



” . . . and the most horrible of all, the feeling of final desperation, that we must stay here to die.”

PHASE VII – RIMLING

INTRODUCTION

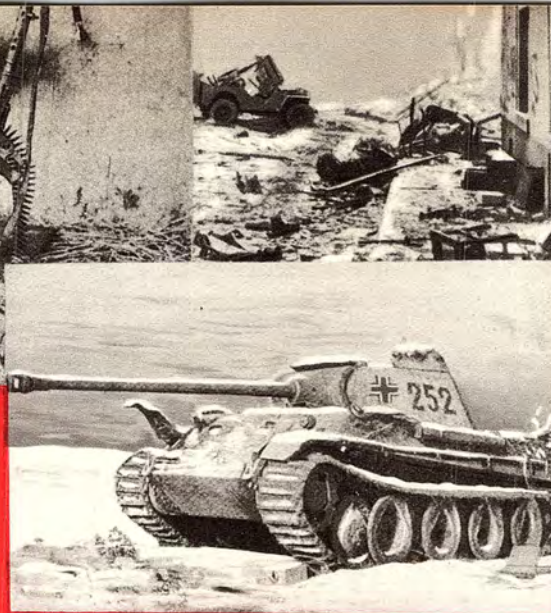
“The foe! They come! They come!”

They used everything they had and they had plenty. Their attacks were ceaseless, night and day, and with each offensive the frenzy grew. They had the strength of superior numbers and weapons and the weakness of a mad fanaticism that drove them headlong into our guns. Their casualties were high but they came on and on, beating at our open flank, chewing at the gaps, infiltrating, fighting with their air-force, tanks, artillery, mortars, nebelwerfers, flame throwers, potato mashers, rockets. Their job was to take Rimling; our job was to hold it, and though outnumbered we were never outclassed. Attack after attack was repulsed until, by the sheer weight of men and materiel, we were surrounded, trapped with no communication to the rear, without the chance for getting food, without ammunition supply, and the most horrible of all, the feeling of final desperation, that we must stay here to die. But before that happened we would make sure everything we did, counted; that the foe too would share and share alike our sorrow, and so instead of a frantic retreat there was a calm and deliberate defense. Everyone seemed to sense that now, more than ever before, we had to work together, create as much as we could, take over strange jobs — jeep drivers fired M-Is, riflemen fired BARS, BAR men handled machine guns, and when those ran out we fired German weapons. In all this apparent confusion there was a plan, a plan based on mutual support allowing a few helpless men to regroup and reform a torn defense spot while another equally helpless few engaged the main attack. Three men and a machine gun, wounded and shocked, repaired and reloaded, adjusted and relayed; a stark heroism that had to end in death, and did, but not until there were many German dead, abandoned tanks, and frustration of an attack that would otherwise have overrun the controlling elements of the total defense. Hill 375 was defended for days denying the enemy

the best terrain advantage he might have held. Soldiers, alone, absolutely without aid or contact, remained at their position fighting a greater force and nature and who can say which was worse. And the slow treacherous snake-like advance from house to house compelling you to become part of the wall, to sink into plaster and brick, to hide yourself in shadows and defeat the sun and what could possibly be there, another man who was certain that that would be the last corner. Then the building would suddenly disappear leaving you naked and alone, but you clung and pressed closer and edging nearer to the turn saw the other man crouching, more terrified than you and he was yours.

The defense, however gallant, could not be enough; the heroism, however magnificent, could not withstand the tremendous odds. Finally, we withdrew from our positions. Bearded infantryman, exhausted in the final battle, fell down and slept. Enemy infantry walked around the town and could be seen taking our measure and we not able to do anything about it. One TD against a host of tanks that fired directly at our positions, into windows and into our faces, broken wire lines, and more men and more men, a never ending procession of German infantry with new weapons and tons of ammunition. It was a nightmare and yet no dream. It was stark realism.





Front lines before counter-attack






Front lines before counter-attack



THE FOE!
They come! They come!

LEGEND

- 1st Battalion 
- 2nd Battalion 
- 3rd Battalion 

SCALE: 1/100,000

E. Barbieri

RIMLING

*F*or the second time in as many months we were hauled from one front and immediately committed to another. On such occasions we had to feel out the new enemy, arrange new positions and accustom ourself to different terrain. One thing only remained changeless, and that was the weather. The snow and rain and ice played important parts in our lives at the time. The bitter memory of numb and freezing extremities happily becomes more vague with the passage of time.

When we took our new positions on December 21st and 22nd, we were primarily occupied with consolidating and strengthening our lines and improving our fields of fire by making minor shifts. The defensive fires of the infantry with the cannons and field artillery were closely coordinated. The enemy threw in various calibres of artillery fire and smoke, and the character of this fire indicated that newly-committed artillery or artillery that had moved forward to new positions was doing the firing. Our observers noted at one time about 90 Krauts in camouflaged hats occupying prepared positions. We heard heavy mortars firing from Nussweiler.

There was an ominous silence on December 23. We extended our front by relieving elements of the 44th Infantry Division at 2000, as well as the front lines of the 12th Armored Division in the zone. This called for regrouping, as it now appeared that one of our battalions was defending a front which previously had been the province of an entire regiment. A comparatively large group of reinforcements joined us, filling in some vacant spots and bringing our regiment almost up to full strength again.

December 24th was still another day on which we changed positions somewhat. The First Battalion assumed a defensive position on the Regimental Reserve Line near Guising. The move was made during the hours of darkness, leaving the old positions at 1600 and closing in on the RRL at 2300. Two rifle companies of the Second Battalion were dug in on the Outpost Line and

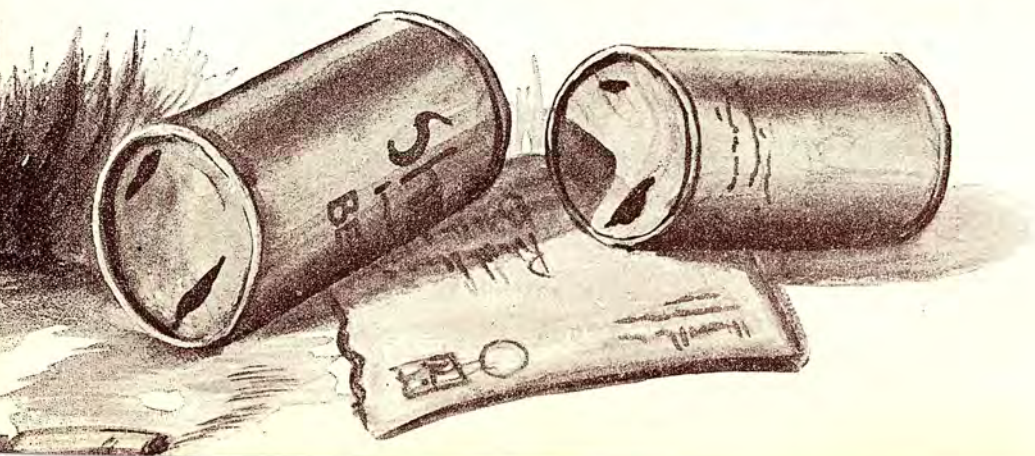
the other was in Guderkirch. The Third Battalion was relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry around Hottviller and assembled in Maierhoff. From there it went into Rimling and prepared defense positions. Company I moved from Petit Rederching to Bettviller by foot, and Company K made a road-march from Maierhoff to Rimling in the course of the morning. Antitank Company had two platoons in Rimling and one in Guising.

The first indication we had of things to come was on Christmas Day when the enemy attacked the Second Battalion OPL and forced a withdrawal to the MLR about 3½ miles behind Guising. Christmas dinner and all the fixin's had to be delayed as the kitchen jeeps followed along with the troops when we made our move. The more ambitious kitchens undertook to serve it up while we took a break on the march. Meanwhile the First Battalion moved into an assembly area in Guising, while the Third Battalion remained close by in Rimling and vicinity. We received a PX issue of beer and peanuts which brought us more cheer than our November pay.

The enemy overran the OPL so quickly that two jeeps had to be abandoned. The vehicles happened to be parked the wrong way for a quick take-off. The complete Christmas dinner of Company F and 25 of the new fleece-lined overcoats were our bitter holiday contribution to the enemy. The attack, while not of tremendous proportions and unsupported by artillery, was merely the evidence we needed that the enemy had aggressive ideas.

About 100 Jerries, again without support of the artillery and with automatic weapons and small arms, moved south through the woods to attack our Third Battalion on December 26th; but with the help of the 23rd Tank Battalion and artillery we repulsed this effort, dispersing the foe to Guiderkirch and Utweiler. There was also an attack made on the First Battalion in some sectors, accompanied with artillery which peppered the forward positions and caused some casualties. It was an odd situation, the way small groups of enemy made these attacks. We could only surmise that he was feeling us out, trying to determine our strength and disposition.

We remained comparatively static for the next two days, improving our positions and patrolling to gain some information as to the enemy's potential ability and purpose. Patrols managed to penetrate Guiderkirch and Urbach, but found them, as well as the surrounding





"We were hauled from one front . . ."



woods, free of Krauts. The Second Battalion was in Regimental Reserve in Rohrbach, Petit Rederching and Guising. The Third Battalion had its positions protected by 700 mines laid in front of it by Company A of the 325th Engineers. Company I moved from Bettviller to positions nearer Rimling.

This period of slight activity and watchful waiting was hard to endure. We knew that things were going pretty badly for us in Belgium, and some of us thought we might end up by going to Belgium ourselves to get into the fight. We were on a 24-hour alert, making us even more jumpy, and had been told that a severe enemy attack on our positions was in the cards. We would stand in the cold darkness, our rifles under our arms, and peer into the night in search of some indication that this night was it. Some of us may even have thought that it would be just like the bastards to pick New Year's Eve.

We provided a little excitement on our own account, December 30th, when a task force composed of a platoon of medium tanks and a platoon from Company C took off on a raid of enemy positions in the vicinity of the open and hilly terrain around Bettviller. We killed 12 and captured 19, thereby effectively destroying plans the enemy might have had for organizing and occupying defensive positions in that area. This achievement also enabled us to get vital information of present and future movements. The captured foe was the source of our enlightenment. We also grabbed an additional 5 prisoners from other sectors, bringing our grand total since combat up to 619. An especially ironic note in the day's activity, however, was the bombing of our Regimental CP by four American-marked P-47's, killing 6 and wounding 8.

A combat patrol of 12 men was sent into Erching that same night to knock out some known Kraut mortars. The patrol set out and strung its wire lines behind it as it progressed. When the hamlet was reached, the patrol established itself in two houses on opposite sides of its only

street and saw a half dozen enemy coming. The resultant firing attracted the attention of a combat patrol of 35 in the vicinity. Our patrol was trapped. Meanwhile, each little move was being described to a tense battalion headquarters over the phone. "There's one over there, . . . no, don't shoot yet . . . wait until he exposes himself more . . . OK, now — let him have it!" That went on all night, and headquarters noted every word. The



patrol held out against 3 to 1 odds, until morning, when relief was able to get through with twenty men who made short shrift of the enemy and captured 30 prisoners.

All movement was at a minimum and time dragged as we planned a little celebration to welcome in the New Year that night. That was about the extent of our activity. Somehow we found chickens and other edibles in our positions and those of us lucky enough to be in houses fried them. French fries stimulated many a cheerless meal. In a ceremony, the Division Commanding General presented several Silver Star Awards for gallantry in action around Mouterhouse and Raon L'Etape.

A few minutes after midnight, a machine gunner on guard in Company M on one of the hills outside of Rimling thought he noticed some movement to the front. "Another enemy

patrol", he muttered. There was bright moonlight, and the ground was covered with snow, and just a few minutes before, this man had been remarking to himself about the beauty and tranquillity of the scene spread before him. Looking close he saw that the movement was more than an enemy patrol — that in fact it was a large group of enemy. He noted that they were wearing the recently captured white parkas, probably for camouflage, but the moonlight caused black shadows to cut across the snow.

The next moment all hell broke loose! It was the expected attack! It may have been that we expected an attack, but never this. It was the most vicious and determined German assault with which we had ever been faced, and those first few minutes gave clear signs that Rimling was going to be a hot town, and that New Year's Eve, after all, was not to be so drab or dull. There were four or five companies operating against the Third Battalion in Rimling, and enough enemy forces against the rest of our Regiment to keep things humming for all the troops.

They had not used any artillery preparations in trying to get us by complete surprise. The lack of artillery and other heavy weapons for the initial attack was more than made up for during the remainder of the fight. We were faced by a foe who was determined to capture the key strategic city, come what may, and until we were ordered otherwise by higher headquarters we knew we would hold those positions. We were occupying a high ridge line running north and south along our left flank, and the flat ground which surrounded the vital terrain feature. In these positions we bore the brunt of a brutal push. Anchoring the left flank of the entire division, we had a double responsibility.

The first enemy attack succeeded in infiltrating about a company into the town itself, but by noon most of them had either been killed or captured, and we were ready for another stand. During that period, however, there were many things all happening at the same time. Many harrowing situations had arisen. Two men from Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, had also seen the original enemy forces approaching and had been firing their M-1's at the foe trying to infiltrate past their positions and ducking small arms. At one time there was a slight



pause, and with one man covering, the other left his hole to crawl out for a wounded Jerry. While he was out there, another enemy surrendered to the startled man, and for the remainder of the fight the foxhole was occupied jointly by two of our men and the two prisoners.

Throughout the entire operations, each enemy drive was made by numerically superior forces, with tanks, with self-propelled weapons, and limitless amounts of artillery and mortar barrages which eventually reduced the entire town to ruin, forcing us into the deep damp cellars. These cellars, which became the homes of us fortunate enough to be in the town and not on one of the hills or in the foxholes, were also peopled with civilians taking refuge from the deadly shells.

A new height in curiosity was attained by a doughboy when a huge dud landed next to his foxhole and he crept out to measure it. What he used is a mystery; but he reported that the girth of the dud was 8.6 inches. A box of K rations in a man's field jacket breast pocket saved his life, when a bullet failed to penetrate the biscuits.

The enemy seemed to come and come. The machine gunner in Company M had already accounted for a large number, but there were always new men to take the places of the fallen. That this attack was well-planned far in advance, became apparent. The strategy was not hard to detect, as large groups made suicidal frontal attacks, while others kept the flanks busy and tried all manner of infiltration tactics to destroy our supply lines and communication wires.

Continuing its efforts to break through our lines in the second day of the operation, the foe manifested an excellent morale or pure fanaticism in its fierce attack across the open ground and into small arms fire. There were repeated assaults of infantry armed with the conventional infantry weapons together with artillery, mortar, direct tank, automatic weapons and self-propelled gun fire. Hostile airmen, flying captured P-47's, bombed and strafed our positions again and again. With all this going on around us we were prisoners in our foxholes.

The Third Battalion Aid Station was in a real hot spot in a cold cellar. The men worked five days and nights without stopping for anything. The bombarded civilians kept them quite busy with the delivery of two babies christened "Halizone" and "Eighty-eight." These were babies number two and three brought into the world by this versatile crew, another one having come during the Bitche campaign.

The civilians were evacuated along with our own casualties by means of the trucks which

endeavored to bring chow to us at night via the "Skyline Drive", a bit of road along the ridge of a hill, under direct enemy observation because of the silhouette. Two of the medic jeeps were shot up — one right outside the station, inducing the pill-rollers to put the other inside a garage, where it, too, was hit. In the cellar with the aid men was a small group of shivering natives.

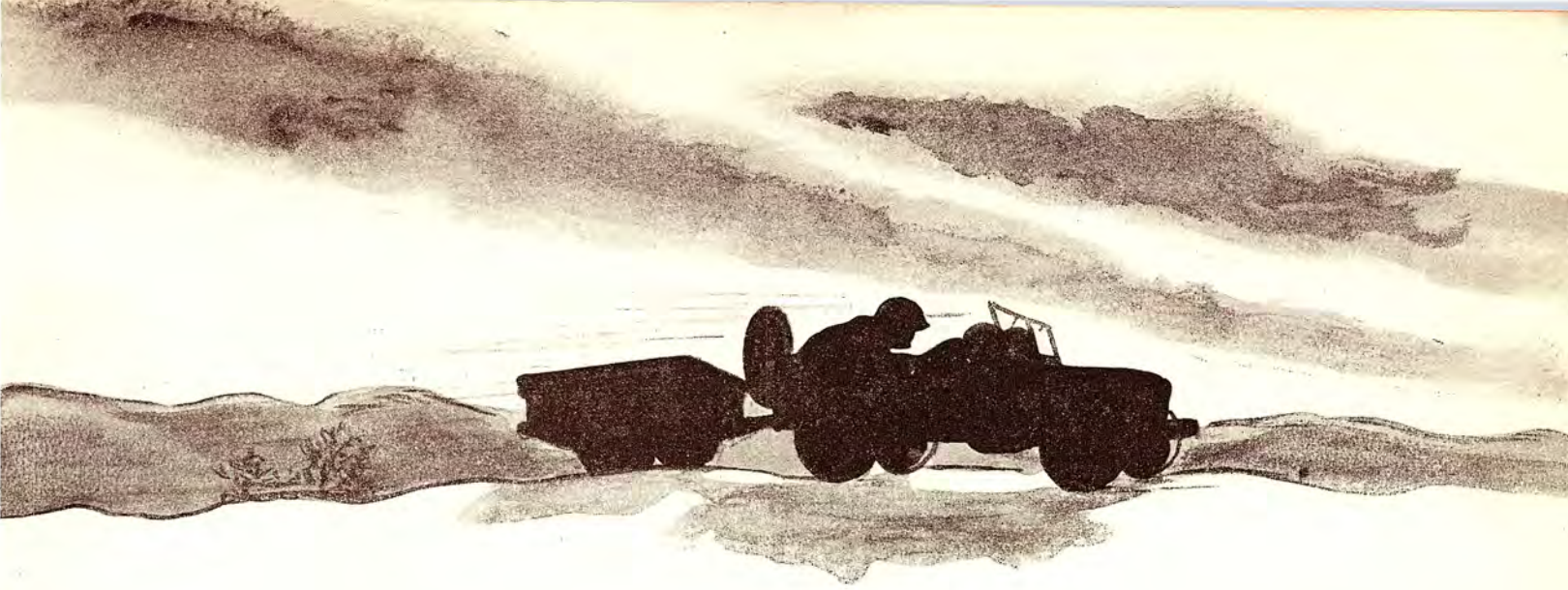
On the third day a small nine year old boy ran into the cellar and pantingly gestured for us to follow him. A short distance away was a house with one side completely blown in. The boy led the way to a frigid cellar. The child's father was dead. His mother bore many shrapnel wounds and his grandmother had a bleeding head. They were huddled in the center around a shrivelled old man who weighed about sixty pounds. He was the grandfather, apparently blind and shellshocked. The medic patched up the family while the old man sat trembling and asking what was going on. The living were evacuated that night.

Still another night one of the medics awoke a buddy and said "There's a Jerry upstairs!" He called out but there was no response. Five minutes passed-ten-fifteen. There was nothing to do as there was only one exit and the men had no weapons. The unmistakable sound of hob-nailed boots continued. Suddenly the roar of a motor and the screech of brakes were heard. The new arrivals called out. Good down-to-earth GI noise disclosed a search was being made for the aid station. Although no sign was found of the unknown intruder that night, early the next morning a Heinie sniper was discovered dead in the immediate vicinity.

Hill No. 375 was the key slope on the main approach to Rimling and one of the important targets for the enemy fire and movement. Hill 391, right opposite 375, was held by the Krauts. Tanks frequently took position there to fire directly at us. They used the combined fire-power of 10 to 15 armored vehicles to dislodge us in our defenses.

When the first surprise attack came some of us were cut off and some frozen into positions between our own troops and the enemy. Our leaders crawled about under this unrelenting fire to encourage and bring up ammunition and point out targets and fields of fire. Because of the wiremen being over-worked we oftimes had to repair our own communication wires, creeping under machine gun and shell fire until we found the breaks. Many remained in the holes, all but completely surrounded by the enemy.





The Regimental I & R Platoon, located in Bining, was utilized 24 hours a day. The counter-offensive resulted in numerous minor break-throughs causing gaps in our lines. These gaps were filled partially by the I & R Platoon until finally taken over by a company. While communications were at breaking-point, the platoon made contact between our own and adjacent units under the intense aerial and artillery action. They also maintained an air observation post throughout the entire period.

The openings in our lines caused a lot of trouble. They were there, and we knew it. On one occasion, there were two things needed to fill them — two tanks — and we had no communication to them. Someone had to contact those tanks. A second lieutenant and a sergeant volunteered to attempt the dangerous assignment. They knew the area was filled with Krauts: but they knew, too, the importance of contacting those tanks. They followed the broken wire line stealthily through the friendless woods, and headed toward Company I sector when there was a sudden hail of fire. The officer was killed but the sergeant hit the ground unhurt. After he had waited for what seemed like an eternity, he started out again, slowly inching his way along the snowy ground and holding to the piece of wire. It was morning before he got to his objective and remedied the situation.

We keep saying that maybe it wouldn't have been so bad if that division on our left hadn't pulled out so unexpectedly and left us holding the bag. None of us can deny that it would have been at least easier if we hadn't had to assume the sudden responsibility of an exposed flank. When they did withdraw, without a word to anyone, we found ourselves in a position that stuck out from the rest of the front line like a sore thumb, with the foe attacking from three sides and on occasion from behind.



Several attacks were directed by the foe at our left flank, trying to reinforce and widen the bulge which had been formed, but all of these we managed to throw back, routing the groups, forcing them to leave behind scores of dead and wounded. He massed his strength in the bulge during the night of 2—3 January, and in that way broke the weakened defense line of the division to our left, driving southward. Although we could only attempt to fill this tremendous gap partially, by throwing in the reserve battalion, we held our ground.

Company G received a counterattack at 0200 on January 3rd, with the enemy again displaying his partiality for night fighting. This too was driven off. They continued active throughout the early morning, however, until by 0500 the battle had reached such an intensity that two platoons were overrun. The men in these platoons fought their way back to their company and artillery fire was brought to bear on the Krauts forcing them to dig in and just hold. A lieutenant from Company G, determined to win back the position, led 32 riflemen and a platoon of tanks in an attack. There were about 100 Jerries on that hill at 1700 when the coordinated attack was launched. Although this maneuver was not entirely successful most of the enemy was driven from its positions and the way was paved for a stronger push the following day.

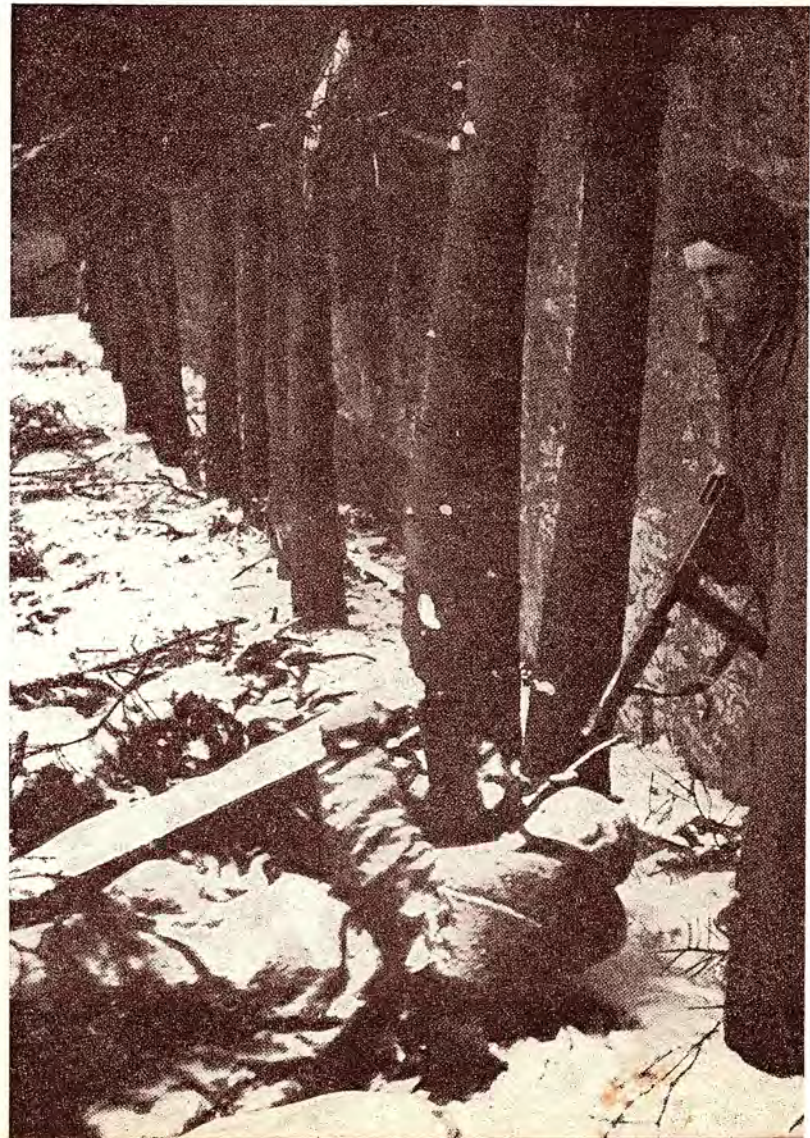
By the time night came a mortar barrage started falling in and it began to snow. The lieutenant expected that there would be a counterattack, and he readied his men for it. He set out to locate those who were occupying the hastily evacuated Heinie foxholes. Since there were scattered defenders left on the hill, he could not know when he went up to a foxhole whether

he'd find friend or foe. Through a stroke of good fortune all went well, and when the counterattack finally did come at dawn the next day, his men held.

We were almost surrounded and actually fighting on three sides. But we retained our positions, though thoroughly exposed to ceaseless fire and assaults, for the third successive day. The enemy pounded us with an unrelenting fierceness. The artillery we had with us proved of inestimable help, spotting attempted enemy attacks and blasting them, causing heavy losses of personnel and equipment. Two companies of Heinies had advanced directly into a normal barrage and were virtually annihilated. We felt pretty sure that the zealous foe had been doped in some way because of the foolhardiness he displayed by running toward us, yelling American obscenities and brandishing his weapon. Skillful fire direction brought the fire that halted columns, burned or demolished vehicles, raked the areas into which the personnel dispersed, and broke up attempts to reinforce the severely crushed units.

Everyone in Headquarters Company of the Third Battalion will remember the message center corporal who was intent on firing his bazooka. He had lugged it all through France and was at least a little bit trigger happy. It was in Rimling that he thought he saw his chance. A single Jerry had been spotted about thirty yards from the Battalion Command Post, running desperately from a building in an attempt to get out of the town. He was being observed by a group of our men when this corporal came crashing into the room, with a bazooka under his arm. "Now can I fire, huh?" It took a lot of convincing to assure him that an M-1 bullet would do the trick. It was just enough of a break in the tension to provide us all with a good laugh, and did much to lift our spirits.

For two days there was little action except for the enemy shelling to which we had become as accustomed as we had to the weather conditions. Jerry was getting reinforcements.





We were taking a breather, effecting inter-regimental relief in the most hazardous positions. Except for Company L, the Third Battalion was relieved by the Second Battalion on January 5th. Company F took over for Company K, but Company G was forced to remain in Guising because of mortar fire falling to the flanks and rear. Company H moved from a reserve position to the Main Line of Resistance. Observers from the remnants of a church steeple, in the now completely razed town, noted masses of tanks and infantry moving into the enemy territory directly to our front, preparing for yet another try. A threat of a break-through on this day made it necessary for Company A of the 325th Engineers Bn. to secure the high ground in the vicinity of Binning by digging emplacements, manning machine guns, taking rocket launcher positions and patrolling roads. Our entire Combat Team was on a constant alert throughout this nine-day period, ready to move in any direction if necessary. All the battalions had records and valuable papers packed and loaded in vehicles. The Regimental Command Post, located in the protective cellars of the French Garrison, was operating on bare essentials.

Our aid station found captured German aid men of much help, for when the enemy medic was captured by troops of the battalion, he was dispatched to augment the overworked staff. He was immediately put to work caring for the German wounded who were brought in. He seemed delighted to be in our hands. He hadn't eaten for three days and he looked as if he hadn't slept in as long a period. He was dirty, hungry, and tired, and just seeing him boosted our morale. He expressed amazement at seeing blood plasma and sulfa drugs so near the front. These precious medicants were reserved only for the hospitals way behind the lines in the German Army, he revealed.

We had been in our torrid positions for five, going on six days, with no relief in sight. The enemy counter-offensive in Belgium had reached the breaking point, and was almost stopped: however, it was obvious to us that we could not expect help from any other unit. This was our show and we were going to have to play all the parts.

Six Kraut snipers opened up on the building where one of our squads was located. With some knowledge of the German language, a buddy, located in a barn next to the sniper-infested house, interrupted his chow to sing out for the snipers to surrender. They didn't move. He fired

a burst from his sub-machine gun into the adjoining building through the doorway. Six meek and frightened Krauts came filing out one by one. This same soldier was carrying food the following morning for two squads, unable to leave their positions, when he saw two enemy soldiers in a doorway. He stopped and made still another try at the language by calling for them to give themselves up. To his amazement, they did.

At the beginning of the entire attack Company K was on Hill 375. It held the critical hill, preventing the enemy from getting the high ground overlooking the city. It can be said that they clung tenaciously, as did the entire Regiment, in the face of overwhelming odds and terrific enemy fire. Let it be said, above all, that they were a team, working together, winning together — typifying the entire Regiment, but on a smaller scale.

They were on the left flank of the division line, where they had been since December 24th, leading a very quiet existence. They felt secure as they did their dreaming on New Year's Eve. Then came 1945 and the Jerries, counterattacking in force. During that first night the men of the company repelled every fiercely attempted advance of the enemy. One sergeant observed and directed fire for the artillery when the artillery observers found it impossible to reach the position. It was a superb example of two outfits working together for the ultimate good of both. At dawn, by sheer overpowering numbers, the Jerries overran the first platoon, which had to fight its way to alternate positions prepared 700 yards to the rear. Later in the day, on its own initiative, the platoon counterattacked and reoccupied their positions.

On the second day the enemy had let up some, and the Commanding Officer was wounded by a direct hit on the Company Command Post. The job was taken over by an officer who had received his commission on the battlefield. Many of the exploits of the company after that were the culmination of a series of individual acts of heroism and valor that all added up to the composite gallantry of the company. The determined enemy here, too, tried everything in the book to take the position. From direct frontal attacks to the old standby of infiltration, they continued battering the company for five days. The infiltrations got so bad one night that special patrols had to be sent out — almost on suicide missions — to locate and silence the snipers. The





"Skyline Drive", ran from the kitchen in Guising to the hard-hit town of Rimling, dubbed so by those who used it because for too long a period of time any vehicle on it was clearly silhouetted against the sky.

They held until they were officially relieved of the positions. As a team, the company had retained the ball, and had carried it safely-no fumbles or passing. The best way to see the enemy of course was to see him piled up dead in front of our guns. A sergeant had his light machine gun section occupying a key position in this defense, and when the attack came on New Year's Eve

he waited until just the right moment before giving the order to fire. In the fire fight, when he saw one of his gunners crumble behind the gun, he dashed over and took the position. The next day this same sergeant grabbed a rocket launcher to knock one enemy machine gun out of action and shoot a rocket at a tree near a second emplacement. The splinters from the tree coupled with the shrapnel from the rocket silenced this second gun.

There was a final massing of enemy troops, weapons, and armored vehicles on the seventh day. We sent vigorous patrols behind the enemy lines to determine his strength and dispositions. It became obvious that this great large-scale assault would be the most determined of all. The foe kept its infiltration attempts at a high peak, especially at night, forming in the town such large forces at times that we felt the city was jointly occupied by both the Heinie and us. It was in combatting these that one of the men so distinguished himself that he was awarded posthumously

the highest honor our country can bestow, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During that day in Rohrbach the German patrol found out that we do not surrender so easily. One of our men had set up his machine gun in a barn pretty much off by itself from the rest of the town, and was firing through a hole in the side of the building. He had, besides his machine gun, several riflemen as security. The Kraut had slipped in all through the town, and one of the patrols stopped outside the barn in which our men sat. Then a



voice in perfect English demanded that they lay down their arms and come out of the barn with their hands up . But we had different ideas. The machine gunner, a Pfc., stepped aside, picked up his carbine, and waited. A moment later the leader of the Heinie patrol started to enter through the half-opened door. The Pfc. squeezed the trigger and the enemy fell. Capitalizing on the surprise and alarm he had created by this fast move, the machine gunner let several other shots fly and the rest of the patrol was driven away.

The support we got all this time from the artillery and our own cannons helped materially to keep the enemy at bay and boosted our morale high. The forward observers lived with us and took our risks. During the action they holed up on the church steeple in the town, a choice and only place for observation. Naturally, the enemy made it a particular point to concentrate a lot of fire on the spot but that was no deterrent to our men.

The Cannon Company observer attached to the Second Battalion, awarded a Distinguished Service cross for his achievements, held his important spot throughout almost the entire action. When his Commanding Officer radioed in to him that the guns were running out of ammunition, this Corporal continued on by firing our Regimental Artillery. His only interest was directed at causing the enemy the greatest possible harm. When the house he was living in became surrounded by infiltrating Jerries one night, he refused to surrender himself and eleven other men in the building. When three enemy "potato mashers" were thrown toward the house, one landing right in the hall-way, the men with him decided it would be safer downstairs, but the observer was determined to defend from the top floor. He made a one-man stand with his carbine alone and killed two of the enemy, driving the others away.

At 0300 on January 8, 1945, the enemy laid down an artillery and rocket concentration of tremendous proportions on Rimling, Hill 375, and the entire vicinity. Exactly one hour later the attack came — an estimated 200 infantry supported by 10 to 14 tanks in the first wave, with self-propelled guns, and engineers with flame thro-





wers. This grand drive was in two prongs, one east from Moronville Farms, overrunning positions of Company E with its mass, and the other across the high ground west of Rimling, overrunning positions of Company F. The ferocious foe charged on a run, firing its weapons and shouting madly.

We sensed at once that this was it; that this was the final big push and that all possible enemy strength and weapons would eventually be used. We were combat-worn and tired, cold and hungry, but we stood our ground even when the entire west end of town was taken, Hill 375 fell, and virtually a complete encirclement of our positions made. Bitter and bloody fighting continued until daylight. By continual probing, the enemy knew the weakness of our thinly-held left flank and attacked again, this time with strong tank support and in an easterly direction, just south of the town. It got to the point where the observers, adjusting artillery and cannon fire, were directing fire of their weapons between

themselves and the guns. They continued to hold to their positions and finally the enemy was sent reeling back once more.

By dawn the foe had worn out his terrific efforts and fell back to re-group. There were surprisingly few casualties among our forces when compared with our adversary's unbelievable losses. Although the enemy had fallen back, actual pressure on us was not lessened throughout the entire day, and not even a brief respite was allotted us. Jerry had cut the Rimling-Guising Road, occupied Hill 370 south of the city, and taken the west portion of the city.

After one of the worst days of the siege, and another night of constant bombardment, we faced the last all-out effort on the 9th of January. The best-trained SS troops, especially-schooled assault battalions and huge quantities of supporting weapons were used for this great drive. With an amazing display of stamina we stopped even this tremendous drive, but all knew that we could never stop another. It would have been a physical impossibility. We were dazed and shocked and weary.

Plans were made for a withdrawal that night. So successful was the plan and the laying down

of a terrific artillery protective curtain of fire around the town that our entire Combat Team was able to leave without further losses. Prepared positions were taken north of Guising. With the lines consolidated and the main threat reduced, we settled down to routine missions and began a gradual recuperation from our heroic efforts of the past nine days.

The defense of Rimling, more than any other engagement in which we were involved, was a tribute to our courage and tenacity. If we hadn't been so dogged it never could have happened that way. The complete coordination of every man in holding his position in the face of intense small arms, mortar, artillery, rocket, and direct fire from tanks, as well as enemy infiltration through and behind the lines, marked our successful action.

During the initial stage of the engagement, and where the terrain east of the Bettviller-Rimling road was favorable, the tanks attached to us were effectively utilized to drive the Krauts from the wooded area to the right front. However, subsequent adjustments of the right flank, and the unfavorable terrain west of the Bettviller-Rimling road made it inadvisable to employ tanks in a mass. Under these conditions, we used them as mobile pillboxes for counterattack purposes. On numerous occasions groups of tanks were used to good purpose by moving them from a defiladed position to the front lines and thus dispersing enemy forces which were about to attack or which had infiltrated close to the front lines.

Maintaining communications with the rear and the entire network from Regiment to battalion to company to platoon and outposts, to artillery and other adjacent units, was manifestly of the utmost importance. We all knew how awful it was to be marooned on an outpost or even as a platoon from the rest of the company and to have no way of telling any friendly units of the situation. We knew the hell of seeing a large group of Jerries and being unable to get word to the artillery for fire. We knew that those thin wire lines could mean the difference between life and death, victory or defeat.

The main thing that the Rimling defense taught was that when we were in a defensive position, the enemy couldn't blast us off except at a tremendous cost in personnel and materiel. That was the memory that clung most vividly as we fought our way the rest of the distance to Germany and then all the way down to Stuttgart. Whenever we attacked, we felt ourselves in the place of the enemy and knew what his reactions were. What was the first thing he would do? We knew the gripping in our stomach when we ourselves were approached by a deadly enemy

with determination and fanaticism. But most of all, if we ever had doubted it, we knew that we were far superior to these "supermen" and each of the actions in which we engaged thereafter this fact was brought home more realistically.

After the last shell was fired and after the last attempt was made by Company F to re-take its overrun CP, we withdrew, thus terminating the "Rimling Operation." Our new positions were 1,500 meters to the south. Other than suffering intermittent light shelling, we spent January 10th without much by way of action. Some awarded themselves the luxury of a few breaths of clear air while most just slept around the clock. It was all over and we felt as if a great load had been lifted from us. The enemy was regrouping and consolidating his gains, and we had the grim satisfaction of knowing that there were a lot of Krauts around Rimling who would never fight anymore.

The First Battalion line companies pressed through Bettviller. Direct enemy sniper fire caused light casualties. Company H reorganized and picked up stragglers who had escaped from Rimling. It enjoyed billets in Rohrbach. That last day the company virtually experienced hand to hand fighting with the foe, as large hostile groups approached to within 150 yards of the mortars. Mortarmen were firing their 81's at as small an angle as was possible, but the enemy still came on. It was then that the men, armed only with carbines and pistols, engaged in gun duels with singular success, killing and capturing large numbers. The Regimental total for prisoners taken now came to 773. 152 of these had been captured in the past few days, whereas the total enemy casualties was estimated at close to 100 men, an average of 62 % casualties inflicted on all enemy units. These facts were culled from captured documents and PW reports. Our casualties, including killed, wounded and missing, did not exceed 350.

The Third Battalion had taken over positions held by the 398th. Company K went from Bining to Etting, as did Company L. Company M held positions near that town in Regimental reserve. Company G was on the outskirts of Guising.

For the rest of the month nothing of special moment happened except that on 25 January Lt. Colonel Gordon Singles assumed command of the Regiment coming to us from the famous 100th Jap-American Infantry Battalion. Patrolling and artillery marked the extent of the action. Inclement weather prevented us from indulging in large-scale operations. Warmer weather, coupled with rain, played havoc with icy roads, threatening to wash away the more fragile

structures that were around us, and we had to constantly guard against flooded bridges and low roads. The I & R platoon and the battalions, during this static period, dispatched a number of reconnaissance patrols into enemy lines. Rear area security patrols were maintained and many routes in the area were reconnoitered, looking to future operations.

We saw a movie, the first in a long time, except for those of us who had been fortunate enough to get to the Regimental or Division Rest. We caught up on our correspondence. Training schedules made their appearance and also an ingenious system of rotating units to the rear areas. We worked on improving, securing and consolidating our positions to such an extent that many of us had developed minor under-earth homes, with stoves to cook on, lights, and all the comforts that could possibly have been expected under such conditions. Outposts were kept and we had certain listening stations every night. A lot of new men came in as reinforcements and it was primarily for them that the training was conducted. Such chores as familiarization with weapons and test firing were conducted for their exclusive benefit. By having us join in, better teamwork was thereby effected.

On January 18th the First Battalion was alerted for a move. The Second Battalion had become attached to the 398th, and remained in its positions there. Company I was alerted and marched from Aachen to Holbach, relieving the Third Battalion of the 255th Infantry. Company L, with two platoons of Company M, took up new positions in the vicinity of Hottviller. Company K, meanwhile, had been selected to go to the rear area and guard the XV Corps Headquarters. We completed relief of the 255th on January 19th. The First Battalion went from Etting to Hoelling, with its forward CP in Kleinmuehl and the rear CP in Petit Rederching. The rifle companies were in Neumuhl, Kappellenhoff and Urbach. Our Second Battalion was released from the 398th and moved from Rohrbach to Petit Rederching and Frohmuhle, but the largest part of the Battalion was billeted in the picturesque town of Holbach, with units manning pillboxes and road blocks right in the town. This Battalion was firmly imbedded in a line of the Maginot Forts.

During this period of quiet, American women, Red Cross Girls, brought us coffee and doughnuts and generally helped take our minds off the more sordid duty at hand. These travelling morale lifters made the rounds of the battalions and special units. The end of the month brought little change in the situation. There was increased enemy artillery and mortar fire, but it seemed to be, for the most part, unobserved. A little excitement came on January 29th, when, at

noon, three aircraft, later identified as an ME 109, a P-47 and a P-51, strafed the Regimental Command Post in Guisberg while the men were returning from chow.

In February we settled down in defensive positions of more than temporary duration and, accordingly, improved them so as to present a formidable line of defense, thus keeping us in a constant state of planning. The supposed best was wrested from every terrain feature and positions were prepared after much juggling and careful zoning. With increasingly warmer weather and the advent of thaws, soundings made by one of the companies revealed that the mud was no less than six inches thick in places. We were able to take more showers and were issued more frequent changes of clothing which the shower unit carried at all times. The term, "shower room promotion," came into being as Pfc.'s would be issued shirts with sergeant's stripes, and by that same token there was the term, "shower room break."

In garrison we had employed the trite but meaningful motto "The difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a little longer." Under the influence of combat conditions, that had been altered to read, "The impossible we do at once, miracles take a little longer." And so it had been. We began taking several German deserters each day, as the enemy situation on other fronts became increasingly untenable. There was one spot where we could pick up a deserter or two each night. March rolled around and twelve days of it passed before things began happening again. Our reprieve from violence was at an end.





By direction of the President.

HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 447, U.S. Army

27 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 183)

BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT

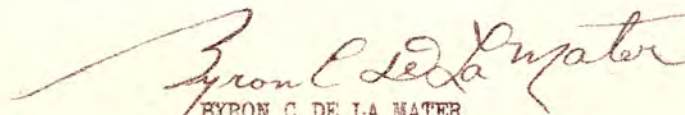
By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 533, War Department, 1943, and with the approval of the Army Commander, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

The 3D BATTALION, 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding and exceptional accomplishment in combat during the period 1 January 1945 to 5 January 1945 in the Bitché sector, near Rimling, France. The 100th Division was assigned the mission of defending against an expected enemy attack in force, which had as its objective the capture of Saverne Pass, a vital terrain feature in the Seventh Army front. The 3d Battalion, 397th Infantry Regiment, occupied a defensive position on the left flank of the Division. Suddenly, at midnight on New Year's Eve, the enemy (17th SS Pz Gren Div) launched a heavy and fanatical attack, the main effort of which encompassed the 3d Battalion and units on its left. The unit on the left of the 3d Battalion was driven back during the course of the day some five thousand (5,000) yards. Because of the width of the front, reserves were not available to fill the gap. A platoon of the left company was overrun by the enemy Tank-Infantry assault, and the enemy infiltrated in force into Rimling, behind the lines of the battalion. Notwithstanding the exposed and tactically disadvantageous position in which the battalion found itself, it succeeded in restoring its lines, capturing or killing all of the infiltrating enemy. For five (5) days the battalion, in this exposed position, was subjected to repeated attacks from the front, flank and rear, by enemy tanks and infantry, accompanied by mortar and artillery fire. Repeated attacks by troops of this Division and the Division on the left to reestablish the line and make contact with the left flank of the 3d Battalion failed. The 3d Battalion, nearly surrounded, still held on, despite heavy losses and a disadvantageous tactical situation, which warranted withdrawal. However, in doing so, it inflicted such heavy losses upon the enemy and impressed upon him so successfully the will of our troops to hold on, that further offensive action on this part of the front by the enemy was discontinued. The action of this battalion, therefore, played a decisive role in thwarting the enemy from attaining his vital objective of Saverne Pass and enabled the Division to hold its position without a serious change in dispositions. The extraordinary heroism and determination, esprit-de-corps and effective fighting displayed by this unit in successfully accomplishing this unusual and rugged task was an inspiration to other troops in the sector, and reflected the greatest credit upon the armed forces of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MURPHY:

J. O. KILGORE
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:



BYRON C DE LA MATER
Lt Col AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION

"A" & "BB"

Copy of the award of the Distinguished Unit Citation to the 3d Battalion for action at Rimling.

Copy of the award of the Distinguished Unit Citation
to H Company for action at Rimling, France.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 447, U.S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 155)

9 June 1945

BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT

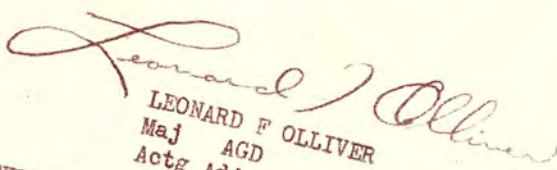
By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, War Department, 1943, and with the approval of the Army Commander, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

COMPANY H, 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat on 8 January 1945 and 9 January 1945, in the vicinity of Rimling, France. Under the pressure of a savagely-prosecuted attack by numerically-superior hostile forces which forced back adjacent elements, Company H staunchly held its ground, threw back assault after assault and by its gallant and unyielding defense prevented the encirclement of the battalion and by its initial hostile attack in the night by infantry mounted on tanks was dispersed by the deadly fire of the company's heavy machine guns and mortars, and subsequent daylight tank-infantry attacks were also repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. Attempts at infiltration killed or soldiers wearing American parkas were thwarted by the opposing riflemen by hostile forces to withdraw. Sixty-three prisoners were captured by the company and an estimated four hundred casualties inflicted upon the attackers in the heroic action in which every member of the organization reflected great credit upon himself, his company and the Army of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MURPHY:

OFFICIAL:

JOHN O KILGORE
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff


LEONARD F OLLIVER
Maj AGD
Actg Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION
"A" & "BB"

Headquarters 100th Infantry Division

General Orders No. 54

26 February 1945

"By direction of the President, and under the provisions of Section 1, Circular Number 345, War Department, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to the Service Company, 397th Infantry Regiment, for superior performance of duty and the achievement of a high standard of discipline during the period from 1 November to 25 January 1945."

CENTURY DIVISION

Commendation

Headquarters



One-Hundredth Infantry Division

For outstanding and especially meritorious service, this certificate of commendation is awarded to:

Third Platoon, C Company, 397th Infantry Regiment.

Citation:

On 30 December 1944, this platoon, with the assistance of friendly tanks, executed a daring raid upon an enemy position. Though it was necessary in many cases to literally dig the enemy out of his foxhole, not a single casualty was suffered, and the platoon succeeded in capturing nineteen prisoners and killing twelve of the enemy force.

C. A. [Signature]
Commanding

Commendation of a platoon of C Company by the Commanding General.

*“For conspicuous gallantry and
intrepidity in action.”*

T/SGT. CHARLES F. CAREY JR.

Awarded CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR (posthumously) for action on 8 and 9 January 1945, in the vicinity of Rimling, France. When an enemy tank-infantry attack in strength penetrated our defenses in the town of Rimling, Sergeant Carey upon his own initiative assembled and led a patrol with the objective of clearing and holding off the enemy from the town. While covered by fire from his companions, he advanced upon a building known to be occupied by hostile troops, killed two snipers by rifle fire as he moved forward, hurled a grenade into the structure and then entered to emerge a few moments later with sixteen prisoners. He subsequently directed his patrol's assault upon adjacent buildings which were likewise held by the enemy, and as a result forty-one additional prisoners were captured. On the afternoon of the same day, Sergeant Carey advanced under the covering fire of his comrades to within a few yards of a hostile tank, immobilized it with rocket fire and, seizing a rifle, killed three and wounded another of the enemy as the four-man crew attempted to escape from the burning vehicle. On the following day, when he learned that four members of his platoon had escaped to the attic of a building, and their position encircled by the enemy, Sergeant Carey advanced alone to the vicinity and by manipulating a ladder against the side of the structure enabled his men to escape. Later in the day, while attempting to rescue other members of his platoon, he was hit by enemy sniper fire. The intrepid leadership, indomitable courage, and fearless aggressiveness displayed by Sergeant Carey in the face of overwhelming enemy forces, serve as an inspiration to his comrades and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. Next of kin Mrs. Eva Carey, (wife). 1622 O'Neil Ave, Cheyenne, Wyoming.





“For extraordinary heroism in action...”

PFC. ROBERT L. GORELL

(Posthumous)

and

PFC. ELLIS J. HALL



Awarded Distinguished Service Cross for deeds on 8 January 1945 in Rimling, France.

Pfc. Gorell, a bugler, and Pfc. Hall, a driver, were manning a machine gun guarding the command posts within the town when a savagely-prosecuted enemy attack overran our positions to the north and west and hostile tank-infantry forces entered the town itself. An armored vehicle bearing enemy riflemen approached their emplacement and they opened fire, forcing the infantrymen to seek cover and halting the progress of the tank. An enemy grenade which buried their weapon under debris and killed a third comrade, enabled the hostile vehicle to pass the position, but these two men courageously refused to withdraw and reestablished their gun to engage a second infantry-bearing tank. This time their accurate fire not only drove rifle troops to cover but also forced the tank to turn back. Another grenade struck their position, bringing a heavy door down upon the two gunners, but they again put their weapon back into operation and with accurate fire eventually forced the remaining tank to withdraw. Hostile infantry remained active, and a rocket burst killed Pfc. Gorell instantly, but the opposing troops, discouraged by the fanatical and unyielding resistance which they had encountered, eventually withdrew. By the heroism and unflinching courage displayed by these men in the face of almost certain death or capture, twenty of the enemy were killed, three wounded, and our forces held the town.

Next of kin: Anthony Gorell (Father) Chemeketo Park, Alma, California. Pfc. Hall entered military service from Granite Falls, North Carolina.



“For extraordinary heroism in action...”

2ND LT. ROBERT W. SENSER

*Awarded Distinguished Service Cross for deeds on 1 January 1945 to 8 January 1945
in Rimling, France.*

While acting as a forward observer during the defense of Rimling, France, 2nd Lt. Senser (then Cpl.) manned his observation post under intense direct shelling from the enemy and, when his own company's ammunition was expended, directed the fire of regimental artillery. When an enemy force attacked with grenades and automatic weapons, Lt. Senser refused to surrender himself and eleven other men in a building, and while others sought refuge in the basement from anti-personnel grenades, he maintained a guard above the stairs and by accurate fire from his carbine killed two of the enemy, one of whom was firing into the building with an automatic weapon. On the following morning he again manned his observation post despite incessant sniper and artillery fire, and registered a battery of friendly artillery upon a group of hostile tanks, destroying one and disabling another of the armored vehicles. He then refused relief because the approach to his position was too hazardous an undertaking, and remained at his post until the battalion withdrew. Entered military service from Mount Ranier, Maryland.



Silver Star Medal

for Gallantry in action

AWARDED



Pfc. RALPH D. BAKER, on 25 December 1944, was a member of a light machine gun section attached to a rifle company, taking a position sacrificing cover and concealment for a good field of fire. When the enemy advanced, he held his fire with perfect timing, ultimately causing many casualties and allowing the rifle company to withdraw.

Pvt. JOHN L. BEEBE, on 12 March 1945, while a member of a night patrol, crawled forward into enemy territory to knock out a machine gun emplacement. He got close enough to throw in two hand grenades killing the gunner and wounding three others. While advancing forward to determine if there were more enemy he set off a mine and was fatally wounded.

Cpl. MARLAND E. BENNER, on 9 January 1945, during an enemy counterattack, remained upright in an exposed position in full view of the enemy and adjusted mortar fire upon the enemy so effectively that the opposing troops were unable to put any of their three light machine guns into action.

Pfc. DOCK B. BENNETT, on 6 January 1945, a driver, started out to relieve a platoon which was cut off from the company and in dire need of ammunition and supplies. Noting a five-man enemy patrol he took position behind his mounted machine gun, wounded two of the enemy and captured the others.

Pvt. TOM H. BLOCK, on 5 January 1945, upon hearing calls for medical attention, ran approximately two hundred yards across a ridge from his own position to the vicinity of the wounded men. He administered aid to several in full view of the enemy, continuing such aid until he was seriously wounded by sniper fire.

- Pfc. CALVIN D. BROWN, on 17 December 1944, while serving as scout in a reconnaissance patrol, advanced deep into enemy territory. When intense sniper and rifle fire forced the patrol to withdraw, he courageously covered the retirement of his comrades, engaging the enemy so effectively that the patrol reached safety without a casualty. When attempting to withdraw, he was killed by a hostile sniper.*
- T/Sgt. DONALD L. BUTCHER, on 1 January 1945, although painfully wounded, crawled from one member of the platoon to another controlling and coordinating their fire thus forcing an attacking enemy group to withdraw. He continued for three days and nights, despite infiltration tactics, direct tank fire, intense artillery and mortar shelling, to successfully resist all attempts to overrun our positions.*
- Pfc. TROY R. CARROLL, on 30 December 1944, when the combat patrol of which he was a member was engaged by a hostile force four times its strength, voluntarily advanced to a forward position and by his accurate delivery of covering fire afforded his comrades an opportunity to reorganize. Although seriously wounded he maintained his position until the enemy was routed.*
- 1st Lt. DOMINIC S. CUCCINELLO, on 1 March 1945, although seriously wounded while leading a combat patrol on a night mission, refused to permit his comrades to approach him because of the presence of additional mines and succeeded in inching his way back to the remainder of the patrol. He continued to direct operations until the mission was successfully completed before allowing himself to be carried back to friendly lines.*
- 1st Sgt. LEO N. DUPRE, on 9 January 1945, when the command post was encircled by the enemy, armed only with a carbine, held off the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties upon the attackers. When forced to retire to the cellar where other personnel had taken refuge, he maintained a position on the stairs and delayed the enemy until his comrades could escape by a rear exit.*
- S/Sgt. EDMUND S. FLESZAR, on 9 January 1945, adjusted his mortar and single-handedly fed and fired the weapon with such accuracy at range of 150 yards as to kill and wound 30 enemy, part of a force of over 60 which attempted a surprise attack. He continued firing, despite three machine guns trained on his position, until the rest of the enemy was killed or captured.*
- Sgt. DONALD J. GEBHARDT, on 2 January 1945, when the first and second gunners of his squad were wounded, left the position from which he had been directing fire and removed the less seriously wounded men to the rear. Returning with an aid man he manned the machine gun from an exposed position. As he was delivering fire he was himself wounded, but his courageous action prevented capture of our emplacement.*
- Pfc. ALBERT W. GERLACH, on 25 December 1944, was a member of a light machine gun section attached to a rifle company. When the enemy advanced, he held his fire with perfect timing, ultimately causing many casualties and allowing the rifle company to withdraw. Two more times this strategic delaying movement was made, saving many lives of the withdrawing company and inflicting many casualties on the enemy.*
- Pvt. DELBERT C. HALEY, on 15 March 1945, during an attack on enemy positions when two men in his platoon were wounded by enemy snipers and his comrades immobilized from the intense hostile sniper and mortar fire, made his way to one casualty, swiftly and calmly administered first aid and turned to go to the remaining casualty when he himself was severely wounded. He succumbed to his wounds shortly thereafter on the field, but by his heroic action he had saved the life of another.*
- Pfc. CARL B. HARRINGTON, on 3 January 1945, remained behind as an aid man when his platoon was forced to withdraw due to an enemy counterattack. Moving from one man to another, he administered first aid and moved his comrades to sheltered positions. He was himself mortally wounded.*
- S/Sgt. CLAY R. HAYS, on 1 January 1945, during a hostile attack in strength, directed mortar fire upon enemy forces from an observation post within the town itself. He remained at this post for four days despite heavy attacks of all types. By his courageous conduct he contributed greatly to the defense of Rimling.*

- Pfc. DONALD L. HILDENBRAND, on 8 January 1945, when all wire connections were severed during an enemy attack, volunteered to infiltrate to the company's CP. for orders. He was captured by the enemy while on this mission but was later returned to military control by friendly troops.
- Lt. Col. JOHN M. KING, on 15 March 1945, with the leading elements, constantly searched for routes to circumvent the numerous shu-mine fields which were causing heavy casualties. He led his battalion in a brilliant advance which overran rocket guns and captured many rocket gun personnel. He gallantly walked up and down the front line while sniper firing was going on thus inspiring the officers and men under his command.
- 2nd Lt. S. E. LAND, on 9 January 1945, volunteered to lead an eight-man patrol to cut off the enemy route of withdrawal. He so skillfully and aggressively directed the action of his men that, although armed only with carbines and pistols, they killed and wounded many of the hostile force and took prisoner its commanding officer and twenty-one enlisted men.
- Pfc. ROBERT D. MATEER, on 2 January 1945, was manning a light machine gun when a number of the enemy converged on a flank of his section neutralizing one friendly machine gun. He picked up his weapon, ran through intense hostile fire to the weakened flank and directed a steady, devastating stream of bullets into the German ranks with such effect that the attack temporarily paused. When attacked again, he destroyed his weapon and led his men to safety.
- T/Sgt. ALPHONSO J. MYERS, from 1 to 5 January 1945, directed the fire of his heavy machine gun crew against attacking troops with great effectiveness, inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. He himself located and repaired breaks in the communication lines. Despite almost constant attempts at infiltration and direct tank fire, he not only refused to withdraw but utilized his advantageous position to direct punishing artillery fire on the enemy.
- Pfc. WILLIAM J. OSTROWSKI, on 25 December 1944, was a member of a light machine gun section attached to a rifle company, taking a position sacrificing cover and concealment for a good field of fire. When the enemy advanced, he held his fire until he could inflict maximum casualties and allow the rifle company to withdraw. Many lives in the withdrawing company were saved and many casualties were incurred by the enemy.
- T/Sgt. JOHN S. OTRUBA, on 8 January 1945, when an enemy tank and infantry force attacked our positions, stepped to the open doorway of the CP. and in full view of the enemy aimed and fired a rocket shell at the approaching armored vehicle. While reloading his weapon in preparation to fire a second round, he was seriously wounded by hostile machine gun fire.
- 2nd Lt. PETER P. PETRACCO, on 9 January 1945, by his inspiring example and inflexible strength of will, when his platoon found itself attacked by tanks on flank and rear and lacking communication with the company CP., not only preserved his platoon at great personal risk but also prevented encirclement of the battalion by attacking forces.
- Pfc. JOHN M. QUALLS, on 1 January 1945, during a hostile attack transmitted vital mortar fire direction from an advanced observation post within the town itself. Despite intense mortar, rocket artillery shelling and direct fire from 88mm guns attempting to destroy his vantage point, he remained at his post for four days and nights, contributing greatly to the defense.
- Pfc. ROBERT J. ROBERTSON, on 25 December 1944, was a member of a light machine gun section attached to a rifle company, which was in position where cover and concealment were sacrificed for a good field of fire. He held his fire until the enemy was in full view. Twice more this strategic delaying movement was made, saving many lives in the withdrawing company and inflicting many casualties on the enemy.
- 2nd Lt. FRANK J. ROSSE, on 5 January 1945, and his platoon were hemmed in by the enemy after relieving another unit. Pinned down for two days he controlled his men and sent back fire missions for our artillery. On the third day, while leading a masterful withdrawal in the face of a heavy attack, he was seriously wounded.

- Tec. 4 THEODORE R. RYLEY, on 8 January 1945, ferreted out a large number of concealed enemy located in a building and took them prisoner, and in so doing liberated a group of five American soldiers who had been imprisoned in the building.*
- Sgt. WADE P. SANDERS, on 25 December 1944, was member of a light machine gun section attached to a rifle company, and took a position sacrificing cover and concealment for a good field of fire. By strategic delaying movement he saved many lives in the withdrawing company and inflicted many casualties on the enemy.*
- 2nd Lt. JOSEPH SHOVLOWSKY, on 29 and 30 December 1944, led a patrol into a town which was attacked by about 50 of the enemy. He skillfully directed mortar fire by phone to within 24 yards of the building where he was located and succeeded in repelling the attack.*
- S/Sgt. LORIN C. SPEAKER, on 23 February 1945, after directing his squad through a mine field in a raid upon positions in which two machine guns were destroyed, two enemy killed and two captured, was returning with a wounded comrade and two prisoners when he was halted by two hostile infantrymen. He killed one and was struck in the shoulder by answering fire, after which he killed the second.*
- Sgt. JULIUS THEODORE, on 15 March 1945, was attached as an aid man when a mortar platoon entered a mine field and incurred numerous casualties. Sgt. Theodore entered the mined area and worked tirelessly to administer first aid to each of the injured men. While so engaged, he detonated a mine and the explosion resulted in his own death.*
- Sgt. ENNIS E. THOMAS, on 1 January 1945, directed the fire of a machine gun section during an enemy counterattack and killed thirty-five Germans. All through the next day three enemy machine guns directed fire against his position and Sgt. Thomas, grabbing a rocket launcher, destroyed two of them with accurate fire, and then knocked out the third with effective fire from his own machine gun.*
- T/Sgt. SEBASTIANO TIMPANARO, on 8 and 9 January 1945, when a rifle company was in great need of mortar support, as section leader, placed his guns and then laying wire, advanced to a house on the MLR from which he directed mortar and artillery fire for the two days. His accurate fire killed all fifteen members of a German patrol.*
- Pfc. MAX E. TOOLE, on 30 December 1944, when his patrol was attacked by a force four times greater, voluntarily took a position forward and by his rapid delivery of covering fire enabled the other members of the group to organize defensive positions. He was seriously wounded in this action. His stand enabled the patrol with support of artillery to route the opposing infantry.*
- T/Sgt. CHARLES O. VAN PATTER, on 15 March 1945, neutralized an enemy machine gun emplacement by running across an open clearing and crawling close enough to throw a hand grenade into the hostile nest, killing one and wounding two others without his platoon sustaining a casualty.*
- T/4 JAMES T. WHEELER, on 15 March 1945, as two men were crossing an open area were wounded by sniper fire and an aid man was killed by fire from the same enemy, proceeded to the wounded men, treated their wounds and carried them to a place of safety, all this time fully aware that he was under the same observation that had felled the three.*

Bronze Star Medal

for Heroic achievement in action

AWARDED

Pfc. James E. Akers 11 Mar. 45
 Pfc. William J. Akers 30 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Guy E. Allen* 12 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Ralph I. Allen 5 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Sam F. Amitrano 29 Jan. 45
 Sgt. George F. Anderson* 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Albert J. Arkenbent 3 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Charles O. Ayer 15 Mar. 45
 Tec. 5 Eugene A. Bahr 4 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Ralph D. Baker 25 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Howard L. Balgley 4 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Donald A. Balter 8 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Joseph J. Bellavia 8 Jan. 45
 Tec. 5 William O. Bellows 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. James E. Benke 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. David Berezin 29 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Kenneth E. Best 1 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Wilborn G. Bingham 4 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Orvin H. Birkholder 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert E. Blackwell 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Roy E. Bloomer 15 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Robert J. Bohigian* 2 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Dennis C. Boyd, Jr. 1-5 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Joseph S. Boyer 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Frank Boyko, Jr. 3 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Gerald V. Britt 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. James E. Brinkley 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. George E. Brockway, Jr. 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Allen B. Brown, Jr. 7-8 Jan. 45
 Tec. 5 George Brown 29 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Howard N. Brown 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Louis J. Brusca 22 Jan. 45
 1st Lt. Sidney M. Bunson 1 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Harold J. Buoy 25 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Sherman K. Burke 15 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Frank T. Burns, Jr. 1 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Robert M. Burns 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Lloyd O. Burtner 8 Jan. 45

2nd Lt. Thomas I. Busbee 4 Jan. 45
 2nd Lt. Thomas I. Busbee* 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Donald B. Cantrell 25 Feb. 45
 Pfc. David Chernick 1-2 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Vercell M. Chestnut 1 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Arthur C. Clifton 15 Mar. 45
 Pvt. John C. Coletti 6 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert A. Coligan 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. J. C. Collins 8 Jan. 45



Sgt. Stephan L. Comi 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. John C. Comstock, Jr. 6-9 Jan. 45
 1st Lt. Leonard E. Coplen 26 Feb. 45
 2nd Lt. William M. Corey 26 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Clezon M. Dalabo 7 Feb. 45
 S/Sgt. Rufus M. Dalton 9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Michael Delia 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Arthur T. DeLuca 1 Mar. 45
 Pvt. James DeLuca 6 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Walter S. DeWitt 25 Dec. 44
 Cpl. Emerson V. Dexter 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Norman Diety 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. James DiLorenzo 29 Dec. 44
 1st Lt. William M. Dimming 23 Feb. 45
 Sgt. William M. Ditto 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Carl T. Douai 30 Dec. 44
 T/Sgt. John W. Dougher 1 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Maynard A. Dovel 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Richard P. Drury 9 Jan. 45
 Sgt. John R. Duffy 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. William F. Dugan 8-9 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Howard S. Dumhart 6 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Albert A. Duzzie 5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert E. Dwyer 1-8 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. William M. English 1 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Edward S. Eylander 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Joseph P. Fennell, Jr. 26 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Vincent R. Ferrell 8 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. George H. Fucillo 31 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Roger H. Fulton 1 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Albert W. Gerlach 25 Dec. 44
 Pvt. Ramon D. Gernhart 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Jesse H. Gillmore 8 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Paul J. Globig 23 Feb. 45
 S/Sgt. Albert C. Goodwin 9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Howard E. Gordon 24 Dec. 44-5 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Joseph W. Graham 3 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Cecil E. Griffin 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Charles J. Gulino 21 Feb. 45
 1st Lt. Herbert E. Gunn 24 Dec. 44-5 Jan. 45
 Pvt. John W. Gunn 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. John F. Gwillim 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Thomas O. Ham 8 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Richard B. Harris 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Louie W. Hart, Jr. 1 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Franklin J. Herrmann, Jr. 1 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Wesley M. Hill 1-8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Orville K. Hilliard 24 Dec. 44-3 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Edward G. Hofstetter 1 Jan. 45
 1st Lt. Ray L. Holland 26 Jan. 45
 Pfc. William T. Hollis, Jr. 9 Jan. 45
 Tec. 5 Robert E. Horne 2-4 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Wilfred B. Howsmon, Jr. 1 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Grady Hulett 1 Jan. 45

Sgt. David G. Hurt 8 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Leland R. Hutchins 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Nelson H. Ireland 8 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. Robert J. Isola 15 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Carlos M. Jacott 8 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Theodore D. Jennings 6-9 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Clifford H. Jimison 29 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Lawrence O. Jock 1 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Charles C. Johnson 1-7 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Kenneth Joiner* 2 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Edward C. Jones 30 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Willie E. Jones 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Thomas E. Joyner 7-8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Stephen P. Kabana 3 Jan. 45
 Pvt. John P. S. Keelan 4 Jan. 45
 Sgt. John P. Keen 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. John L. Koehne, Jr. 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Razmond W. Kraft 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert A. Kressler 8 Feb. 45
 Pvt. August A. Lauzon 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Richard D. Laycock 8 Jan. 45
 1st Sgt. Oscar Leistyna 2 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Earl H. Leland 9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. LeRoy A. Lemon 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Richard P. Lenski 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. David R. Lether 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Edmund L. L'Heureux 30 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Bronislaw Lis 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Joseph Logan 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Joseph A. Lopinto 21 Feb. 45
 Pfc. James B. Lowery 1 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Eleth M. Luker 5 Jan. 45
 Sgt. George H. Luther 26 Dec. 44
 Pfc. John A. Maher 1 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. John W. Mallory, Jr. 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. James E. Malone, Jr. 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Matteo M. Mancini 3 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. William M. Marshall 30 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Silas P. Martin 15 Mar. 45
 T/Sgt. Charles Martinotti 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Archibald R. Mayes 1 Mar. 45
 Sgt. John L. McClead 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Hartley F. McCloud 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Hermann D. McCray 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Nelson T. Meckel 9 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Turner C. Menefree 8-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. John A. Michna 8 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Benjamin J. Miller 9 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Edgar R. Miller 17 Jan. 45
 Cpl. John A. Milone 10 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Robert L. Mings 3 Feb. 45
 Tec. 5 Harry F. Mitchum 15 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Alberto Morales 2 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Preston O. W. Morpheu 17 Jan. 45

Pfc. Edward T. Mucha 1 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Rade H. Mullins 6-7 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Earl S. Mussino 7 Jan. 45
 Sgt. James R. Nance 7-8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. John F. Nolan, Jr. 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Albert Nowlan 17 Jan. 45
 1st Lt. William F. Nugent 30 Dec. 44
 Sgt. Richard C. Olsen 3 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Eric Olson, Jr. 9 Jan. 45
 Capt. James F. X. O'Rourke 26 Feb. 45
 Tec. 4 Joseph E. Orsak 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. William J. Ostrowski 25 Dec. 44
 T/Sgt. Frank Outslay* 8 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Joseph Owaski 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert J. Parkin 3 Jan. 45
 Tec. 5 John H. Pauling 1-5 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Joseph S. Pazik 6-9 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. Roy G. Pender 1-4 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Charles F. Pessina 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Francis Pexton 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Ferdinand Picula 3 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Richard R. Polhemous* 7-9 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Edward C. Porn 7 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Yvan A. Rechz 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. James D. Rembert 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Ronald C. Riddle 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert W. Riedmatten 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Clarence M. Rincker 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Balis W. Ritchie 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Robert J. Robertson 25 Dec. 44
 Cpl. Fred E. Rollins 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Jack Rubel 1 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Frank G. Rutger 15 Mar. 45
 Tec. 4 Joseph F. Salerno 26 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Raymond R. Salsman 2 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Wade P. Sanders 25 Dec. 44
 2nd Lt. Carl W. Sanderson 3 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Daniel G. Scheuermann 30 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Robert A. Schmieders 9 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Walter E. Scribner, Jr. 30 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Edward J. Shannon 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Stanley Shapiro 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Johnny L. Sheets 4 Jan. 45
 Tec. 4 Floyd R. Sherbino 1 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Julius Shocko 3 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Julius Shocko* 26 Feb. 45
 2nd Lt. Joseph Shovlowsky 29-30 Dec. 44

Pfc. Charles F. Singer 1 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Benjamin A. Skinner, Jr. 1-8 Jan. 45
 2nd Lt. Harry L. Skinner 30 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. John H. Slade* 4 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Arville Stone 1 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Donald G. Smith 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Jim T. Smith 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Orla E. Smith 7-8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Benjamin M. Snyder 30 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Joseph A. Snyder 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Walter O. Stallard 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert J. Stamp 2-4 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Clayton Standifer 21 Feb. 45
 Pfc. George F. Steffen 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Ben T. Stephens 6-9 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Stanley J. Stetz 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Rex R. Stevens 4 Jan. 45
 Pfc. James T. Stewart 1-10 Jan. 45
 Pfc. John R. Strauss 3 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Charles T. Suski 4 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Joseph Tarantino 1-5 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Charlie G. Taylor 5 Mar. 45
 1st Lt. Stanley A. Teiser 9-10 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Robert H. Thena 8 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Robert H. Thena* 1 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Buddy G. Thomas 5 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Clarence B. Thomas 8 Jan. 45
 1st Sgt. Frank A. Thichacek 15 Mar. 45
 Tec. 5 Salvatore R. Uccello 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Richard L. Van Deusen 25 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Theodore Vocht 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Donald D. Wagner 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. William H. Wagner 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Robert B. Wagoner 6 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Stanley J. Walenski 15 Mar. 45
 Tec. 4 T. Lucien G. Wargula 1-5 Jan. 45
 Pvt. William E. Wells 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Gerald B. Westlund 1 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Ben Williams 6-9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Harold E. Wilson 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Wymon L. Witt 2 Mar. 45
 Pfc. John C. Wright, Jr. 15 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Thomas J. Wright 6-9 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. Charles Young 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Samuel R. Young, Jr. 6-9 Jan. 45
 2nd Lt. Frank C. Zalewski 10 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Stanley M. Zinman 24 Dec. 44-5 Jan. 45

* OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Purple Heart Medal

posthumously

AWARDED



*Pfc. James E. Akers
Ward, West Virginia*

*Pvt. James A. Amato
Cleveland, Ohio*

*Sgt. John I. Bate
W. Berlin, N.J.*

*Pfc. Frank E. Beal, Jr.
Springfield, Mass.*

*Pvt. John L. Beebe
Chincoteague, Va.*

*Pfc. Sidney Beitchman
Philadelphia, Pa.*

*Sgt. Frank Bielecki
Midvale, Ohio*

*Pvt. Steve Bodner
S. Greensburg, Pa.*

*Pvt. Joseph L. Breedlove
Needmore, N.C.*

*Pfc. Robert D. Burlison
Edmeston, N.Y.*

*Pvt. Lloyd B. Cagle
Denison, Texas*

*Pfc. Alvin D. Cantor
Buffalo, N.Y.*

*T/Sgt. Charles F. Carey, Jr.
Cheyenne, Wyoming*

*Pfc. Troy R. Carroll
Gordo, Alabama*

*Sgt. Richard C. Chapman, Jr.
Morganton, N.C.*

*Pvt. Victor J. Colitta
Waterbury, Conn.*

*Pfc. Donald L. Collier
Jackson, Kentucky*

*Pfc. Freeman L. Cofer
Dallas, Texas*

*Pfc. Raymond H. Cook
Hartford, Vermont*

*Pfc. Vincent A. Cudia
Rockford, Ill.*

*Pfc. Peter C. De Young
McBain, Michigan*

*Pfc. Harold M. Brace
Lee, Mass.*



*Pfc. Willard H. Eagle
Los Angeles, Calif.*

*Cpl. Robert J. Edmunds
Detroit, Michigan*

*Pfc. George L. Eisenbise, Jr.
Norristown, Pa.*

*Pvt. James E. Fozzard
Carterville, Ill.*

*Pvt. Ramon D. Gernhart
Pierson, Iowa*

*Pfc. Marvin J. Gewecke
Ohiowa, Nebraska*

*Pvt. Everett M. Gibson
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

*Pfc. Robert L. Gorrell
Alma, Calif.*

*Pfc. Fred W. Graff
Pittsburgh, Pa.*

*Pvt. Joseph W. Graham
Curley, Alabama*

*Pfc. Carl B. Harrington
Los Angeles, Calif.*

*Pfc. Howard W. Hennigar, Jr.
New Rochelle, N.Y.*

*Pvt. Carl D. Hockaday
Stantonville, Tenn.*

*Pvt. Edward P. Holsapple
Albany, N.Y.*

*Cpl. Frank Huff
Oneida, Wisconsin*

*Pfc. Robert R. Hulquist
Laclede, Idaho*

*Pfc. Edward S. Johnson
Tampa, Florida*

*Pfc. Curtis C. Jones
Detroit, Michigan*

*Pfc. Marvin C. Klamm
Rogers City, Michigan*

*2nd Lt. Murray Lancer
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*Pvt. James E. Malone, Jr.
Gary, Indiana*

*Pfc. Matteo M. Mancini
Worcester, Mass.*

*Pvt. William E. Martin
Kenefic, Oklahoma*

*Cpl. John J. McCann
Philadelphia, Pa.*

*Pvt. Herman D. McCray
Lincoln Park, Michigan*

*Pfc. Charles R. McGough
Trenton, N.J.*

*Pfc. James I. McGovern
Chicago, Ill.*

*Pvt. Harold E. Mitchell
Chrisman, Ill.*

*Pvt. Odell S. Myers
Fort Mill, S.C.*

*Pvt. Leo D. Nolan
Davenport, Iowa*

*Sgt. Frank R. Oberly
Easton, Pa.*

*Pfc. Joseph F. O'Boyle
Scranton, Pa.*

*T/Sgt. John S. Otruba
Little Neck, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Robert J. Parkin
Wenmetka, Ill.*

*S/Sgt. Richard R. Polhemus
Old Greenwich, Conn.*

*Pvt. Ishmael Roybal
Sacramento, Calif.*

*S/Sgt. Gordon A. F. Roberts
West Roxbury, Mass.*

*2nd Lt. Frank J. Rosse
New York, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Richard J. Scheerer
Washington, Ill.*

*Pfc. Frederick Schmeiser
Asbury Park, N.J.*

*Pfc. William A. Schroeder
Yonkers, N.Y.*

*Pfc. John R. Speier, Jr.
Louisville, Kentucky*

*S/Sgt. Joseph W. Spooner
Wayland, Mass.*

*Pfc. Harold E. Sternberg
Elkton, Michigan*

*S/Sgt. Charles T. Suski
Reading, Pa.*

*Tec. 4 Woodrow W. Swofford
Chesnee, S.C.*

*Sgt. Julius Theodore
New Britain, Conn.*

*Pfc. Max E. Toole
Yale, Michigan*

*Pfc. Harold E. Valleau
Dearborn, Michigan*

*Pfc. John Vinson
Phoenix, Arizona*

*Pvt. Eugene E. Walczak
Jersey City, N.J.*

*Pfc. Norman Weidman
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*Pvt. Ben Williams
Neeses, S.C.*

*S/Sgt. Edwards D. Williams
Wellsburg, W.V.*



Purple Heart Medal

These men sustained wounds due to enemy action

AWARDED

Pfc. Richard C. Acosta 22 Jan. 45
2nd Lt. Donald E. Adams 15 Mar. 45
S/Sgt. Norman R. Adolph 11 Mar. 45
Pfc. Pedro Aguilar 17 Feb. 45
Pfc. William T. Amerson 13 Feb. 45
Pvt. Albert J. Arkenbout 9 Jan. 45
Pfc. Paul W. Arthur 5 Jan. 45
Sgt. Charles R. Ayer 15 Mar. 45
2nd Lt. John M. Bacos 15 Mar. 45
T/5 Nicholas Bartzokas 21 Jan. 45
Pfc. Joseph A. Bassett 23 Jan. 45
Pfc. William J. Bates, Jr. 15 Mar. 45
Pvt. Andrew J. Beale 9 Mar. 45
Pfc. Allen C. Beck 7 Feb. 45
Pvt. Harvey J. Beerens 8 Jan. 45
Pvt. David Berezin 4 Jan. 45
Pfc. Paul Bickley 2 Jan. 45
Cpl. Kenneth J. Blackwell 27 Feb. 45
Pfc. Thomas N. Blake 20 Feb. 45
Pvt. Tom H. Block 5 Jan. 45
S/Sgt. Edward J. Borboa 15 Mar. 45
Pfc. Herbert L. Bornstein 15 Mar. 45
Pfc. Ralph Borodofsky 29 Jan. 45
Sgt. Francis M. Bosak 10 Mar. 45

Pfc. Thomas E. Bosse, Jr. 25 Jan. 45
Pvt. Donald L. Bowker 15 Mar. 45
Pvt. Clyde R. Boyer 12 Feb. 45
Pfc. James E. Brinkley 9 Jan. 45
Pfc. Donald S. Broshears 2 Jan. 45
Pfc. Victor E. Burgey 2 Feb. 45



Sgt. William J. Burke	26 Jan. 45	Pvt. Edward S. Gould	15 Mar. 45
S/Sgt. Robert M. Burns	15 Mar. 45	Pfc. Carl E. Hamann	20 Feb. 45
Pfc. Howard E. Butler	20 Feb. 45	Pvt. Clarence E. Hamper	15 Mar. 45
Sgt. Robert V. Butts	19 Jan. 45	Pfc. Rayner B. Hancock	2 Jan. 45
Pvt. Benjamin Campese	15 Mar. 45	Pfc. Grady R. Harden	19 Jan. 45
Sgt. Leonard J. Carney	10 Jan. 45	Pfc. Stanley C. Haworth	6 Jan. 45
Pfc. Leo P. Caron	30 Dec. 45	Pfc. Robert S. Hayes	15 Mar. 45
Pfc. Luther Carswell	15 Mar. 45	Sgt. John C. Hazen	22 Feb. 45
Pvt. Karroll G. Chase	1 Jan. 45	Cpl. Franklin J. Herrmann, Jr.	1 Jan. 45
Pvt. Charles C. Clark	15 Mar. 45	Cpt. John A. Hine, Jr.	3 Mar. 45
Pvt. Eugene W. Clark	10 Jan. 45	1st Lt. Ray L. Holland	26 Jan. 45
Pfc. George J. Clifford	27 Dec. 44	2nd Lt. Charles H. Holt	23 Feb. 45
Pfc. Herbert D. Coe	8 Feb. 45	Pvt. Merle L. Hunter	15 Mar. 45
Pfc. John C. Comstock, Jr.	10 Jan. 45	Sgt. Richard J. Hurley	9 Jan. 45
T/5 John F. Corcoran	2 Jan. 45	Pfc. James V. Ippolito	25 Dec. 44
2nd Lt. William M. Corey	26 Jan. 45	Pvt. Anthony F. Jankowski	30 Dec. 44
T/Sgt. Kemper J. Cridland	10 Jan. 45	Pfc. Joseph J. Jasinski	10 Mar. 45
Pvt. Alton L. Crutcher	9 Jan. 45	Pfc. Douglas K. Johnson	9 Jan. 45
1st Lt. Dominic S. Cuccinello	5 Jan. 45, 1 Mar. 45	S/Sgt. Edward C. Jones	30 Jan. 45
Pvt. John J. Cunningham	26 Dec. 44	Pfc. Lemuel J. Jones	30 Dec. 44
Sgt. L. D. V. Curtis	8 Feb. 45	Pvt. Paul A. Kerr	1 Jan. 45
Pfc. Albert H. Delcher	5 Jan. 45	Pvt. Richard J. Kitchen, Jr.	12 Mar. 45
Pvt. Howard H. Delcour	9 Jan. 45	Pfc. Julius Klein	5 Jan. 45
Pfc. Jerry A. Depaoli	16 Feb. 45	Pfc. William J. Kment	16 Feb. 45
Pfc. John DeSilva, Jr.	1 Jan. 45	Pfc. George E. Koontz	9 Feb. 45
S/Sgt. Max L. Diel	15 Mar. 45	Pvt. Joseph J. Layou	29 Jan. 45
Pvt. Vincent C. Ditrone	23 Jan. 45	Cpl. Gaetano J. Leone	15 Mar. 45
S/Sgt. Alfred F. DiPrimio	23 Dec. 44	Pvt. Joseph Liga	15 Mar. 45
S/Sgt. Edward J. Dougherty	19 Jan. 45	Pfc. Gus W. Lindquist	6 Jan. 45
Pvt. Robert R. Douglass	5 Jan. 45	Pfc. Leslie S. Lockart	3 Mar. 45
Pfc. Richard F. Duly	22 Jan. 45	S/Sgt. George R. Locker	8 Jan. 45
Cpl. George Dzurisin	30 Jan. 45	Capt. Mercer P. Longino	2 Jan. 45
Pvt. John E. Eggeling	9 Jan. 45	Pvt. Gerald J. Lowe	7 Jan. 45
Pvt. Nathan Eisenberg	29 Jan. 45	Pfc. Joseph F. Lydon	4 Jan. 45
Pfc. Clayton F. Elliott	8 Jan. 45	Pfc. Charles J. Lyman	9 Jan. 45
Sgt. Earl Evans	26 Dec. 44	Pfc. Edmond B. Lynn	9 Mar. 45
Pfc. Michael W. Farawell	15 Mar. 45	Pvt. Robert D. Magee	15 Mar. 45
T/4 Montgomery Fawcett	15 Mar. 45	Pvt. Richard J. Malloy	15 Mar. 45
S/Sgt. John W. Fears	15 Mar. 45	T/5 Francis A. Mansur	15 Mar. 45
Pvt. Henry F. Feezor	2 Feb. 45	Cpl. Frank S. Marko	15 Mar. 45
Pfc. Joseph P. Fennell, Jr.	26 Jan. 45	Sgt. Louis W. Marolt	1 Jan. 45
Pfc. Vincent R. Ferrell	9 Jan. 45	Sgt. Abner C. Mason	27 Jan. 45
Pfc. Robert J. Findley	15 Mar. 45	Pfc. Archibald R. Mayes	2 Jan. 45
Pvt. Walter E. Flinch	29 Dec. 44	Pfc. Julius D. McAlpin, Jr.	10 Mar. 45
Pfc. Burley J. Francois	15 Mar. 45	Pfc. Hartley F. McCloud	10 Jan. 45
Pfc. Alfonzo Gallo	2 Jan. 45	T/Sgt. Jack I. McGee	25 Jan. 45
Sgt. Donlad J. Gebhardt	4 Jan. 45	S/Sgt. James A. McGinty	15 Feb. 45
Pfc. Deward W. George	2 Jan. 45	Pfc. William E. McKay	15 Mar. 45
Pvt. Antonio J. Gentile	28 Dec. 44	Pfc. Nash D. McKee	9 Jan. 45
S/Sgt. Arcangelo N. Giulianelli	19 Jan. 45	Sgt. Robert R. McLane	7 Jan. 45
Pvt. Joseph E. Glaze	30 Jan. 45	Pfc. Robert B. McTarnaghan	9 Jan. 45
Pfc. Paul J. Globig	23 Feb. 45	Sgt. Donald W. Miller	9 Feb. 45
2nd Lt. Gerald S. Godwin	6 Jan. 45	Pfc. Isadore J. Miller	5 Jan. 45
Pfc. William F. Goodwin	3 Feb. 45	Cpl. John A. Milone	15 Mar. 45

Pfc. Paul R. Moll 10 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. Charles R. Moore 2 Jan. 45
 T/4 Christopher A. Muske 30 Dec. 44
 T/Sgt. Alphonso J. Myers 7 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Clifford J. Naquin, Jr. 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. James R. Naughton 1 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Allan S. Nixon 5 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. Gerard J. Noppinger 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Albert Nowlan 2 Jan. 45
 1st Lt. William F. Nugent 11 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Norman Olsen 8 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Raymond A. Oren, Jr. 20 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Leon D. Outlaw, Jr. 3 Feb. 45
 T/Sgt. Frank Outslay 6 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Charles A. Perrenod, Jr. 23 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Steve F. Pleska 23 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Stanley Possess 19 Jan. 45
 2nd Lt. Charles F. Preston, Jr. 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Martin J. Quinlan 15 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Dalton J. Raymond 9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Edmund Rebello 13 Mar. 45
 Pvt. William C. Reedy 27 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Terry K. Reszczenski 1 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Rolla D. Robinette 16 Feb. 45
 Cpl. Cedric W. Rodgers 9 Jan. 45, 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Nicholas Rodriques 15 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Martin F. Rust 2 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Frank G. Rutger 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Saul B. Saila 3 Jan. 45
 2nd Lt. Carl W. Sanderson 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Ernest L. Saunier 6 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Irving L. Schweiger 26 Dec. 44
 Pfc. Ronald D. Shaver 10 Jan. 45
 S/Sgt. William W. Shirley 20 Jan. 45
 T/Sgt. Frank C. Sikorski 9 Jan. 45

Pvt. Amous R. Smith 6 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Donald G. Smith 9 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Larkin V. Smith 12 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Roy A. Smith 2 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Benjamin M. Snyder 30 Dec. 44
 S/Sgt. Lorin C. Speaker 23 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Walter C. Stallard 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Morton S. Steckler 2 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Willard Stone 15 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Richard L. Strife 23 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Roman M. L. Stuczynski 3 Jan. 45
 Cpl. Robert C. Stuler 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Ralph E. Sullivan 9 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Frank S. Sutton 5 Jan. 45
 Sgt. John M. Taris 19 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Raymond L. Templeton 6 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Charles J. Thomas 15 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Ennis E. Thomas 9 Feb. 45
 Pvt. Edward W. Throne, Jr. 30 Dec. 44
 Pvt. Arturo G. Trijo 3 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Herman K. Valine 15 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Joseph J. Ventimiglia 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. George A. Vincent 2 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Donald D. Wagner 25 Jan. 45
 Sgt. George J. Walters 5 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Eric Weingarten 23 Feb. 45
 2nd Lt. Harry J. Weiss 29 Jan. 45
 Pfc. Harold A. Wessels 5 Feb. 45
 Pfc. Donald E. Whitman 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Clarence A. Wilson 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. James Wilson 10 Jan. 45
 Sgt. Richard T. Woodworth 15 Mar. 45
 Pfc. John C. Wright 15 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Samuel R. Young, Jr. 8 Jan. 45
 Pvt. Stanley Zaremba 29 Jan. 45







Sivoli 45
ETC

PHASE VIII – HEILBRONN



INTRODUCTION

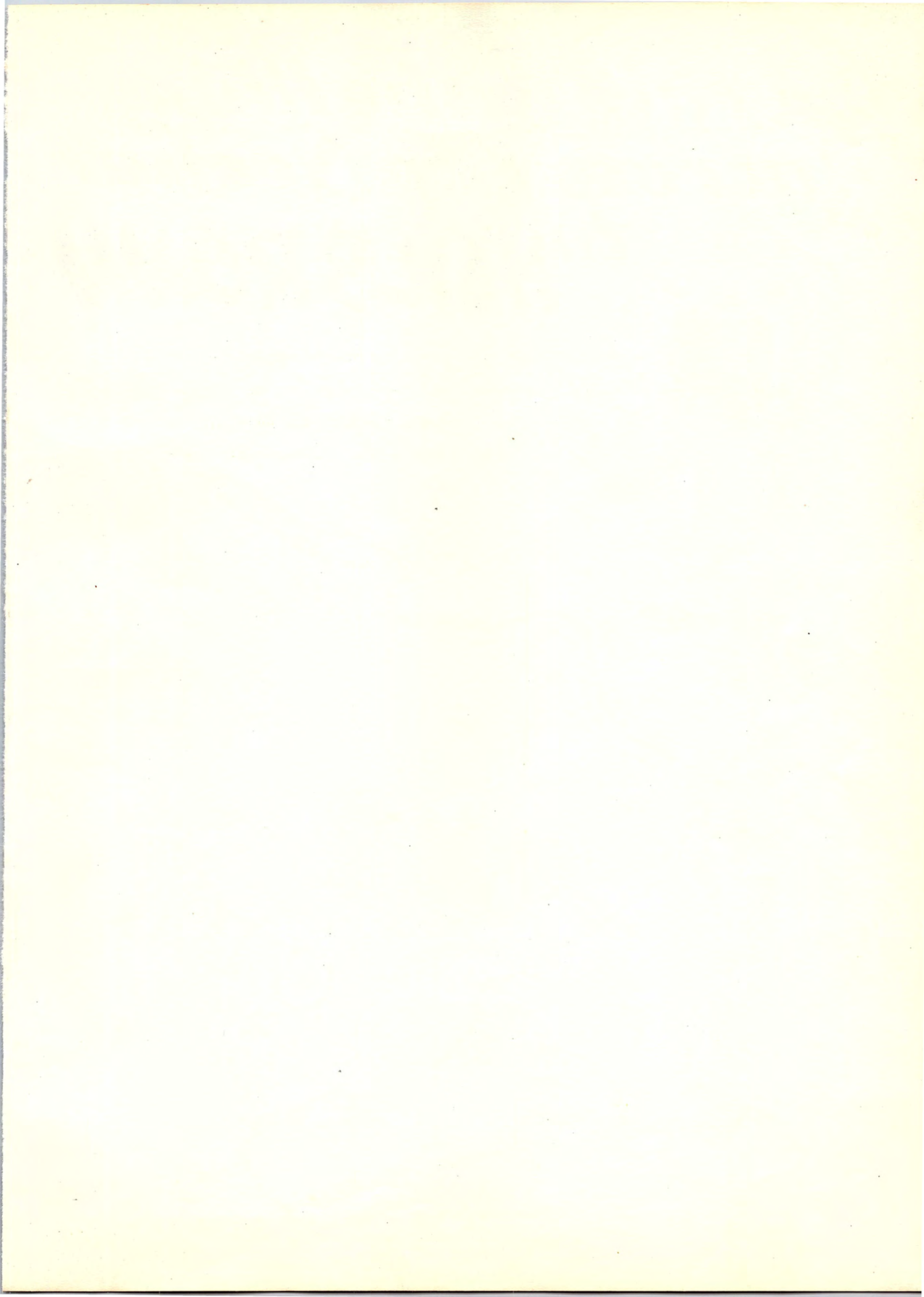
"God of battles, was there ever a battle like this in the world before?"

*H*eilbronn was our "baby" and our last major engagement. It was also a surprise. From the time we entered Germany to the battle of Heilbronn there had been no raging attacks or counter-attacks. We had proceeded through the Siegfried Line unresisted, had been given the job of patrolling the west bank of the Rhine, and had then continued to Neckargartach and surrounding towns almost without contact with the enemy. It looked as if the Regiment was going to get the rest it deserved, the opportunity to clean up and prepare a few hot meals; but there were other plans. Our assignment, for immediate execution, was to cross the Neckar River, secure the east bank, take the factories, and ultimately occupy the city of Heilbronn. There was no time to lose. The enemy had supposedly been softened by aerial strafing and bombing, the towns we were in were receiving the weight of his artillery, we had to get out and over. Every bridge that should have been available to us was blasted and for the first time our men faced the prospect of crossing a river in assault boats and in broad daylight. They were scared. The Neckar took on the width and depth of an ocean. We knew that the river and the banks were perfectly zeroed in and for the first time we hated the sun and the clear sky because here we needed the mist and the fog and the sleet that we had been fighting so long. But our daring was our success. The crossing was made without a casualty.

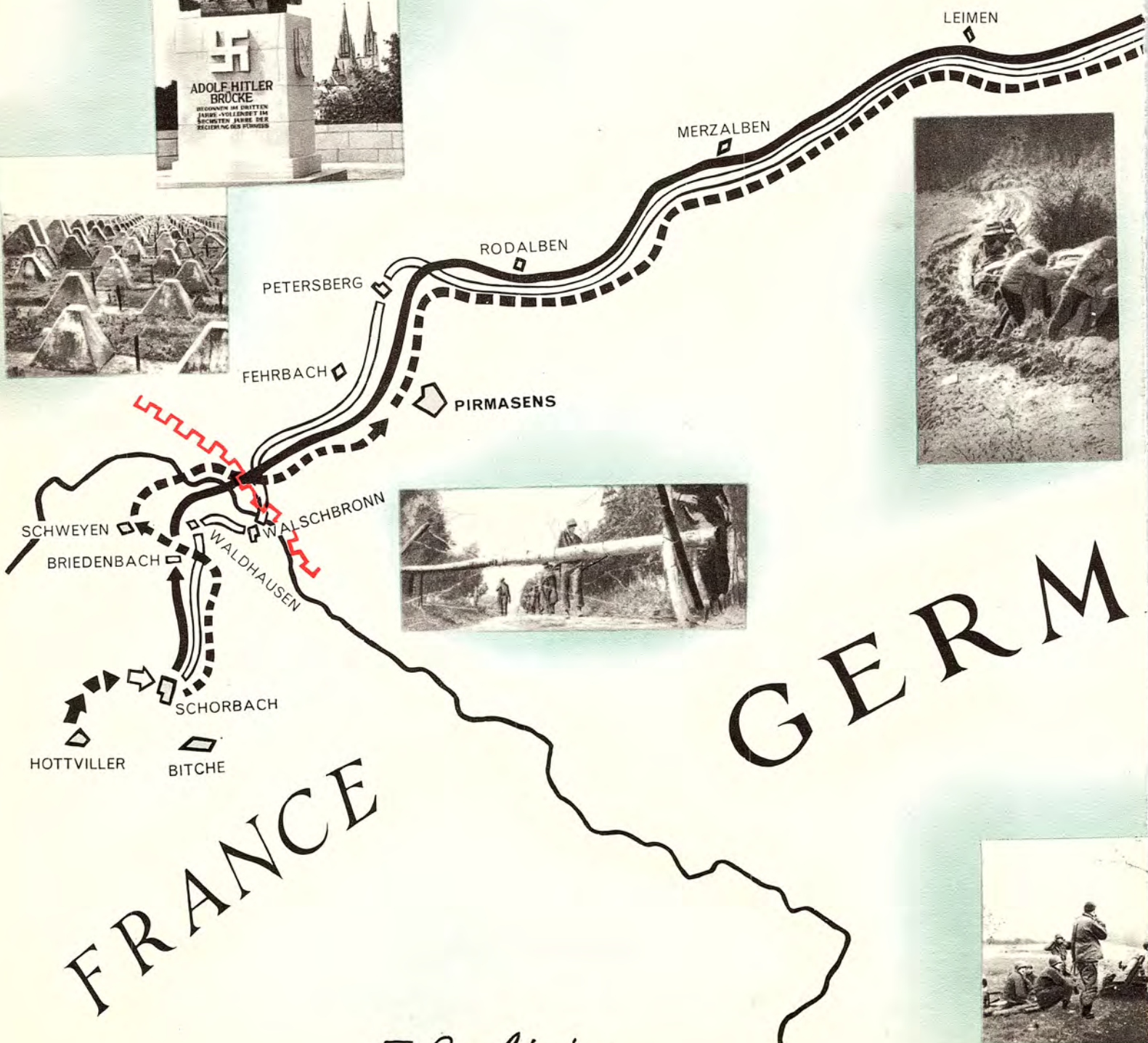
The going over was simply the introduction to the worst kind of fighting we had ever faced. This was Rimling in reverse order. The Germans were going to hold onto Heilbronn at any cost. Their defense of every home and factory had been methodically planned in advance. They were waiting for us with all they had left. Every foot of open terrain that we had to cover was in the sight of a machine gun, every building was in the line of their artillery and mortar fire, every

window was watched, every move anticipated. Even night was no protection, the city was in flames, the night was as bright as the day. Each room we took was a fight against small arms and machine gun fire, backyards were the scenes of pitched battle, and if we let up for a minute there was counterattack. For endless days the men went without food or sleep but we knew that this was our offensive and that sufficient pressure would bring about their retreat. For eight days we fought the battle of Heilbronn, fought against the crazy German kids, mad women, the lame and the halt. Everyone was our enemy, they were everywhere.

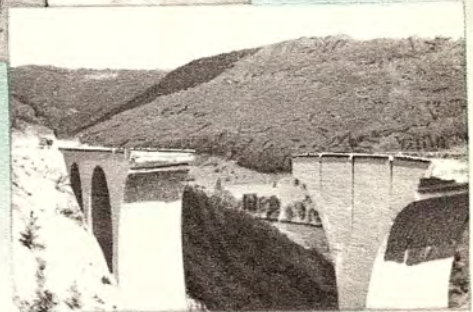
The traces of that war are still evident, will always be perhaps. Guttered buildings can still be identified that hold American dead, twisted railroad tracks no longer carry life or food, the trees are bare and broken, the wooded hills are clean and pock-marked, amphibious tanks lie in the river, the bridges are still down. If the 397th can make no other claim, it can mark Heilbronn as its own.



The race to the Rhine, across the Neckar to **HEILBRONN**



E. Barbieri



LAMBRECHT

OPPAU
LUDWIGSHAVEN

MANNHEIM

OGGERSHEIM

NEUSTADT



HEILBRONN

HEILBRONN

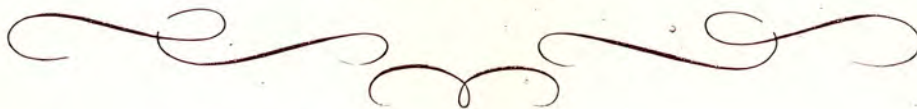
Rhine River



ANY



HEILBRONN



Patrols were stepped up and our equipment was checked on March 12th. Then when elements of the 3rd Infantry Division inspected some of our positions we knew for a certainty our respite was "fini." This could mean but one thing — the 3rd was moving in and, before they could do that, we were moving out. There was only one direction we could take.

A continual flow of reinforcements had brought us up to full strength. We had worked with these new men, lived with them and trained with them, and now regarded them as part of the Regiment. About 58 rounds of enemy artillery and mortar fire, reported on our positions that day, was a slight decrease over the average of preceding days. The First Battalion sent out a 20-man raiding party from Urbach to destroy supposed enemy positions nearby which were found to be unoccupied. A telephone wire to an enemy observation post on Hill 310 was cut. A Third Battalion listening post was forced to leave its positions when friendly mortar fire had miscalculated and fell in the vicinity. Searchlight batteries were used to evacuate this group. Clear weather with fair visibility presaged air activity.

A clear, warm day, brought out the long dormant aircraft on March 13. In mid-afternoon four P-47's strafed Petit Rederching, Kleinmuhl and Guisberg, but no bombs were dropped. The strafing was ineffective against both materiel and personnel. After almost two months in slightly altered defensive positions, Operations Instructions came down and the First and Third Battalions were on the move to assembly areas, having been relieved by the 324th Infantry. The First Battalion traveled 3.2 miles to Bining and was quartered there. The Third Battalion moved to Rohrbach, which was strafed by our own P-47's but of course, enemy operated. The move was accomplished by shuttling of small groups. We had no casualties. The Second Battalion stayed in Petit Rederching and Hottviller.



The Cannon Company moved from Berthelwing to Neumuhl in support of the Regiment on the following day. We were shuttling and moving in preparation for the impending attack. The Regimental Command Post opened in Holbach while the First Battalion moved all men and equipment to Hottviller in the course of the afternoon. It was a motor march, and there were no unusual or unexpected incidents. The Second Battalion moved both its command posts into Hottviller. We were grouping and effecting last minute preparations. Our air force was softening the enemy, bombing and strafing the hostile positions to our front. Company K stayed in Rohrbach. The rest of the Third Battalion moved to Hottviller. This put just about all

of us in the same town, ready to jump off. No enemy action was reported and we busied ourselves in cleaning weapons and orienting ourselves. The Medical Detachment moved into position on March 15 thus completing the picture.

At 0500, the morning of March 15, we attacked. The jump off proceeded in a column of battalions, with the First Battalion leading. We moved to the northeast, encountering little resistance. Hottviller was under interdiction mortar, artillery and rocket fire, drawn by the armored columns. Company A reached its first objective at 0850, and moved on again at noon. Although there wasn't too much small arms resistance, there continued to be heavy artillery fire. Company B got to its first objective, northeast of Schorbach, at 0900, but moved off again at noon. Company C was in reserve until 0630, when it was thrown into the attack.

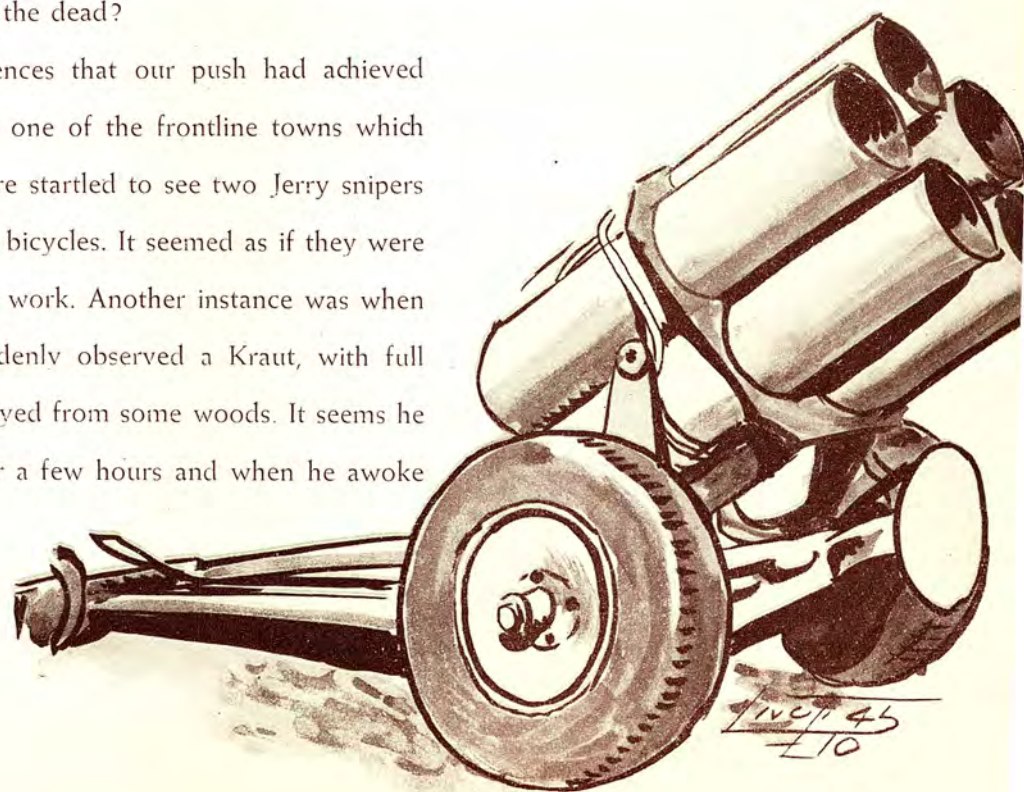
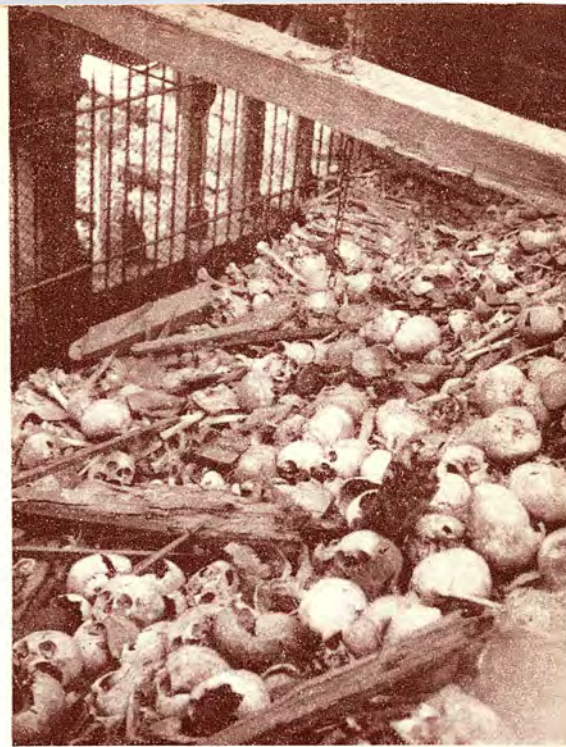
Our heaviest casualties were caused by mine fields and intense artillery fire. Company E, committed at 0500, was successful in taking its objective northeast of Hottviller. The rest of the Second Battalion had remained in Hottviller as reserve. Companies I and L entered the enemy

held town of Schorbach at 1300 amid artillery and mortar fire. All the roads we ran across were poor, rutted and well-mined, and the largest number of our casualties came from Schu mines and rocket fire — "Nebelwerfers." We took 36 prisoners that first day.

Schorbach was a comparatively large village, but wholly uninhabited. It was virtually a ghost town. Upon entering the small church yard in the town, the first thing we saw was a shrine-like affair that might have been part of ancient Greece. It was about twenty feet square and the walls were series of columns stretching to the roof. Within the columns, steel bars prevented the curious from going further, but permitted a view of the dead bygone generations.

Right in the front was a rack which extended the length of the building and in which were neatly stacked long arm and leg bones to a height of five feet. Piled to the top of the rack and filling the remainder of the shrine were skulls and the other small ribfinger-feet bones. An estimate of the number of individuals represented was impossible, but a medic put the age of the bones at 300 years. What were these bones doing here? Why hadn't the people been decently buried? We could see that the bone-packed churchyard could not possibly have held all the dead in the town. Had remains of previous cadavers been unearthed to make possible the burial of more recent ones? Or had some plague left bodies stacked in a field, later to be honored in this way? One thing, though, the brevity of life and certainty of death were firmly stamped on our minds. Could that have been the spiritual significance of this bleak eerie sight in the churchyard? Could this be why they didn't bury the dead?

There were many evidences that our push had achieved the goal of utter surprise. In one of the frontline towns which we had just captured, we were startled to see two Jerry snipers come rolling up the street on bicycles. It seemed as if they were coming "home" after a day's work. Another instance was when one of our jeep drivers suddenly observed a Kraut, with full equipment, emerging sleepy-eyed from some woods. It seems he had merely gone to sleep for a few hours and when he awoke





his comrades had already staged a "strategic withdrawal."

We went right on attacking, March 16th, with the Second Battalion passing through the recently-taken positions of the First Battalion at 0720.

Company G had reached its first objective at 0850 and its final objective, Hill 296, at noon. Company F had taken Hill 368 at 1348, and the Battalion command post moved up from Hottviller to, Schorbach. All of these achievements had run us into small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire in small quantities, and our casualties were low. First Battalion hung onto its high ground positions, and the Third Battalion continued blocking to the north and northeast. When we reached strong points, we flanked around them rather than waste time in knocking them out frontally. Speed was of the essence. An occasional sniper, rocket and artillery fire near a blown bridge in the Third Battalion area constituted the action for the day, and we took eleven more prisoners.



We went on attacking the next day, seizing the high ground north of Briedenbach. The First and Third Battalions jumped off at 0900 from lines north of Schorbach, and encountered only occasional sniper fire in advancing on our objectives. It was really the Third Battalion that took Briedenbach, while the First Battalion occupied the ground southeast and prevented enemy action here. We had no sooner reached our goals than new orders were

issued and new objectives assigned. The First Battalion went on to take Waldhausen, while the Third cleared Dorst. The Second Battalion, being



relieved by the 398th, went into reserve and closed into an assembly area in Waldhausen, and the Regimental Command Post moved into the town at 1930. There was sniper resistance met by the First Battalion as it pushed on toward Walschbronn, and enemy machine gun fire to the east of the town. All bridges through the town were found to be blown as had been the situation throughout the sector, except for one which was usable in Briedenbach as a charge had not detonated.



Extensive use of mines and booby traps was noted. In the final analysis, an average of ten miles was covered this day by our advance units.

Taking a slight breather on March 18th, we consolidated and adjusted our gains. We conducted aggressive patrolling, but had no actual contact with the retreating enemy. Part of First Battalion was in Waldhausen and part in Walschbronn. We were maintaining road blocks, cleaning and repairing our



equipment. Church services were held. Large formations of American bombers with fighter escorts were seen heading toward the enemy territory. Many of us had our first prepared meal in several days. Company K was holding the high ground north of Rohlingen, with its positions extending across the French border into Germany. This was not the first unit to be in Germany, however, because some were there at the end of December. We received scattered artillery and mortar fire



during the day and thought how strange it was that although we had been subjected to a lot of artillery we still found that each round was like the first.

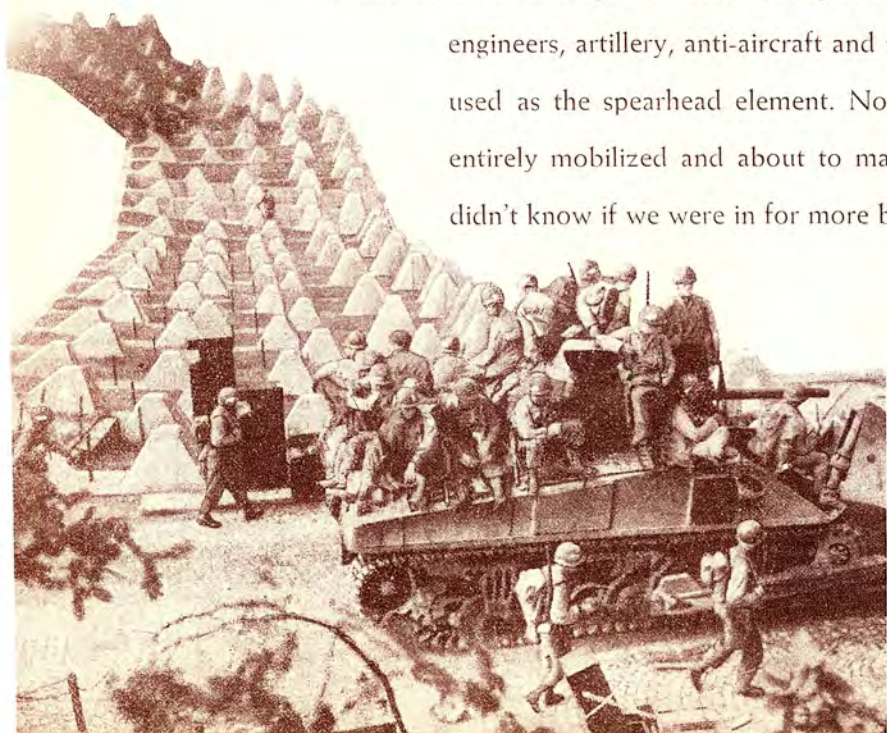
We continued with patrolling the next day, going into Kroppen and finding the town completely demolished, with nineteen civilians huddled in one cellar. We also picked up two enemy stragglers, and although we remained in the town for the entire day saw no other enemy activity. We contented ourselves with caring for our physical needs; getting showers, shaving and treating foot ailments. We improved our foxholes, cleaned our equipment and manned road blocks. We saw many more huge formations of planes winging their way over the enemy territory.

During that night and until the middle of the afternoon of the next day, the enemy heavily shelled the towns of Klein Steinhausen, Gross Steinhausen and Riedelberg, all in the northern part of our sector. Most of the Regiment was standing on the border of Germany itself. Then things began to happen. Elements of the 66th Infantry, 71st Division, relieved us during darkness. The First Battalion assembled in Walschbronn, the Second Battalion in Schweyen, and the Third Battalion in Roblingen. While we were poised in these positions, the word went around that our next push would take us across the German border and into the Siegfried Line.

March 21st was spent making final preparations for the large attack. We were given orientation on current Division, Corps, Army and Western Front Offensives. We knew what part we were to play. The enemy threw in an estimated 75 rounds of artillery over our sector throughout the day. At noon, in Schweyen, the Second Battalion was alerted for orders and movement. Early in the morning Company K had been relieved of its positions in Gross Steinhausen while under mortar and artillery fire. After joining the rest of the Battalion in Roblingen it made the relief of the whole Regiment complete. Company M was placed in Division Reserve.

The Second Battalion departed from Schweyen on March 22 as part of a task force of tanks, engineers, artillery, anti-aircraft and medics. The Regimental I & R Platoon was used as the spearhead element. None of us knew what to expect. We were entirely mobilized and about to make a dash into enemy-held territory. We didn't know if we were in for more bitter fighting or just what was in the offing.

This was destined to make history. Our operations were synchronized with the Seventh Army as a whole and



the Third Army to break German resistance in the Rhineland south of the Moselle.

Our completely motorized column measuring close to two miles in length, crossed the Line of Departure at 0930 and we were on our way. We crossed the German border at 1002 and then sped unresisted through the Siegfried Line. Large numbers of stragglers were routed from the surrounding woods. There were frequent stops for abatis, craters and blown bridges, which the attached engineers took in their stride. The Second Battalion was halted outside Pirmasens, in Germany, when a tank bogged down, and as night was approaching we returned to the town and spent the night in a German military barracks. It seemed that SS troops had occupied the place before us, but bombing had made the structure untenable for any length of time. In that first day we had driven forward a total of 28 miles. Several tanks went on to feel out the route towards the next town, and then returned to join us.

The First Battalion remained in Walschbronn, on the alert, and ready to augment the Second Battalion force, but no enemy action was reported. The Third Battalion became attached to the XXI Corps as of 0900 and the Command Post moved to Fehrbach, sixteen miles distant, and was followed by the remainder of the battalion. They met no resistance as they made the move. Cannon and Antitank Companies were on their way to an assembly area in the vicinity of Hohen-selweiler. In the advance of the Second Battalion, 30 Allied prisoners-of-war were liberated.

As we rolled into Germany, it was with a unique feeling of pride in attainment, if not superiority. Curious citizenry, reticent yet not belligerent, lined the streets and stared at us. In isolated instances a particularly venturesome child would hazard a smile or a wave. In the





"THE HONEYMOON IS OVER"

ENTERING GERMANY

COURTESY 100th INF. DIV.

NO FRATERNIZING THIS
SIDE OF RUSSIAN OUTPOSTS

325 ENGR.

fields men worked stripped to the waist and women glanced over their shoulders at us and then continued with their labors. There were flags in every window of the clean-looking stone houses. Few, if any, of these particular small towns through which we passed had been bombed, and this lent an extraordinary air of peacefulness as we zoomed by and called out greetings to the frauleins.

We continued the advance to the east into Germany on March 23rd at such a speed that it was becoming difficult for the supporting units to keep up with us. Our Regimental supply section left Holbach, France, to establish a forward supply

base at Waldhausen, but finally had to begin operating in Petersburg, Germany. Headquarters Company and its component installations, such as the Regimental aid station and the Command Post, made a 39 mile trek from Petersburg to Neustadt, arriving late in the afternoon. We covered 42 miles that second day, finally billeting in Assenheim. Due to recent air sorties on retreating German elements, the side roads and field adjacent thereto were strewn with burned materiel, dead horses and Jerry corpses. Mile after mile of this destruction lined the sides of the roads and impressed us with the might of air power which relieved us of the burden of fighting against all this. It was funny, but to us who had seen so much horrible death and destruction, the sight of a shellshocked horse standing unsteadily and staring blankly at the side of the road struck us with great force.

No change was made in the location of the Third Battalion Command Post. Companies L and M moved from Fehrbach to Neustadt, and units of the First Battalion left by truck from Petersburg and arrived after a 52 mile trip in Alsheim-Gronau where they proceeded to move the civilians from one entire section of the town in order to facilitate billeting. Quartering parties had done their jobs well, but some wailing civilians were still in the throes reluctantly removing part of what they most treasured when we came to take over.

Then the harried populace got the surprise of their lives. Contrary to propaganda-spouting

Goebbels' prediction, we American "barbarians and gangsters" did not burn the houses, chop up the furniture nor conduct mass slaughter. At first, even the more hopeful frauleins found themselves ignored to a great extent. Ex-Gestapo Headquarters offered unlimited possibilities for legal souvenir-hunters, and many of us displayed "party" buttons, armbands and flags. Looting was decreed to us at all times, but when we thought of a dead buddy or a wounded squad leader, we rationalized that we deserved a little more, and picked up minor worthless articles to send home.

True to Army form, just as everyone had gotten comfortably settled in modern buildings, the orders to "move out!" came down the line. We had taken close to a hundred prisoners, and on the third day our dash had given us another 30 miles, making a total of an even hundred. Headquarters Company, which had moved to Neustadt the day before, made another weary jump to Oggersheim. Service Company left Petersburg and went to Mussrach. Antitank Company made a 75-mile jump from Hoheischweiler to Assenheim. Cannon Company left Petersburg and



RHINE BRIDGE AT MANNHEIM



set up its batteries in Studernheim. The Second Battalion left Assenheim at 1115 by march and tactical transportation, a five-mile distance to Schifferstadt, and then to Oggersheim, shuttling by its own transportation, finally arriving at 2230. The Third Battalion went from Neidroff to Ludwigshaven, on the banks of the Rhine, and was a target for enemy mortar and artillery fire from the opposite banks. The First Battalion moved from Alsheim-Gronau to Oppau, digging defensive positions 1000 yards east of the town.

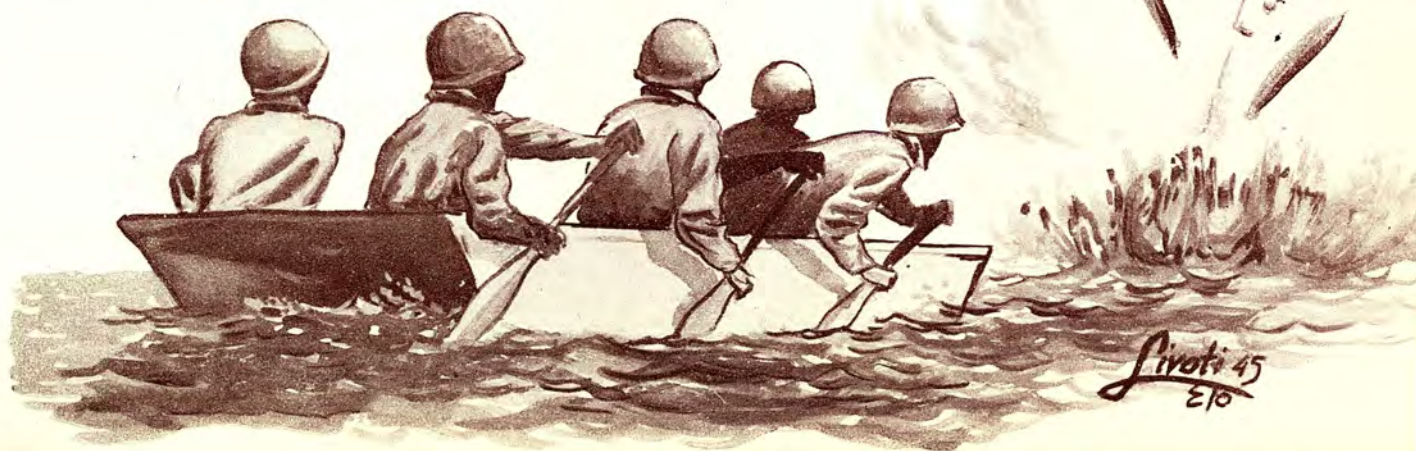
Our mission was to patrol the west banks of the Rhine River. The Second Battalion reverted to Regimental Reserve in Oggersheim and also maintained road blocks on the roads running east from Ludwigshaven. Cannon Company moved to Oppau and fired many extremely effective missions across the river at enemy personnel and oil storage tanks.

On the heels of this brief respite from battle, we started training in military courtesy and discipline, care and cleaning of equipment, personal hygiene and first aid. We also went in for orientation and recreation as well as individual and small unit tactical training. There was, of

course, guard and patrol duty, as we did not yet know what the German civilian's attitude would be toward us and were taking no chances. Friendly aircraft was continuing active in flying its sorties over the rapidly-retreating enemy, although cloudy weather and only fair visibility prevailed. We had dental inspections and visits from the Red Cross Doughnut Girls. There were ball games and reconditioning hikes. We imagined real warfare in the streets, complete in detail even to the using of smoke grenades and establishing wire communications. We were lectured on looting and non-fraternization, in compliance with the directive from ETOUSA.

After more juggling around, the Second Battalion, Antitank Company, Headquarters Company, Regimental Command Post and aid station, attached units and artillery were located in Oggersheim at the end of the month with the remainder of the Regiment, the First and Third Battalions, in Eppstein. There had been a few incidents of wire cutting by saboteurs. In few instances it had been performed by hacking with an axe.

There were more orientation classes as part of the training program. The greater understanding of the overall picture was instilled into our minds for a better understanding of the part that we as individuals had played and would continue to play. Grand strategy was outlined and with the help of maps the whole situation took on new meaning. The progress of the Allies was traced. Quotas from each company was sent to Neustadt to see a USO show which featured Marlene Dietrich. Good Friday Services were held for all faiths and attendance was extremely good. Congruent with the suddenness with which things happen in the Army and to which we had become accustomed, we found ourselves once more actively engaged with the foe on March 31st. We moved from our assembly positions over the Ludwigshaven-Mannheim pontoon bridge to forward assembly areas near Eppelsheim-Plankstadt. We took more prisoners, bringing our total to 1022. The enemy front lines and defensive set up were not known, but all he





seemed capable of doing was to delay our advance from positions in the woods along the Hardt Creek. At the end of the day the situation was yet unknown. All we knew was that we were on the move in Germany and going in the right direction.

Continuing on April 1st with the sudden attack we had made the day previous that had carried us across the Rhine River and into Germany proper, we extended our advances as much at the end of the day. We set a new high for a at the end of the day. We set a new high for a daily take of prisoners — 337. We also captured two well-equipped hospitals, a battery of 105's, four truck-loads of German uniform cloth, three buildings that were

full of weapons and ammunition, a complete searchlight and Rader unit with power plant and a Gestapo Headquarters.

We were going

Enemy machine guns were placed behind the rubble at the right. They held up the advance of a Company for several days.





This was the first house taken in the factory district. A lieutenant and his platoon entered it when it was untouched. In a few hours it became a funeral pyre for six men, including the lieutenant.

ahead at a great pace and had about decided that there wasn't any enemy left to worry about. Then we regrouped our forces for an attack across the Neckar on April 4th, into the industrial city of Heilbronn. It was here that we received the surprise of our lives. We hadn't expected to enter the town completely unopposed, but we certainly had no idea that we were going to meet up with a "do-or-die last-ditch-stand-at-all-costs" type of resistance.

At 0700, April 4th, the Second Battalion received an order to proceed from Furfeld, cross the Neckar River and seize the northwest part of Heilbronn which was the factory district. The Battalion reached Neckargartach, directly opposite Heilbronn on the west side of the river, at 1200 and found that all bridges leading into the city itself had been demolished. Division engineers were called to move the battalion across the river in assault boats. Concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire began to fall in the city. The plan of attack called for Company E to cross the river at 1400, under cover of artillery, and establish a bridgehead to secure the crossing for the remainder of the battalion. Company F was to follow and attack south with its right flank along the Neckar River. Company G was to remain in battalion reserve in Neckargartach prepared to cross the river on orders.

At 1400, Company E, with one section of heavy machine guns from Company H attached, began crossing the river in assault boats. This activity at the river bank brought heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire on the site of the crossing, but it managed to reach the hostile banks. Immediately it turned south





"Block by block, house by house . . ."

toward the imposing looking factory buildings 200 yards away. The enemy was ready and waiting with well placed and ample automatic weapons. It was then that the most violent and determined opposition in all of our combat experience began. Offering against us a variety of fires such as small arms, automatic weapons and artillery, the enemy was determined to cling to this city come hell or high water.

After seizing a few houses and factories along the banks of the river, our troops firmly held these hard-won positions against an immediate counterattack of a full enemy force. The Kraut heavily shelled the crossing site on the west bank and with surprising tenacity limited our bridgehead to small gains, and these at a high price. We soon came to realize that the enemy, not much in evidence for the past few weeks, was concentrated in this city and prepared to defend from house to house. We were prepared to accept that challenge. Our First and Third Battalions stood poised in Neckargartach to get into the action after the east bank had been cleared by the Second Battalion, but heavy enemy artillery fire on the crossing site made further negotiation of the river impossible.

The Second Battalion continued its challenging mission of clearing the town of Heilbronn on April 5th. It completed its crossing of the Neckar River and began consolidating positions and enlarging the bridgehead. A counterattack at 0115 by an estimated 100 infantrymen firing principally percussion grenades and bazookas hit Company E, setting fire to several buildings it occupied and forcing it to withdraw. At 0600, Company G passed through F and E Companies, succeeded in retaking two of the three lost buildings after a heavy fire fight of small arms, automatic weapons and sniper fire, with



the artillery and mortars of both sides continuing at a high rate, gradually levelling the city. The Third Battalion had planned a river crossing to be made during the hours of darkness. The heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire on the crossing site, however, made us abandon the idea for the time.

During the morning, despite the rain-like steadiness of the dropping shells, a crossing by Companies I and L was attempted, with Company K remaining on the west bank in a reserve position. The two battalions consolidated their lines and launched an attack to the south at 1445, with the Second Battalion on the right, and gradually the factory area was cleared. A total gain of 700 yards was made. The well-observed hostile shelling prevented the building of a bridge across the Neckar, and all crossings, both of troops and of personnel with supplies, were made in assault boats. Tanks, held in readiness, were prevented from aiding us as there was no bridge to carry their weight.

At 1400, the First Battalion received an oral order to move from Frankenbach, clear that portion of Heilbronn west of the Neckar, then cross the river and resume the conquest of the city. By 1700 reconnaissance had been completed and Company C was ordered to negotiate the river. Company B was to achieve the mission on the west bank and Company A was to follow Company C into the main part of the city. At 1830 the first wave of Company C with a platoon of heavy machine guns from Company D crossed the river under a smoke screen and only two casualties resulted. Upon landing, the group moved north capturing a brewery building after a terrific fire fight. The Krauts fought frantically to contain the bridgehead, but two hours later 125 had been captured and evacuated. At 2230 Company A crossed and moved into the newly-won brewery building which was destined to soon serve as a gathering point, collecting

station, assembly area and CP. The perimeter of the defense at that time included two city blocks around this main point.

At 0430 the next morning, Company B



Pontoon bridge at a battalion crossing site.

and the First Battalion CP group crossed the river. The entire Regiment was now on the east banks, fighting the bloodiest and most heart-breaking battle of the entire war. It is needless to follow and record the operations hour by hour, day by day, because it was always a repetition of what went before. Gaining a few yards, then losing a yard or two, gaining again, seeing a medic fall with a sniper's bullet through his helmet, or the squad leader trying to draw fire so we could cross an open street.



We were pulling a pincer move on the Jerries with the Second and Third Battalion moving south and Company A moving north and east. When the two would meet, that would be the beginning of the end, but it seemed it would be a long hard struggle before the connection could be made. The enemy massed every conceivable type of weapon and large numbers of troops in the city. There had been pre-attack bombing which had made the area a mass of rubble, but this seemed to help the enemy rather than us. For every blasted rock became a fortress, every gutted building a pill-box. The debris piled on cellars made them just about impregnable. Every inch we advanced meant slugging it out. The enemy displayed an unbelievable fanaticism with the kids, aged, crippled, and women sniping at us.

All in all, it took eight days of violent fighting. Block by block, house by house, room by room, our troops crept through the city with the slow but sure destruction of a volcano's lava. On April 13th the last SS trooper, the last Volkstrumm member, the last Hitler Jugend was wholly and thoroughly defeated — beaten to his knees.

Those were eight days replete with individual tales of valor and heroism which seem now like a melodrama. We wonder now where we got the guts and the stamina to perform some of the things which we took as a matter of course at the time. We can look back and say "Was that me? Did I do that? I must have been mad!" And so we were. Fighting mad! It was a good thing, too, because it took fighting-mad soldiers to combat the frenzied madness of the defenders.

For those eight days it was reports like "Have secured the dining room and sent advance patrols into the kitchen." For when we had taken the ruins of one house it was the same job

to do all over again on the next and the next and the next. Likely as not when night came there would be a counterattack that gave back to the enemy the last two or three houses we had taken. It was impossible not to give back a little when the mass of enemy infantry and armor came right at you, firing like hell and just coming and coming. Nothing to do but fight back for what was lost.

It would be sheer folly to attempt an enumeration here of the different single acts that, when all tied in together, made for our ultimate victory. A partial idea can be gotten from the cold list of names at the end of this chapter. But a list of names can never show the bloodshed, the heartache and the actual bitter tears of exhaustion and determination. They can never show how a man went out on a catwalk to replace a battery in a radio and was killed. Nor how the medic who went after him was killed by the same sniper. Although these individual deaths might not have contributed at that exact moment to success, it was the culmination of all these heroic deeds and all that blood which spelled our triumph.

We find it hard not to mention names if we want to tell about the platoon in a building which was suddenly counterattacked and how they stayed in the building firing from the gaping walls even when the roof was blown in by rockets, staying even when the enemy got close enough to throw grenades through the holes in the walls, staying when artillery hit direct, and staying, as dead bodies, when the building was set afire and fell in on them. Should they have gotten out when they could to be more helpful to us alive? But they gave us precious added seconds to regroup and come back right after that and pull the same trick on the fanatic enemy.

It was a great day when our two elements squeezed the last enemy soldier from between them and made contact and with renewed vigor pushed out in a solid mass to crush the remaining enemies. It was a great day when a Pfc. turned a corner and saw a familiar OD uniform coming from the opposite direction. It was a day that caused songs and shouts and laughs and crys, "I am alive today and the sun is shining and everything is OK and Oh, God, but I'm thankful. Tell Jane I'll get home after all and see her — but I won't say anything about Heilbronn." The happiness was so great that it turned into hysterics after which we felt like lying down right in the rubble and the blood and sleeping for a week or two.

Of course we had to go on fighting. There was still a portion of the city that was holding out but everthing was all right, now. The Pfc. and the Sergeant had met and that meant that one

company had joined another company. It looked wonderful on the operations map that day. But nothing could ever have looked so wonderful as that OD uniform, greasy and sweaty, almost invisible beneath field jacket and bandoliers and cartridge belt; that half-smiling face with the tired eyes and the eight days growth of beard; that battered helmet that was the same all the way around and didn't have a silly looking peak in the front.

Yes, we can't forget the tanks at the bottom of the Neckar River or the half-finished bridge spans which had been worked on so feverishly only to be blown away at the last minute and sink beneath the dirty water. We can't forget that open space with the railroad tracks running across it, and all of us hesitating to volunteer to make the first crossing — not because we were afraid — but because we liked being alive and there was a picture in our wallet that pleaded with us not to take any foolish chances. Yet there always was someone to take those chances to save us the trouble, and to get killed. Sure, some of them are still alive and with us today. You know who you are, buddy. Thanks! Thanks a lot!

Any written description is bound to fall far short of the real thing. Writers for ages have admitted the limited quality of words and the elusiveness of the meaning in a printed page. One of the things that made the fight so difficult was the physical location of the city. It was like a bowl surrounded on three sides with high ground and on the fourth side with the river. This gave Jerry complete observation on us at all times, and this made our task so terribly difficult. To achieve success we had to use every available supporting weapon and all troops. Even Antitank Company went into the lines as riflemen and did a magnificent job. The artillery and mortar support aided us beyond measure. The fact that we didn't starve and even managed to get mail once in a while is a tribute to Service Company.

As in all our other actions, we proved that success is attained only when all played hard, courageously, impersonally, and like a team.



"By direction of the President"

HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 447, U.S. Army

29 September 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 260)

E X T R A C T

BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNITS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 553, War Department, 1943, and with the approval of the Army Commander, the following named organizations are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

THE FIRST BATTALION, 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat during the period 5 April 1945 to 11 April 1945, in the vicinity of Heilbronn, Germany. Crossing the Neckar River by assault boat under heavy fire, the battalion secured a bridgehead in the face of unyielding resistance and inaugurated its block-by-block, house-by-house and even room-by-room conquest of the key rail city of Heilbronn. Deadly cross-fire from automatic weapons emplaced in rubble heaps and cellars of ruined buildings slowed the attack; snipers in countless vantage points constantly harassed our troops; and thickly wooded hills on three sides afforded the enemy perfect observation for the direction of all types of artillery fire. Yet despite fanatical resistance, the battalion continued its implacable advance, repulsing repeated tank-infantry counterattacks and destroying group after group of infiltrating enemy infantry. Supporting armor and tank destroyers were sped across the river by a hastily installed pontoon bridge, which was as quickly demolished by artillery fire; casualties were evacuated and supplies brought forward by ferry under continuous shelling; and on 11 April, after seven days of the most savagely-prosecuted fighting on the entire western front, the battalion virtually completed its capture of the city, thus by the individual bravery of its members and the esprit de corps of the organization reflecting the highest traditions of the military service.

* * * * *

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TYCHSEN:

J. O. KILGORE
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

LEONARD F. OLLIVER
Major AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
"A" & "BB"

HEADQUARTERS 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 447, U.S. Army

29 September 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 260)

E X T R A C T

BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNITS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, War Department, 1943, and with the approval of the Army Commander, the following named organizations are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

* * * * *

THE SECOND BATTALION, 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat during the period 4 April 1945 to 12 April 1945, at Heilbronn, Germany. On 4 April the Second Battalion launched its frontal assault against Heilbronn, key German rail center and defensive bastion of the Neckar River line. Ferrying assault forces across the Neckar under intense concentrations of artillery and mortar shelling as well as small arms fire, advance elements over-ran entrenched enemy positions on the east bank, inflicted heavy casualties and established a precarious bridgehead. For seven consecutive days the battalion then fought its way forward street-by-street, house-by-house and even room-by-room, overcoming fanatical enemy resistance and repulsing counter-attack after counter-attack as the enemy struggled desperately to hold Heilbronn at all costs. Enemy artillery on dominating hills surrounding the city pounded the river crossing site with unabating savagery, preventing the bridging of the stream and making it necessary to ferry supplies and casualties across the Neckar throughout the battle. Attempts to float armor across the river failed when improvised rafts capsized, and, lacking tank support, the battalion doggedly inched its way forward until, on 11 April, final remnants of the defending forces were routed from high ground behind the city. Thus the Second Battalion, by dint of resolute, unfaltering courage displayed by every man and the perfect coordination of all elements, crushing fanatical enemy resistance, breached the formidable Neckar defense line, and made possible the subsequent drive into Austria.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TYCHSEN:

J. O. KILGORE
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

LEONARD F OLLIVER
Major AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
"A" & "BB"

Silver Star Medal

for Gallantry in action

AWARDED



2nd Lt. ROBERT J. BOHIGIAN (then S Sgt.), on 7 April 1945, when his mortar section was suddenly attacked, ordered his men to deploy and then exposed himself to direct the fire of the section. When the enemy was within small arms distance, Lt. Bohigian ran through the fire and threw a grenade which killed two, wounded two, and forced the surrender of another.

S Sgt JAMES J. BORST, on 14 April 1945, when his mortar section was attacked, ordered his men to render him covering fire, then, armed with a rifle and some grenades, advanced toward the enemy delivering a steady stream of fire into their positions. He killed four Germans and three surrendered and enabled his mortar section to continue supporting advancing rifle elements.

1st Lt. CARL H. BRADSHAW, on 4 April 1945, when the company adjacent to his was strongly attacked, left the comparative safety of his position, advanced and adjusted artillery fire upon the attacking troops. Throughout the night without relief or sleep he maintained his post. The following morning, while indicating positions of enemy machine guns to a platoon leader, he was mortally wounded.

Pvt. EDWARD J. BUTOW, on 5 April 1945, volunteered to deliver covering fire from an exposed position while his comrades gained entrance to buildings housing strong enemy forces. He was killed by a bursting mortar shell.

Pfc. EGBERT J. CHILDS JR., on 5 April 1945, maintained a precarious position despite intense artillery, mortar and rocket fire, continuing to fire into enemy ranks in a delaying action to permit the withdrawal of another platoon. Standing in full view of the enemy he charged forward, knocked out a machine gun, killed an enemy and captured the entire crew.

S Sgt. HAROLD P. COATES, on 5 April 1945, moved forward alone, firing his automatic rifle, and cleared an entire building, killing 2 enemy and taking 6 prisoners. Although wounded while rallying his men, he refused medical attention and directed fire so skillfully that the foe was demoralized and forced to withdraw.

- Pfc. RALPH W. COBB, on 10 April 1945, during bitter house-to-house fighting when his squad was immobilized by heavy automatic weapons fire, crawled forward to within twenty yards of the enemy and opened fire with carbine and hurled grenades. His daring action resulted in the killing of thirteen, the capture of four and the achievement of the objective.
- T/Sgt. THOMAS A. CONVERY, JR., on 4 April 1945, when his platoon leader was killed, assumed command and skillfully continued the attack. Securing his position in a building, his platoon was attacked by a company of enemy. Surrounded and outnumbered, he directed fire inflicting numerous casualties and despite serious wounds persisted in encouraging and inspiring his men until successfully withdrawn.
- Pfc. OLAN DABBS, on 6 April 1945, took a position at an exposed window when a counterattack was launched and engaged the attackers. His rifle ammunition exhausted, he hurled hand grenades, breaking up the attack, then manned a machine gun and repulsed subsequent attacks of numerically superior troops, refusing to give up his position even after phosphorous grenades set the building afire.
- Sgt. ROBERT A. DORSETT, on 11 April 1945, when the command post was attacked by infiltrating enemy through a tunnel, left the comparative safety of the CP. and made his way under direct observation and fire to the flank of the attacking troops. Charging the enemy, he killed several riflemen and forced the remainder to retreat within the tunnel.
- 2nd Lt. FRANK G. EVERETT, JR., on 13 April 1945, when the rifle platoon supported by his mortar group was attacked by heavy artillery fire which killed the leader of the platoon, moved among the troops despite his own painful wounds administering first aid and then reorganized and combined forces of the two units. He directed the attack and achieved the objective refusing medical attention until the mission was accomplished.
- Pfc. DWIGHT F. EWING, on 9 April 1945, crawled toward a hostile machine gun nest pushing large stones ahead of him as protection from the direct fire. He advanced in this ingenious and difficult manner until close enough to direct a volley of accurate fire into the position, killing three Germans and inducing a fourth to surrender.
- T/4 ORESTE FATA, on 9 April 1945, when numerous casualties occurred near a railway point, moved forward into the bullet-infested area. After administering first aid and helping in the evacuation of several comrades, he went to help a wounded man laying but a few yards from a hostile machine gun nest. Although forced to crawl amid barrages, he reached the casualty, rendered first aid and evacuated him over the fire-swept terrain.
- Pfc. ANTHONY P. FUNARI, on 9 April 1945, silenced two hostile snipers, then crawled forward toward the position from which automatic weapon fire was issuing and killed the gunner. He engaged the weapon that had wounded his platoon leader and silenced it, enabling the officer to reach a covered position. When the platoon was ordered to withdraw he remained and helped carry the wounded to safety.
- S/Sgt. LOUIS GAOUILLE, on 9 April 1945, led his men forward in the face of intense observed artillery fire. With his platoon immobilized, he crawled from man to man despite the concentrated fire, directing their placement of weapons and administering first aid to the wounded. Infiltrating his squad and securing a bridgehead, he killed three and captured three in a bitter fire fight.
- Sgt. ADOLPH C. GERSZEWSKI, on 9 April 1945, cognizant of the great danger to his men when the enemy had infiltrated our position, made a reconnaissance, discovered the enemy's positions, and engaged in a fire-fight. He killed five Germans, wounded three and the remainder were driven from their entrenchments. He was killed later, attempting to aid a casualty.
- Pfc. SIMON GENZELMAN, on 8 April 1945, voluntarily braved a concentration of hostile artillery and rocket fire to evacuate casualties from another unit, and although he was seriously wounded in the process, brought the wounded men to an aid station. He later succumbed to his injuries.

- Pfc. ROBERT S. GRISSINGER, on 6 April 1945, went to an exposed position to repair a radio set which was the only means of communication left. Completely disregarding the intense hostile fire, he began to change batteries. Although hit by an enemy sniper, he managed to complete his task before he succumbed to the wound.
- 2nd Lt. PITTMAN HALL, on 6 April 1945, singlehandedly attacked a hostile tank with a rocket propelled weapon and by his accurate shooting damaged the vehicle's gun turret and forced it to withdraw. Then joining an intensified fire-fight surrounding a pill box, he directed his platoon's tactical operations. He was wounded, but refused medical aid until the enemy was repulsed.
- Pfc. ROBERT M. HAMMONDS, on 11 April 1945, volunteered to complete installation of a wire line in full view of enemy. He unhesitatingly exposed himself to direct hostile observation and fire. He had just completed his task, when he was struck and mortally wounded by a sniper's bullet.
- Sgt. DONALD G. HARMAN, on 7 April 1945, while in command of a squad which was halted by machine gun fire, advanced alone, not choosing to endanger his men, and after reaching a satisfactory position, dropped to the ground and threw two grenades killing the two who manned the gun.
- S/Sgt. HARRY S. HOHN, on 5 April 1945, ran forward and hurled hand grenades over a wall behind which were enemy troops, silencing the fire and enabling his squad to extricate itself. Though wounded he went through a gap in the wall, killing 4 and wounding 3 enemy infantry before he was again wounded.
- T/4 GEORGE A. HOMMERDING, on 7 April 1945, went to the aid of a fallen comrade in the face of heavy enemy fire and the wounded man's exposed position. Before he could reach the casualty, however, he was seriously wounded by another sniper.
- T/Sgt. JOSEPH P. KIELBOWICZ, on 11 April 1945, realized the danger to his men when his platoon was immobilized by heavy machine gun fire. He advanced alone across a clearing, stormed the enemy position and destroyed the gun and crew. He was subsequently killed by an enemy sniper while leading his men in a continuation of the attack.
- 1st Lt. OWEN E. KIRKLAND, on 5 April 1945, skillfully directed his company in the repulse of a determined counterattack by enemy infantry-tank forces. He then supervised the withdrawal and reorganization of his squads and platoons. He directed artillery fire so effectively that the enemy tanks fled. While so engaged he was mortally wounded by a sniper.
- Pfc. JOHN S. KLINE, on 8 April 1945, although the company of which he was an aid man, was immobilized due to the concentration of enemy snipers in nearby houses, courageously crawled to the aid of a wounded soldier. As he administered first aid he was killed.
- 1st Lt. OLIVER C. KNIGHTON, on 4 April 1945, acted in the hazardous capacity of first scout to lead his men forward against a strongly-defended factory building, charging alone and firing his carbine from the hip to destroy a hostile machine gun emplacement, killing two of the crew and wounding a third.
- Pfc. HENRY H. KREVOR, on 20 March 1945, although constantly exposed to the concentrated enemy artillery attack which had broken up his company, made twelve trips through the battered streets of the town, led small groups to centralized positions, carried one man to safety, and led stretcher bearers to two other casualties.
- Sgt. JOE M. LIZE, on 9 April 1945, carried his machine gun to the top floor of a factory building to provide covering fire for his platoon. From this point he delivered withering fire at the enemy, and, although subjected to crossfire from several enemy weapons, remained at his post. When certain that his comrades had pulled back to safety he prepared to evacuate the building and while thus engaged was killed by a sniper.
- 2nd Lt. WILLIAM W. McCANSE, on 10 April 1945, when his unit, occupying a precarious position in advance of the main body, was subjected to a savage artillery bombardment, moved from one squad to another, issuing orders and encouraging his men. Even when a bursting shell was so near that the concussion threw him off his feet he went resolutely on until killed by another shell.

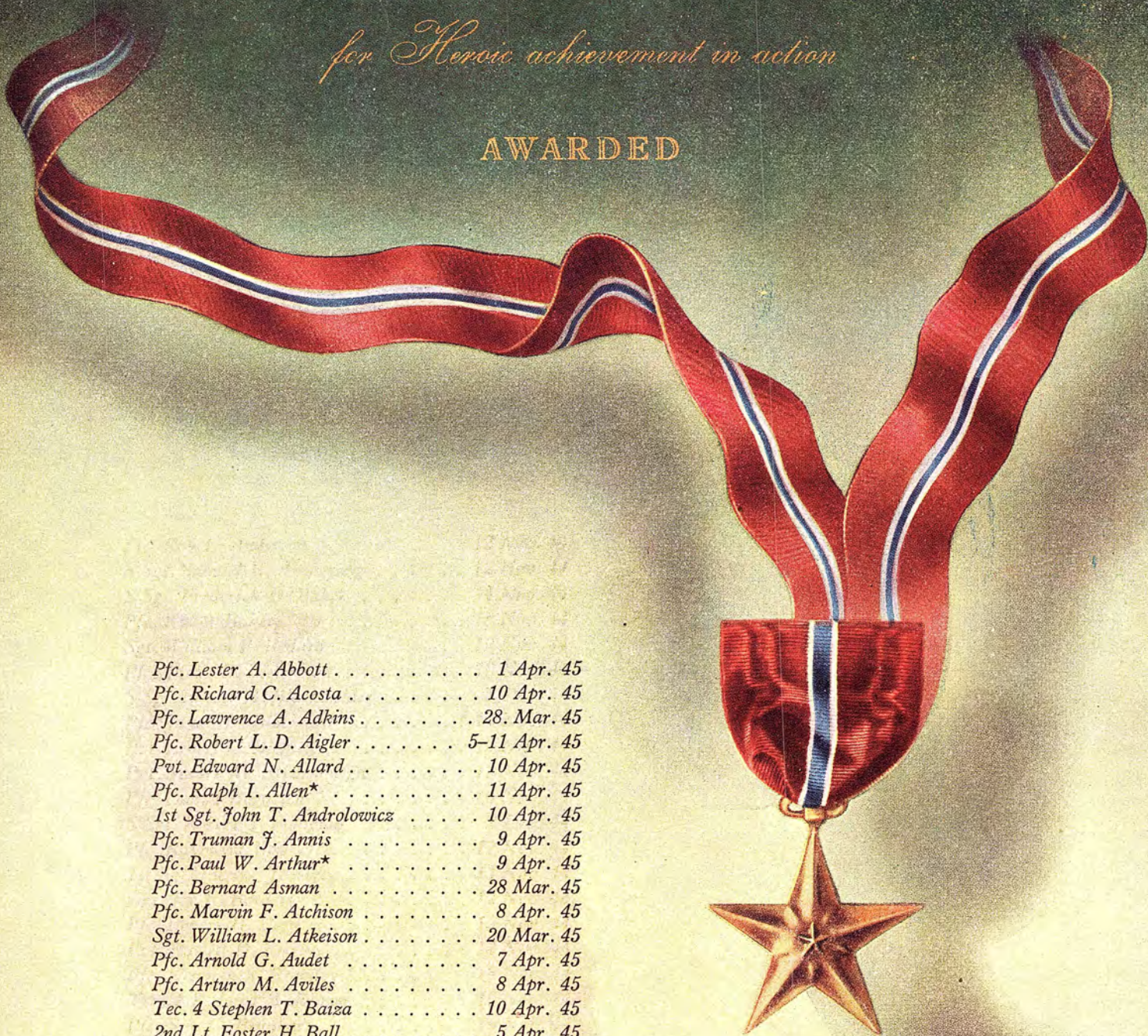
- T/4 WILLIAM H. McGEE, on 7 April 1945, saw a wounded man lay in an open area and when an aid man attempted to reach him, he too was wounded. Although fully aware of the risk, he heroically ran to the assistance of both men and, while bullets struck around him, administered first aid to each and evacuated them to a point of safety.
- T/5 IVAN G. MECHLIN, on 11 April 1945, when the command post was attacked by infiltrating enemy through a tunnel, left the comparative security of the CP. and made his way under direct observation and fire to the flank of the attacking troops. Charging the enemy, he killed several riflemen and forced the remainder to retreat within the tunnel.
- 1st Lt. JOHN T. MULLINS, on 9 April 1945, when the left flank of his platoon was left exposed, advanced to a forward position and diverted the enemy by rapid and accurate covering fire which permitted his men to reorganize. By alerting his men and pointing hostile gun positions out to them, he succeeded in repulsing another assault.
- S/Sgt. JEROME F. PAWLAK, on 11 April 1945, dashed across an open street under fire to destroy an hostile strongpoint which was holding up the advance. He killed two and forced the surrender of six. On 21 April 1945 he observed an hostile convoy, scored a direct hit on the first vehicle with a rifle grenade and so disconcerted the opposing troops that 47 surrendered themselves and 4 vehicles.
- 2nd Lt. PETER P. PETRACCO, on 4 April 1945, when ordered to withdraw his platoon remained himself in position to deliver covering fire while his men made their way, one by one, across 200 yards of open terrain. When the others had reached safety, he started across, but, seeing a wounded man, ignored the heavy fire to pick up the casualty and carry him to safety. He was later killed by the intense sniper fire.
- Pfc. FREDERICK W. POWERS, on 6 April 1945, crawled forward close to an enemy machine gun which threatened to cut off his squad from the rest of the platoon. Exposing himself, he fired, killing the gunner, but was himself wounded in the exchange of fire. He then rushed the emplacement, and, firing from the hip, killed the remaining two gunners and captured the gun. Refusing evacuation, he remained at this post until the enemy retreated. He later died of his wounds.
- Pfc. HORACE L. RASBERRY, on 5 April, was assigned the mission of clearing a factory building defended by the enemy. Covered by his squad, he crossed seventy-five yards of open ground, scaled a six foot wall and stormed the building in the face of hostile fire. He then hurled a white phosphorous and a fragmentation grenade into a window killing one, burning two and forcing three others to surrender before he was killed by a sniper.
- Pfc. CHARLES P. SHEEHAN, on 4 April 1945, evacuated a casualty from an exposed position and, then observing the enemy advancing, assumed a position in a building and with a light machine gun repulsed three furious enemy assaults. Although wounded, he held his post until the burning structure forced his withdrawal. He paused to aid two wounded to safety.
- Pfc. BAXTER R. SMITH JR., on 7th April 1945, when his company was attacked and had to withdraw, remained behind to cover the maneuver. Three tanks and several riflemen advanced toward his position. Waiting until they were within 100 yards, he directed a deadly stream of bullets, killing fifteen and forcing the tanks to withdraw. He was wounded in the encounter.
- Pfc. GEORGE F. SULLIVAN, on 10 April 1945, charged an enemy machine gun nest alone, killing the entire crew with rifle fire and silencing the weapon. He received fatal wounds in performing this gallant action.
- Pfc. RAYMOND L. TAFT, on 5 April 1945, while acting as lead scout, came under intense sniper and machine gun fire. He crawled to within 25 yards of the hostile weapon and killed two of the enemy, wounding another. Although he was wounded, he fired again, killing another rifleman, before he himself was killed.

- S/Sgt. BUDDY G. THOMAS, on 9 April 1945, when his platoon was immobilized by enemy fire, secured three abandoned Panzerfausts, crawled forward under observation, and fired them and several hand grenades into a building. He shot the door lock open and emptied 2 clips of ammunition, killing 5, wounding 4 and capturing 29.
- Tec. 4 JAMES D. THOMPSON, during the period 6 April to 8 April 1945, made an attempt to repair a wire line despite intense artillery fire and was stunned by a nearby shell burst but made a second attempt to reach the line. Although knocked down once again, he made still a third attempt and succeeded in his mission.
- Pfc. GEORGE S. TOMPKINS, on 3 April 1945, while firing from an exposed position during a terrific enemy concentration of rocket, artillery and mortar fire was wounded. He refused medical care, however, and continued firing to give his comrades time to regroup and retake lost ground. During the action he was killed.
- Pfc. JAMES E. VAN DAMME, on 7 April 1945, after being pinned down in an open space by an hostile machine gun as he was running toward a building, entered it to be confronted with six enemy EM and 1 Officer. He captured the entire group.
- Pvt. SEYMOUR S. VIGDOR, on 7 April 1945, volunteered with three others to ferry supplies across the hostile Neckar River. Under severely intense artillery and sniper fire he made two crossings to deliver ammunition to the troops, and while waiting to carry wounded men back to safety, was killed by a sniper.
- Pfc. WILLIAM B. WAGNER, on 5 April 1945, disregarded the intensity of enemy action to fire rockets at a concrete wall behind which a group of enemy was delaying the progress of the attack. His first round killed the members of a machine gun crew, but despite the heavy fire he continued firing until killed by rifle fire.
- Sgt. HOWARD L. WHITECOTTON, on 10 April 1945, ignoring danger, led part of his squad which was not pinned down. He moved forward alone, throwing a grenade into an occupied building, and captured an automatic weapon crew of five men intact.
- S/Sgt. DALTON J. YATES (then Tec. 5), on 5 April 1945, when several casualties from automatic weapons and sniper fire resulted from a withering fire fight, voluntarily picked up a light machine gun and fired steadily from an exposed position at the enemy. The intensity of his fire forced the enemy to surrender and our wounded could be evacuated.

Bronze Star Medal

for Heroic achievement in action

AWARDED



Pfc. Lester A. Abbott 1 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Richard C. Acosta 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Lawrence A. Adkins 28. Mar. 45
 Pfc. Robert L. D. Aigler 5-11 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Edward N. Allard 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Ralph I. Allen* 11 Apr. 45
 1st Sgt. John T. Androlowicz 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Truman J. Annis 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Paul W. Arthur* 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Bernard Asman 28 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Marvin F. Atchison 8 Apr. 45
 Sgt. William L. Atkison 20 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Arnold G. Audet 7 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Arturo M. Aviles 8 Apr. 45
 Tec. 4 Stephen T. Baiza 10 Apr. 45
 2nd Lt. Foster H. Ball 5 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Willis M. Banks 6 Apr. 45
 1st Lt. Frederic E. Barrett 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William C. Basnight 5-11 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Joseph A. Bassett 10 Apr. 45
 Tec. 5 Francis S. Becherer 5-11 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Samuel F. Behie 11 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Eugene N. Benck 10 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Thomas B. Bender, Sr. 20 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Francis J. Berthiaume 13 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. David A. Bickford 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Andrew O. Blowers 19 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Joseph Botto 8 Apr. 45

Pfc. Arthur H. Bouchard 28 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Charles M. Bouchard 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Benjamin L. Bowman, Jr. 13 Apr. 45
 1st Sgt. Herbert N. Bradfield* 1 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Norman B. Branham 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Graal F. Braum 11 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Nestor Bravo 13 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Clarence P. Bray 9 Apr. 45
 Tec. 4 George W. Brazier, Jr. 9 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Paul Breiterman 9 Apr. 45

Pfc. Arnold P. Brock 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Kyle W. Brogan 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Lane E. Brower 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Theodore E. Bunday 8-9 Apr. 45
Pfc. James S. Burch 5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Victor E. Burgey 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leonard H. Burkey 8 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. James A. R. Burrowes 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Marcus Campbell 4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Lucian O. Cantin 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Edwin A. Caroselli 13 Apr. 45
Cpl. Harry R. Ceyrolles 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. James E. Choate 13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Christos Christakos 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. George D. Christie 9 Apr. 45
Sgt. James E. Christy 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Salvatore Ciotti 5 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Austin Cogar 6 Apr. 45
Sgt. Joseph L. Cohen 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Asa L. Collins 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. J. C. Collins 5-11 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. James Corace 9 Apr. 45
Sgt. Carl E. Cornelius 8 Apr. 45
Sgt. Joseph H. Cosby 5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Clement R. Crowley 20 Mar. 45
T/Sgt. Claude M. Crusan 5-12 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Sam J. D'Agostino 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Richard H. David 12 Apr. 45
Pfc. Arthur Davis 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. John Deak 29 Mar. 45
Pvt. Melvin W. Deavers 10 Apr. 45
Cpl. Carl C. Den Hartog 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Raymond O. Denman, Jr. 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Simon P. Dennis 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Allen G. Dewey 5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Rodney O. Dickerson 13 Apr. 45
Cpl. Leonard A. Doto, Jr. 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Maynard A. Dovel 9 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Malcolm E. Downey 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Charles E. Dunno 9 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Jeremiah H. Dwyer 6 Apr. 45
Tec. 4 Merwin C. Earley 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Elmer J. Eisenbarth 5-11 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Philip C. Ellsworth 4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Donald L. Enfield 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Gerald A. Estes 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Bertram E. Ewan, Jr. 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. William C. Eyer 5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Lavern A. Farnham 6-8 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Francis J. Farrell 9 Apr. 45
*Pfc. John G. Faulkner** 4 Apr. 45
Sgt. Vincent R. Ferrell 7 Apr. 45
Pfc. Elmer A. Finger 6 Apr. 45
Tec. 4 Nicholas Formichelli 6 Apr. 45

Pfc. John H. Foster 24 Mar. 45
Pfc. Claude H. Fox 10 Apr. 45
Pvt. Ben Gammalo 5 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. John J. Geryak 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert I. Glesby 7 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Herbert G. Godfrey 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Edward M. Gore 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Thomas J. Grady 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Ralph F. Gray 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert H. Gray 6 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. James P. Grimes 6 Apr. 45
*Pfc. Pearl Grimes** 12 Apr. 45
Pfc. Louis A. Growel 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Rodney P. Guay 4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Joseph Gulrich 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Albert H. Haas 7 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Charles N. Hagan 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. John J. Hagan 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Arthur D. Hare 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Rudolph Harlin 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Claudie F. Harris 9 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Robert A. Harris 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. G. M. Harrison 10 Apr. 45
Tec. 3 Frank S. Harton 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Walter C. Heald 9 Apr. 45
Sgt. James Healey 9 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Fred F. Heilman 4-12 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert E. Hensel 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Frederick K. Hensley 5 Apr. 45
Pfc. William A. Hester 7 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Edwin J. Heuermann 6 Apr. 45
Pfc. William J. Hill, Jr. 8 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Eugene S. Hoiby 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Allen C. Holderfield 4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Johnnie E. Hollis 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Earl D. Holly 10 Apr. 45
Sgt. Charles W. Hotinger 12 Apr. 45
Pvt. Herbert Hoskins 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leon G. Hoyt, Jr. 10 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Merton T. Howard 7 Apr. 45
Sgt. Gorrell O. Hunter 10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Philip A. Isserman 12 Apr. 45
Pfc. Joseph J. Jasinski 1 Apr. 45
Pfc. Andrew H. Jasper 9 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Harry W. Jay 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Hugh F. Jeffers 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert L. Jester 13 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Edward O. Johnson 8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Elwyn O. Johnson 9 Apr. 45
Pfc. William W. Johnson 9 Apr. 45
Sgt. Gerald J. Kearney 20 Mar. 45
Pvt. Kenneth O. Kemp 6 Apr. 45
Sgt. Roy W. Kent 5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Harold L. Keown 10 Apr. 45

Pfc. Robert E. Kerns	9 Apr. 45	Cpl. Joseph G. Nicoletti	25 Mar. 45
T/Sgt. Merrill H. Kill	5-10 Apr. 45	Pfc. Arthur Nimrod	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. William J. King, Jr.	5 Apr. 45	Pfc. Norman Nisick	20 Mar. 45
Pfc. Albert T. Klett*	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Alden R. Noble	2 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Adolf S. Kowalski	4-11 Apr. 45	Pfc. Dale C. Noble	9 Apr. 45
Sgt. Edward Ladic	9 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Alfred F. Nowak	9 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. John C. Landon	10-12 Apr. 45	Pfc. Daniel L. O'Brien	9 Apr. 45
Sgt. Bruce O. Larson	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Robert E. O'Brien	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Donald Larson	6 Apr. 45	Tec. 5 James O'Conner	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. August A. Lauzon*	4-11 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Edward J. O'Rourke	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Daniel Lazare	8 Apr. 45	T/Sgt. Frank T. Ostrokolowicz	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Isidor S. Levine	7 Apr. 45	T/Sgt. Frank Outslay	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Steve A. Lomascolo	17 Mar. 45	Cpl. Henry E. Palmerino	7 Apr. 45
Pfc. James S. Long	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Jack W. Parish	9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Francisco S. Lopez	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. David L. Pearson	19 Mar. 45
Pfc. Leonard S. Lumde	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. John H. Pender, Jr.	8 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Robert L. W. Madren*	7 Apr. 45	Pfc. Robert A. Pendergast	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Paul J. Malie	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Frank A. Pennell	8 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. Chester Martin	13 Apr. 45	Pfc. Henry P. Perkins	8 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. William W. Martindale	9 Apr. 45	Pvt. Logan R. Pfeiffer	6 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Arnold A. Matta	12 Apr. 45	Pfc. Clifford L. Phillips	5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Elliot H. Matthews	5 Apr. 45	Sgt. Benjamin C. Pigue, Jr.	7 Apr. 45
Pfc. William E. Maxfield	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Robert N. Pinkerton	11 Apr. 45
Sgt. Harold M. McAfee	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Robert A. Pollock	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Henry V. McCorkle, Jr.	7 Apr. 45	Pfc. Paul Polochak	9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Bernard J. McFadden	12 Apr. 45	1st Lt. Charles F. Preston, Jr.	10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leon G. McGaskill	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. John M. Qualls	9 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Philip L. McGinley	8 Apr. 45	Pfc. Francis X. Quinn	11 Apr. 45
Pfc. William E. McKay	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. William M. Radcliff	9 Apr. 45
Pfc. Mearl McKee	6 Apr. 45	Sgt. Raymond L. Rae	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. William E. McKeown	6 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Jacob Resnick	20 Mar. 45
Pvt. Paul A. McNally	12 Apr. 45	1st Lt. Charles M. Ritter	6 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Francis J. McNee	9-10 Apr. 45	Pfc. James A. Roberts	6 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Thomas J. McPherson, Jr.	11 Apr. 45	Pfc. Edward M. Robey	3 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. John W. Melnyk	10 Apr. 45	Pfc. Nicholas Rodriques	13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Chester S. Merrill, Jr.	6 Apr. 45	Cpl. Franklin F. Rowell	13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Sal Miceli	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Ebenezer K. Russell	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Orlando Micheli	4 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Adolph G. Sabattis	7 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. James H. Miller	11 Apr. 45	Sgt. Ollie W. Salmon	10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Steve Milosvich	12 Apr. 45	Pvt. Milton J. Sanders	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Claude A. Morris, Jr.	4 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Angelo Scali	12 Apr. 45
Sgt. Marlin W. Morris	10 Apr. 45	Pfc. Paul S. Schetzslle	9 Apr. 45
Sgt. Paul F. Mosher	6 Apr. 45	Capt. Ralph W. Scott	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Cecil E. Moss	10 Apr. 45	2nd Lt. James R. Shapley	6 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Joseph P. Mudd	4 Apr. 45	Pvt. Chester M. Sharpe	6-7 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. William R. Mull	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Robert E. Shipp	11 Apr. 45
Sgt. Kenneth A. Murton	4 Apr. 45	Pfc. Edmund R. Sienkewicz	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Ernest W. Myers	7 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Sigismund J. Skibek	8 Apr. 45
Sgt. George Mylonas	8 Apr. 45	T/Sgt. LeRoy M. Smeltzer	13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert C. Napper	5-11 Apr. 45	Pfc. John H. Smith	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Victor H. Nash	4 Apr. 45	Pfc. Nicholas Sodano	6-8 Apr. 45
Sgt. John B. Nasuta	2 Apr. 45	Pfc. Lyle Spettel	9 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Karl F. Nealand*	16 Mar. 45	Pfc. Raymond V. Spizziri	10 Apr. 45
Sgt. Albert D. Neibert	8 Apr. 45	Pfc. James E. Splitstone	6 Apr. 45

<i>Pfc. Albert E. Staley</i>	6 Apr. 45	<i>S/Sgt. Stanley E. Wakeham</i>	9 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. D. Roemer Stead</i>	9 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Keith M. Ward</i>	9 Apr. 45
<i>1st Lt. Sam Stephens</i>	8 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Charles K. Watkins</i>	4 Apr. 45
<i>Sgt. Thurman L. Stevens</i>	22 Mar. 45	<i>Pfc. James D. Watkins</i>	12 Apr. 45
<i>S/Sgt. Edward P. Stoessel</i>	10 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Frank A. Weger</i>	10 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. Leon F. Strauss</i>	25 Mar. 45	<i>Sgt. Doyle E. Wells</i>	7 Apr. 45
<i>2nd Lt. John H. Strom</i>	9 Apr. 45	<i>Sgt. James R. West</i>	8 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. Joseph J. Sullivan</i>	20 Mar. 45	<i>Tec. 3 Eurice E. Whatley</i>	6 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. Wilmer B. Swain</i>	5 Apr. 45	<i>Cpl. Corwin D. Wheeler, Jr.</i>	9 Apr. 45
<i>Sgt. Francis A. Sweeney</i>	8 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Doran G. Wilbur</i>	5 Apr. 45
<i>Tec. 4 Joseph Tarantino</i>	6 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. George S. Willett</i>	4-11 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. James K. Thomson</i>	7 Apr. 45	<i>Sgt. Frank W. Wolak</i>	8 Apr. 45
<i>Sgt. Ralph Y. Thorne</i>	8 Apr. 45	<i>S/Sgt. Grady G. Woody*</i>	9 Apr. 45
<i>S/Sgt. Edward D. Timoney*</i>	10 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Herbert Wrahtz</i>	7 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. Charles M. Towers</i>	8 Apr. 45	<i>S/Sgt. Joe B. Wynn</i>	13 Apr. 45
<i>1st Lt. Edwin J. Urban</i>	19 Mar. 45	<i>Pfc. Raymond T. Wytas</i>	7 Apr. 45
<i>Pfc. John R. Vaughn</i>	9 Apr. 45	<i>S/Sgt. John T. Young</i>	7 Apr. 45
<i>2nd Lt. Walter R. Vaughn</i>	9 Apr. 45	<i>Pfc. Henry Zygmont</i>	4-11 Apr. 45

* OAK LEAF CLUSTER



Purple Heart Medal

posthumously

AWARDED



Pfc. Lester A. Abbott
Scranton, Pa.

Pfc. Leon F. Abernathy
Buford, Georgia

Cpl. Donald J. Anderson
Eagle Grove, Iowa

Pfc. Paul W. Arthur
Hamilton, Ohio

Pvt. James R. Ayers
Jonesboro, N.C.

Pfc. Roy L. Baker
Turlock, Calif.

Pvt. Kenneth H. Bartley
Louisa, Kentucky

1st Lt. Carl H. Bradshaw
Washington, D.C.

Pfc. Arnold P. Brock
Sioux Rapids, Iowa

Pvt. Edward J. Butow
Toms River, N.J.

S/Sgt. Joe E. Cathey
Knoxville, Tenn.

Pvt. Arthur W. Chouinard
Waterbury, Conn.

Pfc. Carl G. Claunch, Jr.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Pfc. John Cody
Toledo, Ohio

Sgt. Charles W. Conway
Bomoseen, Vermont

Sgt. Ted R. Cook
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Cpl. Carl C. Den Hartog
New Sharon, Iowa

T/Sgt. Fred E. Droste
Litchfield, Ill.

Pfc. Archie L. Emery
Ashtabula, Ohio

Pfc. Irving A. Feigenbaum
Newark, N.J.



*Pfc. Simon Genzelman
Yonkers, N.Y.*

*Sgt. Adolph C. Gerszewski
Grand Forks, N.D.*

*Pvt. Irving A. Goeschel
Detroit, Michigan*

*Pfc. Cecil E. Griffin
Macon, Georgia*

*S/Sgt. James P. Grimes
Salem, Indiana*

*Pfc. Robert S. Grissinger
York Springs, Pa.*

*Pfc. John W. Gunn
Clayville, Va.*

*T/Sgt. Warren L. Gunter
River Falls, Alabama*

*Pvt. Leonard D. Guthrie
Odenton, Maryland.*

*Pvt. Delbert C. Haley
Baldwinsville, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Robert M. Hammonds
Wickliffe, Kentucky*

*Pfc. John S. Harman
Attica, Indiana*

*Pfc. Louie W. Hart Jr.
Memphis, Tennessee*

*Pvt. Henry E. Hartman
Laurel, Mississippi*

*Pvt. Wallace S. Hersh
Kokomo, Indiana*

*Tec. 4 George A. Hommerding
St. Cloud, Minn.*

*Pvt. Wesley B. Howard
Little Rock, Arkansas*

*Pfc. Joseph J. Jasinski
Detroit, Michigan*

*Pfc. Milton Kesten
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*T/Sgt. Joseph P. Kielbowicz
Oil City, Pa.*

*1st Lt. Owen E. Kirkland
Jacksonville, Florida*

*Pfc. John S. Kline
Sturgis, Michigan*

*Sgt. Edward Ladic
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*Sgt. Earl H. Leland
Fingal, N.D.*

*S/Sgt. Marion L. Leppo
Youngstown, Ohio*

*Sgt. Joe M. Lize
Detroit, Michigan*

*2nd Lt. William W. McCause
Pomeroy, Washington*

*Pfc. Bernard J. McFadden
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Chester S. Merrill, Jr.
Newtonville, Mass.*

*Pfc. Jason S. Miller, Jr.
Deer Park, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Harold E. Miller
Marinette, Wisconsin*

*Pfc. James E. Morgan
Culberson, N.C.*

*Sgt. John B. Nasuta
Hartford, Conn.*

*Pfc. Alden R. Noble
Mechanicsville, N.Y.*

*Pfc. John Ohannessian
Milford, Mass.*

*Pfc. Henry P. Perkins
Glasgow, Kentucky*

*2nd Lt. Peter P. Petracco
Wayne, N.J.*

*Pfc. John J. Pitnicki
Cambridge, Mass.*

*S/Sgt. Harold C. Poeltzig
Thiensville, Wisconsin*

*Pfc. Fredrick W. Powers
Canton, Mass.*

*S/Sgt. William V. Puckett
Vinemont, Alabama*

*1st Lt. Leo Rabinowitz
New York, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Horace L. Rasberry
Paris, Tennessee*

*Sgt. John C. Rhen
Lancaster, Pa.*

*Sgt. Carl R. Smith
Muskegon, Michigan*

*Pvt. George F. Sullivan
Mount Vernon, N.Y.*

*Pfc. Raymond L. Taft
Richmond, Vermont*

*Pfc. Stanley B. Thomas
Dupree, S.D.*

*Pvt. Jack Thompson
McArthur, Ohio*

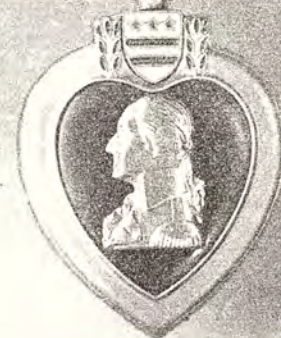
*Pfc. George S. Tomkins, Jr.
Eugene, Oregon*

*Pfc. Ralph Twist
E. Millinocket, Maine*

*Pvt. Seymour S. Vigdor
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*Pfc. William B. Wagner
Elizabethton, Tenn.*

*Pvt. Garo Yazujian
New York, N.Y.*



Purple Heart Medal

These men sustained wounds due to enemy action

AWARDED

Pfc. Richard J. Abair	13 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Billy R. Adams	20 Mar. 45	
2nd Lt. Morris O. Alexander	7 Apr. 45	
S/Sgt. Guy E. Allen	6 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Morton L. Alley	12 Apr. 45	
Cpl. Terrance E. Anderson	24 Mar. 45	
Pfc. Norman M. Apgar	9 Apr. 45	
Sgt. Dennis J. Armstrong	9 Apr. 45	
Pvt. Wilbur C. Arrington	7 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Bernard Asman	9 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Raymond G. Bannon	3 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Roger Baren	9 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Harry C. Barnas	5 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Jesse J. Bautista	8 Apr. 45	
Sgt. Thomas M. Beamon	9 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Albert Bearden	9 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Clarence G. Beasley	7 Apr. 45	
Pfc. William L. Bedillion, Jr.	13 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Elmer E. Beebe	6 Apr. 45	
Pfc. James C. Beggs	9 Apr. 45	
Sgt. William C. Bellows	5 Apr. 45	
Pvt. Carmello J. Benassi	5 Apr. 45	
Pvt. Raymond C. Benech	5 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Joseph C. Berrini	2 Apr. 45	
Pvt. James A. Biller	17 Mar. 45	
Pfc. James D. Blackwell	20 Mar. 45	
Pfc. William F. Blain	13 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Robert J. Blakeney	3 Apr. 45	
Pfc. George T. Bloss	13 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Harry W. Bogda, Jr.	6 Apr. 45	
S/Sgt. Edward J. Borboa	6 Apr. 45	
S/Sgt. Charles M. Bouchard	5 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Walter W. Bray	8 Apr. 45	
Pfc. James E. Brinkley	13 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Robert J. Brokate	16 Mar. 45	
Pfc. John J. Brust	4 Apr. 45	
T/Sgt. Donald L. Butcher	8 Apr. 45	
Pfc. Otis T. Burton	7 Apr. 45	
		Pvt. John J. Cacala 16 Mar. 45
		Pfc. Marcus Campbell 9 Apr. 45
		Pvt. John P. Cannavo 4 Apr. 45
		2nd Lt. Edwin T. Cansler III 20 Mar. 45
		Pfc. Burdette M. Carlson 3 Apr. 45
		Pfc. Thomas J. Cartwright 9 Apr. 45
		Pvt. Elton G. Cassady 20 Mar. 45
		Sgt. Joseph P. Castellano 9 Apr. 45
		Pvt. Joseph J. Cebula 9 Apr. 45
		S/Sgt. Roy B. Champion 7 Apr. 45
		Pfc. Paul Christy 6 Apr. 45
		Pfc. Gerald F. Clark 3 Apr. 45
		S/Sgt. Stanley W. Claves 16 Mar. 45
		S/Sgt. Arthur C. Clifton 8 Apr. 45



S/Sgt. Harold P. Coates	6 Apr. 45	2nd Lt. Robert A. Harris	9, 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. James C. Cochrane	13 Apr. 45	Pvt. Ralph E. Harveyr	9 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. Thomas A. Convery, Jr.	5 Apr. 45	Pfc. John F. Hayhurst	9 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Johnie C. Cox	16 Mar. 45	Pvt. Luther H. Headrick	11 Apr. 45
Sgt. Cecil L. Crawford	10 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Frederick Heinzmann	5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Rudolph A. Curelli	4 Apr. 45	Sgt. Carl D. Helgen	8 Apr. 45
T/4 Marshall G. Dahlen	7 Apr. 45	Pfc. Fredrick K. Hensley	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leonard E. Dalverny	8 Apr. 45	Pfc. Troy L. Hicks	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Harold F. Davis	1 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Harry S. Hohn	5 Apr. 45
Pvt. Ivan W. Dawley, Jr.	18 Mar. 45	S/Sgt. Eugene S. Hoiby	9 Apr. 45
Pfc. William DeKlerk	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. Allen C. Holderfield	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Arthur T. DeLuca	8 Apr. 45	2nd Lt. Charles H. Holt	13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Raymond O. Denman, Jr.	13 Apr. 45	Pfc. Delos C. Hood	17 Mar. 45
Pfc. Thomas DeSimone	17 Mar. 45	Sgt. David G. Hurt	7 Apr. 45
Pvt. Augustine C. Diaz	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Clifford L. Jenkins	5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. William M. Ditto	5 Apr. 45	Pfc. Oscar W. Jennings	8 Apr. 45
Sgt. Porter W. Dobbins, Jr.	5 Apr. 45	Pfc. Harold J. Jinks	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. James L. Dunaway, Jr.	20 Mar. 45	S/Sgt. Charles W. Johnson	20 Mar. 45
Pfc. Donald L. Enfield	3 Jan. 45	Pfc. Harold W. Johnson	1 Apr. 45
Pvt. Walter L. Evans	5 Apr. 45	Sgt. James A. Jones	5 Apr. 45
Sgt. Wilbur H. Eynon	11 Apr. 45	Pfc. Thomas C. Jones	12 Apr. 45
Sgt. Nicholas J. Facci	18 Mar. 45	Pfc. Walter A. Jordan	2 Apr. 45
T/5 George W. Fagerness	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. William P. Julian	20 Mar. 45
Pfc. John G. Faulkner	5 Apr. 45	Pfc. Denver M. Jurek	3 Apr. 45
Pfc. James W. Fell	8 Apr. 45	Pfc. Michael J. Karbosky	13 Apr. 45
Pfc. Henry J. Ferlin	1 Apr. 45	Pfc. Edward R. Katich	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Vincent R. Ferrell	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. James R. Kauffman	10 Apr. 45
Pfc. John Finch, Jr.	1 Apr. 45	Sgt. Roy W. Kent	5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Ray Fletcher	12 Apr. 45	Pfc. Chester E. Kerns	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. Ernesto L. Flores	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. Harold L. Kessel	8 Apr. 45
Pfc. Louis E. Fuller, Jr.	11 Apr. 45	Pvt. William J. King, Jr.	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. William R. Fyfe	10 Apr. 45	Pfc. Ernest W. Kirchheimer	12 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Louis Gaouette	8 Apr. 45	Pfc. Richard H. Kohler	9 Apr. 45
Pvt. Leonard A. Gaskamp	9 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Harold I. Kovarsky	6 Apr. 45
Pfc. John H. Geissel	5 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Norval A. Kvernes	10 Apr. 45
Pvt. Herbert S. Gershman	7 Apr. 45	Sgt. Lelyn D. Lake	1 Apr. 45
Pvt. Gerald K. Gifford	5 Apr. 45	Pvt. A. V. Lanier	12 Apr. 45
Pvt. Garland M. Gilliam	12 Apr. 45	Pvt. Loring L. Lantz	5 Apr. 45
Sgt. Vincent J. Gleason	4 Apr. 45	Pfc. Eino R. Latvala	21 Mar. 45
1st Sgt. Dante Granito	2 Apr. 45	Pvt. Francis L. Lawler	1 Apr. 45
Pvt. John B. Greenshields	16 Mar. 45	Pvt. Agustin G. Leal	10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Joseph Gulrich	8 Apr. 45	T/3 Edward Leight	5 Apr. 45
Sgt. Wilfred R. Hackert	16 Mar. 45	Sgt. Richard P. Lenski	5 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. William L. Hackworth	6 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Ludwig Lesch	7 Apr. 45
Cpl. Al Haggar	9 Apr. 45	Pfc. Harry Lester	10 Apr. 45
Pfc. Thomas O. Ham	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. Patrick A. Levesque	8 Apr. 45
Pvt. John E. Hammock	20 Mar. 45	2nd Lt. Oscar Leistyna	13 Apr. 45
Pvt. Louis F. Hancock	6 Apr. 45	Pfc. Gus W. Lindquist	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. Rayner B. Hancock	12 Apr. 45	S/Sgt. Daniel S. Lynch	5 Apr. 45
Pfc. John V. Hanrahan	6 Apr. 45	Pvt. Floyd E. Madsen	6 Apr. 45
Pvt. Carroll M. Hansen	20 Mar. 45	Pfc. George F. Malone	4 Apr. 45
Pfc. Calvin E. Harrell	20 Mar. 45	Pfc. Anthony F. Marchio	1 Apr. 45
Sgt. Claudie F. Harris	9 Apr. 45	Pvt. Donald W. Martin	2 Apr. 45
Pfc. Paul E. Harris	13 Apr. 45	Pfc. Tiges J. Martin	26 Mar. 45

Pvt. Chalmers W. McCoy 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. John C. McDonald 8 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Jack I. McGee 17 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Lawrence P. McGonigle 20 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Clarence M. McKenzie 9 Apr. 45
 T/5 Irvine P. Messmer 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Jean E. Middleton 6 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Marvin W. Mielke 1 Apr. 45
 1st Lt. Alvin L. Misseldine 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Paul R. Moll 5 Apr. 45
 Pvt. James J. Moore 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Charles F. Morris 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Grover L. Morton 5 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. William R. Mull 12 Apr. 45
 1st Lt. John T. Mullins 9 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Kenneth A. Murton 5 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Paul Nalepa 13 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Monticello Neace 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Arthur Nimrod 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. John L. Nowak 2 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Albert Nowlan 12 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Fay G. Nunnally 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Robert E. O'Brien 9 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Glen B. Olk 17 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Edward J. O'Rourke 5 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Joseph T. Ostrokolowicz 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Ival E. Owens 9 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Joseph G. Palka 8 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Michael G. Pappas 2 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Joseph S. Pazik 3 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Gerhard Peitsch 16 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Joseph Pelowitz 10 Apr. 45
 Cpl. William J. Perry 7 Apr. 45
 Pfc. John J. Pierce 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Robert N. Pinkerton 11 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Martin C. Pitt 5 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Melvin T. Pohlman 2 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Edgar W. Pugh 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Harry A. Quinn 8 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Bernard U. Ritzert 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Edward M. Robey 3 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Marvin Robinson 17 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Arland W. Rose 24 Mar. 45
 Pvt. Robert L. Rouse 16 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Maurice R. Runyon 9 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Adolph G. Sabattis 6 Apr. 45
 2nd Lt. Israel Sacks 26 Mar. 45
 Pfc. George A. Salem 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Enrique Z. Salinas 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Marcellino W. Sapien 7 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Roy M. Sayne 8 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Ira W. Scanlin, Jr. 4 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Vito A. Scarafile 4 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Arthur C. Scherrer 16 Mar. 45

Pfc. Bertrand F. Schleismann 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Warren S. Scyphers 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Don N. Seefried 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Harold F. Shaneman 6 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Edward J. Shannon 3 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Charles P. Sheehan 5 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Bolling J. Shelley 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Joseph Shiftar 5 Apr. 45
 2nd Lt. Joseph Showlowsky 13 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Baxter R. Smith, Jr. 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Lovern E. Smith 10 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Roscoe V. Smith 1 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Roy A. Smith 13 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William J. Smith 6 Apr. 45
 Pvt. William T. Snyder 1 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Stanley M. Soja 17 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Willis C. Sperry 6 Apr. 45
 Capt. William E. Stallworth 1 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Jesse F. Stark 1 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Johnnie D. Stephens 18 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Harry A. Stepp 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Charles Stiles 5 Apr. 45
 Pfc. George F. Stokley 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William G. Sullivan 13 Apr. 45
 Pfc. George E. Swett, Jr. 3 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Lawrence G. Tanner, Sr. 11 Apr. 45
 Sgt. John E. Thoma, Jr. 7 Apr. 45
 Cpl. James J. Tierney 11 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Anthony F. Tom 5 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Charles F. Trainor 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Robert L. Trawick 18 Mar. 45
 S/Sgt. Seth E. Tritle 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Eugene A. Tuck 20 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Elmer C. Turner 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Saul B. Udin 4 Apr. 45
 Pvt. John D. Unger 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Edward T. Ura 20 Mar. 45
 2nd Lt. Walter R. Vaughn 9 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Gordon P. VanBellinger 16 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Jack S. Walker 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Julius W. Waller 7 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Robert D. Weimer 18 Mar. 45
 Pfc. Vernon O. Westrom 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Richard A. Wilbur 6 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Gilbert V. Wilkins 9 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Herman R. Willing 10 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Robert S. Wilson 16 Mar. 45
 Sgt. Frank W. Wolak 5 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Grady G. Woody 11 Apr. 45
 T/5 Edward E. Woolcock 8 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Clyde A. Yarbrough 6 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Ramiro Ybarra 13 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Robert F. Yeager 9 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. John T. Young 7 Apr. 45





PHASE IX – ALTBACH

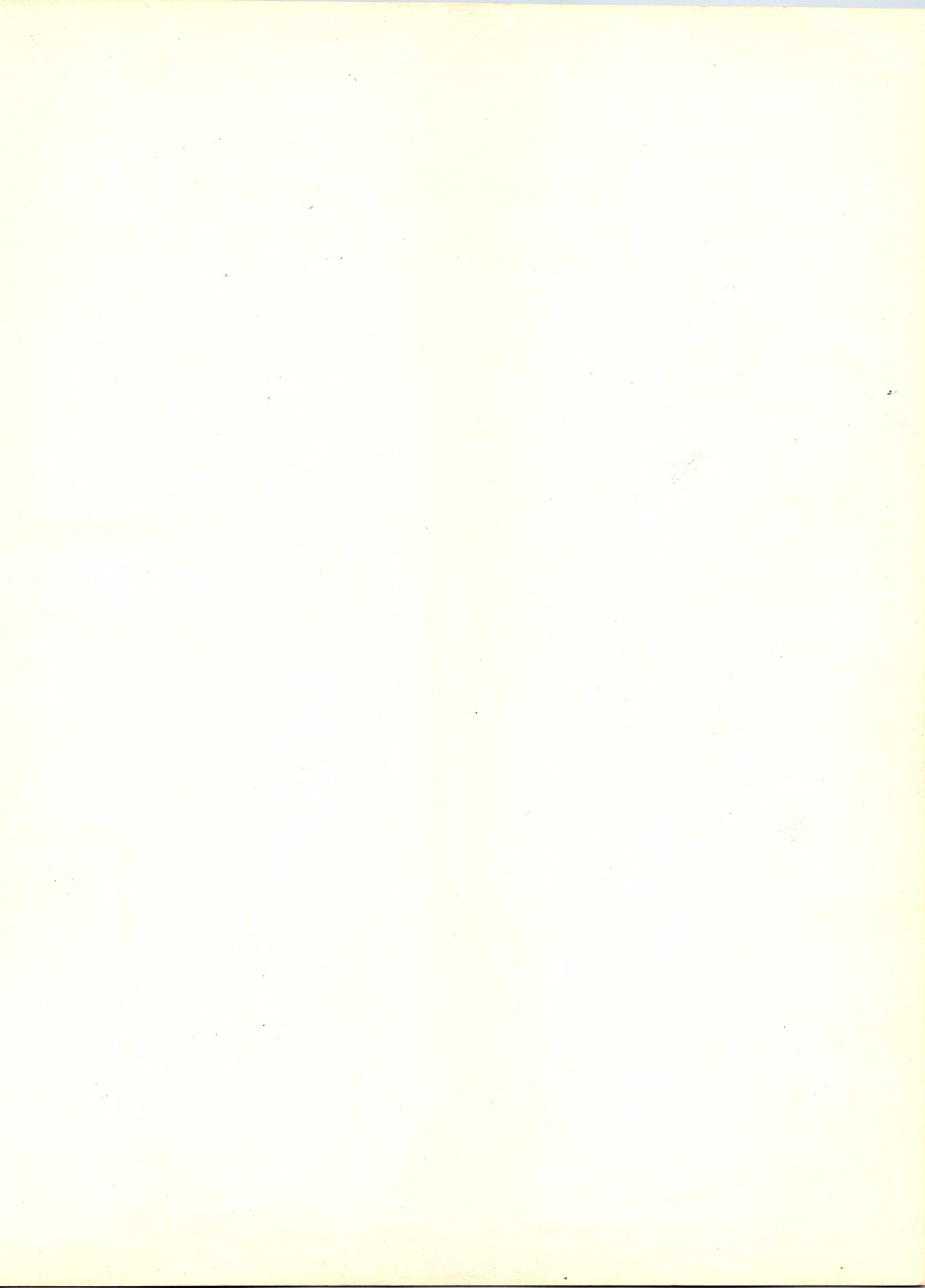
INTRODUCTION

“The first that the General saw were the groups of stragglers, and then the retreating troops”

After Heilbronn there were no longer any large scale operations; a few tough skirmishes, but generally the action was scattered and of a delaying nature. We always held the same fear of not knowing what to expect next — on the open road or the town ahead — but we knew that large enemy units were surrendering to other elements of the Seventh Army and the news was good. It is true that in the drive from Heilbronn to Altbach there was little rest and unprepared meals but the reason was a happier one. We were moving too fast for conveniences; half of the time there was no connection between forward elements and the rear. There was no time for wire laying. Contact was by radio. But none of that mattered; the weather was good and the prisoner score was mounting. Our men jumped on trucks, tanks, tank destroyers and took off with a speed that dazed the unbelieving Germans. The great numbers of astounded Heinies that we passed didn't seem to realize that there was that much motorized equipment in the world. It appeared as if the entire American and British Armies were punching through that sector and the little resistance encountered was pushed aside in the onward rush of the Regiment. Even the intermittent artillery from the fast moving and accurate 88s that would pour into our lines were easily sought out by our own artillery and destroyed. Nothing could stop us or dared to — we were rolling. More than fifty towns were entered and taken in that historic sweep and even Altbach, the final objective of the phase, fell to us without a shot. The Jerries were actually asleep and troops canvassing the town from door to door dug out hordes of them lying in cellars dressed in their union suits and shorts. It was a total rout. The German soldiers we captured, and the many that came to us, were no longer the cocky, arrogant rulers of the world. They were meek,

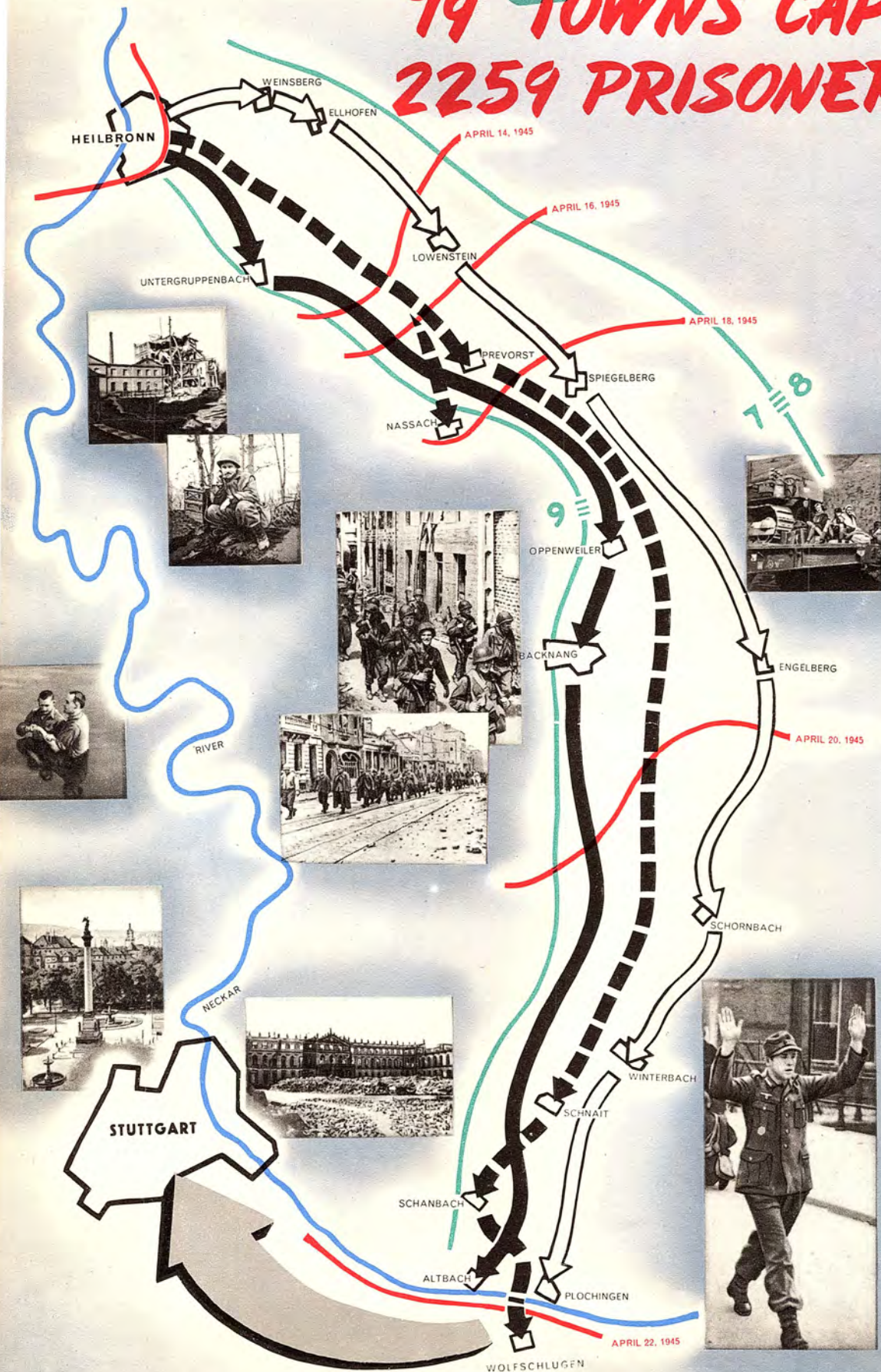
humble, beggarly, sniveling losers. Maybe we were still too close to the fight to comprehend that the war was coming to a close. Perhaps we were afraid to think it because we had so often been wrong, but we knew or felt that the backbone had snapped, that the marrow had dried. The lack of any tactical defense was obvious. The assortment of men we took did not even identify any special unit as a possible opposing force.

For the first time there was an exhilaration in our weariness. We passed hundreds of German stragglers without homes, without comrades or friends. There was no end for them, no place for them to go. They had disintegrated and we were stronger than ever; happy, hopeful, and our fortunes had just begun.



ALTBACH APRIL 14-23

**79 TOWNS CAPTURED
2259 PRISONERS TAKEN**



1ST BATTALION	
HEILBRONN	
WEINSBERG	
ELLHOFEN	
DENNBRONN	
VORHOF	
LOWENSTEIN	
SCHMELLENHOF	
HIRRWEILER	
BERNBACH	
BUCHELBERG	
NEUFURSTENHUTTE	
OBERFISCHBACH	
GROSSHOCHBERG	
SPIEGELBERG	
GROSSERLACH	
SIEBERSBACH	
KLEINHOCHBERG	
BERWINKEL	
LIEMANNSKLINGE	
ESCHENSTRUET	
ZWERENBERG	
EULENHOFLE	
WALTERSBERG	
HORSCHHOF	
ROTTMANNBERG	
SECHSELBERG	
EBERSBERG	
LIPPOLDWEILER	
DAFERN	
HOHNWEILER	
ALBERWEISSACH	
SALACH	
UNTERE MUHLE	
MICHELAU	
ASPERGLEN	
METZLERSWEILERHOF	
SCHORNACH	
ENGELBERG	
WINTERBACH	
HOHENGHEHREN	
BALTMANNWEILER	
REICHENBACH	
PLOCHINGEN	

2ND BATTALION	
OBERHEINRIET	
UNTERHEINRIET	
HOOPHACH	
FARNERSBERG	
ETZLENSWENDEN	
KAISERBACH	
BILLENSBACH	
MURRHARDT	
JETTENBACH	
KLINGEN	
STOCKSBERG	
PREVORST	
NASSACH	
KURZACH	
SIEBENKLEE	
SCHNAIT	
AICHELBERG	
SCHANBACH	
KRUMMHARDT	
AICHSCHEISS	
DEIZISAU	
WOLFSCHLUGEN	

3RD BATTALION	
3rd Battalion	
OBERGRUPPENBACH	
UNTERGRUPPENBACH	
STANGENBACH	
GREUTHOF	
ALTLAUTERN	
NE ULAUTERN	
JUX	
REICHENBERG	
OPPENWEILER	
BACKNANG	
UNGEHEUERHOF	
HEININGEN	
ALLMERSBACH	
KONNIGSBRONNHOF	
RETTERSBERG	
OPPELSBOHM	
HOSSLINSWART	
ROHRBRONN	
HEBSACK	
GERADSTETTEN	
GRUNBACH	
BEUTELSBACH	
MANOLZWEILER	
SCHONBUHL	
ALTBACH	

E. Barber

ALTBACH



Heilbronn, like Raon L'Etape, Mouterhouse, Rimling and Bitche, joined the ranks of our past and well remembered duels of warfare while we turned to yet other fields of conflict. Had we dreamed that the overwhelming defeat of the enemy in Heilbronn would mean easier going from now on out, we were due for a rude awakening.

Our three battalions were encountering stubborn resistance on all fronts. The Third Battalion, only after a strong fight against small arms and automatic weapons fire, took Obergruppenbach, then went on to Donnbronn where a fire fight lasting the entire afternoon of the 14th ensued before we secured the town. The Second Battalion battled its way into Oberheinriet, fighting doggedly from house to house, and was only able to stifle the fierce opposition of small arms, automatic weapons, panzerfaust, rocket and 75 mm. fire at 1450 that afternoon. At 1530 the enemy launched a strong counterattack which cut the supply lines and continued relentlessly until 1730. In the main the lines held and the supply line block was cleared. The First Battalion had to move out of its reserve position in Weinsberg in order to drive the enemy from the woods near the Second Battalion and thus relieve the pressure. The enemy had infiltrated to the rear of the Second Battalion and with small arms and automatic weapons fire was preventing the engineers from repairing a deep road crater on the supply route. At great risk a Weasel was taken and it proved to be the only vehicle which could get to the line companies, going across open country. The medics were toying with the idea of dropping medical supplies by parachute from planes. Complete arrangements had already been made.

We knew that Germany's full and unconditional surrender was not far off. We were winding up for the knockout punch. We realized that our advances at this time were not making headlines, but we realized that advancing was part of the job, and a very necessary part, while making headlines was not. Our opponent was on the ropes, back-peddalling desperately.

But he had to be caught, hammered and beaten until the knockout would be counted. We wanted no decision on points and no re-match in a return bout. So our present action, while not delivering more than telling punches, kept the enemy groggy and sorely hurt until he went down for the count. The military lessons we learned from the final phase were few. The experienced fighter knows when his opponent is beaten and ready for the finishing blow and keeps him on the run with no chance to recuperate. The enemy was off-balance and we had to push unmercifully though we were weary and heart sick.

After clearing Heilbronn we had the enemy on the run again. We had to pursue him and render him harmless before he could set up defenses for another bitter stand like the one we had just been through. Speed of movement was essential. We had to be motorized, with armor in the lead, for a quick elimination of sporadic resistance at isolated points. One of these points was right beyond Heilbronn.

Keeping close behind the advancing units on April 15th, the Regimental CP moved into Lehensteinsfeld, and Service Company into Heilbronn itself. The Regimental I & R Platoon, because of the rapidity of our advances, was assigned the task of maintaining contact between us and the adjacent units. Information that was gathered had to be brought back to the S-2 Officer via territory that had been by-passed by our forward elements. This platoon undertook some varied assignments. It made route reconnaissance through enemy-held territory, picking up many prisoners, and ditching snipers all the way.

Antitank Company maintained road blocks and sent out patrols into by-passed sectors to round up aborted enemy. Meanwhile the First Battalion moved to reinforce the Second Battalion which was still slugging it out in vicious fighting near Oberheinriet, with Companies A and C moving southeast after the Second Battalion had advanced toward Unterheinriet. This fire fight against 250 enemy supported by medium artillery and heavy mortar fire delayed the clearing of the town for several hours, and even after we occupied the village, shells continued to fall in with

regularity. Part of the Battalion was then sent to occupy Happenbach.

The Third Battalion continued its push to the southwest



Pinned down by machine gun fire.

toward Untergruppenbach, a village reputed to be entirely clear of enemy. Company A moved out for the attack, east in the direction of Vorhof, travelling through woods and shell fire most of the way. It met resistance on the outskirts of the town while Company B circled around to the rear and succeeded in cutting the roads leading to the southeast. We were still fighting for this little town at the end of the day. Companies F and G jumped off from Unterheinriet at 1700 meeting little resistance on the march



to Etziensmenden which it took at 2115. The success in this engagement was attributed to the excellent tank and artillery support had at command for any and all needs.

The First Battalion launched a full-scale attack to sieze Vorhof on April 16 after which it continued its advance east to attack Lowenstein aided by Company L and supported by tanks. It was a long trek of eight miles to Lowenstein and we contended with slight sniper fire and occasional mortar barrages as we entered the town. We exploited our gains and continued the only reasonable tactic of denying to the enemy an opportunity of making a stand. Company B jumped off from the high ground just outside the town. Despite heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire it succeeded in an encircling movement around the next town. Company C also pushed off relentlessly toward Stangenbach taking the town and remaining there in billets for the night. Company L veered north and siezed Rittelhof, then reverted to Battalion control. The Third Battalion had occupied Frankenhof and Reisoeh. The Second Battalion kept going southward to clear Farnersberg with Company E moving to Kaiserbach where it became pinned down by small arms and automatic weapons fire. After aid had been sent, Companies F and G again were subjected to artillery and direct fire. At the close of the day all elements of the Battalion had reached the outskirts of Bilbensbach.

That day typified in one respect our entire combat experiences. We never ceased to be amazed at the unpredictability of the Germans. One never knew when to expect a heavy fight and when to expect to occupy a sector without resistance. It was like that right down the line.



We would push off toward an objective prepared for no one particular form of resistance but expecting any kind or none at all. As on the 16th of April, the phrases "little resistance," "heavy fire fight," "no enemy encountered," and "last ditch

defense" would crop up in the reports creating a stir regarding their accuracy. Unimportant little towns would be defended to the last man, while other places, which seemed worth fighting for fell to us without a semblance of a struggle. On our approach marches we would be shelled and sniped at, only to enter a city itself with no firing whatsoever. The tactics behind these incongruous operations puzzled us as we attempted to piece together information and figure out what was coming. It was impossible to do so. We had to predict every move as though a battle was to be fought, and act accordingly.

Without encountering any opposition, the First Battalion moved a total distance of six and a half miles to Wüstenrot on April 17th, having cleared Hirrweiler and Bernbach en route. We had gotten used to numerous abatis road blocks and blown bridges that were intended to slow us down. The ease with which we eliminated these soon struck the enemy as hardly being worth the effort. Barrages of Nebelwerfer were laid into Wüstenrot during the afternoon. Continuing with its zig-zag course to cover a larger front, the Second Battalion cleared the woods and small towns in its zone. A temporary road from Unterheinriet to Etelenswedden was opened during these operations. The Second Battalion, following the First, mopped up little pockets of enemy resistance which we had previously skirted in our headlong drive. Company K occupied Schmellenhof, and sent patrols into Greuthof and Altternern. Company L moved to Löwenstein, as did Headquarters Company and the CP.





We had been constantly taking large numbers of prisoners, especially during the Heilbronn operations, when daily totals always exceeded one hundred, and a tally made on April 17th revealed that our grand total was 4,778. This included some high ranking officers who had surrendered their men in large groups right after we had secured Heilbronn.

The First Battalion was still pushing southward clearing Vorderbüchelberg, Neufürstehütte, Oberfischbach and Gross-Hochberg on the 18th, never easing up in the slightest degree. The final objective, Spiegelberg, was reached by Company A at nightfall and the men dug in for the night. The night before, patrols into Jettenbach, Stocksberg and Prevorst all made enemy contact, with more than usual activity around Jettenbach. The Second Battalion attacked this city and it soon was in our hands after a tough tussle. Enemy fire however continued for several hours from the hills south and west. Following its plan of attack, the Battalion swung east to clear Klingen, Stocksberg and Prevorst, meeting only small arms resistance. The groups of by-passed enemy were cleaned up by other units. The First Battalion was meeting some negligible resistance. We



Muzzle blast from 76 mm gun swirls dust around this TD after firing in support of an attack.

captured a document revealing that orders were given each local burgo-meister and district leader to use civilians to construct road blocks and obstacles. We too began issuing orders. These same civilians were to take down the obstacles.

In a rapid-fire advance east of the Sulzbach-Spiegelberg road we met no resistance on the 19th. Jerry was retreating so fast that it was difficult to keep up with him. Attack! Attack! That's all we did. Company H moved south and east from Lowenstein to Jux, clearing that town and securing routes. Our medium tanks knocked out machine gun installations on the outskirts of the town and we were able to move in, without suffering a single loss. Enemy interdictory fire gave a little trouble between 1700 and 1800 but that ceased as we approached too close for comfort and threatened the escape route. In the town of Silabach weak enemy feints were met by our First Battalion. West of Sulzbach, small arms and moderately light self-propelled fire was encountered, as well as many road blocks, each defended by a handful of infantrymen. At the end of the day numerous small villages and larger towns had fallen to us as we smashed ahead faster and faster, gaining momentum as we went.

Company K moved from Stangenbach on the Battalion right flank at 0600, the 19th, with the mission of clearing Nassoch. This town was under mortar and artillery fire and the streets were scenes of resistance at first, but the enemy folded rapidly. Sporadic artillery fire continued for a time. The company had just about finished that mission when orders came at 1400 to clear out a group of farm buildings on the high ground to the south. Severe resistance was met with the enemy using everything at hand; panzerfausts, automatic weapons, self-propelled guns and mortar fire. The men dug in hastily and called for artillery fire. However, when it became dark, the company returned to Nassach where it spent the night covering the town to the south while artillery and 4.2 mortars finished the job of liquidating the foe.

Early morning of the 20th a Volkssturm representative reported to us that Backnang and Oppenweiler were clear of enemy and that the townspeople were willing to surrender their towns. The

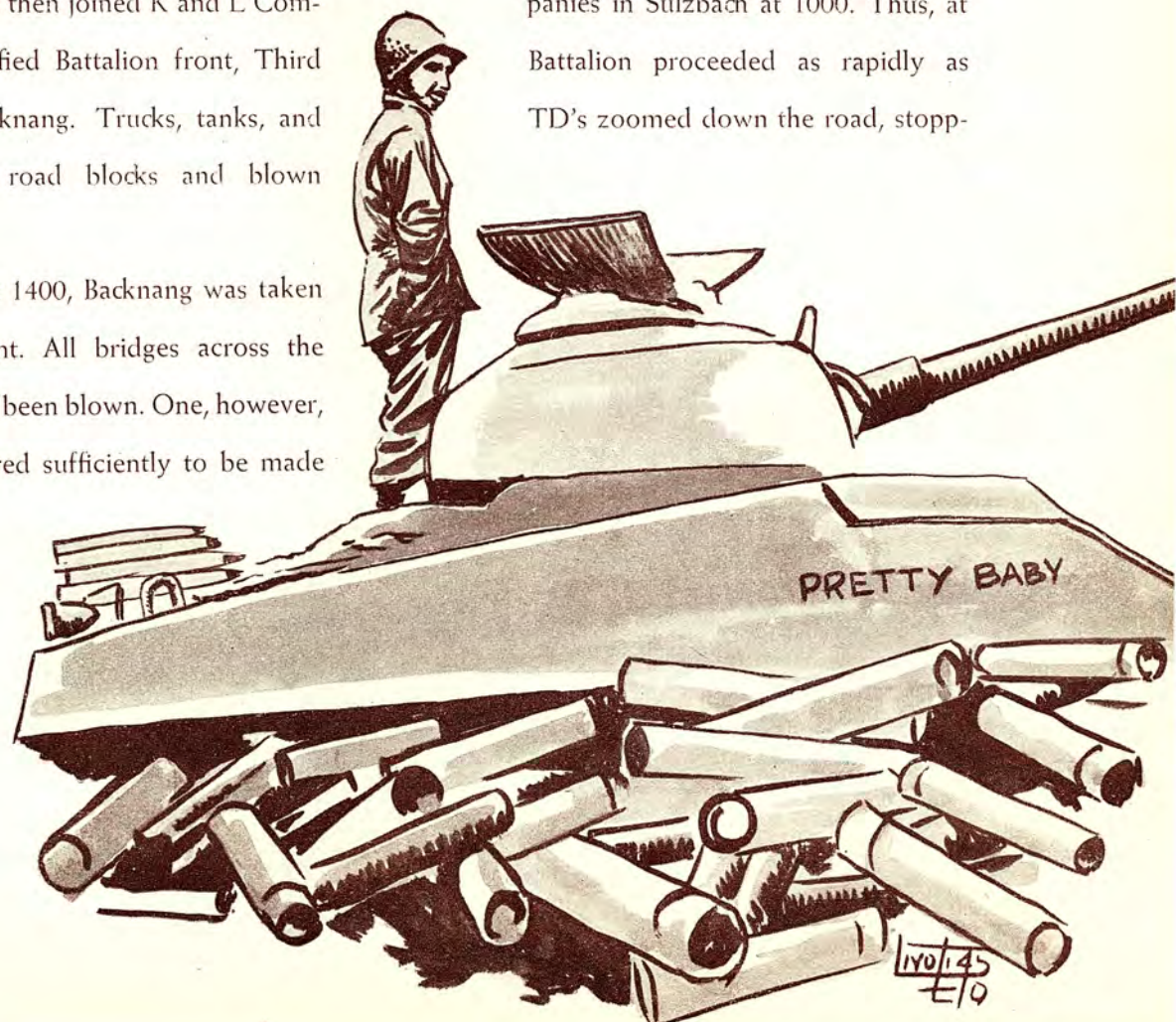
ghost of Heilbronn evidently plagued them into folding up in this fashion. We began to reap the rewards of a recent propaganda leaflet campaign we had been sponsoring. We had pictured the contrast between the razed villages that had resisted our advances and the untouched towns of those that had surrendered. The Third Battalion was sent into these towns exercising caution lest a Nazi trick be perpetrated. A very few snipers and moderate 75 mm. shelling in the southern end of Backnang, where a blown bridge held us up for a few hours, was the extent of our difficulty. We continued south, reaching and clearing Allmersbach at the close of the day, suffering moderate small arms and antitank fire. Again we ran up against extensive road blocks and more blown bridges over the main streams and rivers that continually crossed our path.

The Second Battalion crossed the Murr River at Murrhardt, and despite some light shelling, went on as far as Rudersberg. In this area extraordinarily extensive road blocks had been carefully erected, hindering our movement. We had advanced and overrun almost twenty small towns in the one 24-hour period. Keeping on the move at a phenomenal rate, the experiences of the Third Battalion typify our movement for the day.

At 0700 it took off from Sulzbach and sent patrols to the high ground around the Murr River. Company K was pulled back to Prevorst and then proceeded through Neulautern and Spiegelberg to Sulzbach. Company I cleared the woods west of the road running from Spiegelberg to Sulzbach and then joined K and L. Common, in a unified Battalion front, Third possible to Backnang. Trucks, tanks, and ing only for road blocks and blown bridges.

Arriving at 1400, Backnang was taken without incident. All bridges across the Murr River had been blown. One, however, could be repaired sufficiently to be made

panies in Sulzbach at 1000. Thus, at Battalion proceeded as rapidly as TD's zoomed down the road, stopp-





passable for tanks and trucks. Two hours later orders came to move with all possible haste to Einterlach, 16 000 yards south. As the column of companies left Backnang, five members of the Hitler-Jugend fired at it but they were quickly subdued. As the advance continued south toward Almersbach, about one hundred rounds of artillery from the southwest interdicted the

column. Only light casualties were sustained. The Battalion steadily advanced.

An enemy antitank gun north of the town opened fire against the lead tanks as Company I approached Allmersbach, firing about six rounds. The first tank returned the fire knocking out the enemy gun crew with the second round which decapitated the gunner and dispersed the crew. The advance then went on unhindered towards Rettersberg with slight opposition. The objective was suddenly changed from Winterbach to Geradstetten and Grunbach, two towns further west, and eight 1½ ton trucks from the Regimental Antitank Company joined the Battalion. By using tanks, TD's, organizational transportation and the Antitank trucks, the Battalion was fully motorized and went on ahead, deeper and deeper into enemy territory, finally arriving in Oppelsbohm at 0200, April 21. It pushed south through Steinbach and Hösslinswart to Hebsack and then west of Geradstetten. Throughout the entire movement the roads were interdicted by enemy artillery. Apparently it had adjusted on the noise made by the column of vehicles bumping over the rutted roads.

The Battalion captured 70 startled prisoners in the town of Geradstetten. Company I went on to capture Grunbach. From 1600 on the 20th to 0400 on the 21st, the Battalion had covered approximately 21 000 yards, road distance. We were so fatigued by now that we didn't care much what happened to us and weren't fully aware of what did happen either. Our equipment seemed to be more burdensome than ever. Our eyes were heavy as were our hearts. Little did we think that at 1600 this same day we'd move into still further attacks. We had to cut the Auto-

bahn in the vicinity of Köngen about 17 000 yards map distance to the southwest. Because the bridges were blown across the Murr River at Geradstetten it was necessary for us to go west to Beutelsbach, then east to Manolzweiler. The organization vehicles, one platoon of tanks, one platoon of TD's, two 1½ ton trucks from Antitank Company and the eight we received the previous night constituted the extent of our mobile elements.

We moved out with Company K leading, followed by L and I Companies. Company K established liaison with the First Battalion tactical transportation which was held up by a road block near Manolzweiler. At this point we detrucked. Company I remained to guard the stymied vehicles while the rest continued advancing behind the First Battalion elements and after a long hike got to Hohengehren at 2300. Since the First Battalion was astride the route of advance of the Third Battalion and was meeting strong resistance, holding up at Hohengehren for the night was under consideration. However, it was deemed imperative that we drive ahead in order to attain our objective on schedule. The Third Battalion then passed through the First Battalion and proceeded in the direction of Altbach.

Other elements of the Regiment meanwhile had reached the Rems River. The First Battalion met no opposition on entering Schorndorf at 0400. As we crossed the Rems and hit the Fils River there was still no opposition other than by the inevitable road blocks. In the course of the day the First Battalion had captured Oberweissach, Seelach, Untere Mühle, Michelau, Asperglen, Metzlersweilerhof, and Schornbach. After taking Schorndorf the Battalion veered west reorganizing near Winterbach, resuming the attack south across the Rems. The Second Battalion left its assembly area near Grunbach at 1100 to check the towns and roads in the Regimental zone to the rear of the other two battalions. This was a mission fraught with unusual difficulties, knowing what to expect, and often running into groups of enemy which had holed in when the first troops came through.

The First Battalion hit the enemy convoy at about 2100 and destroyed about half of it. The remainder fled. The troops halted there and dug in pending further orders. At 2300 orders were received to pull back 800 yards to await further orders. At 2300 orders were received to pull back 800 yards and hit what was left of the convoy. At 0300 the First Battalion pushed off down the same road toward Plochingen. At the forks the First Battalion went





left, the Third went right. Since the Third Battalion went through at 0100 more vehicles came upon the First Battalion's fork and hit it at about 0430. Company B sat on the roadsides and shot at vehicles from 0430 to 0700 during which time more than two dozen of the enemy were either killed or captured. This was an amazing bit of luck and ample reward for the long hours of marching and fighting that had been going on for the past several days. There was an hour's delay culminating in the taking, without further incident, our final objective — Altbach.

On the 22nd all the elements of the Regiment had attained success and the Neckar River was again flowing before us. It had been less than ten days since we had left the city of Heilbronn in smouldering ruins. The First Battalion maintained its steadily advancing course to the south clearing the wooded area on the route to its objective and becoming engaged in a heavy fire fight consisting of small arms and automatic weapons. The towns of Engleberg, Hohengehren, Baltmannsweiler, Reichenbach, and Plochingen were secured in the interim, while contact was established with the Third Battalion on the right. Crossings of the Neckar River were reconnoitered. The Second Battalion checked and cleared many towns including Schnait, Aichelberg, Schanbach, Krumhardt and Aichschiess, in the rear of and by-passed by the other two battalions. Among towns taken by the Third Battalion were Schönbühl and Zell.

The by-passed enemy was now harassing our rear. As a result of this unexpected development two of our men were killed and several wounded when Hohengehren was raided at 1100 with 40 to 50 Krauts. Our supply routes were harassed by small arms fire necessitating details of tanks

and infantry to patrol them. After dark the enemy began blocking roads behind us by felling trees. Wire crews were pinned down constantly by small arms fire interfering with the wire laying. Each of the battalions accounted for several hundred PW's that day for a record of 1377, bringing the grand total to 6,501 for the Regiment. It would be all over soon we knew.



At Altbach the Third Battalion caught the foe completely by surprise. Events had moved so fast that the enemy had no recourse except to surrender, 377 to this Battalion alone. Company I had moved west to capture Zell at 0800 with an additional bagging of 77 prisoners, comprising one company complete with three officers. We by-passed pockets of the enemy in the phenomenal strides that took us deeper and deeper like a drill into a decayed tooth.

The 22nd of April was our most important day since our baptism into combat. On this day we found ourselves out of complete contact with the enemy. From November 6th right through to this day we had always been in danger of varied attacks of artillery or sniper, but now we just held up. There were no more operation instructions forthcoming from higher headquarters. We fought all through that 22nd day of April but the end of that day was the end of the horribly pitted road for us.

The part we played in the ultimate surrender of the German Wehrmacht fits only into a larger picture but on our front there were some of the pieces for the whole story of the eventual collapse of the German war machine. We had seen, and indeed been in part responsible for the end of the once mighty army.

The troops of the First and Third Battalions on the 23rd of April, reaping the rewards of a job fast and well done, merely patrolled the north banks of the Neckar River within the Regimental zone and conducted a reorganization. The only enemy activity for the entire day reported was at 1645 when a burst from a burp gun was given by an engineer road guide. The Second Battalion,

clearing up in the vicinity of Aichschiess-Schanbach, found three bridges intact leading from Altbach across the Neckar River, island and canal, enabling the troops to cross without any trouble. This provided the springboard for the jump into and clearance of Deizisau and other localities in the vicinity south of the river. One of the bridges was mined, however, and was cleared by our engineers.

At 1730 a Third Battalion patrol observed thirteen men digging and chopping some of whom were garbed in the uniform of the Wehrmacht, while others were apparently members of the Volkssturm and in civilian clothes. The entire group fled upon the approach of our men. There were no definitely established "front lines" and the only contact with the enemy was in the form of stragglers who stumbled onto our positions unwittingly. No defensive organization had been set up by the fleeing Krauts and its only capabilities seemed to be the harassing of our supply lines and minor acts of sabotage.

Actual combat operations were at a standstill and on the 24th of April we busied ourselves solely with routine patrolling tasks. The First Battalion, billeted in Plochingen, patrolled the north bank of the Neckar River within its assigned zone. Service Company moved into Oppenweiler which meant showers and a change of clothing for most of us. Taking advantage of the lull we spent the day in writing letters, cleaning weapons, and attending church services. We had hot meals and motor patrols covered all the roads in the area. Clearing the area south of the Neckar River and operating from the central point of Deizisau, the Second Battalion mopped up the towns of Unterensingen, Zizishausen, Oberensingen and Wolfschlugen. All woods and trails were reported clear.

The Third Battalion was billeted in Altbach, patrolling the north bank of the river in its zone and awaiting orders. Company L held a physical inspection at 1330 while the whole Battalion policed and serviced combat-worn jeeps and weapons. The day's activity was punctuated by a discovery of three aerial bombs and 1000 pounds of dynamite powder, prepared as a demolition charge but never detonated, at the foot of the concrete bridge which we had been avoiding over the Fils River. It was quite allright to discover the tremendous charge this way.

We suddenly found ourselves out of contact with the enemy and out of combat entirely. While we realized that at any time orders might come down to move someplace where it was still hot, this possibility was remote. The end of the war was in sight, so we settled down to wait.

"What has become of our comrades"

What has become of our comrades?
The boys that we all knew so well,
Who, once filled with the joys of living
Are now dead, from bullet and shell. —

Who helped us fight many a battle
Through the mud, the slime and the dirt,
And who gave their lives in a bitter fight,
That peace might rule the earth.

How well I remember their faces,
As in memory they go marching past,
And the line seems never ending
Of those who gave their all to the last.

There was McCord from "Ole" Alabama,
Whose scouting was quite renown —
He died in a ditch by the roadside
Where a machine gun cut him down.

I remember the death of "Ole" Skinner —
Whose commission was made on the field
He was always admired by everyone,
For his courage and fighting zeal.

And then there was Lindow, the medic,
Who was always quite unafraid —
He was shot in the back by a sniper,
While heeding a call for aid.

There are all of these, and oh! so many,
I can't recall anymore —
Who fought, fell, and sampled hell,
In a long and bloody war.

But now — what has become of our comrades
Whose bones now hallow the earth,
Why, we pray to God, that their spirit
Has returned to the land of their birth.

Or perhaps to the Halls of Valhalla,
Where all good warriors reign,
And we fervently pray to heaven above
That their sacrifice wasn't in vain.

Harry Hillers



“For extraordinary heroism in action . . .”

PFC. CHARLIE A. McCORD

(Posthumous)

*Awarded Distinguished Service Cross for deeds on 17 April 1945
in Altbach, Germany.*

When grazing crossfire from two hostile machine gun emplacements halted the advance of his company, Pfc. Mc Cord, a scout, advanced, upon his own initiative, to within grenade range of the first automatic weapon. After hurling grenades into the position, he charged it with his bayonet, killing one occupant and forcing the others to flee. Alternately firing and rushing forward, he then moved forward toward the second machine gun position and ultimately succeeded in silencing it. He was mortally wounded in the action. Thus with great gallantry and at the cost of his life, Pfc. McCord inflicted severe losses upon the enemy and made possible the success of his company's mission without further casualty to his comrades. Next of kin: Lillie M. McCord (Mother), Route No. 2, Prattville, Alabama.



Silver Star Medal

for Gallantry in action

AWARDED



Pfc. JAMES BARLEY, on 25 April 1945, when confronted with an enemy ambush, destroyed a machine gun to prevent its use by the enemy, then moved forward over open terrain toward the enemy, forcing a sniper to withdraw and so upsetting the enemy's plans that severe casualties were inflicted and 12 prisoners captured.

S/Sgt. STANLEY R. BELYEA, on 14 April 1945, was communications chief in advance of the main column when he encountered several enemy and rushed at them in the face of small arms and direct SP fire, capturing 4 German Officers. With another, he then charged again and captured 28 more of the enemy.

S/Sgt. NICKOLAS J. BIANCOSINO, on 15 April 1945, skillfully deployed his platoon when it came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire while trying to take a hill, then crawled up the side of the slope toward the foe, killing 4, wounding 2, and capturing 5.

Pfc. BERNARD E. BRAUER, on 22 April 1945, was driving through a wooded sector despite the presence of enemy forces in order to deliver a vital message. Although he knew he was in enemy territory, he continued on until killed.

Sgt. BRYCE I. CANN (then Pfc.), on 15 April 1945, moved forward alone when his platoon was immobilized by intense fire, pouring a steady stream from his BAR into the enemy, killing 3 and dispersing the remainder.

- Pfc. HERBERT D. CUE, on 17 April 1945, opened fire on an attacking infiltrated patrol and killed two. Then, although himself wounded twice, left his entrenchment and attacked the enemy group, killing two more before becoming fatally wounded.*
- Sgt. CHECKER FERGUSON (then Pfc.), on 22 April 1945, led his squad to the flank of an enemy position which was guarding a road block that held up the advance. By his daring and aggressive action in leading his squad against the foe, three enemy were killed and many others captured.*
- 2nd Lt. JONATHAN G. IZANT, on 20 April 1945, moved to the lead squad of his platoon when it was immobilized by enemy machine gun and sniper fire, and maneuvered it into position to furnish covering fire. He then returned to the main body and led his men so brilliantly that the enemy was overrun and no casualties were suffered. In a later action he was killed.*
- Pvt. HAROLD D. LAWLESS, on 18 April 1945, continued to man his machine gun in the face of direct SP fire which caused the remainder of his comrades to seek cover. Operating without assistance, he expended six belts of ammunition, killing 11 enemy, wounding 9 and completely disorganizing all hostile resistance.*
- Pfc. WILBURT A. LINDOW, on 20 April 1945, while in the attack, went to the aid of a wounded comrade despite hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire and remained in the precarious position to administer first aid. In trying to get the casualty to safety he was severely wounded and succumbed to his wounds on the field.*
- Pfc. FLAY E. REED, on 22 April 1945, was leading a convoy of vehicles when a by-passed force of snipers attacked, wounding him. Ignoring his injuries, he turned his vehicle toward the enemy and so confused them that many surrendered and the remainder fled. As he continued on heroically, he was killed by machine gun fire.*
- Pfc. BURL E. ROBISON, on 17 April 1945, moving forward as point of his battalion, observed a radio command car and opened fire on the vehicle. Although it began to retreat and subjected him to intense small arms fire, Pfc. Robison continued to engage the enemy until the car stopped and 30 surrendered.*
- Sgt. JOHN M. TARIS, on 22 April 1945, was manning a machine gun on the lead truck in a convoy when a large hostile force ambushed, killed the driver and sent the truck crashing into the side of the road. Though completely exposed, Sgt. Taris manned the weapon, killing several of the enemy and becoming wounded himself, but continued to fire until the weapon was destroyed and he was wounded again.*

Bronze Star Medal

for Heroic achievement in action

AWARDED



S/Sgt. Clifford E. Bate, Jr. 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William G. Bloch 22 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Reace L. Broome 14 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Jack T. Brown 22 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Jack T. Butler 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Melvin Chancey 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Richard E. Collins 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Neil O. Connelly 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. James F. Conner 20 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Henry B. Cook 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Lonnie S. Cottrell 17 Apr. 45
 Tec. 4 John W. Crowley 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. James J. Curtis 17 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Alfred F. DiPrimio 17 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Nathan H. Dorazio 25 Apr. 45
 2nd Lt. William Edinson 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William R. Endecott 14 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Carroll C. Engleman 24 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Nicholas J. Facci* 24 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Aniello N. Facendola 15 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Forrest F. Farr 14 Apr. 45
 Tec. 4 John Fedorovich 17 Apr. 45

Cpl. Johnnie P. Field 22 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Oliver H. Frost 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. John J. Fulleylove 18 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Dagoverto A. Garcia 14 Apr. 45
 Tec. 5 Raymond J. Gauthier 17 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Armand Q. Genovesi, Jr. 19 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William Gersten 16 Apr. 45
 2nd Lt. James H. Gore 22 Apr. 45
 Capt. Ulysses J. Grant 24 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Irving M. Green 18 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Clarence D. Hall 22 Apr. 45

Pfc. Paul H. Hanly, Jr. 17 Apr. 45
Pfc. Vincent D. Harden 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Charles H. Harrison 14 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. James P. Hartley 15 Apr. 45
*Pfc. Stanley C. Haworth** 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. John A. Heckman 14 Apr. 45
Cpl. James W. Henderson 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Alfred Hertel 17 Apr. 45
Tec. 4 Eugene Hirsch 14 Apr. 45
1st Lt. Harold M. Horn 26 Apr. 45
Pfc. Milan C. Hornack 15 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Eugene J. Huelskamp 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Bernard J. Hughes 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. Richard J. Hurley 20 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. William T. Hurley 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Richard Jackson 25 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert E. Johnson 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert Kenning 20 Apr. 45
Pvt. Paul A. Kerr 17 Apr. 45
Pfc. Clifton Ketron 20 Apr. 45
Pfc. Russell K. Killmon 20 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. William L. Knerr 16 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leonard A. Kornacki 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Philip Librone 16 Apr. 45
Pvt. Clint Littleton 19 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. George R. Locker 20 Apr. 45
Sgt. Loren D. Lukehart 20 Apr. 45
Pfc. Thomas B. Lyons 14 Apr. 45
Cpl. Leonard Maas 25 Apr. 45
Pfc. Vincent C. Macias 16 Apr. 45
Cpl. Floyd McCoy, Jr. 17 Apr. 45
Pfc. Lawrence P. McGonigle 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert A. McMillin 16 Apr. 45
2nd Lt. Frank J. McVeigh 20 Apr. 45

Sgt. Donald W. Miller 20 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. John A. Miller 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Edward C. Moesser, Jr. 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Jess A. Molinary 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. Dominick Mott 19 Apr. 45
Pfc. Arvell B. Neely 15 Apr. 45
Pvt. John T. New 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. Philip H. Newman 21 Apr. 45
*1st Lt. John C. Noel, Jr.** 16-17 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. John F. Nolan, Jr. 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Howard O. Orrell 17 Apr. 45
Pfc. Lawrence R. Panizzoli 14 Apr. 45
1st Sgt. Albert M. Perry 25 Apr. 45
Sgt. John P. Pollack 14 Apr. 45
Major William S. Preston, Jr. 24 Apr. 45
Pfc. Donald L. Rainey 17 Apr. 45
T/Sgt. Bennie B. Ray 16 Apr. 45
Pvt. Darrell L. Roswurm 22 Apr. 45
Pfc. Leldon E. Simmons 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. James H. Smith 19 Apr. 45
Pvt. George P. Stone 16 Apr. 45
Pfc. Edward A. Stoppel 14 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Virgel E. Tableman 14 Apr. 45
Sgt. John M. Taris 20 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Harry P. Taylor 16 Apr. 45
Pfc. Natividad A. Torres 16 Apr. 45
Pfc. Edward T. Ura 22 Apr. 45
Tec. 5 Lulburn D. Walls 15 Apr. 45
Capt. Aubrey V. Watts 25 Apr. 45
Pvt. Marvin L. White 23 Apr. 45
Pfc. Edgar D. Wiegert 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. James B. Willerson 14 Apr. 45
Cpl. Gerald S. Williamson 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Richard C. Young 17 Apr. 45

* OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Purple Heart Medal

posthumously

AWARDED



Sgt. Carl Birkhofer
New York, N.Y.

Pfc. Bernard E. Brauer
Olney, Ill.

Pfc. Herbert D. Coe
Port Byron, Ill.

Pfc. Charles H. Harrison
Sissonville, W. V.

Pvt. John A. Heckman
Sterling, Ill.

Pvt. Wesley B. Howard
Little Rock, Arkansas

2nd Lt. Jonathan G. Isant
Hudson, Ohio

Pfc. Robert L. Kirk
Newark, N.J.

Pfc. Stanley L. Krusinski
Chicago, Ill.

Pfc. Philip Librone
Philadelphia, Pa.

Pfc. Wilburt A. Lindow
Marine City, Michigan

Pvt. Clint Littleton
Book, Louisiana

Pfc. Harvey E. Matlack
Unity, Pa.

Pvt. Charlie A. McCord
Prattville, Alabama

Pfc. Earl O. McDaniel
Anniston, Alabama

Pfc. Ernest L. Mills
Le Grand, Iowa

Pfc. Flay E. Reed
Louisville, Miss.

Pfc. James D. Rembert
Orangeburg, S.C.

2nd Lt. Harry L. Skinner
Pittsburg, Kansas

S/Sgt. James L. Smith
Spindale, N.C.

Cpl. Robert O. Smith
Chillicothe, Ohio



Purple Heart Medal

These men sustained wounds due to enemy action

AWARDED

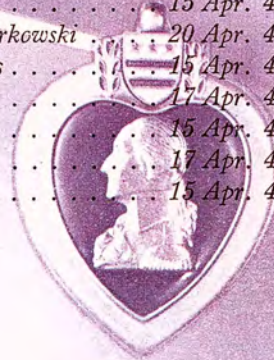
Pfc. Leroy J. Ackerman 14 Apr. 45
Pfc. J. F. Alford 17 Apr. 45
Sgt. Willis M. Banks 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Kenneth H. Barrett 21 Apr. 45
Pfc. Robert D. Bassett 16 Apr. 45
T/4 William J. Beardsley 23 Apr. 45
Pvt. Thomas J. Begley 15 Apr. 45
S/Sgt. Nickolas J. Biancosino 17 Apr. 45
Pfc. Hershel C. Bizzle 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Paul L. Boes 20 Apr. 45
Sgt. Joe F. Borders 17 Apr. 45
Pvt. Andrew G. F. Botos 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Daniel L. Bradford 20 Apr. 45
Pfc. Rene J. Bramante 25 Apr. 45
Pfc. Carl A. Brown 15 Apr. 45
Pfc. Joseph T. Brown 17 Apr. 45
Pvt. Lloyd D. Brownfield 15 Apr. 45
Pvt. Arthur W. Byerly 15 Apr. 45
Pvt. Russell Campbell 17 Apr. 45
Pvt. George E. Carpenter 17 Apr. 45
Cpl. Charlie Clark 17 Apr. 45
Pvt. Ralph W. Cobb 15 Apr. 45
Cpl. Arthur C. Culbert 18 Apr. 45
Cpl. Theodore J. Cuff 15 Apr. 45
Pvt. Shelby D. Davis 20 Apr. 45
Pfc. Michaelangelo DiBella 20 Apr. 45

Pfc. Bernard W. Dougharty 19 Apr. 45
Pvt. Raymond A. Dronen 15 Apr. 45
Capt. Wallace A. Early 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Raymond G. Fuehrer 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. John J. Fulleylove 18 Apr. 45
Cpl. Louis G. Galgani 15 Apr. 45
Cpl. Oscar A. Gangwisch 17 Apr. 45
Pvt. Wilfred H. Gantner 14 Apr. 45
Pvt. Morris Gettleman 15 Apr. 45
T/5 Jesse H. Gillmore 15 Apr. 45



2nd Lt. Gerald S. Godwin 14 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Raymond C. Gonzales 15 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Howard E. Gordon 20 Apr. 45
 Pvt. R. J. Hartman 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Tommie Hay 20 Apr. 45
 Capt. Fred F. Heitman 18 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Francis W. Hickman 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Paul A. Husack 16 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Marvin Huss 15 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Lawrence O. Jock 20 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Stephen J. Kelly 22 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Mike Kosko 19 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Joseph H. Kramer 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Steve Kum 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Lawrence T. Lasagna 17 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Loren D. Lukehart 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Duncan A. Macmillan 18 Apr. 45
 Sgt. William M. McKegney 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Nelson T. Meckel 15 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Joseph L. Merenda 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. John A. Michna 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. William C. Millhoff 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Claude A. Morris, Jr. 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Milton W. Mummey 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. John R. Murphy 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. George W. Negus 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. John J. Nicholls 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Frank E. Oades 14 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Leon D. Outlaw, Jr. 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Joseph A. Parker 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Robert L. Pierson, Jr. 17 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Benjamin C. Pigue, Jr. 17 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Edward C. Porn. 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Yvan A. Rechy 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. James P. Regan 20 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Philip Reines 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Ronald C. Riddle 15 Apr. 45

S/Sgt. Merle L. Rigby 20 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. John B. Rogers 17 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Alfred F. Romeo 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Kenneth L. Rounds 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Marcellino W. Sapien 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Thomas J. Seals 14 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Thaddeus Skalski 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Arvile Slone 17 Apr. 45
 Pvt. James O. Smith 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Russell K. Smith 14 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Lyle Spettel 19 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Victor D. Stahl 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Gilbert G. Stinson 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Thomas M. Stone 19 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Eduard A. Stoppel 15 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Stuart L. Sussman 15 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. Virgel E. Tableman 15 Apr. 45
 Sgt. John M. Taris 22 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Eldon L. Thompson 17 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Joe J. Tirado 18 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Charles B. Tutan, Jr. 20 Apr. 45
 Cpl. Donald C. Uhler 16 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Harold J. Van Opdorp 16 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Charles O. Van Patter 15 Apr. 45
 S/Sgt. William P. Veatch 22 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Henry E. Vogel 20 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Paul W. Wagner 14 Apr. 45
 Pvt. William E. Waidelich 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Christian A. Walters 15 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Edwin J. Weeks 14 Apr. 45
 Sgt. Doyle E. Wells 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Thomas F. Wienczorkowski 20 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Edward L. Williams 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Julian D. Wynne 17 Apr. 45
 T/Sgt. Charles Young 15 Apr. 45
 Pvt. Richard C. Young 17 Apr. 45
 Pfc. Frank Zupancic 15 Apr. 45



*Legion of Merit for exceptionally
meritorious conduct in the performance
of outstanding services*

AWARDED

Col. RICHARD G. PRATHER (then General Staff Corps, Headquarters 100th Infantry Division) Period from 1 November 1944 to 9 May 1945, in France and Germany. The sound judgment, thorough tactical and administrative knowledge, and exceptional ability to make immediate and accurate decisions, which Colonel Prather consistently displayed as Chief of Staff, contributed immeasurably to the effective coordination of all elements of the command. His brilliant direction of the activities of the staff played an important role in the success of the bitterly-fought Vosges Mountains campaign; the defensive action in the Bitche sector; the subsequent breaching of the steel and concrete Maginot Line fortifications; and the final drive across Southern Germany. Colonel Prather's superior, efficient and untiring efforts are reflected in the Division's success in combat. Entered United States Military Academy from Hickman, Kentucky.

Col. WILLIAM A. ELLIS (Posthumous). Period from 15 November 1942 to 16 November 1944. As commander of the 397th Infantry Regiment throughout its entire period of training and at the beginning of the bitterly fought campaign in the Vosges Mountains, Colonel Ellis, by his outstanding qualities of leadership, organizational ability and sound military judgment, was principally responsible for the development and subsequent combat achievements of an efficient, effective and well-disciplined fighting team. Although hampered in his training program by the loss of key officers and experienced men and the subsequent need for training their replacements, Colonel Ellis' unselfish devotion to duty, his unrelenting drive for soldierly perfection and his constant emphasis upon all the mental and physical needs of the individual resulted in the moulding of an organization well fitted to play its part in the swift and successful advance of the Division through the heretofore impregnable Vosges Sector. Next of kin: Ebba S. Ellis (Wife), 110 Chatterton Parkway, White Plains, New York.

Lt. Col. JOHN M. KING. Period 16 November 1944 to 24 January 1945, in Eastern France. Assuming command of the Regiment upon the death of its commander, Lieutenant Colonel King led his newly-committed troops in the swiftly and successfully culminated Vosges Mountains' campaign and the bitterly-fought defense of Rimling, wherein for nine days his units held the town against savage and incessant assaults and inflicted an estimated nine hundred casualties upon enemy forces superior in number, supported by tanks, rockets and heavy artillery. Not content with his spectacular successes, he vastly increased the esprit de corps and fighting efficiency of his men by the innovation of numerous morale-building facilities for frontline troops. Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.



*Legion of Merit for exceptionally
meritorious conduct in the performance
of outstanding services*

AWARDED

Lt. Col. WILLIAM ESBITT (Then Major). Period 16 November 1944 to 3 February 1945. Lt. Col. Esbitt assumed command of the Third Battalion upon evacuation of the former commander, while the Battalion was engaged in bitter fighting in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains and displayed outstanding qualities of leadership, initiative and tactical skill in the attack against the enemy. He brilliantly directed the actions which resulted in the capture of St. Blaise and Hill 375 and thus made possible the Division's swift advance through the mountains. His alert and skillful leadership contributed greatly in the repulse of the New Year's Eve counterattack hurled against his Battalion at Rimling. Entered military service from New York.

Major VANDA A. DAVIDSON, Medical Detachment. Period 1 February 1945 to 8 May 1945, in France and Germany. As Regimental Surgeon, Major Davidson displayed exceptional professional skill and leadership in the performance of his responsible duties. The prompt, efficient medical attention accorded combat casualties is reflective of the initiative and personal interest which he consistently evinced. Major Davidson especially distinguished himself during the bitterly-fought Heilbronn engagement in his supervision of the evacuation of casualties by assault boats across the fire-swept Neckar River. By his brilliant direction the treatment and evacuation of injured men were carried out under intense hostile fire in a swift, orderly manner. Major Davidson's courage and meritorious efforts are representative of the highest traditions in the Army Medical Corp. Entered military service from Ruston, Louisiana.

Captain FREDERICK S. CONLEY, JR. Period 12 November 1944 to 30 April 1945, in France and Germany. Captain Conley's brilliant direction of the infantry company under his command during this sustained period of combat operations made possible the timely achievement of each assigned objective with a minimum of casualties. His skillful and inspiring leadership was particularly noteworthy in the action at Raon L'Etape, France, and in the bitterly-contested battle for the city of Heilbronn, Germany. On numerous other occasions when confronted by a numerically superior enemy his expert maneuvering of his troops resulted in the neutralization of hostile strong-points and the infliction of heavy casualties upon opposing forces. Entered military service from Cranston, Rhode Island.

M/Sgt. CECIL B. COATES. Period 1 January to 8 May 1945, in France and Germany. Sergeant Coates discharged his responsible and complex duties as Regimental Sergeant Major with exceptional proficiency and initiative throughout this period of combat operations. Responsible for the personnel section's administrative functions, Sergeant Coates consistently maintained high standards of accuracy and efficiency, his alert supervision and intelligent allocation of duties serving to accomplish a voluminous amount of work. Although the S-1 office normally functioned many miles from the Regimental Command Post, his superb personal handling of the liaison duties insured maximum coordination between these two installations. By his continuous fine leadership, loyalty and administrative skill, Sergeant Coates played an integral part in the innumerable combat accomplishments achieved by the Regiment. Entered military service from Pelzer, South Carolina.



BRONZE STAR MEDAL

for

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

A

Pfc. Frank M. Abate
Pfc. Roy E. Abney
Tec. 5 John W. Aitchison
S/Sgt. Guy E. Allen
Pfc. Vasser J. Allen
Pfc. Martin G. Anderholm
S/Sgt. Leo W. Anglin
T/Sgt. Horace V. Apgar, Jr.

B

Tec. 5 Fred H. Baker
S/Sgt. Franklin Baldwin
Pfc. Roger O. Barnhart
Pfc. Adolf E. Baumann
Pfc. Jesse J. Bautista
1st Sgt. Francis E. Berker
Pfc. Ronald S. Birch
Sgt. Wilbur A. Blanchard
Pfc. Paul L. Boes
Tec. 5 Nelson P. Bolton
Sgt. Lemuel W. Boykin, Jr.
1st Sgt. Herbert N. Bradfield
Pfc. Cletus O. Brethernick
Pfc. Joseph A. Breux
*Pfc. James E. Brinkley**
S/Sgt. Anthony Brocinski
Pfc. Donald Q. Brown
Pfc. Ronald H. Brown
Pfc. Wilbur S. Brown
Pfc. Everett N. Browning
Pfc. Raymond A. Bumgarner
Pfc. Irving Burg
Pfc. Ottman W. Burge
Pfc. George J. Burnett
Pfc. Arthur R. Burns
S/Sgt. Charles L. Burt

C

Sgt. Lytle C. Caldwell
S/Sgt. Emil J. Campbell

Pfc. Robert L. Cantalamessa
Pfc. Herman R. Carlevale
Sgt. Charlie B. Carr
Pfc. Arthur E. Christensen
Pfc. Harold A. Ciano
Pfc. Edward Coletti
Pfc. Mark D. Conboy
S/Sgt. Cecil L. Courcier
Cpl. John B. Cox
Pfc. Edward L. Croteau
Cpl. Arthur C. Culbert
Sgt. L. D. V. Curtis
Capt. Carl F. Cusanelli

D

Pfc. Gilbert G. Davis
1st Lt. Craig O. Davison
Pfc. Vestal J. Dillingham, Jr.
Pfc. Philbert C. Dominique
Pfc. Thomas E. Donahue
Pvt. Clinton C. Dougherty
Tec. 5 Thomas F. Dupree, Jr.
*Pfc. Robert E. Dwyer**

E

S/Sgt. Frederick M. Edson
Sgt. Mortimer Eliasberg
Sgt. Gerard Ellenberg
Cpl. Donald N. Emery
Pfc. Oscar F. Erickson
Pfc. Wesley J. Erickson
Capt. Louis G. Ericson
T/Sgt. Paul J. Esposito
*Pfc. James L. Essig**
S/Sgt. Earl Evans

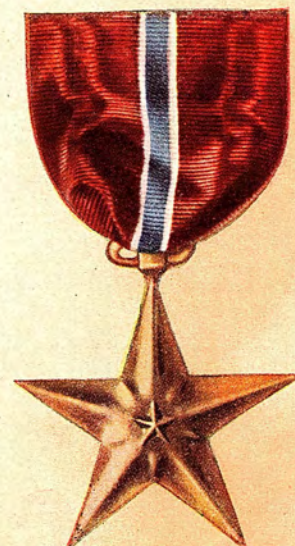
F

S/Sgt. Nicholas J. Facci
Sgt. Joseph J. Fahlman
Pfc. Lewis E. Falconer
S/Sgt. John W. Fears

Pfc. Henry J. Ferlin
Sgt. Earl D. Fewless
Pfc. Ralph J. Figari
Sgt. Thomas J. Fitzgibbons
S/Sgt. Edmund S. Fleszar
S/Sgt. Robert H. Flynn
Pfc. Louis R. Ford
S/Sgt. Cyriel B. Forsythe
Tec. 3 Julius H. Fraser
Pfc. Ralph L. Frazier

G

Pfc. Malcolm D. Gannaway
Capt. William A. Garden
Pfc. Victor A. Garneau
Pfc. Paul R. George
2nd Lt. John W. Gibbard
Pfc. William D. Gilmet
Pfc. Harold L. Glassock
Pfc. James L. Glover
S/Sgt. Lester O. Gluesenkamp
S/Sgt. Roger D. Goos
S/Sgt. James H. Gorgan
S/Sgt. John J. Goulding
Pfc. James C. Graham
Pfc. Henry J. Gran



S/Sgt. Peter A. Graziano
Pfc. John W. Grindle
S/Sgt. Lester W. Grotfeld
S/Sgt. Thomas S. Grutkowski, Jr.

H

Pfc. Gerald C. Hadigan
Pfc. Keith J. Hadley
Pfc. Kermit I. Harner
Pfc. Joseph H. Harper
Pfc. Joe L. Harris
1st Sgt. Robert E. Hartman
Pfc. Glenn W. Hauck
Pfc. Stanley C. Haworth
Sgt. John C. Hazen
S/Sgt. Frederick Heinzmann
Sgt. Bruce E. Henington
Sgt. William M. Hewitt
Sgt. John T. Hildemann
Pfc. Adolph P. Hill, Jr.
Capt. John A. Hine, Jr.
Pfc. Roy H. Hoelscher
1st Sgt. Carl A. Hoover
Pfc. Max W. Hopkins
S/Sgt. Stanley A. Horbiz
Pfc. Hardy K. Hutchison

I

Sgt. Arthur A. Irvin

J

Sgt. Shelton C. Jackson
Sgt. Mervin W. Jacobsen
1st Lt. Gerald B. James
Sgt. John L. Jelusic
Pfc. Frederick P. Jones
S/Sgt. John E. Jones
Pfc. Richard A. Jones
S/Sgt. Thomas H. Jones
1st Sgt. Willie H. Jordan

K

Pfc. Michael J. Karbosky
Tec. 4 Peter Katavolos
Cpl. Frederick B. Keitkamp, Jr.
Pfc. Gordon M. Kenyon
S/Sgt. Chester A. Kidaloski
Capt. Walter A. Kimball, Jr.
Lt. Col. John M. King, Jr.*
1st Lt. Raymond H. Koons
S/Sgt. Alexander W. Krugley
Tec. 5 Edward F. Kuhlman

L

2nd Lt. Edward J. LaBrecque
Pfc. Robert A. LaCroix
S/Sgt. Leland R. Landers
Pfc. James R. Lang
Pfc. Norman W. Langen
Pfc. Albert M. Langlois
Sgt. Alec Laskey
Pfc. James A. Lassiter
1st Lt. Vincent A. Laudone
1st Lt. William J. Law
1st Sgt. Stanley J. Leach*
Sgt. Edward O. Leccese
S/Sgt. Frank A. Lekich
Pfc. Bertrand J. Lemire
S/Sgt. Leonard Levine
Pfc. Philip E. Lewis
Pfc. Rocco J. Licalsi
Tec. 5 Vito A. Licata
Pfc. Amos H. Lieberman
Pvt. Adrian L. Lindsey
Pfc. Daniel F. Linehan
Pfc. Leslie S. Lockart
Pfc. Louis N. Locsmandy
T/Sgt. Walter S. Lorek
Pfc. Robert E. Lyons

M

Pvt. Floyd E. Madsen
1st Sgt. Russell H. Maley
Pfc. Alfred Marino
S/Sgt. Daniel R. Martin
Pfc. John M. Martralli
Sgt. John M. Mastracco
Pfc. Robert D. Mateer
S/Sgt. John E. Matter
Sgt. John L. McClead*
Pfc. John C. McDonald*
Tec. 4 William H. McGee*
S/Sgt. Thomas M. McGhan
Pfc. James B. McGill
T/Sgt. Raymond T. McGuire
S/Sgt. Melvin L. McKee
Pfc. William D. McKinley
Cpl. John A. Meier
Pfc. Walter Mentuch
Pfc. Stanley C. Meskiewicz
T/Sgt. Eli Miculita
S/Sgt. Marvin W. Mielke
Tec. 4 Michael J. Migdol
Pfc. Edward W. Miller
Cpl. Ernest M. Miller
Sgt. Leo C. Miller

S/Sgt. Gladstone E. Millet
Tec. 5 Thomas P. Moon
Pfc. William J. Moran
Pfc. Richard W. Motzkus
Pfc. Fred T. Mullins
S/Sgt. Thomas G. Murn

N

S/Sgt. John J. Needham*
2nd Lt. August Neiderhofer
Sgt. Floyd D. Nemecek
S/Sgt. John L. Niles
Cpl. John J. Noor
T/Sgt. Gerard J. Noppinger

O

Tec. 5 Merle H. Ohler
Pfc. Arthur R. Olsen
Pfc. Eugene Owens

P

Tec. 4 Joseph S. Pachucy
Pfc. Loy W. Parrott
S/Sgt. Norman W. Pashley
Tec. 5 James H. Pecoraro
2nd Lt. Roy G. Pender*
Pfc. Donald C. Peters
Pfc. Herbert R. Petzold
S/Sgt. Angelo G. Pierro
S/Sgt. Ermenegildo M. Pompino
S/Sgt. Michael Popik
T/Sgt. Henry D. Powell

R

Pfc. Edward J. Rapp
Pfc. Louis F. Rath
Sgt. Bernard W. Ravnaas
Pfc. James P. Regan
Sgt. Jack E. Riley
1st Sgt. Thomas J. Riordan
T/Sgt. Roland R. Robert
Sgt. Albert L. Roy
Pfc. James D. Russell
Pfc. Philip R. Ruby

S

Pfc. Richard M. Salisbury
Tec. 3 Harry Saradnik
Pfc. Roy Sayne
Tec. 4 Frank J. Scalisi
S/Sgt. Ralph F. Scheidt
Pfc. James D. Schmitt

Pfc. Jack P. Schoffner
Sgt. Joseph A. Sciretta
S/Sgt. Roper O. Scott
1st Lt. Michael P. Seniuk
Sgt. John Shanto
T/Sgt. Bolling J. Shelley
Tec. 4 Floyd R. Sherbino
Pfc. Norton A. Shoger
Pfc. Maurice Siegel
Pfc. Mario A. SiNauta
*Colonel Gordon Singles**
Sgt. George E. Small
Pfc. Charles W. Smith
Pfc. Elwood J. Smith
Pfc. John P. Smith
Pfc. Leonard F. Smith
Pfc. Roddy L. Smith
Pfc. John G. Sommer, Jr.
Sgt. Pasquale M. Spinosa
Pfc. Avron Spiro, Jr.
Capt. William E. Stallworth
Cpl. Max Stern
Pfc. Mario Stroili

* OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Pfc. Thomas A. Surratt
Sgt. James D. Sweeney, Jr.

T

Tec. 5 William E. Talbot
S/Sgt. Joseph E. Thibault
*1st Sgt. Frank A. Tichacek**
Pfc. Robert J. Tietz
Pfc. Archie G. Tompkins
Pvt. Salmone R. Torrez, Jr.
Sgt. Joseph F. Totterer
Pfc. Gerard A. Tramutra
Pfc. Fred J. Travaglini
Cpl. Clifton R. Turner
Pfc. Joseph V. Turk

U

*Tec. 5 Salvatore Uccello**
Cpl. Lee R. Underwood

V

1st Lt. Kenneth H. Voelker

W

*T/Sgt. Stanley E. Wakeham**
Pfc. Jack C. Walsh
Sgt. George J. Walters
Sgt. David I. Watson
Pfc. James M. Watson
Capt. Alfred H. Weiler
Pfc. Richard P. Weisfuß
2nd Lt. Harry J. Weiss
1st Lt. Arthur W. Wendel
Sgt. Frank P. Whalen
S/Sgt. John P. Wheeler, Jr.
1st Lt. Charles J. Wiersema
Tec. 5 Joseph B. Willis
Tec. 5 Samuel C. Worley
Pfc. Marvin J. Wynveen

Y

S/Sgt. Benedict A. Yonika
Sgt. Carden A. Young

Z

Pfc. Frank Zuspancic

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Awarded for heroic achievement not involving actual conflict with the enemy.

Captain SAM F. DUNLAP, for action while at Ft. Jackson on 26 July 1943.

Pfc. ROBERT N. MARTIN, for action somewhere in Germany on 22 April 1945.

Pfc. BERTRAND F. SCHLEISMANN, for action somewhere in France on 12 January 1945.

2nd Lt. WILLIAM G. ULLERY, for action while at Ft. Jackson on 26 July 1943.

BRONZE STAR

for

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

A

Pvt. Norman R. Adolph
S/Sgt. Robert E. Anderson
S/Sgt. Rocco A. Arrico

B

M/Sgt. Tullio L. Barbieri
Major Walter M. Barclay
Capt. William J. Bartus
Pfc. John I. Bate
Lt. Col. Marion W. Beacham
Capt. Marvin L. Beaman
S/Sgt. Clarence B. Beard, Jr.
Tec. 4 William J. Beardsley
Tec. 4 Irving G. Beaupied
Pvt. William L. Bedillion, Jr.
Sgt. Stanley R. Bellyea
Sgt. Frank Bielecki
1st Sgt. Roland Birmingham
Pfc. Robert J. Biss
T/Sgt. Tony Bodlovick
Cpl. Raymond A. Borth
Sgt. Frank O. Brandt
Pfc. Gerald G. Britt
Capt. William J. Burke
S/Sgt. John C. Burns
Sgt. Robert V. Butts

C

Pfc. Patrick B. Callahan
Tec. 4 Vincent F. Capellupo
T/Sgt. Charles F. Carey, Jr.
1st Lt. James S. Changaris
Capt. John W. Chrispin
1st Lt. Edward O. Clark
S/Sgt. Michael H. Clark
Tec. 4 John J. Close
M/Sgt. Cecil B. Coates
Pvt. Irving S. Cooper
1st Sgt. Joseph F. Corcoran
S/Sgt. Frank Costarella

Sgt. Francis L. Cotton
Tec. 4 William A. Cox
Capt. Berkeley W. Cue
S/Sgt. Thaddeus A. Czyzycki

D

Major Vanda A. Davidson
1st Lt. James E. Desrosiers
Sgt. Robert J. Desrosiers
T/Sgt. Leocadio V. Diaz
S/Sgt. Salvatore M. DiPeri
S/Sgt. Stanley L. Downs
Tec. 5 Reginald W. Drew
S/Sgt. Herman M. Duerr

E

Capt. Wallace A. Early
Tec. 5 Lewis C. Emerson
Major William Esbitt
1st Lt. Lester C. Essig, Jr.

F

WOJG Samuel Finkelstein
S/Sgt. John J. Fiordalisi
Capt. Frank T. Focer
2nd Lt. Max Forman

G

T/Sgt. Morris Goldman
T/Sgt. William J. Gostkowski
1st Lt. Allan F. Goud
Sgt. Kenneth M. Greene, Jr.
Tec. 5 Francis V. Gregory
2nd Lt. Douglas R. Grogan
Tec. 5 Frederick J. Grunwald

H

Capt. Frederick W. Haberer
S/Sgt. Travis D. Hall
Major John M. Hancock, Jr.

Pfc. Neils Hansson
T/Sgt. Robert A. Harris
1st Sgt. Robert L. Harris
Pfc. John F. Hayhurst
Pfc. Matthew H. Hohn
Pvt. Robert R. Holic
Tec. 4 Frederick J. Hunken

I

S/Sgt. Arthur C. Iabichella
Tec. 4 John A. Igneri

J

T/Sgt. Joseph F. Jacobsen
Tec. 4 Dean W. Jarrell
CWO Alton M. Johnson
Capt. Carl A. Johnson
Sgt. Kenneth W. Johnson
S/Sgt. Kenneth Joiner
Tec. 4 Frank J. Jones, Jr.

K

Tec. 5 Robert R. Kelso
1st Lt. Harry Klaar
Pfc. Albert T. Klett



Sgt. William P. Klimon
S/Sgt. Samuel R. Knezich
1st Sgt. Oliver C. Knighton
Capt. Ernest Kolodner
Sgt. Harold I. Kovarsky
Tec. 5 Adolf S. Kowalski
Sgt. Marvin L. Kuth

L

Tec. 4 Woodrow W. LaMunyan
Pfc. Charles E. Lane, Jr.
1st Lt. Robert L. Lang
S/Sgt. Roy M. Lee
Sgt. Chester R. Lewis
1st Lt. Roy Lipoti
Tec. 5 Irvin H. Lorenz
Sgt. Charlie E. Love

M

Pfc. Robert L. W. Madren
Pfc. John A. Mager
T/Sgt. William C. Mangels
Tec. 5 Percy R. Marsters, Jr.
Capt. George N. McAlister, Jr.
Pfc. Charles R. McGough
S/Sgt. Samuel McMenemy
S/Sgt. Aiden T. Metcalfe
Pfc. Jean E. Middleton
Sgt. Edgar R. Miller
Pfc. William N. Miller
Pfc. Abe Mitchell
Cpl. Harry Moller
Tec. 5 Michael S. Mondry
1st Lt. Clyde A. Mooney

Pfc. William H. Moseley, Jr.
1st Lt. John W. Murphy
Capt. Joseph T. Murphy

N

S/Sgt. Albert J. O. Neumaier
Major Herbert H. Newton

O

Major Parker L. Oakley
1st Lt. William F. Oakman

P

S/Sgt. Albert J. Page
Tec. 5 Bradford C. Parsons
T/Sgt. Alfred G. Pfeiffer
Pfc. Elroy L. Perkins
Sgt. Ernest Pierce
Tec. 4 Bartolomeo Pittari
Col. Richard G. Prather
S/Sgt. Stephen J. Prelonzi
Major William S. Preston, Jr.
Capt. George I. Purington

R

1st Lt. Leo Rabinowitz
T/Sgt. Henry F. Rafalka
Sgt. Samuel H. Rhodes
1st Lt. William A. Rockwood
Tec. 4 Norman N. Rubin
Pfc. Michael V. Ruggiero

S

S/Sgt. Israel Sacks
Pfc. Weldon F. Sailors

Pfc. Richard W. Schirr
S/Sgt. Joseph Schonarth, Jr.
Sgt. William W. Shirley
T/Sgt. Howard C. Shute, Jr.
Tec. 3 Max Silberman
Tec. 3 Thomas E. Smith
Pfc. James H. Smyers
Sgt. Hershel G. Stambaugh
Tec. 5 Albert Stefanelli
Tec. 4 Jack E. Stimson
1st Lt. Richard C. Strickland
S/Sgt. Herman C. Swenson

T

Capt. Bonner E. Teeter
Tec. 3 John J. Tiernan
Pfc. Edward D. Timoney
Sgt. Joseph A. Thomas, Jr.

V

WOJG LeRoy VanWinkle

W

Tec. 5 Gordon P. Walker
1st Lt. Clark V. Whited
Major Wiley B. Wisdom, Jr.
M/Sgt. Edward Witkowski
Tec. 5 Harvey R. Wood

Z

Major Morris Zebrowitz
T/Sgt. Herman F. Zinn

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

By direction of the President, and under the provisions of Section I, Circular Number 345, War Department, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to Headquarters Company, 397th Infantry Regiment, for superior performance of duty and the achievement of a high standard of discipline during the period from 1 November 1944 to 9 May 1945.

397th Regt. CT Tears Down "Supermen's" Goal Posts

It Was a Tough Game, Mom, But We Won

In a bitter contest for the preservation of Democracy, CT 7 made a total of 186¼ miles of gains before the other side called quits.

TOWNS TAKEN:

1st Battalion captured 63 towns
2nd Battalion captured 50 towns
3rd Battalion captured 44 towns
The 1st Battalion captured its first town, Clairrupt, November 15, 1944; its last, Plochingen, April 22, 1945.

The 2nd Battalion took its first town, Vieux Moulin, November 23, 1944. Its last, Wolfschigen, was captured April 24, 1945.

The 3rd Battalion captured its first town, Senones, November 23, 1944; its last, Zell, April 22, 1945.

THE INFANTRY WALKS:

Vosges Mountains	26	miles
Mouterhouse from Sarrebourg	29	miles
Bitche from Mouterhouse	4¼	miles
Heilbronn from Bitche	75	miles
Altbach to Stuttgart	52	miles
TOTAL	186¼	miles

PRISONER HAUL:

Vosges Campaign	429
Mouterhouse	131
Bitche	26
Rimling	237
Heilbronn	3616
Altbach	2259
SUB-TOTAL	6698
Stragglers picked up during Occupation	137
GRAND TOTAL	6835

(The entire Division took a total of 13093)

THE 397TH

INFANTRY REGIMENT LOSSES:

Killed in action	383
Wounded in action	1294
Missing in action (top figure before prisoners were liberated)	298

A highlight in the gory campaign which commenced for us on November 7th, came during the 1st and the 9th of January 1945. A citation prepared by the sponsors for CT 7, the Division, recites that: "The enemy hurled a savagely-prosecuted tank-infantry assault, the first of an unrelenting series of fanatical attacks by numerically superior forces, at defensive positions manned by the 397th Infantry Regimental Combat Team. Almost irresistible pressure forced back friendly elements on the flank, leaving our troops surrounded, and hostile mortar, rocket and artillery fire pounded our positions incessantly, but the 397th Combat Team, fighting with indomitable spirit, threw back attack after attack for nine consecutive days. Our artillery blasted hostile forces grouping for assaults, tanks were employed as mobile pillboxes; engineer units installed expansive defenses, and by perfect coordination and heroic determination of each component element, the 397th Regiment and its supporting organizations forced the enemy to abandon his entire offensive action and prevented a major breakthrough at a critical time." There were other notable achievements but we went to press before they could be recorded.



*View of Königstrasse, Stuttgart
before Allied Bombings*



*The Stars and Stripes flies from
the railroad station in Stuttgart,
occupied by the 397th Inf. Regiment*



*Stuttgart at the
present time*

PHASE X – OCCUPATION



INTRODUCTION

"You know the rest. In books you have read . . ."

Off the line, Stuttgart and champagne! Eisligen and the end of the war! Illertissen and non-fraternization. Göppingen and conversation with little children. Stuttgart again and conversation with the older sisters. The routine occupation of Germany became a lot more interesting.

We had a few bad months trying to figure out what the ultimate disposition of the regiment would be; and when alert orders for immediate shipment followed on top of a Pacific training schedule we were sure that our time was up. As if predestined, Japan surrendered. We were alerted and spent most of our time adding up our points, guessing, adding, hoping, wondering just when we would get back home. This was the important thing. Within a few months the point system bit sharply into the Regimental strength and the guys that we had grown up with moved out for home or lower-point organizations. But somehow the outfit remained the same because the spirit that we had created in the past three years could not be denied, would not be. Men began school careers, sports took on a new importance and the military training waned. Practically all of our activities were extracurricular: movies, shows, dance bands, clubs, unit newspapers, passes, champagne, and letters. But however much we enjoyed the change and the new freedom there were still the serious moments when we thought of the hundreds of guys that were not here to share the spoils. The drinking was not always gay. It was often just a good way to forget the losses we suffered in deep friendships, but perhaps reading these pages will help you to live with them a while longer and know again the tough times you had together. You will be talking about those things for the rest of your life. We did not walk through the war

and leave it behind us. We built the props, designed the sets, directed, produced and acted the whole works and some of it stuck. There are some lines we will never forget. But if the memory fogs up a little and the facts seem to fade, just turn to any page and read it over again. It is all here. Your buddy is in this book; in one of the towns, on a hill, walking down a street, hiding with you, fighting with you, hoping you will never forget.

Let this be the last book written. Show it to your son but see to it that 25 years from today he doesn't bring home a similar history to you. That is the least we can do.

OCCUPATION

Seventh Army Reserve! Three little words but oh! so meaningful. It meant that for a while we'd be out of danger; that we could have hot meals and movies regularly, that showers and clean clothes would cease being strangers to us; that athletics and training would displace hiking and killing for a time at least. We even were paid and had our teeth inspected.

We assembled and moved into Stuttgart the next day, the 26th of April. This large German city of a pre-war population of half a million presented one of the most concentrated areas of destruction we had yet seen. With the entire Regiment in one place for occupation purposes, the morning reports could honestly record morale "excellent." The billets that we were given were the very best the city had to offer. The misery of 172 consecutive days on the line was rapidly dissipated in the luxury of marble stairways, plush furniture, tile baths and silk comforters. Raon L'Etape, Mouterhouse, Rimling and Heilbronn — forgotten! — a thing of the past — as we saw our first electric lights in months and experienced the joy of hot and cold running water. That night was one for celebration.

And so began the period which was destined to continue until we went home. We soon discovered that our daily activities could very aptly be summed up as "usual garrison duties." A program was put into effect consisting of mass athletics, orientation, drill and small unit tactical training. We prepared baseball diamonds. Various routine tasks in conjunction with the occupation of the town were assigned. While one company supplied guards at a road block and a bridge, another kept watch over a hospital and a post office. Each battalion made a thorough reconnaissance of the sector assigned it, but this consisted mainly of observing rubble and ruins. We were "at ease!"

The large size of the sectors assigned to each battalion made it necessary to employ jeeps for patrol duty, with three or four of us travelling around carrying loaded rifles and carbines ready



for any emergency. A group of 40 discharged German soldiers from the Hohenheim hospital were picked up as prisoners of war. 38 more were bagged during the day swelling the ranks of enemy taken since we jumped off in November to 6788. There was no enemy action, no artillery, no sniper fire. It was peace for us. Stragglers passed through our PW cages with regularity. On Sundays we went to church services in large groups for the first time since combat had started, and were able to worship in safety and express thanksgiving which we felt so deeply.

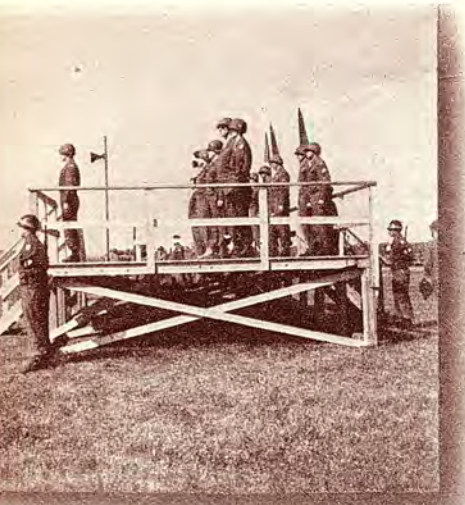
Our combat-worn equipment was replaced and we were decked out like a bunch of rookies. The roads in the vicinity of Stuttgart and its approaches were carefully patrolled, while the usual orientation periods were held. There was no change in the tactical situation of our army reserve position at the end of April. We had swapped our position, breaking out of Stuttgart and occupying another net of six towns. Headquarters Company, Cannon Company, Antitank Company, and Service Company moved to Eislingen. The First Battalion split up into two groups, with Battalion Headquarters Company, Companies C and D going to Sussen, and Companies A and B travelling 28 miles to Gingen. The Second Battalion went east along the Neckar River to Holzheim, detrucking on the outskirts of the town and marching in. Third Battalion Headquarters Company with Companies I, K and M left Stuttgart and went to Salach. Company L proceeded to Hohenstaufen. Initial measures of

sending motor patrols to adjacent towns, maintaining road blocks, and posting local security were immediately taken. There was no enemy action.

We continued in the now routine tasks of occupation and army reserve as the month of May slipped in quietly. The Regimental training program for the troops was designed to fit reinforcements into the team of a squad, platoon, company and battalion as well as to assure continued physical fitness. There was small unit tactical training, orientation and recreation. The battalion commanders had the same ultimate aim though they exercised their discretion in varying the program to suit the particular needs of their men. Close-order drill was performed regularly on the theory that it inculcated discipline. Calisthenics were performed as a toughening up measure, and for recreation there were group games and mass athletics. Instruction in use and maintenance of weapons continued to assume the same degree of importance as ever.

Other phases of the program included lectures on collateral issues of warfare. Discussion groups provided a well-balanced series of activities which rounded out our daily routine. Each day became more reminiscent of the life we had led in the states as we made a mental re-





adjustment to accustom ourselves to meeting formations, keeping in a straight line, and adhering to the elementary rules of military courtesy.

"No enemy action" reports made their daily appearance as the official data of the situation. Check points were established along main highways between the towns to control the flow of displaced persons (DPs) returning to their homes or just wandering about aimlessly. Each company posted its local security as a measure against possible sabotage. Permanent guard posts were set up on all large installations and army ration, ammunition, and chemical dumps. In some locations, where



suspicion was harbored against the civilians, platoons on foot patrolled and combed the streets during the night as safety-valves against possible flareups.

We began to look around us. The weather was as changeable on the third day of May as it is proverbially known to be, running from mild and clear to snow flurries and hailstones. We were methodically searching out all the wooded areas and our motorized

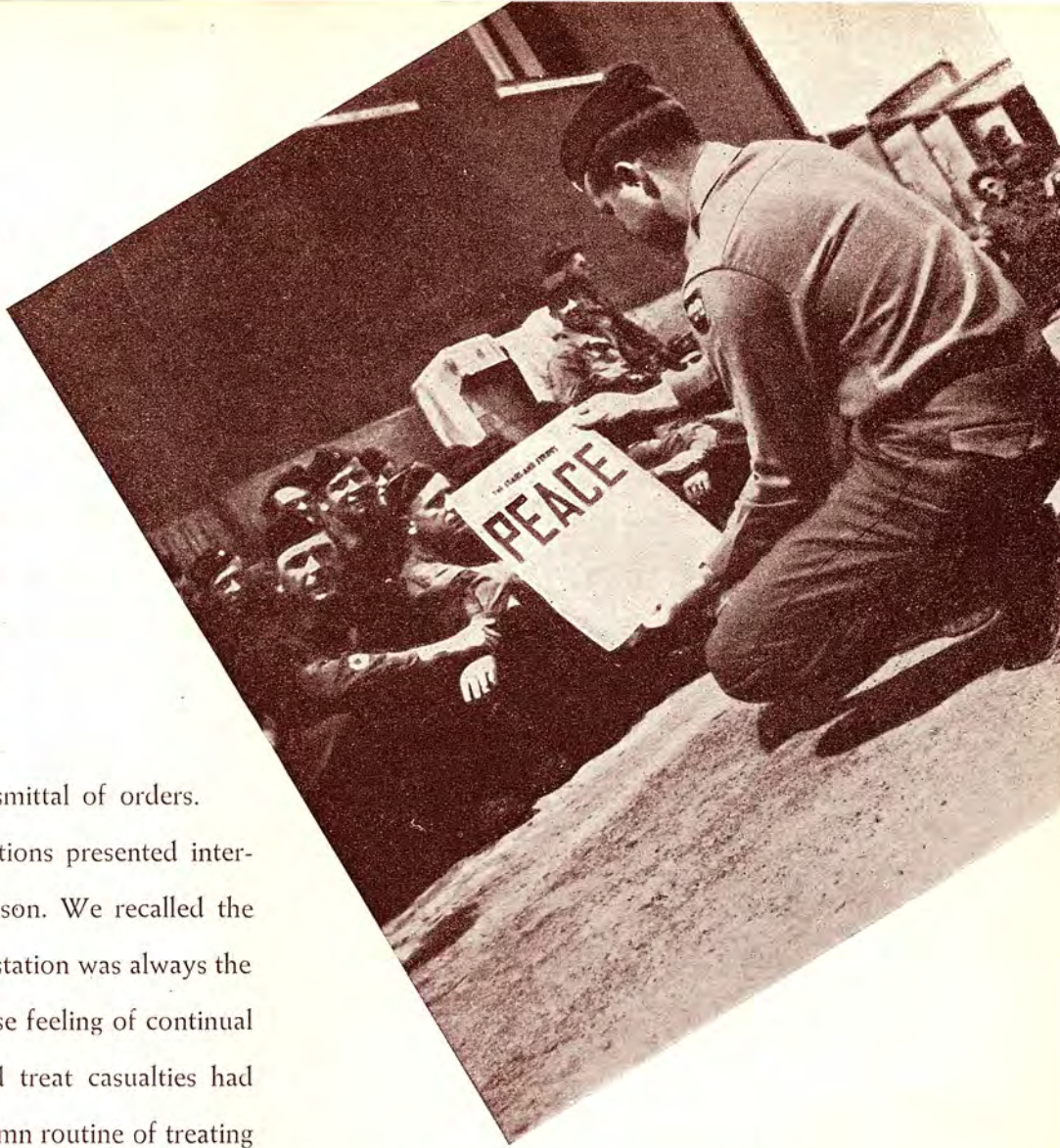


patrols whisked through the many villages at regular hours. Companies A and B moved into Süssen from Gingen on 4 May making the three-mile trip on foot, in an hour. The entire First Battalion was now in the same town, facilitating intra-battalion communications and transmittal of orders.

The Battalion aid stations presented interesting studies for comparison. We recalled the bloody days when the aid station was always the center of activity. The tense feeling of continual readiness to evacuate and treat casualties had abated in favor of the solemn routine of treating a blister on a foot or a cracked finger resulting from a miscaught baseball. We remembered nights with twenty or thirty casualties, blood-stained and broken; separating them, tagging them, washing the wounds, administering plasma and sulfa, loading them on the ambulance; over and over and over again, different men each time but the same procedure. There was the hate that surged through us when we recognized one of these as being a medic himself, defenseless but exposed.

The Second Battalion held a ceremonial review on May 5th. As the companies marched by the make-shift reviewing stand, we recalled many splendid memories of Fort Jackson and Fort Bragg where similar reviews had been held and where we first learned to hold them. The martial music, a few gaping civilians, the glittering brass on the stand, the meticulously-clad and polished marching troops were a far cry from muck, mire, death and destruction. It was just another of those amazing comparisons which we kept continually making now that we were far removed from death or a fate worse than that.

V-E Day at long last! There had been some who never before had drunk or fired their



weapons. There were none this day. The unrestrained drinking and shooting were salve for the soul though there was a hell of a racket. Down came the blackouts and from the "strasse" the houses seemed ablaze. To us the lights were on again all over the world. There was still a war going on, and we knew too that it was a war which might draw us to it before long. But we had learned to live from day to day and this day we were victorious.

The cease fire order for the Seventh Army came at 1200 on May 7th. One of our battalions, ironically, was firing on the range when the message came. Another battalion received the tidings in the middle of a road march. There was no immediate hilarity, but the impact of the news suddenly hit, and the road was the scene of an unruly mob. Only minutes before it had been so well disciplined.

The impending collapse had been presaged by events on all fronts — the surrender of the German Armies on the Italian front, the fall of Berlin, the reported negotiations in the North, the capture of top-ranking military men like Von Rundstedt, the inexorable advance of Allied forces, the inability of the enemy to split the Allies in the final moments. All these and more kept crowding the hour of complete collapse for Nazism and its vainglorious hopes for world domination.

To account for the fact that resistance continued for so long a time in spite of the breakdown of the German Army and civilian morale, it is necessary to turn to the SS organization. The will to resist burned brightest and longest in the SS. They had most to lose. Again and again the explanation was offered to our interrogators: fear of the SS or fear of indirect Nazi retaliation strengthened the ebbing desire to fight. The Nazi had a powerful, all-pervasive organization; its roots went deep into every form of living in Germany. Through habit or fear there was still a response to the crack of its whip.

Within the German army itself a struggle had been apparent since the Westwall crumbled. Actually there were two schisms: one between the officers and men and another between the army and the SS elements. The first was characterized by the persistent devotion of the officers to a cause, though lost, which made them exhort their underlings to take stands, obviously hopeless. This was the case in Heilbronn and in each of the small towns where we met determined opposition. The men, however, their spirits dulled by the certainty of eventual defeat, lost even the last vestige of willingness to serve as they watched many of their officers save themselves.

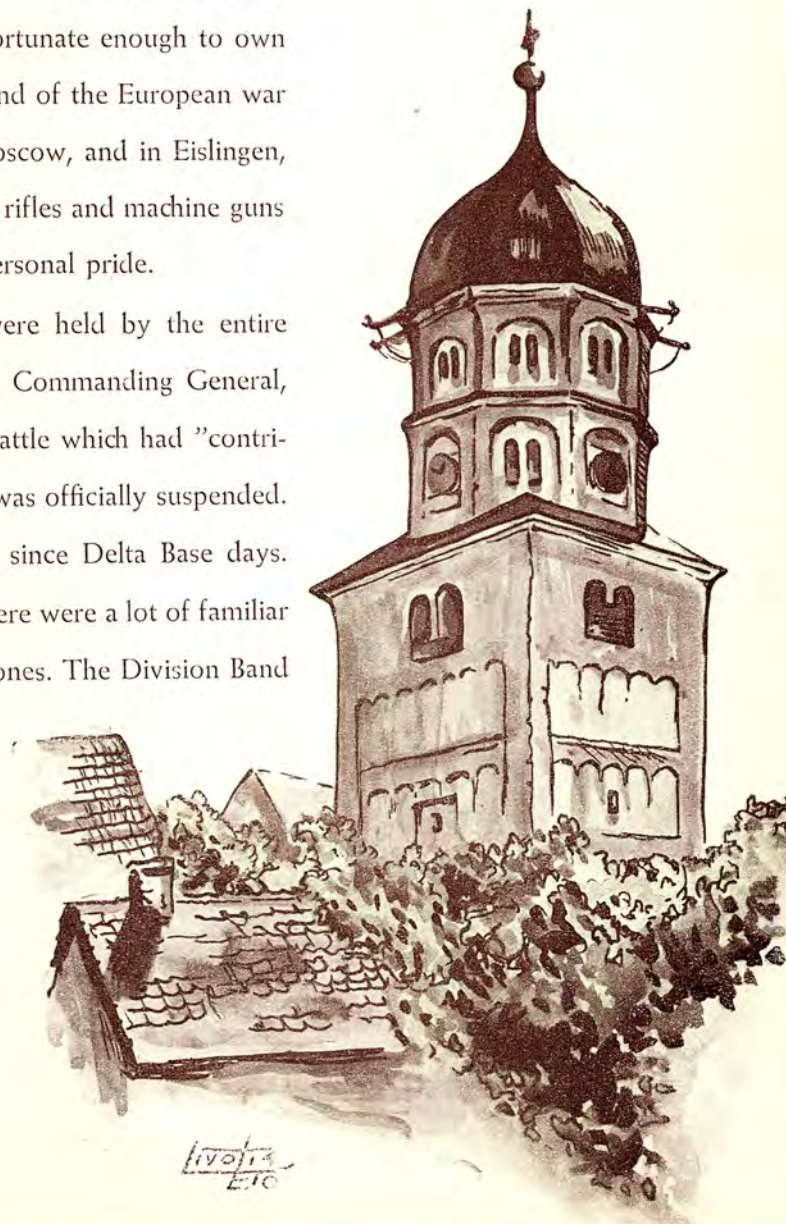
The Nazi was a willing vassal and a tower of strength while the going was good. But without air support, with insufficient fuel, food and ammunition he soon sensed he was in a losing battle. There was no mutiny, no open rebellion in the ranks, but he did not have to resort to such measures. As the officers exhorted him to fight on, many a Heinie resolved to get out of the war alive. It often could be done and it was done. Even before we crossed the Rhine our interrogation of PWs revealed that they either deserted or lagged sufficiently to bring about the desired result — capture.

After we had made our Rhine crossing and were ready to jump off from Piankstadt it became evident that the secret weapon heralded as the promised miracle to turn the tide was not forthcoming. The attitude of the officers swung toward that of the men. Then larger and larger numbers of noncoms and officers arranged surrenders or allowed themselves to fall into enemy hands after a display of token resistance to save face. All ranks seemed ready to compromise with the inevitable. And so the end came.

Our Company Commanders, in recognition of the momentous event, let May 8th pass as "no duty day." Those of us fortunate enough to own "liberated" radios heard the announcement of the end of the European war at 1600. Big guns of victory roared salutes over Moscow, and in Eislingen, Salach, Holzheim, Süssen, Gingen and Hohenstaufen rifles and machine guns rang out the high feeling of accomplishment and personal pride.

On May 9th, official V-E Day ceremonies were held by the entire Regiment, with Major General Withers A. Burress, Commanding General, in attendance to thank us for our performance in battle which had "contributed materially to the end of hostilities." Training was officially suspended. Our Regiment had not been grouped in one spot since Delta Base days. Now in Eislingen we had Regimental formations. There were a lot of familiar faces missing since that last time, and a lot of new ones. The Division Band

Catholic church in Illertissen built in the 15th century.





played. The Invocation and Benediction were given. There was a solemn dedication to continue in the same spirit with whatever tasks lay ahead.

The European war was at an end and now came the issue of "where to from here?" Instead of "what town do we hit next?" it was "what continent do we hit next?" Rumors ran rampant. It seemed that each of our buddies had "just overheard the CO telling the Exec ...". Meanwhile, the immediate business of taking over a new zone of occupation was being settled. To that end, Headquarters Company and the CP group moved to Illertissen.

The next day still more moves were made. Headquarters Company of the First Battalion moved from Dussen to Laupheim, with the incident of a detour due to a blown bridge. Upon arrival, communications men set about their wire-laying tasks, working in the open without fear of snipers or artillery. Company D arrived in the town soon after. Companies E and G billeted in Ullm, and Company F in Günzburg. Company H went to Weissenhorn. En route we noted many large trucks loaded with German prisoners, but the moves were all made with no unusual occurrence, and over typically-good German roads. Headquarters Third went to Babenhausen, while Company I went to Krumbach, Company K to Unter-Roth, Company L to Kirchberg and Company M to Göttingen. The next day Company A went to Göggingen and Company B to Oberkirchberg. Company C moved into Orsenhausen and Company G went to Laupheim.

Service Company moved to Illertissen, Antitank Company to Risttissen. The Regiment had

been assigned an area of 700 square miles, encompassing 315 communities, towns, and cities in its jurisdiction. We were quick to realize and undertake the vast responsibility. In the First Battalion, the A & P Platoon immediately



started to build a bridge north of the town. Upon arrival in its new area, Company C sent men to secure a nearby airport, and Company D was already settled to the extent of having a 24-hour guard on all vital installations in its sector. In the Second Battalion, the Antitank and A & P Platoons relieved elements of the 12th Armored Division in guarding enemy supply dumps, and road blocks were immediately installed at all entrances to the town. The commercial telephone lines and telephones in the towns occupied by the Second Battalion became booty and were put into use. This furnished a superior means of communication between the widely-scattered companies, Battalion Headquarters, and Regimental CP.

Cannon Company moved from Ulm to Oberkirchberg. Headquarters Company First Battalion was assigned the job of constructing baseball diamonds, volley ball courts, and other recreational facilities so that organized athletics, stipulated in the training schedules, could be made a pleasant reality. By now we had settled down to routine training. V-E Day already seemed way past. Company B gave a detailed analysis of its security and motor patrols. The report showed that there were two motor patrols, composed of four men each, and five standing posts of two men each. The tour of guard was for 24 hours a day. This system was followed throughout the entire Regiment.

Company L was alternating platoons in the overseeing of an airplane factory and the patrolling of the town while Company M had guards on several bridges and power plants, "verboten" for civil use. Other installations with which we concerned ourselves were hospitals. There were fifteen hospitals in the area at the inception of our tour of occupation. Eleven had been rapidly emptied, leaving four for exclusive use of displaced personnel. All American soldiers in these hospitals were immediately transferred to Army installations while the others were sent to Augsburg. No evidences of cruelty were apparent although several were found suffering from malnutrition.

The Second Battalion CP group and Headquarters Company, in order to occupy a more centralized location in its sector which encompassed 47 towns and villages, moved to Weissenhorn on the 14th. A combat patrol from Antitank Platoon was dispatched to investigate





reports of SS troops moving into Emershofen, but these reports proved erroneous. Motor patrols in operation around ammunition and chemical dumps maintained a constant vigil over these vital spots. We who were not patrolling found ourselves training.

In Ulm we received a first-hand view of history. Although a great portion of the city was gutted and in ruins, an unusually high church steeple rose above the rubble on all sides, and on this church rested the fame of the city. The "Minster" was the largest city church in Germany. The tower base was completed in the 19th Century to form the world's tallest church steeple. The steeple itself, in accordance with the country's reconstruction period, was completed in 1840. Buildings on the four sides of the "Minster" were razed but the church itself appeared practically unscathed, bearing mute testimony, perhaps, of a reverent accuracy practiced by our bombardiers. Ulm itself is partly bordered by the famed Danube River. The city is richly endowed with beautiful landscapes.

Other slight moves within our Regiment were made on the 15th day of May. Company B left Ulm for Allmendingen. Company C marched to Meitigen. On the 16th, Cannon Company detailed a group of men to collect all firearms and ammunition in accordance with a pre-arranged plan for occupation of our area. Other practices in dealing with the defeated peoples of the country paralleled suggestions made by those experienced in the field of military government. The first order upon entry into a village was to impose a time limit for the civilians to be on the streets, usually between 1100 and 1300 hours. Later this was extended from 0700 to 2000, unless there had been sniper trouble, in which case civilians were expected to remain in their houses all day. The only exception we made to the original regulation was in the case of farmers who had to tend cattle. The emphasizing of unit discipline, including military bearing, military courtesy and cleanliness of personnel, vehicles, and equipment was a means we employed to impress the population of our austere presence. Daily retreat ceremonies were initiated.

On the 16th, Company F left Günzburg on a motor march to Weissenhorn. Company I was kept busy patrolling and overseeing the 25 towns in its sector, and transporting all DPs through channels, making a check of each one for return to his homeland. Company L maintained a guard on an airport and a dam. Discovering a factory with airplane parts, it posted a guard on that. Three Gestapo agents were picked up in Hurbel, two men and a woman.

The Battalion Executive Officers were constituted virtual military government officers, with the Company Executive Officers as sub-deputy military government officers, in an effort to augment understaffed government. The highest or next highest ranking officer in the combat unit, concerned with the governing of the population as it affected the tactical situation, was usually made Town Commander. The Provost Marshal had to solve the traffic problems and offenses committed by soldiers upon civilian or military personnel. The MG Officer had the responsibility for keeping the population controlled and for maintaining the area in a reasonably decent and healthful state. A chief function was the appointment of officials. One of the most common of the knotty problems was the selection of a suitable burgomeister. We found that men of the church were good contacts to ascertain pertinent data from and in some cases school masters were also helpful. Other problems, such as how to maintain a pure water supply, dispose of trash efficiently, and root out insidious influences undermining efforts of civilian re-education and rehabilitation had to be solved by the military government.

A group of MP's moving into our area gave Company G still another village and a city jail to be guarded. In its area Company I began a methodical search of its thirty towns, posted guards on vital installations, and organized motorized patrols. Ammunition and weapons stored in preparation for transportations had been cleared out of the areas. We saw the Army movie "Two Down and One to Go" which explained the redeployment program and the system of points for discharge.



We were now receiving our mail daily, sleeping under a roof, and eating hot meals. We played ball, wrote letters, lounged, and relaxed to our heart's content. Patrol and guard duty continued. The main topic for thought and conversation was the future and what new experiences were in store. A detachment of the Third Battalion, located near the Austrian and Switzerland border, made an excursion to Lake Constance.

Lt. Col. Singles was transferred from the Regiment on 20 May, and was replaced by Lt. Col. John M. King. We had a rainy season with many rainy-day training schedules. We learned that 120 of our buddies, captured and listed as "missing in action," were returned to military control. A greater understanding between the military and the civil population was sought by calling all burgomeisters in the sector together for a conference.

Ammunition and Pioneer Platoons removed German lethal shells from dumps while regular organization and occupational duties continued. Three members of the Hitler Jugend were arrested by our Cannon Company on May 28th while attempting to steal clothing and cigarettes from Army vehicles in the vicinity of Bohringen. Our weapons were inspected by the 800th Ordnance Team. Patrols continued scouring the woods for mines, stray ammunition, illegal meetings, and the possibility of the presence of SS or sabotage groups. We experienced the strange feeling while passing discharged German Wehrmacht members in the street without shooting at them.

The two months of occupation had afforded us ample opportunity to observe the native civilians and to form opinions regarding a nation deemed responsible for much of the destruction and sorrow in the world. The attitude of the civilians had undergone an apparent change. There was a marked transition from the stunned and sullen peoples whom we had seen during combat. We conducted a survey of the companies to determine the extent of civilian problems and how they had been met. This offered some interesting diversion from the routine of daily training, dispatching patrols, and performing guard duty.

Approximately 500 yards to the east of Illerrieden flows the Iller River, (a course generally north and south, and the river 30 yards wide) where the company was located. A sentry near the motor pool detected a suspicious movement near one of the trucks. With posed rifle, he beckoned a 16-year old youth clad in swimming trunks and carrying an empty potato sack to come out. He was taken to the CP. His reticence at revealing his mission was overcome after he had been kept in this semi-nude condition for a time. He then admitted that the reason for his being under those

incriminating circumstances was that he believed the American soldiers had large quantities of cigarettes and food left unguarded in their vehicles. Since there was a guard on the bridge, he had been forced to swim the river. He denied being a member of any Nazi party organization or of having intentions to sabotage. He was turned over to the Regimental IPW.

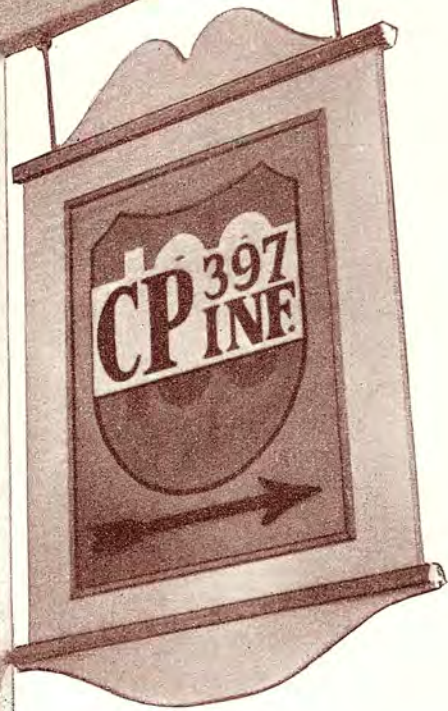
Civilian activity of a less serious import revealed itself at a mess hall set up near an open field. Little children between the ages of three and twelve would appear at mealtime, staring hungrily at us and asking for left-over pieces of bread and other edibles. At first we would comply rather than throw the food away. Soon, however, the numbers increased to a point where as many as twenty-five would harass the messline. A veritable gauntlet of outstretched hands and appealing eyes was run at the mess gear wash line. "Zivil Verboten" signs soon appeared on trees at both ends of the road.

The elements of the Regiment reported little or no serious difficulties in dealing with the local townspeople, and isolated cases of hostility or slight evidences of resistance were dealt with in a most expeditious manner. It was even noted in some cases that civilians were eager to be of help and would not flinch at turning in a fellow German who had been active in the Nazi party. This cooperative spirit was born of an apparent desire to get in our good graces for whatever it was worth.

In Ristissen, the local burgomeister volunteered the information that one Herr Normann, a notorious Nazi Kreisleiter wanted by the AMG, was in the area. The man had fled from the approaching allies and was in hiding. It was mainly through this eager cooperation by the burgomeister and other townsfolk that the man was found and taken into custody. Such willingness to aid had been found the rule, rather than the exception.

Reports of actual premeditated and wilful sabotage were few, but in these isolated cases of direct hostility, the culprits were apprehended and appropriate preventive steps taken. In the





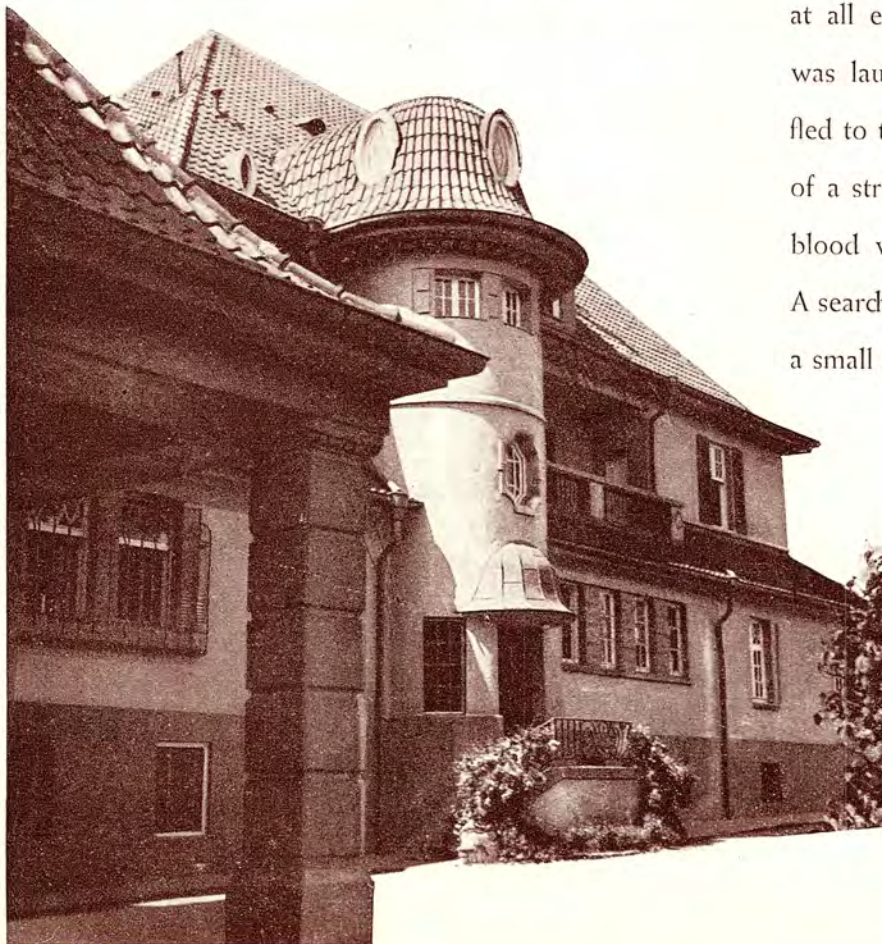
town of Laupheim we were being constantly called on by civilians to right alleged wrongs and acts of mistreatment by forces which had occupied the town previous to our arrival. All complaints of whatever nature and description were heard and the majority of them were determined to be groundless.

Regulations and administrative details were cleared through the burgomeister's office. Infractions of a serious nature were rarely committed. A minor act of sabotage occurred in Göggingen. A length of communication wire to the Battalion Headquarters was cut in an apparently professional maner, indicating an attempt at sabotage.

Although we didn't find the one responsible, the burgomeister was warned that a repetition would result in further limitation of the curfew hours. It was unnecessary to carry out this threat or take other measures of reprisal.

A group of Russian DP's furnished a ripple of excitement in Schelklingen. On 5 June 1945 an excited sentry called the CP to report that 30 Russians were rioting and preparing to hang a German civilian in the camp. A squad of 40 were dispatched immediately, guards were placed

at all exits, and an investigation was launched. The Russians had fled to the hills. There were signs of a struggle when large pools of blood were found on the floor. A searching party soon came upon a small group of Russians burying



a nude mutilated body. An investigation elicited the details that the victim was a Russian who had served with the German Gestapo and was responsible for the deaths of many of his countrymen. We took no further action.

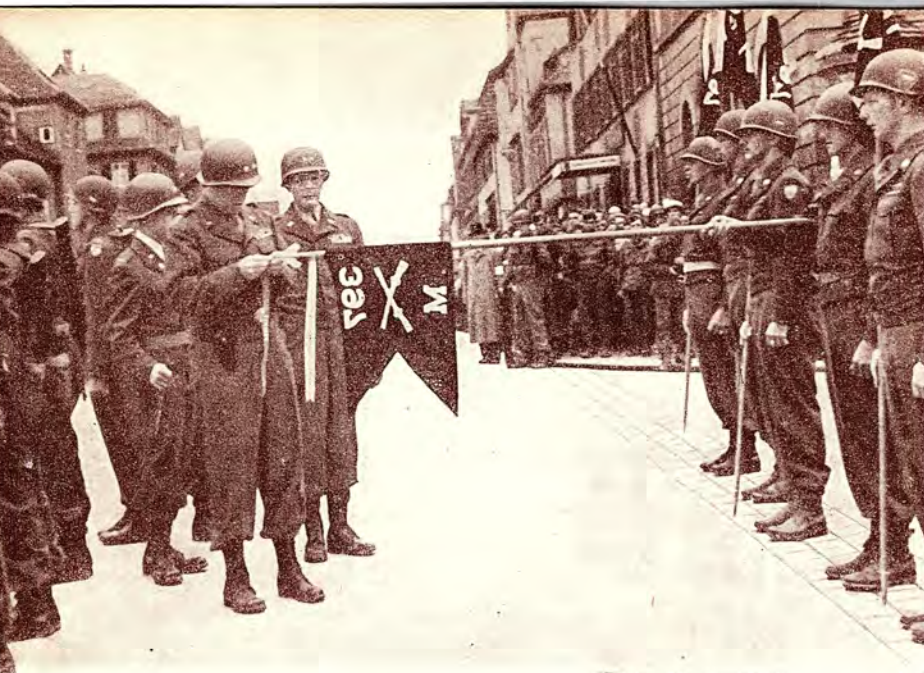
The civilians in the several towns differed with each other in their conceptions and beliefs. It was necessary to issue repeated reminders to the burgomeisters for the enforcement of curfew and military courtesy regulations. Constant spot-checking of small shacks in our sectors of occupation led to the discovery of contraband ammunition and weapons. The small buildings that dotted the countryside were the favorite hiding places for illegal possessions. Many women protested that the forbidden items, like rifles, had mere sentimental value and were left to them by their departed spouses.

The natives were cooperative though not very enthusiastic. Company C was billeted in Laupheim and had the duty to man road blocks, check passes and guard public and military installations in conjunction with other occupational tasks. For three weeks there were no untoward incidents. When the company moved to Bad Ditzenbach, the situation took on a different complexion with the civilians displaying an unmistakable arrogance. The CO felt impelled to explain the non-fraternization policy. Thereafter the natives came to regard the soldiers as a necessary incident in their everyday life.

The Germans resorted to every possible device to keep from evacuating their homes to provide us billets. Simulating sickness in the family was the most common ruse. However, they were impressed with the care and consideration we showed for their property. Pangs of relief were oftentimes expressed that Americans and not French or Russians lived in their buildings — evidently more "divide and rule" propaganda.

Trouble was encountered with civilians regarding the stores of food and clothing in requisitioned houses. Due to the difficulty this situation presented, the people were permitted to enter their homes on one particular day each week for one hour. This eliminated a large amount of unnecessary friction and was considered a fair and expedient measure.

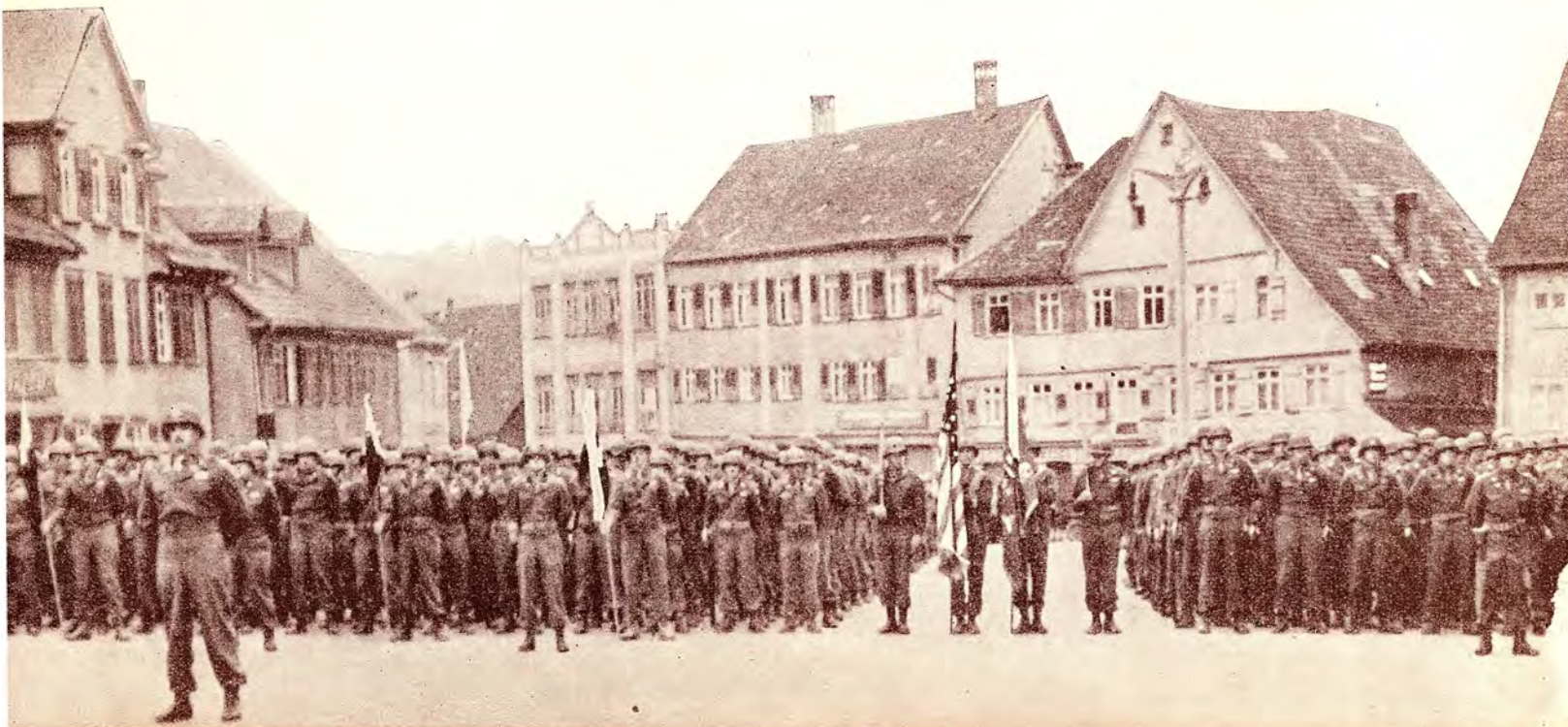
The unexpected cooperation of the conquered Germans formed the basis for a report that they took only those belongings with them which were not needed for the comfort of the troops. They expressed the desire to aid in the care and cleaning of their premises. They were permitted to enter the buildings for an hour each day under close surveillance in order to cleanup. The



condition of the homes and the care of the property were in this way maintained to everyone's satisfaction. An order forbidding troops from picking fruit or vegetables from the gardens gave the civilians reason to reflect about our respect for law, order, and regard for the rights and property of others.

The Germans welcomed the opportunity to do business with us and were pleasant, cordial, and eager to oblige. The civilians were seemingly not bitter, except in isolated cases. They were apparently intent on making the best of a bad situation and to smooth out relationships as much as possible. It was also pointed out that the women were anxious to do laundry work and extend other favors. They valued chocolate, cigarettes, sugar and food much above marks as remuneration.

A vast German estate known as "The Castle," formerly owned by an SS General, had a considerable store of weapons and ammunition. Some of the servants in the castle who had husbands in the army wanted to keep ammunition and hunting rifles pending, as they said, the return of their spouses. One came to the CO and voluntarily led him to a place where two rifles and a large amount of ammunition were found. Upon further questioning the servants, they denied having any more. However, a few days later a workman revealed that he had been forced to dig a hole under a bee-hive house and bury two boxes, the contents of which were



unknown to him. The boxes were found to contain five rifles and much "kugel." The case was referred to a high AMG court.

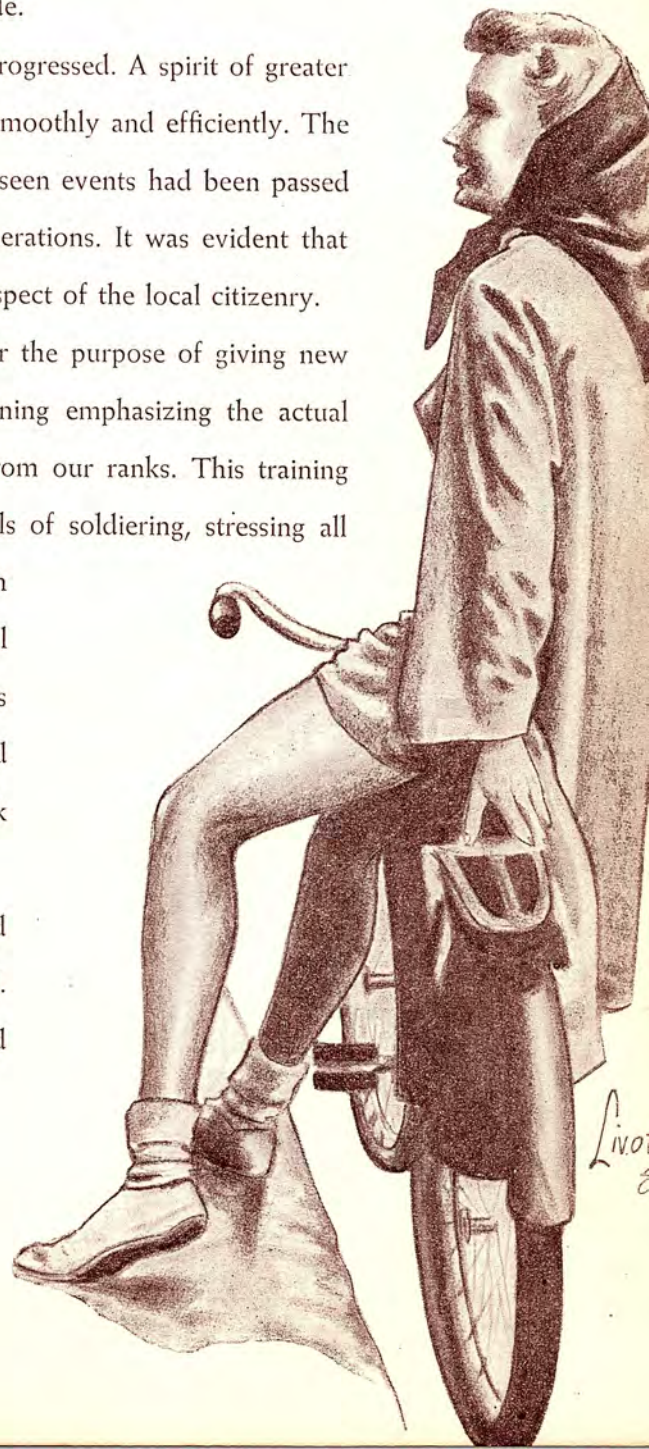
Another case concerned a loaded German rifle with a round in the chamber found cleverly concealed in a barn behind tools and farm implements. The woman of the house was arrested and taken before the burgomeister. He reprimanded her and fined her 100 marks, half of which was given to the church and the rest used to buy food for displaced persons.

An hysterical woman ran into the CP in Weissenhorn and begged to speak to the CO. When an interpreter had been secured it was discovered that her three year old son was near death from an unknown cause. A jeep and driver were put at her disposal and they were taken to a doctor and then to the hospital. The boy's life was saved as a result of the cooperation, and the burgomeister, representing the people, expressed his gratitude.

The mutual education of us and the German civilians progressed. A spirit of greater understanding was apparent with the result that things ran smoothly and efficiently. The difficult period of establishing precedents and meeting unforeseen events had been passed successfully and a gradual routine had seeped into daily operations. It was evident that we had made a good impression and had engendered the respect of the local citizenry.

In June a provisional training company was created for the purpose of giving new groups of reinforcements six weeks of advanced basic training emphasizing the actual combat experience of the instructors, who were selected from our ranks. This training consisted of an eight-hour day in teaching the fundamentals of soldiering, stressing all infantry weapons. The training included familiarization with the handling of the flame thrower and demolitions. Special instructors were brought in to cover such technical subjects as combat intelligence, communications, mines, booby traps and German sabotage. The men lived in the field the last week under simulated combat conditions.

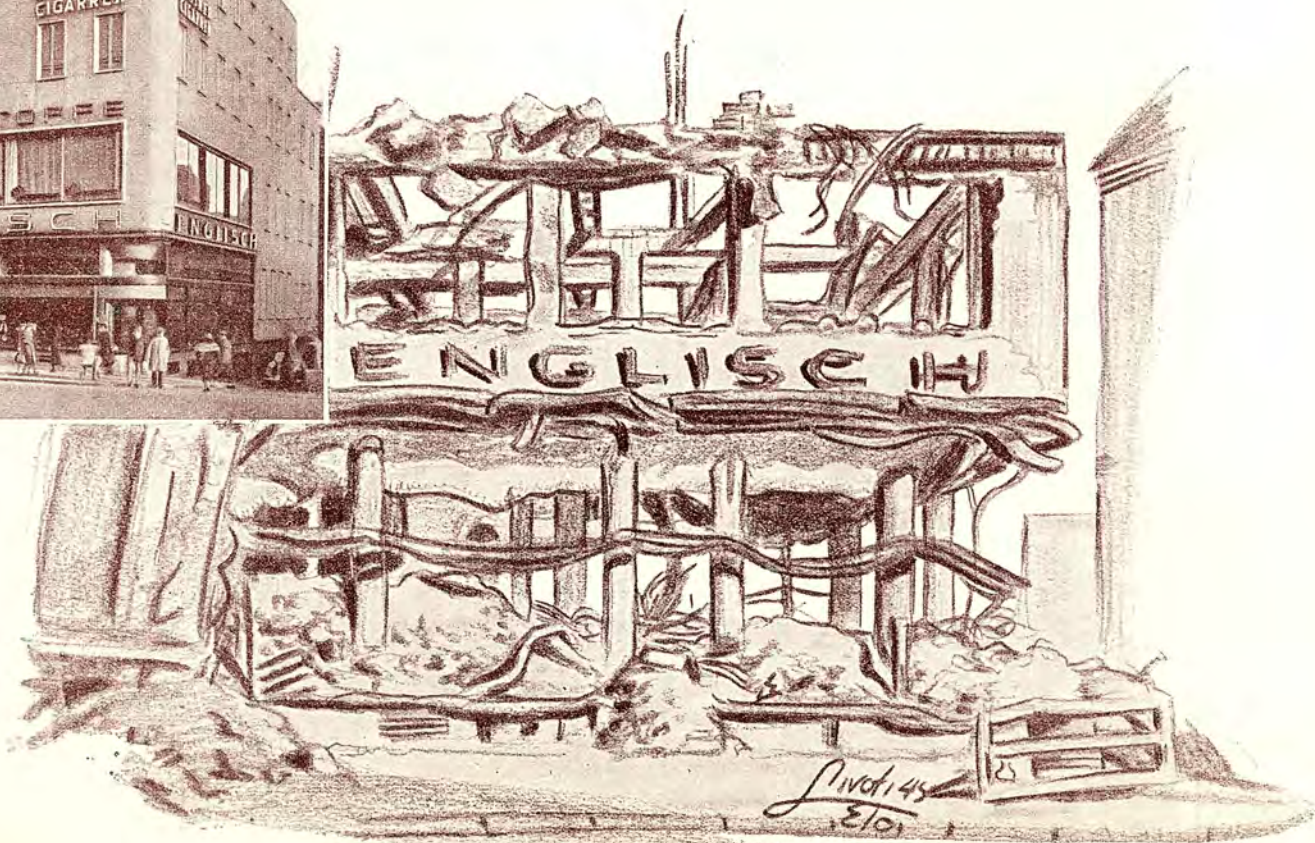
For the fourth time since activation, a new CO assumed the complex and manifold duties of leading our Regiment. Col. Richard G. Prather, Division Chief of Staff, was assigned and officially assumed his responsibility on June 7th.



On June 12th our elements were reshuffled once more. We went from Weissenhorn to Ulhingen, from Ulm to Holzheim, from idyllic Osterberg to Bezgenriet, from Kirchberg to Eschenbach, from Laupheim to Deggingen, from Babenhausen to Bad Boll and from Illertissen to Göppingen. The roads were quite good. The Regimental CP set up in Göppingen in a palatial chateau complete with balconies, verandas, and a couple of baby grand pianos. The Officers' home was of even more grandeur. It had once been the favorite retreat of Field Marshall von Rundstedt and his staff.

There were reviews at which various awards were presented. On July 4th, the Third Battalion and Company H were presented the Presidential Unit Citation for the fighting at Rimling in January.

We took command of the Stuttgart and Leonberg Landkreis on the 7th of July. The Capital of the "kingdom" of Wurttemberg was again ours to occupy, manage, and control. After having been there two months ago and virtually given the boot to keep peace in the family of nations, we had a slight feeling of triumphant return to the battered and blasted city. The conventional tasks of setting up in a new area went forward with the familiarity that is bred by frequent execution. Living quarters were prepared and improved; scores of German civilians were put to work on cleaning apartment houses and other buildings which had been chosen for our use. The Stuttgart Municipal



House, in the center of town, had been made into a Red Cross Club and a large movie house. Late each afternoon there were concerts with the best section reserved for military personnel.

Most contacts had with the local populace were those initiated by the people themselves. This usually took the form of special requests for passes. On July 15th a woman requested permission to visit an injured son in Leonberg. Another came to the CP for transportation and personnel to haul a complete bed from Renningen to Stuttgart for her spouse, recently discharged from the Wehrmacht.

A stimulating event which caused considerable flurry was the relaxing of the non-fraternization rules by General Eisenhower. In short, what we had been doing was now legitimate. Our desire to voice our opinions was no longer restricted. Curiosity and an earnest wish to probe the minds of those people who had permitted such a blight upon the world resulted in extreme embarrassment to the queried. And then, some of us had other reasons for being happy about the relaxation.

Operations Instructions marked "Secret" were circulated on 20 July throughout the Regiment in the setting of the scene for a momentous happening. Plans were made to comply with these mysterious instructions, and Operation "Tally-Ho" was ready for the starting gun on the 21st. This entailed the systematic search of all civilians and homes in the area of American Occupation, and it was to come as a complete surprise.

Each company had its specific zone to cover, and regular collecting points were established for the assembling of forbidden articles found as well as for individuals picked up for infringement of Occupation Orders. Having been planned far in advance and executed competently, this operation proved extremely thorough and successful. It lasted for two complete 24-hour periods and the results were ample justification for the trouble taken.

The search began at 0700 and, depending on the size of the company area, lasted until anywhere between 1100 and 1700 on the first day. We found a total of 200 rounds of 80 mm. mortar ammunition, three rolls of German artillery wire, four panzerfausts, one pistol, three German trench knives, one crystal set, and much Nazi propaganda literature including editions of "MEIN KAMPF." We unearthed our own army equipment which included a gas mask, gas cans, canteens, a medical litter, communications wire, several articles of OD clothing and one 1903 Springfield rifle. There were many civilians without proper identification papers.

On August 21st we were alerted for shipment to the states September 10th and were just about ready to leave when Japan surrendered. We were de-alerted, the only sad denouement of the unexpected cessation of hostilities. The end of the war brought genuine and unconfined joy. This was the real thing. We wanted to shout and laugh and run around and tell everybody, but everybody else knew and they felt that they wanted to tell us. So we had our celebrations in the various clubs which had been set up for officers, noncoms and privates and let it go at that.

We cannot maintain that the history is finished; it cannot be with some of our buddies still unaccounted for --

Pfc. William A. Bresnahan, Silver Springs, Mo.	Pfc. Philip G. Mowat, Aberdeen, Scotland
Pfc. Olan Dabbs, Wynnewood, Okla.	Pfc. John F. Novak, Jr., East Pittsburgh, Penn.
Sgt. Marat C. Euscher, Jr., Roxbury, Mass.	1st Lt. Rayford E. Saxon, Meadville, Miss.
Pvt. John Fliasher, Chicago, Ill.	Pfc. Roddy L. Smith, Concord, N.C.
Pfc. Donald L. Hildenbrand, Baltimore, Md.	Pfc. Urban G. Volk, Newton, Ill.

but there is the beginning of a new world which we have helped to create and which we must preserve. We must pledge our efforts to the many who died in combat, to the wounded and to the men who made an equal sacrifice during the occupation of Germany —

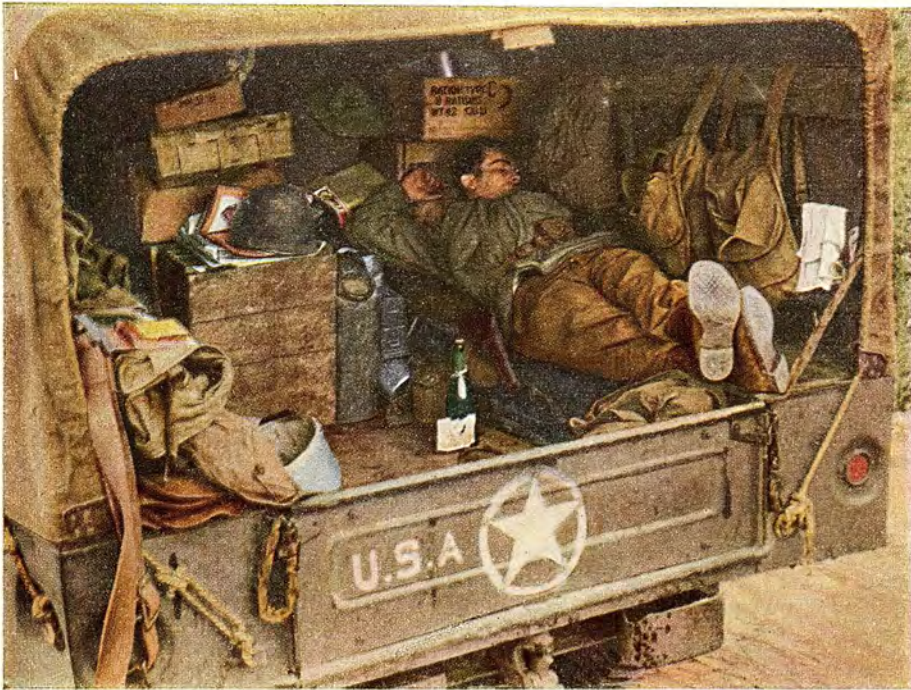
Pfc. James M. Buchanan, Brighton, Mass.	S/Sgt. John A. Miller, Newburgh, Ind.
2nd Lt. H. H. Hewetson, Jr., Watertown, N.Y.	S/Sgt. Stephen Prelozni, Waukesha, Wis.
Pfc. Eugene L. Klein, Fredericksburg, Texas	Pvt. Marvin L. White, Wellville, Va.
Pfc. Robert D. Mateer, Altoona, Penn.	Pfc. James R. Ycomans, Moultrie, Ga.

None of us must ever forget what happened and it is perhaps just as well that we carry a few battle scars in our memories. We must justify what we have done by making the years that follow full and happy ones for those who are still with us and for those yet unborn.





CANDID SHOOTING

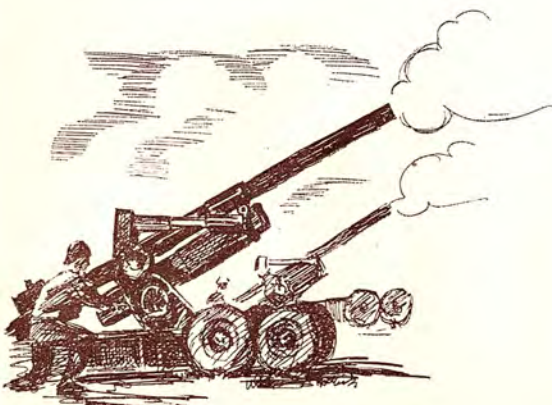


SIESTA



(Left) NATURE'S CALL

(Right) MOBILE MASTICATION

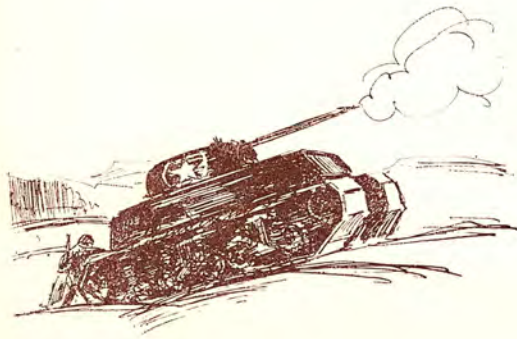


"ALLES KAPUT"





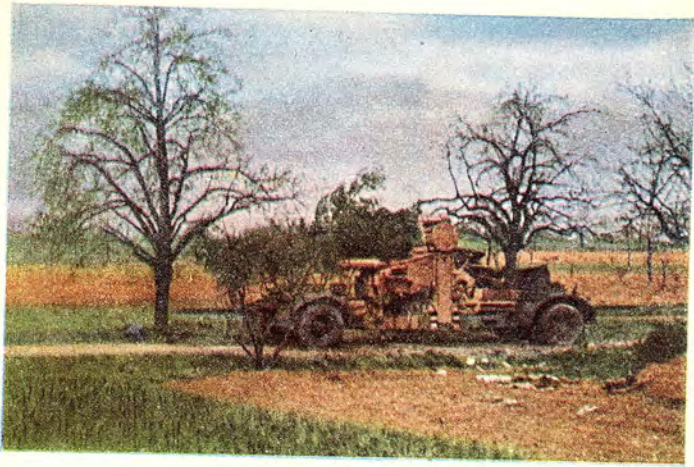
THE GHOST STALKS



THE SWASTIKA SWAP



PIN POINT PRECISION



DEAD IN ITS TRACKS



"KEINE BENZINE"



HE STILL STANDS



NOW AT EASE



The History in the Making

This book was published in Stuttgart, Germany. It portrays a picture, distinctly one of the battlefield, conceived there and written a short distance from the actual scenes of combat. The staff met initially August 21st, 1945. A bombed-out and almost completely destroyed printing establishment had set up its press and was running off proof on October 1st, 1945.

Certain strange letters, numbers and punctuation reflect the differences between German and American typography. There are numerous citations and decorations which have been recommended but not yet awarded and therefore many names and incidents have not been chronicled. The reader is further reminded that nearly all photographs contained herein are unposed and consequently aesthetic and scenic effects have been sacrificed for realism.

