillery barrage (the favorite mid-night pastime was conjecturing as to the proximity of the last volley). The weather was insidious—fogs and rain storms closing in without any warning. Lt. Holloway and Lt. Shackelford were attacked by a Messerschmitt 109 but, fortunately, managed to escape. In judging fighting areas, the section is unanimous in the opinion that the Saar Valley was the most nerve tingling. A report of the ground casualties suffered there bears out the opinion. It was here, also, that the section accounted for its first enemy tank—the credit going to Lt. Climie, flying with Lt. Jackson. On the 24th, orders were received to move immediately to the Belgian Bulge. Again the section was off on a cross-country trip.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were spent at Nancy, where officers and men had a real Christmas dinner (through the courtesy of Major Bryce Wilson) at Third Army headquarters. A singing quartet consisting of Captain Rutledge, Lt. Fritz, Lt. Jackson, and Lt. Podell, was formed, and entertained (or plagued, depending upon one's viewpoint) those present. The quartet continued to function throughout the war. No comment.

The section flew to Rheims the following morning and, awaiting further orders, stayed there four days. It was here the section experienced its first air raids—most annoying of which was the nightly visit of "Bed-Check Charlie," who invariably came over during the showing of the evening movie.

The Ninth Air Force personnel were excellent hosts—the food, served by chic French waitresses, was very good, PX items were abundant, various forms of entertainment were provided and, best of all, the section was able to add to its meager supply such necessary items as sleeping cots, carbide lamps, gasoline lanterns, radio "mikes," headsets and cords.

Captain Schirmacher had finally managed, by scrouging and borrowing, to equip his new bed-roll so that it kept him reasonably warm. Unfortunately, someone at Rheims needed the bed-roll worse than he did. Exit bed-roll two. (Monotonous, isn't it?)

By the 30th full scale movement of the Third Army organizations to the Belgian Bulge was underway. The section moved to Florenville on that day, as the Division was committed to action in the vicinity of St. Hubert. Tents were pitched near those of the survivors of a colored battalion caught in the breakthrough, and from these men the pilots and observers were able to gain much useful information about Jerry's tactics.

An incident occurred here which had Sergeant Bawcom muttering to himself for days. While making the rounds of the tents the following morning to awaken the men for breakfast, he inadvertently wandered into the colored unit's area. He stopped outside a tent and bellowed, "Chow's ready!", and the following conversation ensued among the tent's occupants: "What dat man say?"—"He say 'Chow ready!'"—"Well—who dat man?" Bawcom beat a hasty retreat.

The weather was bad (and becoming worse) every day.

Intermittent but heavy snows made it impossible to fly missions from Florenville, but the section was able to displace forward to Jehonville on the 31st. New Year's Eve was spent in a schoolhouse and since no one had any desire to celebrate the passing of '44, all were in bed before midnight. On New Year's day a strip was established at Forest De Luchy (near Libramont), and the section displaced forward.

The weather conditions here were the worst the section encountered in its entire period of combat. Heavy snows, bitter cold, low fogs which moved in without warning, extremely variable winds—all were serious obstacles. In spite of this—and the fact that (because of supply difficulties) improper grades of gasoline and oil had to be used—the air section did a creditable job, and did much toward helping the infantry drive the Jerries out of the southern portion of the Bulge. The section used the strip at Forest De Luchy for several weeks, keeping it as a base field and operating from a forward strip at Seviscourt.

Because of the ever-increasing snowfall, Captain Schirmacher decided to experiment with skis, and sent Lt. Podell to Rheims to procure them. The section was the first in the ETO to use skis, and an army newsreel photographer was present to record Lt. Epsaro's take-off. All went well, and some excellent shots were obtained (this information came second-hand, as the section never had the opportunity to see the results). Not all the planes were equipped with skis as the strip at Forest De Luchy had been graded and it was still possible for planes with wheels to operate from it. It was in one of these planes that Lt. Podell had the first serious accident of the section. He was unable, on the take-off, to clear the banked snow at the end of the strip, and the plane was badly wrecked. Neither he nor Lt. McGreal, who was riding as observer, was injured.

Captain Rutledge established his reputation as a mighty nimrod here by killing a deer from a plane with an M-1 rifle. Although he and the local inhabitants had a bitter feud over the proper way to prepare the deer for eating, the American way triumphed, and the venison was a welcome respite from Uncle Sam's Canned Horrors—commonly known as C rations.

The living quarters were in the home of a Belgian farmer and the men spent many of the frequent non-flyable days in conversation (?) with these people, in an attempt to learn French. Lt. D'Orazio, in particular, claimed to be progressing rapidly (although it was noticed that when his hands were tied his conversing ability lagged considerably). Van Meter, an aid man, was added to the section during its stay here, and he became responsible for mess water purity and other sanitation.

The ruins of towns like St. Hubert, Vesqueville, and Tillet will attest to the bitter fighting which occurred in the "Bulge," and the pilots will always remember, with a shudder, the almost impossible conditions under which they operated while flying in this area. It was with no feeling of regret that the section left this sector to go to Luxembourg.

On the 16th of January a move was made (via the 43rd M. R. & R. Squadron field at Luxembourg City) to a field



near Neudorf, Luxembourg, in the vicinity of the 60th Field Hospital, where quarters were established. Our zone of action ran from the city of Wasserbillig north along the Sauer River to Echternach, including the large city of Trier. Although the division did not attempt to cross the Sauer River, many bitter battles were fought for the possession of towns along the west bank. Several large-caliber shells landed near the strip, causing no end of confusion. No damage was done.

The section became re-acquainted with bathing facilities; and greens, neckties and daily shaves were SOP for some of the officers. This general "sprucing" was attributed to the presence of beaucoup nurses, rather than to any orders.

Tragedy struck the section for the first time on the 21st when, because of engine failure, S/Sgt. Sutliff and Lt. Hamilton were killed in an accident in view of the strip. Memorial services were held that night.

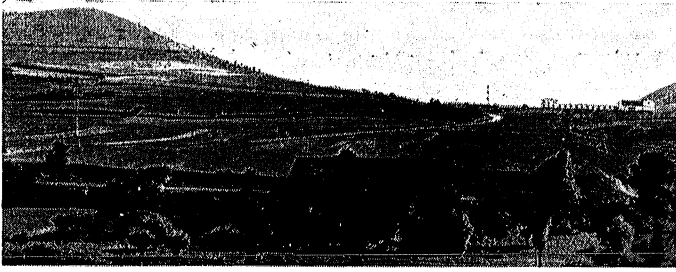
A forward strip at the Division Artillery chateau near Olingen was soon prepared, and the pilots operated from it for several days. Eventually the entire section moved to it. The strip was located on a hillside and had large trees at one end. In addition to being a "one way" field, it was narrow and slippery. Among the pilots it was known as a sporting strip, and it lived up to its name. Lt. Holloway, with Lt. D'Orazio as observer, overshot the field one day and skidded his plane into another, badly damaging both planes. Later, after his plane had been repaired, his engine cut out on take-off, and again J was in the garage. Incidentally, it was only by dint of expert piloting that Lt. Holloway kept the accident from being more serious than it was.

Very little flak was encountered in this area, the main enemy being cold, snow, and improper fuels. Some of the planes drew small arms fire, but this was the exception rather than the rule. It was also here that Lt. Mitchell was unjustly accused of imbibing during duty hours. The infantry reported, by radio, that an enemy blimp was in the area. Lt. Mitchell relayed this information to Lt. Climie and Lt. Jackson, who were on patrol over the lines. They

not only refused to look for the blimp, but returned to the field and demanded that Lt. Mitchell produce the bottle. Mayhem was averted by the narrowest margin. The blimp? It proved to be a meteorological balloon released by a metro section. Here, too, it was necessary to bring Lt. Bernhardt and Lt. Barrow back from patrol by "talking them in" on the radio, as the weather had closed down and they were unable to find their way back. To everyone's regret, Captain Rutledge was recalled to his battalion shortly before the section received orders to move to Belgium. Lt. Dillenbeck was his replacement.

Although the section left Luxembourg on January 27 it was February 5 before it could adequately fulfill its mission of support. All moves up to this time had followed the pattern of observers flying to new location with their pilots the ground crews going by convoy under the control of one observer. But the heavy snows and general bad flying conditions dictated that less weight be carried in the planes, so the observers traveled to the new fighting area in the motor column. While the division (with the observers and ground crews) was approaching the new area in Belgium to relieve the 17th Airborne Division, most of the planes were either in Luxembourg or at some other unit's strip along the way. The incessant bad weather made it extremely difficult for the pilots to fly cross-country. Several planes would start out but some would be forced to turn back. Lt. Epsaro, because of engine trouble, was three days late in catching up with the rest of the section. Three of the planes reached Steinback together, and when they reached Deyfeld almost all of the planes had rejoined. Several days were spent at Deyfeld, since the weather was not flyable. Lt. Schmit had prepared the strip, and it was an excellent one. Then the snow began to melt, and it was discovered that underneath the snow was a plowed field. Half of the strip was usable, however, Lt. Jackson, with Lt. Guerrero (an VIII Corps pilot temporarily attached) as observer, flew one orientation mission from this field but was unable to land on his return. His plane had to be left at Trois Vierges, a nearby village, for several





days. When the weather cleared, the section moved to Beho, where it stayed for two days. It then moved to a strip just outside the well-liberated (only the walls were standing) town of St. Vith. After the snow had been graded off, three trees cut down, some telephone wires torn out, eight shell holes filled, and two fences removed, this became an excellent strip—particularly after the pilots began using the green field alongside the strip.

Although the front lines were still many miles east, the roads were practically impassable, and the section flew combat missions from its present position. Finally, on February 9, the section reverted from rear echelon to front line status. The strip to which it moved was located on a sloping hillside overlooking the town of Verschneid—about one mile inside Germany. The strip was about two miles west of Schnee Eifel Ridge, on which was located the vaunted Siegfried Line.

In a month of operations at Verschneid (ending March 8) the section hit its stride, giving battalions observation which was decisive in cracking the intricate maze of pill-boxes and fortifications at Ormont, Hallschlag, Reuth, Lo-sheim, Krewinkel, and Stadtkyll. A total of 320 sorties and 365 hours were flown. German tanks, vehicles, guns, supply and ammunition dumps and personnel felt the weight of artillery directed from the air.

It was at Verschneid that a true spirit of comradeship and co-operation was born in the section. At last it was a fighting team! General Culin and General Ford were frequent visitors to this strip, and it was here that history was made, for it was the first time, to our knowledge, that an Infantry Division Commander and the Division Artillery Commander had flown from their front line Command Posts and obtained first-hand information from the air in preparation for an attack.

Captain Schirmacher became Major Schirmacher (even he had difficulty remembering that this was so), and Lt. Shackleford was promoted to the rank of Captain. Other pilots noticed that orders became stricter, but all realized that this was to be expected. This promotion, to Captain Shackleford, was an added dividend, since he had just returned from a three-day pass in Paris. (Note: After several days rest he was able to resume his duties.)

Two new pilots were added to the section. Lt. Snyder, a veteran of Africa, Italy and France, was assigned to the 912th Battalion. Lt. Phillips, a veteran of many feuds in the West (By God!) Virginia Hills, was added to the Division Artillery crew. Lt. Jackson welcomed Lt. Phillips with open

arms and immediately sold him a controlling interest in the Jackson Laundry Service (a going concern which ferried laundry to Luxembourg—a distance of about 60 miles.)

The landing strip, while smooth, had several disadvantages. It was high at the middle and low at both ends and, as a consequence, planes could be landing from both directions—neither knowing the other was there. Lt. Epsaro, with Lt. D'Arazio as observer, was forced to ground-loop his plane through a fence to avoid another plane landing from the other direction. The variable wind conditions tested the mettle of the pilots, and it is to their credit that no accidents occurred.

The melting snows had left mud ankle-deep, and it became the practice to slide into the tents, rather than walk. Many methods were used to combat the mud and make living conditions more bearable—some laid straw on the ground in the tents, but soon discarded this because of the appearance of small, unwanted guests—some used boards, but the boards rapidly sank out of sight—the Division Artillery crew took the hard way, moving its tent when the mud threatened to envelop the cots—many thought this would be an opportune time to get rid of the Spam, and suggested using it for a floor covering.

The days were getting longer and the planes, as a consequence, stayed out on patrol much later. Several times pilots brought their planes back in partial darkness. Captain Shackleford, with Lt. Schmit as observer, came in after dark one night and had to be "talked in" to the field by radio. He landed by the light of a Coleman lantern and a jeep headlight.

The infantry patrol leaders began to utilize the air section to a greater extent than before by having the pilots take them on aerial reconnaissance of the proposed routes for night patrols. This was risky flying because, in order for the patrol leader to accurately judge the terrain, the pilot had to make a low altitude flight over the lines. S/Sgt. Tubre returned from one of these missions with a bullet hole through the fuselage of his plane. The infantry passenger was leaning forward at the time the bullet entered the plane, and this undoubtedly saved his life, as the bullet passed very near him.

Lt. McGreal, flying with Lt. Bartz, registered a captured German 150-mm. Howitzer on a cross-road. Over 70 rounds were fired, most of which landed in the town of Stadtkyll several hundred yards from the target. The occupants of Stadtkyll later reported that a terrific barrage had been laid on the town.

A closer co-operation between ground troops and Air



Corps was effected when Lt. Jackson's plane was equipped with an identification panel and he and Lt. Mitchell flew over the town of Reuth—making it for strafing and diving attack by P-47s.

The section was still having difficulties because of the lack of proper fuels. Lt. Epsaro with Lt. Podell as passenger, had an engine failure and made a forced landing (eliminating one German fence in the maneuver) in full view of the Jerry lines. The two officers coaxed the engine into operating again and they returned safely to the home field.

Light sleepers had no love for the 336th Battalion (in position near the strip) which fired beaucoup rounds at night. Some of the men who couldn't sleep played poker to pass the time—or just played poker.

On March 7 the infantry broke through the Siegfried Line and kept going until they reached the Kyll River, where they stopped for reorganization and rest. Because of adverse weather the air section was unable to support this action. In fact, it was several days before the planes could leave the ground, and then they couldn't move forward en masse. One or two planes at a time would take off and, if they found a hole in the overcast, would go on to the destination (Steffeln). Otherwise, they would return to try again an hour or so later.

The section enjoyed a four-day period of rest and comparative inactivity while at Steffeln. The weather cleared somewhat, and some of the men played baseball and football.

On March 12 a move was made to a large glider field near Krufft. It was while the section was here that the security blackout of the 87th Division was released, and many news clippings began to arrive from the States—describing the activities of the Golden Acorn Division.

From this position the air section aided materially in the crossing of the Moselle River and the capture of the historic city of Koblenz was not nearly as difficult as had been some of the previous battles, because of the importance of Koblenz (as Headquarters of the Allied Army of Occupation after the last war) the division received more publicity than it had ever gotten before.

The quarters at Krufft were in barracks which the young German glider students had used. For the first time since Luxembourg the air section enjoyed comfortable quarters. A large corner room was used for the operations room, and the spacious walls were decorated with maps showing the latest front line developments. The Germans had constructed a large mess hall which, of course, the section used. The large portrait of Hermann Goering and the sign which read "Deutschland Uber Alles" did not deter either officers or men from enjoying the facilities. A large boiler was located in the basement and it wasn't long before all were enjoying hot showers. Unfortunately, the system broke down at the end of the first day, and all efforts made by Sgt. Bawcom to effect repairs went for naught.

Some of the pilots, following Lt. Schmits' example, got some solo time in the training gliders which were out on the field. Frequent crackups soon exhausted the supply of gliders and other means of amusement had to be found.

The front lines remained stable at the Rhine River while the division prepared to make a crossing. In situations of this kind, it was the practice of the air section to fly scheduled patrols—two planes at a time covering the zone. This system was used predominantly at Luxembourg and Koblenz and to a certain extent at Verschneid. In rapid moving situations, the planes were attached to combat teams and worked with those teams. Whenever possible, an alert plane was kept ready for special missions. Since the pilots seldom flew more than two missions per day, while on schedule system, all had extra time to enjoy the warm sunshine.

An instance occurred here which eventually found its way into the print of Yank and Time Magazines. Lt. Holloway and Lt. Fritz, who were on front line patrol, reported the presence in the river of an object resembling a periscope. They reported this by radio, and for several days constant watch was kept for any unit of the German Fleet. None appeared. No comment.

It was here that an anti-aircraft battery, under the command of Lt. Schulz and Lt. Davis, joined the section. They remained with the section until the end of the war, and their presence made all the personnel feel at ease. Fortunately, no enemy planes came close enough to necessitate anti-aircraft fire. The ack-ack boys were useful in other ways, too. Their generators supplied the necessary power to furnish electric lights and operate some "liberated" German radios. The section was fortunate in having these men with it.

Here also the section became acquainted with Captain Hugunin, an Air Corps Officer who had been temporarily placed in charge of the area until the Military government arrived. As a result of his efforts, the section enjoyed fresh eggs, cigars, and champagne—all voluntarily donated by the local citizenry.

Lt. Snyder received 30-day leave orders to the States, and the section lost another good pilot. It is believed that he has already been reduced to his permanent rank—civilian.

Several of the pilots volunteered to go on a secret mission involving the ferrying of infantry across the Rhine at a point below Mainz. They arrived at the appointed place and, after spending the night there, were preparing to begin operations when the mission was cancelled. They returned to Krufft on the 23rd, just in time to gas up and accompany the section to its next destination—Gondershausen.

At Gondershausen the first balmy days of spring made their appearance, and the section had a much-needed rest. The quarters were in a large hunting lodge set back in the trees near a deep canyon. Although it was pleasant here, everyone eagerly awaited the orders to cross the Rhine. They came on the 28th.

Task force Sundt made the initial crossing near Boppard (about a mile south of Koblenz) with the 335th as its direct support battalion. All battalion air sections went under combat control with their respective battalions. The next three days passed rapidly, as the division advanced deep into Germany. The various battalion air sections had strips at such towns as Boppard, Daschenbach, Nastatten, Allendorf, and Kirberg. At Boppard some of the men had the satisfaction of liberating about 20 slave laborers. Pfc. Klichowsky, who had joined the section at Verschneid, was the man of the hour with his fluent Polish.

At Limburg, where most of the sections reunited, all were deeply stunned by the deaths of Lt. Bernhardt and Lt. Barrow, one of the top observing combinations. They gave their battalion the closest kind of support, and disregarded their own safety to accomplish their mission. Their plane was demolished in mid-air by a round of friendly artillery.

The field at Limburg had previously been a German airport. The fast retreating Jerries had sabotaged the buildings and destroyed most of the airplanes. One P-47, however, was left almost intact. This, no doubt, was their parting shot. Another indication of the excellent support given by the Air Force was the early appearance of many C-47s bringing gas to the rapidly moving American troops.

The next day, the 30th, the section moved forward to Weilmunster, where it remained until April 4. Lt. Jackson was assigned as Air Officer of the 336th Battalion. Lt. Leonard replaced Lt. Dillenbeck as observer. On the 4th the section moved forward to the first operational strip of the new zone—Schmalkalden—arriving on the 7th. Way

stops were made at Friedewald and Barchfeld. While at Barchfeld Major Schirmacher, while on a strip reconnaissance, was jumped by two Focke-Wulf 190s, but maneuvered himself and passenger (Lt. Epsaro) to safety. Neither of the enemy planes was shot down.

The 336th and 912th sections went under combat team control near Schmalkalden and, from their strip at Harges-Hallenberg, Lt. Holloway, and Sgt. Reinhardt took off on the 8th for a mission which was to have tragic consequences. Their ship was hit by 20-mm. flak and set afire. Front line doughboys reported one man parachuted into enemy territory while the flaming ship plunged to destruction. Later information was received that Lt. Holloway had parachuted and become a prisoner and that Sgt. Reinhardt had died in the charred wreckage. Lt. Holloway was subsequently released by the 90th Division and, because of major injuries, was evacuated to the States. Lt. Phillips was appointed Acting Air Officer of the 812th.



Last trip in the ETO

On the same strip at Harges-Hallenberg, Lt. Podell, with Lt. Fritz as passenger, crashed on landing—completely demolishing H but causing no injury to either occupant.

The Division entered the Thuringian Forest and the air sections reverted to Division Artillery control, moving to a field at Tambach on the 11th. The strip used here ran between the tents of the 312th Engineers. The section stayed that night in a partially destroyed hotel, moving forward the next morning. As the Division broke through wooded sector onto the plains again the section moved to Crawinkel. Here an L-5 was added to the section.

By now resistance was fast crumbling, and the section moved in rapid succession to Remda, Dornfeld, Schwarza, Rockendorf, Dreba and Pausa. Two new pilots joined along the way—Lt. Blatt at Remda and Lt. Bock at Pausa. The 334th and 912th sections, under combat team control at one stage, set up at Schwarza and found themselves under fire from enemy mortars. Sgt. Tubre and Lt. Fritz took off as rounds fell, brought fire on the likeliest looking observation post in the area and the fire ceased, after which some 34 Wehrmacht soldiers surrendered. It was during this period also, that the 336th section found a new use for liaison planes. Taking off from Zeulenroda, Lt. Podell, with Lt. Cala as observer, and Lt. Jackson with Lt. Leonard as observer, dropped messages on German towns, telling them to surrender or risk total destruction. Good results were obtained.

On April 18 the section arrived at the large airport at Plauen, there to remain until May 7. On reaching Plauen and vicinity the 87th Division troops were among the easternmost of the American Army and were anxious to continue for a meeting with the Russians, but tactical deployment of Allied forces necessitated that the division stand fast. The division changed allegiance from Third to First Army, and later to Ninth Army.

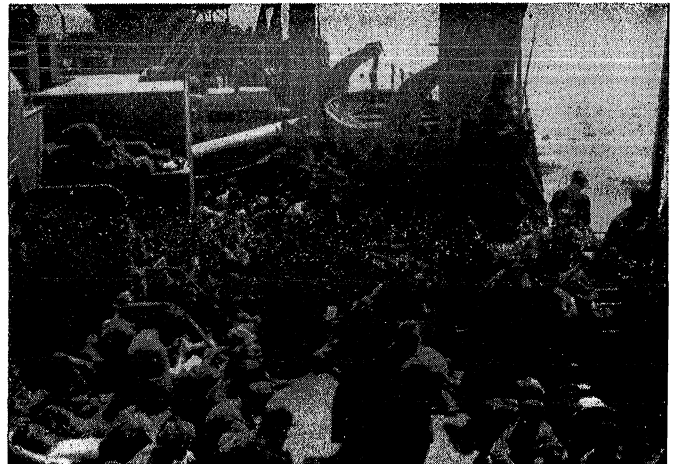
The Jerries had left several near-flyable planes at Plauen and the section was in the process of repairing one when it was wrecked. One of the ack-ack men climbed in the cabin and inadvertently started the engine. The plane went tearing around in circles, narrowly missing several onlookers, and finally ended up against the side of a hangar. No one was injured.

Patrol missions, mostly uneventful were flown from Plauen. Lt. Bock, on his first mission, took an Engineer Officer over the lines on a road reconnaissance and was the recipient of several rounds of 20-mm. flak. Although neither of the officers was injured the plane was badly damaged. Lt. Bock carefully nursed the ship down to safety a short distance from the front lines. Although the Jerries adjusted on the plane that night, they failed to hit it and no more damage was done.

It was here at Plauen that Lt. Epsaro took over the 912th Battalion air section, and Lt. Phillips was transferred to Division Artillery.

On the 6th attack orders came and the section moved to Siebenhitz, near Falkenstein. It was there, on the morning of the 7th, that news of the war's end came. Any attempt to record the emotions of the men would be futile. The section spent the next few days playing softball, bringing equipment up to par and just plain loafing. Observers were taken off detached service status to return to their battalions on the 11th. The enlisted non-T/O men were to rejoin their organizations shortly.

The section moved back to Saalfeld on the 16th, the



Homeward Bound

pilots establishing residence with the Division Artillery Staff in the Mauxion Hotel Roter Hirsch (Red Stag), while the ground crew set up in tents at the strip—about a mile out of town. The tents were equipped with electric lights, screens, and radios, while the hotel boasted hot water, clean sheets, bath tubs, electric lights, maid service, a bar (beer), and a dining hall complete with waiters and a Maitre d'Hotel.

The value of the air section's work is best indicated by the records. Of observed fire missions S-3 reports that 70 per cent were handled from the air. Further, important registrations were conducted on many occasions when ground observation was impossible. This was of inestimable value in giving accuracy to night H. and I. missions. So although everyone now sees things which could have been done better, each knows that the work of the section as a whole merits a "well done."