

Bitter Fighting from Grandvillers to Le Haute Jacques in the Vosges Mountains

On 19 October 1944 the Third Infantry Division issued instructions which directed the resumption of the attack against the enemy.⁵⁷

The number one assault regiment of the Third Division, the Seventh Infantry, was directed to be prepared to open the attack after 1400, 20 October 1944 from a line of departure southeast of Grandvillers, to seize the important road junctions north of Bruyeres, which town had been taken by friendly VI Corps forces the day before, seize Vervezelle, Belmont and Domfaing, then be prepared to continue the attack to the east or south. The Regiment was directed to move from Eloyes at 0700 on 20 October 1944, via Jarmenil, Chenimenil, Aydoilles, Girecourt and Gugnécourt, to an assembly area just east of Grandvillers.

The 15th Infantry was given instructions to commence moving from St. Etienne, where it had rehabilitated and trained for a period similar to that conducted by the Seventh Infantry, commencing at 1300, 20 October 1944, proceed to Grandvillers and be prepared to attack at 0700, 21 October on the left of the Seventh Infantry and on the left of La Mortagne River Valley, which was to be the boundary between the regiments.

The 30th Infantry which had remained in the line, holding and patrolling while the 7th and 15th Infantry were rehabilitated and trained for the five days, was to continue its mission and revert to Division reserve.

7th INFANTRY OPENS THE THIRD DIVISION ATTACK—20 OCTOBER 1944

The Seventh Infantry moved by motor from Eloyes to Grandvillers, over the prescribed route, the morning of 20 October 1944 and completely closed into the assembly area at 1120. The troops marched two miles southeast on the road by foot and closed into forward assembly areas in the wooded hills.

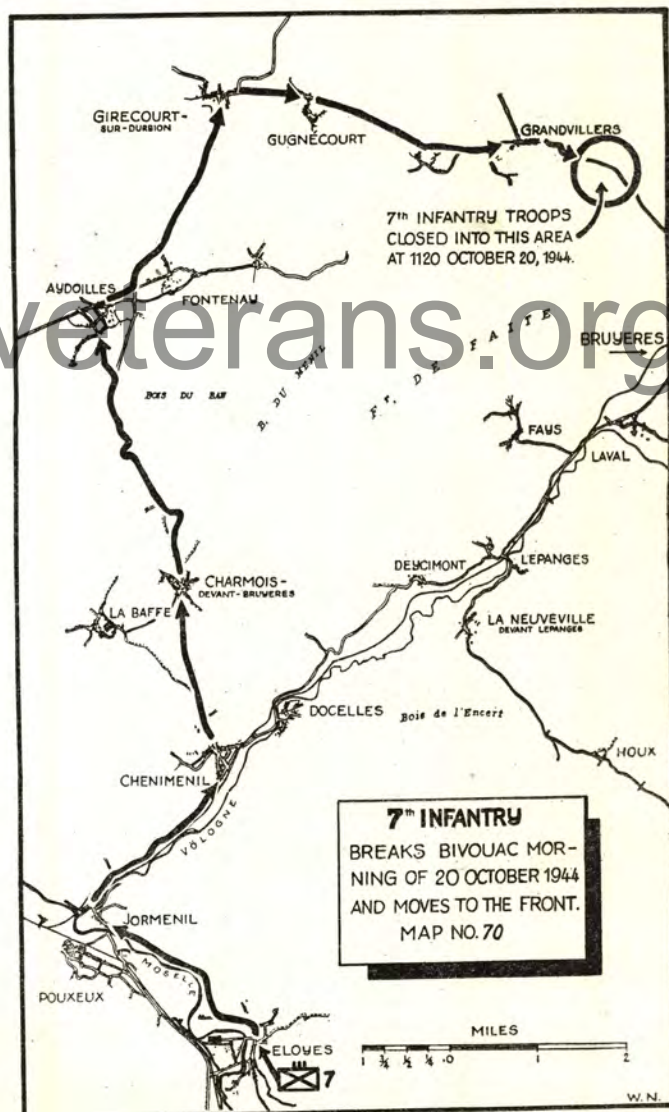
The Seventh Infantry lost no time in going into the attack. At twelve noon the Red Battalion, commanded by Major Benjamin C. Boyd, passed through elements of the 179th Infantry and commenced the attack against the enemy, with Company "C" on the right and Company "A" on the left. Immediately enemy small arms and machine gun fire was received from built-in bunker positions having overhead cover.

Company "C" was halted by withering machine gun cross-fire. Private Thomas R. Small crawled forward through the bands of automatic fire and assaulted the enemy with rifle-launched grenades. Although severely wounded by grenade fragments, he came within thirty-five yards of one enemy machine gun and destroyed it. With a great volume of German fire concentrated upon him, Private Small crawled fifteen yards more and knocked out a second machine gun with his last grenade. He then killed a German grenadier with rifle fire. Having killed three and wounded three Germans the intrepid, young soldier had shattered an entire hostile position. For his extraordinary heroism Private Small was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁵⁸

In another sector on Company "C's" front Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Pittaluga knocked out a German machine gun with a rifle grenade and killed the enemy crew with fire from his Thompson sub-machine gun.⁵⁹

The Third Battalion commanded by Major Glen E. Rathbun attacked at 1500 and moved southeast, south of the road. The battalion passed along the northeast slope of Montagne de Buemont then cut the first road up from Bruyeres and headed northeast for the second road junction.

The 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry was attacking the objective east of the second road junction, the high ground of Pointhare. The Blue Battalion became engaged in a heavy fire fight but Company "K"



⁵⁷ O. I. No. 89, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Remiremont, France, 19 Oct. 1944 (1900A).

⁵⁸ For authority see GO 625, Hq. 7th Army, WMD, 22 Oct. 1945.

⁵⁹ GO No. 22, HQ. 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. 1945. S/Sgt. Pittaluga was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

captured the important road junction. The advance was continued on the road to Brouvelieures for about five hundred yards by Companies "K" and "L".

The Second Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro moved at 1700 from its forward assembly area due south, then east and northeast around the Montagne de Buemont, crossed the two roads up from Bruyeres and occupied the hill of Point-hare against little opposition at 1915. Captain Frank L. Williams of Company "E" was wounded and evacuated and Captain Wayland G. Holt took over command of the company.

The Red Battalion engaged in the stiffest fighting of the day. All companies were committed and close-in fighting resulted with the enemy lodged in their bunker positions. Company "C" was met with bazooka, small arms and machine gun fire as well as hand grenades. During the night of 20-21 October Company "A" and the Regimental Battle Patrol cleared the east-west road between the two road junctions north of Bruyeres.

At 0800, 21 October, the White and Blue Battalions continued the assault to the east for Vervezelle. Company "E" moved southeast from Hill Pointhare to the road, while Company "G" commanded by First Lieutenant William H. McGuire moved straight east for the road. Company "F" was in battalion reserve. Heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire were received as the White Battalion advanced forward. At 1130 Company "E" held one-third of Vervezelle. Captain Wayland G. Holt was seriously wounded and Captain George R. Ellis assumed command of "Easy" Company.

The attack of the Blue Battalion was launched by "Item" and "Love" Companies and at 1130 Company "L" held two houses in Vervezelle as the two assault companies engaged in a fire fight and received enemy tank fire. Company "K" was relieved near the road junction



Pfc Bernard J. Gallagher, of 2d Bn. Hq. Co., was killed in action on 20 October 1944.

by elements of the 15th Infantry at 1130 and rejoined the battalion. The enemy laid a smoke screen before the Third Battalion's left front then counter-attacked Company "L". Seven battalions of friendly artillery fired TOT⁶⁰ concentrations of three rounds per gun. The enemy counter-attack was beaten off.

The battle for Vervezelle continued and at 1305 Company "E" was in complete possession of the town. Company "G" followed by Company "F" pushed beyond the town to the northeast against small arms and machine gun opposition.

The Red Battalion moved to the left and abreast of the Blue Battalion, northwest of Vervezelle, and at 1430 the two battalions advanced behind a smoke screen for Domfaing. The advance was made rapidly against little opposition. Enemy in Domfaing were caught completely by surprise as Blue Battalion forces entered at 1515 to find enemy tanks still there. The tanks were forced to

withdraw but an enemy 105mm gun with its prime mover, plenty of ammunition and one hundred seventy-five prisoners were captured.

The First Battalion advanced on the left of the Third Battalion against small arms and machine gun resistance and cut both the railroad and highway northwest of Domfaing. A stiff fight was had with the enemy for the Neuf Moulin road junction and the road leading up La Mortagne River Valley, during the morning of 22 October 1944.

Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst of "Charlie" Company led a six-man rifle squad, supported by a tank and a tank destroyer, in occupying and holding the vital road junction against successive enemy attacks in platoon strength. Advancing beyond his roadblock alone, he encountered nine of the enemy and forced their surrender. Then, in the company of another member of his squad, Staff Sergeant Ernst went into the woods in search of more Germans, fired on a group of three enemy soldiers, captured one and forced the others to withdraw. As he was interrogating his prisoner, a German force of about fifteen men fired from inside the woods and wounded his comrade. Staff Sergeant Ernst ordered the captured German to attend to his companion, while he engaged the enemy with sub-machine gun fire. A rifle grenade exploded within a yard of him which inflicted multiple wounds on his right leg, arm and side and knocked him unconscious. Recovering a moment later, Staff Sergeant Ernst saw that the enemy had closed within fifty yards of him and was concentrating small arms fire on his position. As his sub-machine gun was practically out of ammunition, he seized a carbine from his wounded comrade and fought off the German force, steadily driving them back into the woods. Then, dragging his wounded comrade back through intense machine gun cross-fire to the roadblock, he took up a position beside the friendly tank to direct fire on two enemy machine guns 100 yards distant. When both the tank officer and assistant driver were wounded by the withering enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Ernst remained in his exposed position for over an hour, directing the fire fight. Only when all enemy fire had been silenced did he consent to be evacuated. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Ernst was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶¹

The Second Battalion left Company "G" in place at 0500 and moved the rest of the troops to the high ground northeast of Domfaing. Companies "E" and "F" closed into the area at 0730 and established a block east of the town.

The 442nd Infantry on the right flank moved up for Belmont. The Blue Battalion continued the advance on 22 October 1944 in the face of stubborn enemy resistance and reached the high ground in the vicinity of Amberfosse having by-passed three enemy tanks and two artillery pieces on the St. Die road.

In the meantime the Red Battalion troops secured the important road junction of Neuf Moulin, then advanced on the right of the St. Die road.

At 0400, 23 October 1944, the Second Battalion moved to the Neuf Moulin road junction then northeast on the right side of the St. Die road and passed through the First Battalion. The First Battalion then assembled, moved south and east on the right flank of the Third Battalion and advanced east through wooded, rugged terrain for Erival.

The advance of the three battalions on the south side of La Mortagne River Valley was rapid in spite of the

⁶⁰ Time on target.

⁶¹ For authority see GO 55, Hq. 7th Army, 17 Feb. 1945.

difficult terrain covered by dense forests. Contact was made with the enemy's 201st Mountain Battalion, a fresh combat unit of well equipped Austrian mountaineers. The new unit was thrown before a tough, aggressive adversary, for before it could get set and dug in, the veteran Seventh Infantry completely smashed it, and ended its combat days.



Two of 14 "Cotton Balers" killed in action on 22 October 1944 were, left to right: 1 Lt. Joe C. Albritton, Co. "B", and S/Sgt. Donald L. Young, Co. "K".

The White Battalion fought its way to the first ridge east of Amberfosse and south of Chevin Fosse, bypassing an enemy tank and rocket gun on the valley road. Small arms and machine gun resistance was encountered and the troops advanced to the second ridge overlooking the first valley which runs northwest to join La Mortagne Valley. A heavy preparation by three battalions of artillery covered the movements of the lead elements which crossed the valley road near Halley and pushed on to the northeast. Many enemy elements were by-passed while others were engaged in sharp fights. By midnight 23-24 October all of the Second Battalion had crossed the little valley near Halley.

Near Amberfosse, Technical Sergeant Leonard Lewis of Company "L" exposed himself to point-black fire and captured an enemy sniper. He then dashed fifty yards through a hail of machine gun and small arms bullets to fearlessly lead the assault on a formidable enemy strong-point. During the engagement he wounded a German captain and pursued him for 200 yards as enemy snipers tried to kill him with their fire. He caught and overpowered the enemy officer and forced him to order the surrender of the strongpoint. By his extraordinary heroism he eliminated all hostile resistance in the company sector and accounted for 23 prisoners of war. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶²

Meanwhile the Blue Battalion forces advanced up the right side of La Mortagne River Valley from Amberfosse against small arms and machine gun fire. During the night the rifle companies penetrated almost into Mailleu-faing, where at midnight four enemy tanks and an enemy force were reported located.

The Red Battalion fought its way nearly to Erival during the afternoon and night of 23 October with its supply of ammunition running dangerously low. During the night the Regimental Command Post received a heavy shelling from enemy artillery and Neblerwerfer fire.

When dawn came on 24 October the Second Battalion found itself surrounded by enemy groups which had been by-passed during the night. Fierce battles ensued. In the meantime the Blue Battalion commander, Major Rathbun, sent Company "L" under Captain Ralph J. Yates into the attack at 0545 and followed with Company "I", under the command of Captain Edward J. Just, fifteen minutes later. The Companies received tank fire up the little valley from Halley and down La Mortagne Valley from Les Rouges Eaux. Supported by armor of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and 756th Tank Battalion, "Item" and "Love" Companies moved up under heavy artillery concentrations and at 1030 captured the little village of Mailleu-faing. Company "L" moved southeast toward Halley while "I" Company

pushed on and contacted the White Battalion forces. Company "K" advanced on the left of Company "I" as heavy mortar fire was received and "Item" and "King" Companies engaged in heavy small arms fights. Captain George W. Lauderdale was wounded and First Lieutenant Vladimir Dostal then First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne assumed command of Company "K".

The night of 24-25 October 1944 was another hectic night for the Second Battalion. Enemy groups infiltrated into the battalion's positions and intermingled with the "Cotton Balers". Close-in fighting occurred throughout the night, even with fist fights. When morning came the battalion reorganized and advanced to the next ridge line in the Bois de Champ. Staff Sergeant Charles H. Bartlett of Second Battalion Headquarters displayed gallantry.⁶³

Company "A" established a road block near Halley as the remainder of the Red Battalion moved to Mailleu-faing.

During the morning of 25 October the Regimental Command Post, in Mailleu-faing, received an extremely heavy shelling from enemy artillery and Neblerwerfers which destroyed all lines of communication and killed and wounded some of the personnel.

The Blue Battalion drove on that day and pushed "Item" Company across the valley to the Vidonchamp point while "King" Company crossed to the north. The companies engaged the enemy in small arms and machine gun fights. A smoke shell hit a house with mines in it and caused a big explosion which inflicted twenty-five casualties on Company "I". Engineers were sent to uncover men pinned under the debris. Company "L" remained opposite the Vidonchamp point and in contact with the enemy. Patrols from Company "K" entered Les Rouges Eaux from the northeast and found it clear of enemy.

Company "I" was continuously engaged in fights with enemy trying to come down the valley from the northeast and was reinforced by a platoon from "L" Company.⁶⁴

Company "A" was relieved of its road block by the Regimental Battle Patrol on 25 October. An hour following completion of the relief the Battle Patrol received a small counter-attack, as the White Battalion also was hit, but the enemy was repulsed in both sectors. At 1645 the Battle Patrol received a second attack on its left flank. Company "E" moved to the assistance of the Battle Patrol and the attack was repulsed. Captain William K. Dieleman rejoined the Regiment from a hospital, and



Two of the 29 members of the Regiment who were killed in action during the period 25-28 October 1944 were, 1. to r., 1 Lt. John C. Husing, A.T.Co., and 2 Lt. Albert J. Tetreault, of the Regt'l B.P.

was sent to command the two units which became known as "Task Force Dieleman". The enemy made a more determined attack against the joint force at 1845 but was thrown back for the third time with losses.

That day First Lieutenant John C. Husing of Anti-Tank Company voluntarily organized a group of rifle-

⁶² For authority see GO 600, 7th Army, 1945.

⁶³ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. S/Sgt. Bartlett was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁴ See GO No. 13, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan. '45. Cpl. W. T. Relyea, Co. "M", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

men from his platoon in an effort to relieve pressure against the patrol. He displayed gallantry but was killed in the action.⁶⁵

The Red Battalion crossed the La Mortagne Valley with its foot troops in the morning of 25 October and attacked to the northeast. Motor transportation of the battalion moved back to Brouvelieures then north to the first secondary road branching off to the east and moved to the road north out of Les Rouges Eaux. Companies "A" and "B" advanced against scattered resistance and seized Hill 513 where the First Battalion spent the night of 25-26 October 1944.

Company "I" continued its hard battle with the stubborn enemy 26 October while Company "K" moved northeast with intentions of recrossing the valley at Tempoix and enveloping the force battling "Item" Company. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. Company "L" was heavily engaged and the battalion made little progress that day.

The Red Battalion continued advancing at 0730, 26 October 1944 with "Able" and "Baker" Companies abreast and encountered only light opposition as Hill 536 was taken at 0950. Moving on for the high ground to the northeast the battalion was stopped at 1100 due to enemy fire coming from the northwest. The advance was continued however at 1250 and the battalion turned

east, cleaned out resistance on the right flank, crossed the north-south road and turned south.⁶⁶

The Second Battalion moved Companies "F" and "G" to Hill 585 as the Battle Patrol and Company "E" continued to block in the vicinity of Halley on 26 October. The Third Battalion continued fire fights with the stubborn enemy and made little progress.

On 27 October a volkwagon bearing two German majors and a captain, from enemy administrative posts in Colmar, and their chauffeur, due to ignorance of the situation, was driven down the road toward Les Rouges Eaux and promptly ran into a bazooka round discharged by an alert Company "I" team. Major Eisenhart, subsequently identified as a G-1 staff officer of the German 16th Division, the captain and chauffeur, were killed but Major Karl Gehring was uninjured though promptly captured. He stated that the party thought fighting was still confined to Bruyeres and that they wanted to visit an old friend in Les Rouges Eaux, which illustrates that also in the German army, administrative and rear echelon

⁶⁵ GO No. 265, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Nov. '44. 1 Lt. Husing was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁶ See GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. 1 Lt. A. S. Jaffe, Co. "B", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Colonel Harrell, center, flanked by Lt. Col. Izenour, left, and Maj. Duncan, right, discuss the tactical situation as they look at the situation map in the Regimental War Room in Maillieuvaing, France, during late October 1944.

personnel were quite ignorant of actual front line conditions and locations.

The First Battalion was in continuous contact with the enemy on 28 October 1944 and drove to the west edge of the little town of Blanchefontain during the morning. At 1745 Company "A" had overcome all resistance in the town and captured many prisoners. Anti-Tank Company Mine Platoon relieved Company "E" and the Battle Patrol of their road blocks near Erival.

The Second Battalion engaged the enemy in small arms and machine gun fights the same day and advanced from Hill 585 to the valley of Rouges Eaux where Company "F" was placed in position and Companies "G" and "E" pushed across the valley to Loge de Tempoix, then straight north for Blanchefontain. The Third Battalion fought heavy fights with the enemy throughout the day. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol after being relieved of its block near Erival moved to coordinate an attack with Company "K", which was launched at 0820. Strong resistance was encountered on the way to Hill 536. Company "I" fought a small arms and machine gun fight with enemy behind a rock ledge and wall in the vicinity of Vidonchamp. Late in the afternoon "King" Company and the Battle Patrol engaged "Kamerad" yelling Germans in a bitter struggle. Second Lieutenant Albert J. Tetreault of the Battle Patrol was killed in action.

When his platoon's advance up the steep slopes of a boulder and pine covered mountainside was halted by withering machine gun and small arms fire from an enemy force dug in around the crest, Private Macario J. Gallardo of Company "L" worked his way forward alone to within ten yards of a German machine gun position. While tracers ricocheted off the rocks he used for protection, Private Gallardo hurled two hand grenades into the hostile gun pit, silenced the weapon and killed both of the crew. Jumping into the emplacement, he engaged a second German machine gun with his M-1 rifle at fifteen yards range. Unable to destroy the enemy by flat trajectory fire, he called back for more grenades. His comrades lobbed hand grenades into his position. He then threw two grenades, and knocked out both the machine gun and its crew. As he inserted a clip in his M-1 rifle and aimed at a third enemy machine gun position, he was killed by sniper fire. For his extraordinary heroism in action he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶⁷

During the night of 28-29 October enemy infiltrated between the Battle Patrol and Company "K" and a heavy fight was fought during the following morning. Companies "I" and "L" pushed off in the attack at 0615 on 29 October, overcame strong enemy resistance and captured thirty-one enemy including one officer and two non-commissioned officers.⁶⁸

A patrol from Company "G" entered Blanchefontain the morning of 29 October, and contacted Company "A". The Red Battalion continued mopping-up operations.

The successful maneuvering of the battalions by Colonel Harrell during the period 22-29 October 1944 had resulted in the pocketing of a large number of enemy. Seven hundred thirty Germans had been taken prisoners and many killed.

Some had tried to break out of the trap but failed. One of the prisoners taken was Captain Schoeszler of 2bv, 291st Mountain Troops. His battalion attempted to fight its way out of the trap, made by the Seventh Infantry battalions, and to retreat to Le Haute Jacques. The remnants of his battalion had been encircled for five days,

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The Second Battalion attacked to the southeast at 0815, 30 October, and encountered only scattered resistance until it reached the vicinity of its objective, Hill 652. Companies "E" and "G" engaged enemy in a fire fight throughout the afternoon.⁶⁹

The Third Battalion attacked southeast down Rouge Eaux valley at 1430. Company "K", proceeding on the north side, seized Hill 491 and Company "L" on the south side advanced about 500 yards further, when at 1655 it was suddenly stopped by heavy fire from enemy tanks, flakwagons and machine guns in the vicinity of Marmossa where the enemy had a strong road block.⁷⁰ The valley road and vicinity was found to be heavily mined.



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The First Battalion resumed the attack for Le Haute Jacques, and its important crossroads, but was halted at

⁶⁷ For authority see GO 77, Hq. 7th Army, 3 Mar. 1945.

⁶⁸ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. Pfc. R. L. Sternberg, Co. "I", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

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⁷⁰ See GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pfc O. L. Rains, Co. "L", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

while Company "A" attacked north under mortar preparations and Company "C" attacked due east. The companies moved slowly against heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. Among the personnel who were wounded and evacuated that day was Major Benjamin C. Boyd, the commanding officer of the First Battalion. Captain Kenneth W. Wallace assumed command of the Red Battalion troops.

Companies "E" and "G" continued the Second Battalion's fight for Hill 652 during the morning and were held off by stubborn, determined, well-entrenched enemy. At 1400 Company "E" received orders to renew the attack. With the First Platoon commanded by First Lieutenant James F. Powell on the left guiding on the road which leads to Le Haute Jacques, and the Third Platoon under Second Lieutenant Ralph C. Street on the right, the company launched an attack. The Second Platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant James A. Crough took up a position behind the Third Platoon in order to secure the company's open right flank. The assaulting platoons were confronted with extremely heavy automatic fire delivered by an estimated fifty German soldiers supported by approximately seven machine guns. The resistance was unusually stubborn, in many cases fanatical. Individual soldiers were compelled to creep up to the edge of foxholes and fire into them. A group of men from the First Platoon, led by Staff Sergeant Edward R. Havrila, assaulted three enemy dugouts with hand grenades.

Upon breaching the first enemy line, men of "Easy" Company found other positions behind it, a third line beyond, and still others extending to the enemy's rear for a depth of approximately nine hundred yards. Enemy dugouts were approximately four feet deep, well-camouflaged and covered with logs for overhead cover. The proportion of machine guns and other automatic weapons, to rifles employed by the enemy was unusually high and gave him tremendous fire-power.

By advancing from the cover of one thick tree to another "Easy" Company was able to close with the enemy and eject him from successive strongpoints, usually with hand and rifle grenades. Five Germans were killed in their holes and four others wounded and captured. The remainder withdrew under the steady pressure. After an hour and a half of continuous fighting, "Easy" Company succeeded in cleaning the way leading to the objective.

Without pausing to reorganize the assault platoons continued abreast up a small bare hill that lay directly in front of Hill 652. From its commanding position on the crest of Hill 652, a platoon of Germans opened fire with three machine guns, five machine pistols and semi-automatic rifles. The First and Third Platoons doggedly inched forward, under the hail of fire, until they reached the forward slope of the small hill where a reorganization was effected. A check of ammunition revealed that the supply was becoming exhausted.

Captain George R. Ellis of Company "E" decided to renew the attack even though supplies were low. The Second Platoon which was best supplied was committed in a flanking movement to the right and was successful in diverting some enemy fire from the other two platoons.

First Lieutenant James F. Powell then led the First and Third Platoons in an attack against the stubborn foe on thickly wooded Hill 652. Placing himself at the head of his men he led them through automatic and small arms fire that barely missed him, into the midst of the enemy positions and routed the Germans with grenade and point-blank fire. Then, despite intense grazing

machine gun fire, he led a continuation of the assault to the crest of Hill 652 which destroyed a second enemy position. Largely, as a result of First Lieutenant Powell's resolute leadership six more of the enemy were killed, twelve captured and thirteen automatic weapons and a small arms dump seized. Hill 652 was at last captured.⁷¹



Major Benjamin C. Boyd commanded the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 15 to 31 October 1944 when he was seriously wounded in action and evacuated.

The Third Battalion attack down Les Rouges Eaux Valley was continued. Company "K" encountered and overcame moderate resistance to push on from Hill 491 to Hill 699 on the north of the valley, but Company "L" encountered strong enemy defenses and stubborn resistance in the valley itself near Marmomossa and on the south side.

While leading his squad in an attack across bare, coverless ground Staff Sergeant George A. Grando of Company "L" encountered withering machine gun cross fire from German positions thirty-five yards to his right front. The men of his squad hit the ground but were unable to find cover. Though Sergeant Edward J. McDermott and Private First Class Frederick E. Hoey were killed in action and five riflemen namely, Private First Class William A. Free, Privates Elmer H. Glenn, Jr., Everett W. Humphrey, Frank T. Patrician and James L. Medlock were wounded, Staff Sergeant Grando grimly continued the fight alone. Kneeling in full view of the enemy he fired his "Tommy" gun at the two German machine gun positions. When his last round of ammunition was spent he crawled five yards through a hail of machine gun and sniper fire to wrench a Browning Automatic Rifle from a dead gunner's grasp. Before he could engage the enemy a burst of machine gun fire struck him. Mortally wounded and with seconds of life left to live, Staff Sergeant Grando fired two magazines of Browning automatic rifle ammunition into the hostile positions,

⁷¹ GO No. 130, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 April '45. 1 Lt. Powell was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

silenced both machine guns and killed their crews before he died. By his tenacity and determination he enabled his platoon to resume its advance. For his extraordinary heroism in action he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷²

At the end of the day Company "K", from Hill 699, became engaged in a moving fire fight which took the company 500 yards to the northeast.

Company "I" supported engineers from Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, who removed seventy-nine Schu mines and six ramp mines from one enemy mine field in the valley. While Company "L" remained engaged throughout the day Company "K" returned to Hill 699 at 2200.

On 1 November 1944 the First Battalion continued, for the third day, in attacking for Le Haute Jacques which the enemy clearly intended to defend to the bitter

numbered between 500 and 600 mountain infantry troops, skilled in using natural defenses to the utmost. The enemy entrenched himself on the commanding ground behind densely sown mine fields. He fought obstinately and yielded ground only under the greatest pressure and then recoiled with desperate counter-attacks to regain it. He absorbed heavy punishment but such was his resilience that he countered blow for blow and he exacted a heavy tribute from the ever-rushing, willing and able, Seventh Infantry.

The First Battalion continued to battle the enemy, the terrain, the dense woods and the weather as the enemy retaliated with fire from self-propelled and anti-tank guns, heavy 120mm mortars, which caused heavy casualties, and plenty of automatic weapons.

Among the First Battalion dead was Captain Roy E. Cook of Company "C" who commanded the company

THE MAN WHO PROMISED THAT NO AMERICAN WOULD BE SENT TO FIGHT OUTSIDE THE U.S.

THE MAN WHO SAID THAT U.S. SOLDIERS WOULD BE REMOVED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS

THE MAN WHO WILL BE RE-ELECTED

REMEMBER HIM! HE PROMISED THE SAME THINGS AND HE TOO, BROKE HIS PROMISE

What are the real consequences?

Answered by a reader of the "Times Star" in a letter dated at the end of August 1944:

In 1940 America had not yet decided either for isolationism or internationalism. The proof of this is in the vote of the Democratic Party Convention in June 1940 not to send a normal American expeditionary force to Europe. If there is isolationism, how I don't know what it is!

Afterwards came the President's campaign to American mothers and fathers that their sons would never fight on foreign soil. In addition there were many other isolationist declarations.

In 1940 the President appeared to be isolationist in order to be elected a third time. Once elected he went over completely to the international cause. And now his propagandists say how important it will be to elect him a fourth time in order to bring peace and well-being to the people. But what he really wants is to be the winner of a fourth term.

In the autumn of 1940 Roosevelt needed 59 destroyers, to the British Fleet in return for the promise and without the consent of Congress. In addition, he concluded an agreement with a foreign power, Ireland, by which he sent American troops there. He hoped they would be attacked at the same time as the Canadian troops stationed in Ireland, and thus create a pretext for war. Later he gave the order to the which had as result the topography of the desolate Russian front.

Already in June 1940 Roosevelt had definitely oriented America toward war during the visit of the King and Queen of England who came uniquely to see if England would be aided by the U.S. in case of war. After Roosevelt had given the assurance that U.S.A. would back up England completely, the latter declared war in September 1939.

The Pearl Harbor incident must also be deemed up because we believe the people ought at least to know why they are in the war.

L. Stahl
26 Cornhill, Boston, U.S.A.

The draft-dodgers "at home front"

expect every Joe to do his duty

G.I.'s have you ever figured it out!

It's America now, one of a hundred one victorious people in this life. It's the history and greatest book there.

If you don't see the evidence... I can see it in a hundred or so engaged in actual fighting.

Send it straight home, please. The home front needs it as never before. Nothing else like this. 100,000 copies and one accompanied these districts, about 100,000 copies.

Adding the million men of the Air Force, there is a total of 1,000,000 G.I.'s on the world's battle lines.

Let you the control of these people in their hands to the home front. The way all this can be secured, is there.

The draft-dodgers at home expect every Joe to do his duty!

CITIZEN MARVEL

Wouldn't it be nice to see the Big City again, to rub elbows with the crowd on Broadway, to see the "French Folies", and to have a highball with a girlfriend at some bar on 52nd street?

There are plenty of guys who are enjoying all this. They are those fellows who stayed behind, the draft dodgers and the boys who took your jobs.

All you are supposed to do is to fight for them, not knowing whether you'll live to see tomorrow sunset, while they are having a swell time.

I ASSURE YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT NO AMERICAN BOYS WILL BE SACRIFICED ON FOREIGN BATTLEFIELDS.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, OCT. 31, 1940

I assure you... I assure you... I assure you... I assure you... I assure you...

Samples of propaganda leaflets that were fired at the 7th Infantry during the Vosges Mountains fighting.

Chicago Daily Tribune

THE BLOODSTAINED HAND

THE HAND THAT DESTROYED THE HOUSES OF GOD... AND SLEW THE LEADERS OF RELIGION IN RUSSIA

THE HAND THAT MURDERED THE UYGHURS

AND ABANDONED THE HELPLESS POLIS... AND THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF POLAND

THIS IS THE HAND WE ARE ALLYED TO CLASP IN COMRADESHIP TO SAVE WORLD DEMOCRACY

RED RUSSIA

Sunday Chronicle and Sunday Express

Stalin's Ally

end. The Second Battalion turned northeast from Hill 652 and also threw its weight into the fight for the important crossroads with its three houses.

The distance from the companies to the objective varied from 300 to 1000 yards, which sometimes is not considered much, but in this section of the Vosges it amounted to a great deal. The terrain was rugged and mountainous and densely wooded with pines and other evergreens. During the period 30 October to 4 November 1944, inclusive, only one day gave clear, cool weather, that was 1 November. On the other days rain and fog was what the weather man gave out and the "Cotton Balers" came to consider him an ally of the enemy, who

less than four hours and hardly had time to meet more than a few of his men.

At 1100 Company "A" was 500 yards northwest of the crossroads and Company "C" was 300 yards southwest, while Company "B" less one platoon, was moving north to circle and come down on the left flank of Company "A", with intentions of then driving down on the enemy from the north.

The Second Battalion attacked from the vicinity of Hill 652 at 0850, 1 November 1944 and encountered

⁷² For authority see GO 77, Hq. 7th Army, 3 Mar. 1945.

heavy resistance with intense fire from automatic weapons, mortars, small arms and tanks. The enemy's heavy 120mm mortars thundered continuously throughout the day at ten minute intervals. Tree bursts were numerous and the number of casualties was high. Captain George R. Ellis was wounded and evacuated. First Lieutenant James F. Powell assumed command of Company "E", which with "George" Company, held the forward line of the Second Battalion. At 1330 two platoons of Company "G" were but 150 yards from Le Haute Jacques.

At 1500 the enemy threw a heavy artillery concentration at the Second Battalion forces then followed it with a powerful counter-attack at Company "G". Holding their ground the gallant men of "George" Company repulsed the enemy after a hard, close-in, hand to hand fight.

At 1616 the enemy followed with another counter-attack, but at Company "C" that time. Bitter close-in fighting again ensued. The reserve platoon of "Charlie" Company was committed and finally the enemy was beaten back.

The Blue Battalion which had attacked at 0815 was having another day of heavy fighting. By 0945 "Love" Company, by fighting all the way, had pushed to Marmomossa.⁷³ "King" Company, on Hill 699, was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. "Item" Company, which had been committed, progressed on the north side of the valley to a position opposite "Love" Company's.

The Red and White Battalions continued their hard struggle for Le Haute Jacques, for the fourth day, on 2 November.

At 0745 Companies "A" and "B" attacked south toward the objective and encountered many anti-personnel mines in the woods which slowed the advance. An enemy road block and heavy machine gun fire was encountered which caused the companies to maneuver.

Companies "E" and "G" for the Second Battalion made a little progress against enemy employing automatic weapons, mortars and small arms but at 1130 Company "G" was hit by a counter-attack that was repulsed after some difficulty.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol relieved Company "F" which in turn relieved Company "C". "Charlie" Company then moved to join its battalion. Following artillery preparations the First and Second Battalions pushed off at 1415 from the north and south in a coordinated attack but failed to make any appreciable gains due to strong, dug-in enemy forces using unusually large numbers of automatic weapons and heavy concentrations of mortar fire.

Company "E" received terrific mortar concentrations at ten to fifteen minute intervals which rocked the men in their positions. Casualties were heavy. The company was being whittled down by the methodical enemy mortar fire. The remnant of the Company headquarters group was placed into the line to fill the gap between the Second Platoon, and Company "G".

As the First and Second Battalions battered away at enemy defenses 2 November, the Third Battalion maintained close contact with the enemy and advanced slowly down the Rouges Eaux Valley. A patrol from Company "L" contacted a patrol from the 442nd Infantry on the south on Hill 617. Company "K" remained on Hill 699 as "Item" and "Love" Companies advanced slowly.

That day Private Ted L. Marsh of the Battle Patrol performed gallantly and singlehandedly knocked out an enemy machine gun.⁷⁴

The Second Battalion of the 141st Infantry commenced relief of the Third Battalion at 1550 which was completed during the night of 2-3 November 1944.



Killed in action during the rough fighting for Le Haute Jacques were: (1) Pfc Glenn O. Vernon, Co. "C"; (2) Capt. Roy E. Cook, Co. "C", and (3) Pvt. Keith E. Glade, Co. "B".

At 0815, 3 November, the First Battalion launched still another attack from the north as Companies "G" and "F" and the First Platoon of Company "E" attacked from the south. The First Battalion troops were stopped abruptly by repeated enemy concentrations from 80 and 120 mm. mortars, "burp" guns and fire of other automatic weapons, as the enemy's supply of ammunition seemed to be limitless. Finally "Charlie" Company penetrated to within 150 yards of the road but was held up by well dug-in enemy. About noontime enemy forces enveloped Company "C" from the rear. A heavy fire fight ensued until 1730 when "Charlie" Company broke out of its encirclement and captured twelve enemy prisoners on the way. The road block in front of Company "B's" position was well covered with fire which prevented Company "A" of the 10th Engineer Battalion from removing it and "Baker" Company failed to bypass it.

Casualties were heavier on 3 November 1944. A total of twenty "Cotton Balers" gave their lives for their country's cause. Twelve of the dead heroes were from the Red Battalion. (Complete list is shown in the Appendix).

Company "G" was subjected to such intense enemy fire that it could make no headway. Among the wounded was First Lieutenant William H. Maguire. First Lieutenant Leonard D. Hanney replaced him as commanding officer of "George" Company.

The First Platoon of Company "E", under the command of Second Lieutenant Bertram D. Trump succeeded in advancing about 200 yards before encountering the lashing fire of four machine guns which was followed by heavy pummeling from enemy 120 mm. mortars. The leader and eighteen members of the platoon were wounded. Technical Sergeant Edward G. Havrila withdrew the platoon back up the slope.

THIRD BATTALION JOINS IN THE FIGHT FOR LE HAUTE JACQUES

Following relief of the Third Battalion by the Second Battalion, 141st Infantry, Companies "I" and "L" assembled in the vicinity of Hill 652 then at 1055, 3 November, attacked to the right of the Second Battalion with "I" Company leading. "Item" Company reached a position about 300 yards southeast of Le Haute Jacques then was held up by machine gun fire from its front and

⁷³ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. 2 Lt. J. J. Skarwecki was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁴ GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pvt. Marsh was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

left flank. The enemy then threw a strong counter-attack at "Item" Company but was repulsed with losses.

At about 1500 hours Staff Sergeant William R. Dezarn led two decimated platoons of Company "A" in three assaults on formidable enemy positions, ringed with machine guns and fronted by a minefield. Advancing alone to within fifty yards of the enemy line, he detonated eleven mines, drawing bursts of machine gun fire after each explosion. Then he directed a rain of artillery and mortar shells on the German positions. Singlehandedly assaulting and destroying a machine gun and its three-man crew with grenades at fifteen yards distance, he endeavored to lead his men through the breach, but was crippled by enemy shell fire. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Dezarn was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Second Lieutenant Earl E. Swanson of Company "F" was gallant while leading his platoon on 3 November. That same day Private Louis D. Gallerani and Private First Class Jacinto M. Garcia, both of Company "D", surprised a group of twelve enemy soldiers attempting to outflank their company's position, killed ten of them and forced the other two to flee.⁷⁵

Throughout the remainder of the day and through the night of 3-4 November the enemy concentrated extremely heavy barrages of heavy mortar and artillery fire on the Seventh Infantry troops and used a considerable number of automatic weapons in keeping the "Cotton Balers" out of Le Haute Jacques, which was then called the "Crossroads of Hell," because it was such a hot spot.

7th INFANTRY LAUNCHES ALL-OUT ATTACK AND CAPTURES LE HAUTE JACQUES, "THE CROSSROADS OF HELL" 4 NOVEMBER 1944

At 0615, 4 November 1944, Colonel Ben Harrell sent the inimitable, incomparable dogfaces of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment into a final, all-out attack for the "Crossroads of Hell". It was the sixth day of the attack

and brought success at last at a great price. All companies but "Love" Company participated in the attack. The Regimental Battle Patrol supported the attack with its .50 calibre machine guns while the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion, Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, and the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, supported the rifle battalions by fire throughout the attack.

In the fog and rain of that bloody day the riflemen of the Seventh Infantry weathered murderous mortar and artillery concentrations, and cutting machine gun bursts, to continue the attack.

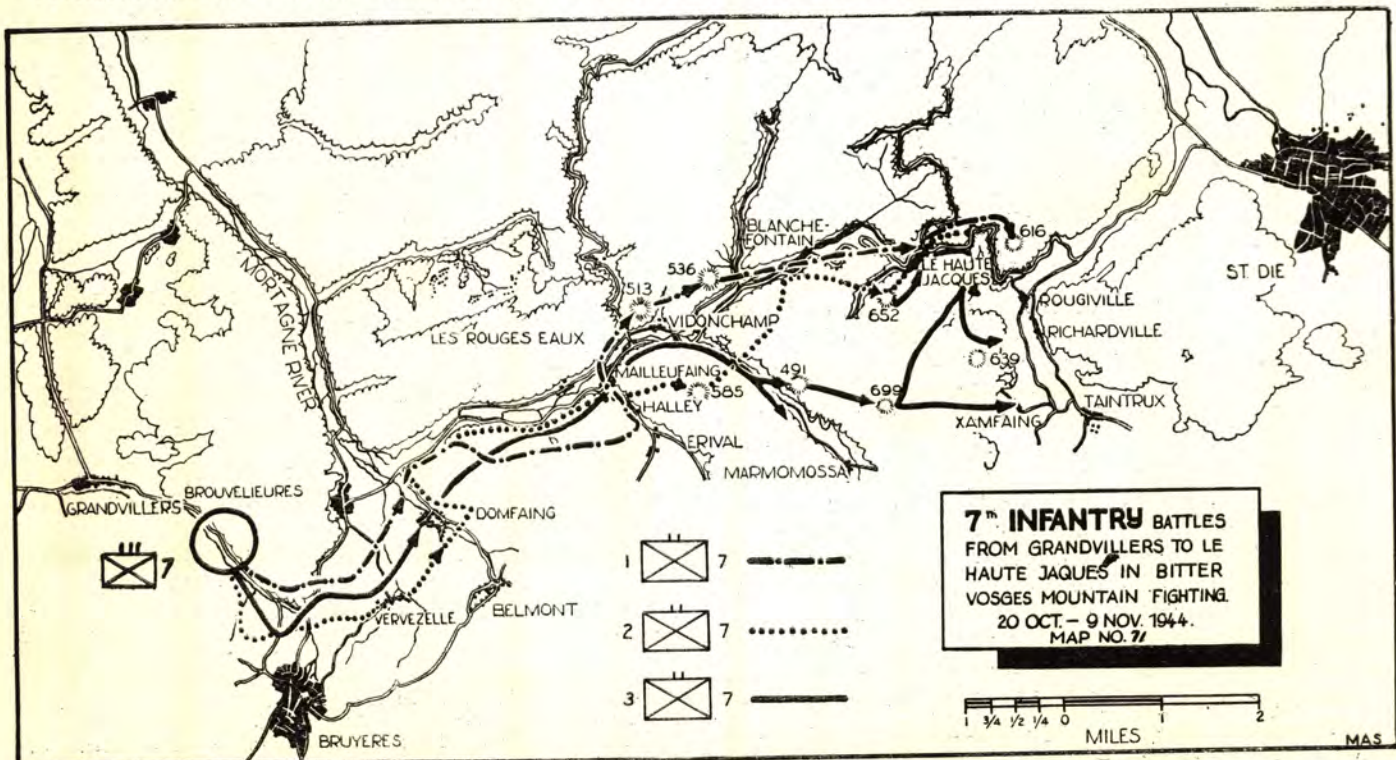
The First Battalion was held up by powerful enemy resistance shortly after jumping off and "Able" Company was hit by a counter-attack.

For the Blue Battalion Company "I" encountered withering fire from four well-placed enemy machine guns and became stopped. Company "K" moved on against stiff resistance.

With the Red Battalion stopped cold and only "King" Company of the Blue Battalion moving slowly, the honors of the day were to go to Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro's battling Second Battalion. Its three rifle companies launched a terrific attack which drove the enemy from his positions.

Company "E" moved out in the attack with the Second Platoon on the left, the Third on the right and the First Platoon in support. The 60mm mortar section followed the First Platoon. Despite intense machine gun and rifle fire from dug-in enemy positions approximately 200 yards to the left, Company "E" forged ahead steadily. First Lieutenant James Powell then pivoted the company to the left on the Second Platoon and it pressed forward. At that time an intense concentration from enemy 120mm mortars hit "Easy" Company's

⁷⁵ GOs No. 40 & 54, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 & 18 Feb. '45. 2 Lt. Swanson, Pfc Garcia & Pvt. Gallerani were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



60mm mortar section, killed two and wounded eight of its members. The rifle platoons also suffered heavy casualties.

Despite the serious loss of its supporting mortars and serious casualties sustained by the rifle platoons, Company "E" did not falter. The First and Third Platoons hacked their way through the foremost enemy positions with hand and rifle grenades and with point-blank small arms fire. However, the enemy refused to give way. From other positions deeper in his line the German forces laid down interlocking bands of automatic fire, making the company pay for every yard of ground it took. The Third Platoon had especially hard fighting, being subjected to fire from its right flank as well as its front. Prisoners captured later stated that two officers had machine guns set up behind the main line of resistance and shot all Germans who attempted to withdraw.

Private Edgar A. Cosson, heavy machine gunner from an attached Company "H" section, intrepidly advanced to an exposed position with free fields of fire and engaged an enemy machine gun at a range of fifty yards. Disregarding mortar shells which exploded all around him and automatic weapons fire which tore through his pack and blanket, he duelled with the German gun for fifteen minutes, finally silencing and killing its three-man crew. He then became the primary target of other enemy fire so intense that his ammunition bearers were unable to crawl to his gun with their boxes. Private Cosson ignored sniper fire from German positions on a slope of the wooded hill, to engage a second machine gun. Fighting alone and in an exposed position, Private Cosson killed the three members of the second gun crew and silenced their weapon. As friendly riflemen attacked remaining German positions, he turned his deadly fire on supporting enemy elements and killed approximately ten more Germans. For his extraordinary heroism Private Cosson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷⁶

The Third Platoon of Company "E" shifted its fire towards the right. Second Lieutenant James A. Crough courageously led the platoon in an assault that breached the stubborn enemy defenses in the heavily wooded terrain guarding the "Crossroads of Hell". When intense enemy mortar fire disorganized his men, he moved freely through the concentration of shells that burst close to him, reorganized the platoon and led it forward again. Exposed to point-blank machine pistol and other small arms fire, Second Lieutenant Crough aggressively brought his men into close contact with the enemy. Two enemy machine guns were knocked out, six Germans killed, twelve captured and remaining enemy troops were forced to flee in disorder. One squad immediately moved to the crest of high ground and pursued the enemy with fire. The Third Platoon then quickly reorganized and resumed its original direction of attack.

Company "E" completely unhinged the enemy's main line of resistance. The Second Platoon penetrated deeper and deeper into the enemy's system of defense, rolling back the north-south anchor of the line. Rapidly gaining momentum, the Second Platoon overran several machine gun positions, killed five and captured twenty-six Germans in one group.

Every yard of ground was gained only by the most resolute fighting, on more than one occasion both assault platoons were virtually surrounded. However, rather than slow the advance, they pressed forward leaving behind small pockets of resistance which were immediately destroyed by the First Platoon and Company Headquarters.

The enemy displayed utter ruthlessness and desperate determination to hold his ground by placing a concen-

tration of 120mm mortar fire where elements of both sides were locked together in a struggle to the finish. At a heavy cost, Company "E" continued its relentless assault and thrust its way to the rear of a trench from which enemy troops were standing off Company "G". Cut off by "Easy" Company's assault, several of the enemy attempted to escape from the trench and were either killed or captured by the First Platoon. The rest later surrendered to Company "G".

After two and a half hours of hand-to-hand fighting, Company "E" wrested 500 yards of bitterly defended terrain from the enemy and approached a secondary road barely 25 yards short of the strategic road junction at Le Haute Jacques. While the Third Platoon moved into position along the secondary road, the Second Platoon drove through to the "Crossroads of Hell" with such speed that a crew manning a 77mm anti-tank gun was forced to abandon the weapon.

Setting up its attached heavy machine guns from Company "H" on the wooded slope leading to the road, the Second Platoon opened fire on an enemy mortar position which was dug-in behind a fallen tree approximately three hundred yards to the right, front. In the meantime Private First Class John C. Nutter and Private First Class Tony Belletini, who was killed in the action, seized an abandoned enemy machine gun and utilized the weapon to fire at another enemy machine gun in position behind a house across the road. The employment of the enemy weapon was a dire necessity. Practically every Browning automatic rifle in the company was out of ammunition and the riflemen had so little left that they were firing enemy rifles and ammunition.



Pfc Juland A. Aaron, of Co. "I", age 19 years, 6 months, 20 days, died on 8 November, of wounds he had received in action on 20 October 1944. He was recommended for a posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross for actions performed on 15-16 August 1944.

⁷⁶ For authority see GO 86, Hq. 7th Army, 9 Mar. 1945.

With the Second and Third Platoons of Company "E" laying down a base of fire, a squad from the First Platoon rushed across the main road and assaulted the first house. Several German soldiers in the house, as well as the machine gun crew to its rear, fled into the woods. However, the squad captured thirty-five enemy in the house, together with a considerable amount of radio and signal equipment. The fire laid down by Company "E" forced the enemy to abandon his mortar position and leave behind six 80mm mortars and 3000 rounds of mortar ammunition.

A second house was seized by Company "E" as Companies "G" and "F" came up on the left. Company "F" seized a third house, the only other one at the crossroads. The Second Battalion was then in complete possession of Le Haute Jacques and its crossroads.

During the morning of 4 November 1944 in its final attack on Le Haute Jacques the Regiment suffered a total of 125 casualties, 16 of which were men killed in action. An estimated 100 enemy were taken prisoners.

The Battle of Le Haute Jacques was at an end. It had taken the Regiment six days to advance the few hundred yards against the enemy who used every weapon in their possession: 120mm and 80mm mortars, flak-wagons, mines and booby traps, machine guns, artillery and small arms. Initially one battalion had started to seize the objective, then two battalions beat against the stubborn enemy defenses and finally it required a coordinated attack by all three battalions with only one rifle company not actually in on the kill.

For its outstanding performance in combatting the enemy during the period 31 October to 4 November 1944 Company "E" was cited in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction.⁷⁷

On 31 October 1944 Company "E" had had a strength of 160 officers and men, to which 23 replacements were added during the action. During the period the company sustained 77 casualties not including those of attached personnel of Company "H". Yet despite the heavy casualties and the disadvantages of terrain and weather, "Easy" Company killed at least 37 enemy, wounded an estimated 130 and captured 78 Germans.

During the action of that morning Second Lieutenant James A. Crough of Company "E", First Lieutenant Robert W. Smitherman of Company "G" and Private Charles L. Keller of Company "D" performed gallantly.⁷⁸

Many "Cotton Balers" were outstanding during the battles for Le Haute Jacques, the "Crossroads of Hell". Some not already mentioned were Major Benjamin C. Boyd, Second Lieutenant John P. Leicht, Staff Sergeant Andrew D. Foutty, Private First Class William D. Driscoll and Private Kenneth F. Huber, all of the First Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro and Private First Class Walter Wilk of the Second Battalion; Private First Class Anthony J. Quattrochi of the Third Battalion; and Captain Frederick J. Rachiele and Private Charles L. Walters of the Medical Detachment.⁷⁹

7th INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK TO THE EAST 4-9 NOVEMBER 1944

Companies "I" and "K" continued engaging enemy in a machine gun and small arms battle as the First and Second Battalions pushed their attacks.

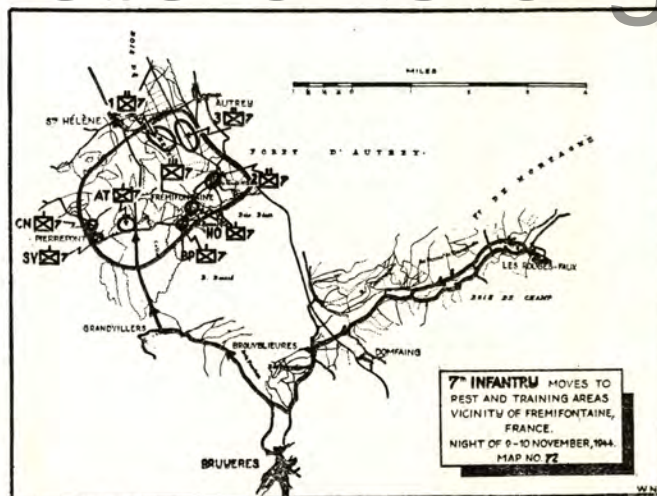
After they reorganized in Le Haute Jacques, Companies "E" and "G" moved north about 300 yards, then turned east. The First Battalion overcame resistance and advanced south. Company "C" contacted Company

"G". At the end of the day the Second Battalion forces engaged enemy in a heavy fire fight as Companies "I" and "K", after weathering heavy enemy mortar concentrations, overcame machine gun and small arms resistance to advance toward the first big road bend east of Le Haute Jacques.

At 0830, 5 November, the First and Second Battalions and Company "K" attacked to the east. "King" Company reached the first big bend east of Le Haute Jacques and contacted the Second Battalion forces. The First Battalion advanced against light resistance and the Second Battalion received light mortar fire. White Battalion forces crossed the road where it runs north and south. Red Battalion forces continued to advance against little opposition until noontime "Able" Company contacted strong enemy forces in the vicinity of Hill 616, but fought its way to the top at 1515. "Charlie" and "Baker" Companies advanced south down the nose of Hill 616. The Third Battalion then started moving south with "Love" Company going for Hill 699. "Item" Company went to the vicinity of La Sc. Fouriette and directed mortar and artillery fire on Rougiville. Company "K" passed through Company "I" and entered the arm of the Taintrux Valley northwest of Rougiville, engaged enemy in a fight and captured sixteen of them. "Love" Company reached Hill 699 and in the afternoon moved due east.⁸⁰

The Regimental Battle Patrol became attached to the First Battalion and in the morning of the 6th, with "Charlie" Company, became engaged with enemy near the big sharp road bend south of Hill 616.⁸¹

The Third Battalion advanced towards its objectives and encountered small arms and machine gun fire. Hills 639 and 672 were occupied. On 8 November, Company "L" seized and occupied Xamfaing as Company "K" established an outpost line of resistance at the edge of the woods west of Richardville. Company "C" occupied



⁷⁷ For authority see GO 21, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 30 Mar. 1945

⁷⁸ GOs No. 13, 54 & 171, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan., 18 Feb. & 22 May '45. 1 Lt. Smitherman, 2 Lt. Crough & Pvt. Keller were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁹ GOs No. 11, 295, 296, 299, 306, 326, 339 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 Dec. '44 & 11 Jan., 9, 15 & 20 Aug., 5, 17 & 25 Sept. '45. Lt. Col. Thobro, Maj. Boyd, Capt. Rachiele, 2 Lt. Leicht, S/Sgt. Foutty, Pfc Driscoll, Quattrochi & Wilk & Pvs Huber & Walters were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁰ See GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pvt. G. T. Hungerford, M.D., was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸¹ See GOs No. 198 & 249, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 June & 10 July '45. Sgt. E. Truax, B.P., & Pfc J. F. Kreis, Co. "D", were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

an enemy road block south of Hill 616. Company "A" patrolled to the east and and Company "B" relieved Company "I".

With the Second Battalion in reserve, the First and Third Battalions tied-in with one another to form a Regimental line. Men of Company "A" 10th Engineers under the command of First Lieutenant Cohagan cleared the road east from Le Haute Jacques to the first road junction, of fallen trees and mines. The Regimental Battle Patrol with sections of tanks and tank destroyers established a road block at the road junction. First Lieutenant Cohagan and a companion led members of the Battle Patrol into Rougiville.

During the period 4-9 November 1944 many small bitter actions were fought in the dense forests east of Le Haute Jacques. First Lieutenant George R. Townsend of Company "K", Private First Class Herman Johnson of Company "A", Private First Class George H. Willingham of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Private Clifford L. Hubbs of Company "E" and Private Eugene C. Wonderling of Company "G" proved themselves to be combat leaders.⁸²

The Seventh Infantry (reinforced) was completely relieved on position during the night of 9-10 November 1944 by the 409th Infantry of the 103rd Infantry Division, fresh from the United States. The relief was not made without incident as the new organization suffered seven casualties. Two men were killed and three

wounded from exploding Schu mines while two were wounded by enemy artillery.

Following completion of the relief, the Seventh Infantry moved by vehicles to assembly areas in the vicinity of Fremifontaine and Pierrepont, France, and closed in to the new areas without incident the morning of 10 November 1944.

The period of offensive combat from 20 October to 10 November 1944 in the Vosges Mountains was the stiffest the Regiment had engaged in in France up to that time. An important part of La Mortagne River Valley and its tributaries had been wrested from the enemy. About ten miles of rugged terrain covered by dense forests had been traversed over in the face of the most determined resistance. The "Cotton Balers" had fought gallantly and courageously in some of the roughest fighting of the French campaigns; 1086 Germans had been processed through the Regimental prisoner of war cage while numerous others were evacuated through medical channels. A great many of the enemy had been killed, much equipment destroyed and captured. The Regiment suffered its losses in obtaining its objectives: 148 "Cotton Balers" sacrificed their lives while 822 were wounded and evacuated.

⁸² GOs No. 35, 282, 299, 306 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Feb., 1, 15 & 20 Aug. & 4 Oct. '45. 1 Lt. Townsend, Pfc Johnson & Willingham, Pvts. Hubbs & Wonderling were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

CHAPTER III

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Crossing of the Meurthe and the Push to the Rhine

The first three days in the new assembly area were spent in rest and rehabilitation by personnel of the Regiment, and in the care and reconditioning of equipment. Then followed six days devoted to extensive training which stressed the technique of river crossings by day and night. Practical work was conducted in the vicinity of Docelles, France. Physical conditioning was stressed and small unit problems for the squad, platoon and company were held. Each battalion conducted an attack problem and devoted much time to combat formations in wooded terrain. Heavy snow fell during the period and blanketed the countryside.

It was known by the veterans that but a short time remained before the "Cotton Baler" Regiment would take up again its foremost task of chasing and killing Kraut.

The Regimental Commander and his staff were oriented by Third Division Headquarters on the scope of future actions by the American Seventh Army. The plan called for VI Corps to continue its advance on the axis St. Die-Strasbourg, while the XV Corps on the left was to capture Sarrebourg, force the Saverne Gap and prepare to exploit east of the Vosges. The ultimate Seventh Army action was to capture Strasbourg and destroy the enemy west of the Rhine River in its zone.

Four Infantry divisions comprised the VI Corps, namely, the Third, 36th, 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, the last two of which were inexperienced and fresh from the United States.

The 30th Infantry Regiment had been taken out of the line, as well as the Seventh, and underwent a similar period of rehabilitation and training. The 15th Infantry remained in the line, however, to continue the Third Infantry Division's unbroken string of combat days since invasion day in Southern France. The "Can Do's" held a line on the west side of the Meurthe River from the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe north to the vicinity of Etival-Claire-fontaine.

Maneuver of VI Corps called for lead-off attacks by the 100th Infantry Division and the 36th Infantry Division on the flanks. The "Century" Division on the north directed its efforts southeast from Baccarat, for the heights immediately north of Raon L'Etape, while the "Texan" Division directed its efforts on the south flank, to the east and southeast. The 103rd, or "Cactus", Division which relieved the Seventh and 30th Infantry Regiments, held the high ground west of St. Die and the Meurthe River, and prepared to follow an attack by the number one assault division in the Seventh United States Army, the "Rock of the Marne" Division, to seize a bridgehead across the Meurthe River, which action was slated to come off by 20 November 1944.

PLANS FOR CROSSING THE MEURTHE RIVER

While the 7th and 30th Infantries trained intensively and the 15th Infantry remained on the line, Third Division Headquarters developed plans for a night crossing of the swollen Meurthe River.

The "Rock of the Marne" Division planned to employ the maximum of fire preparation and power to force a crossing of the Meurthe in its zone on the night of D-1/D-Day, to rapidly establish a bridgehead on phase line "Face," to advance aggressively with the utmost speed, and seize the high ground northeast of St. Die and phase line "Soldier", and be prepared for further aggressive action.⁸³

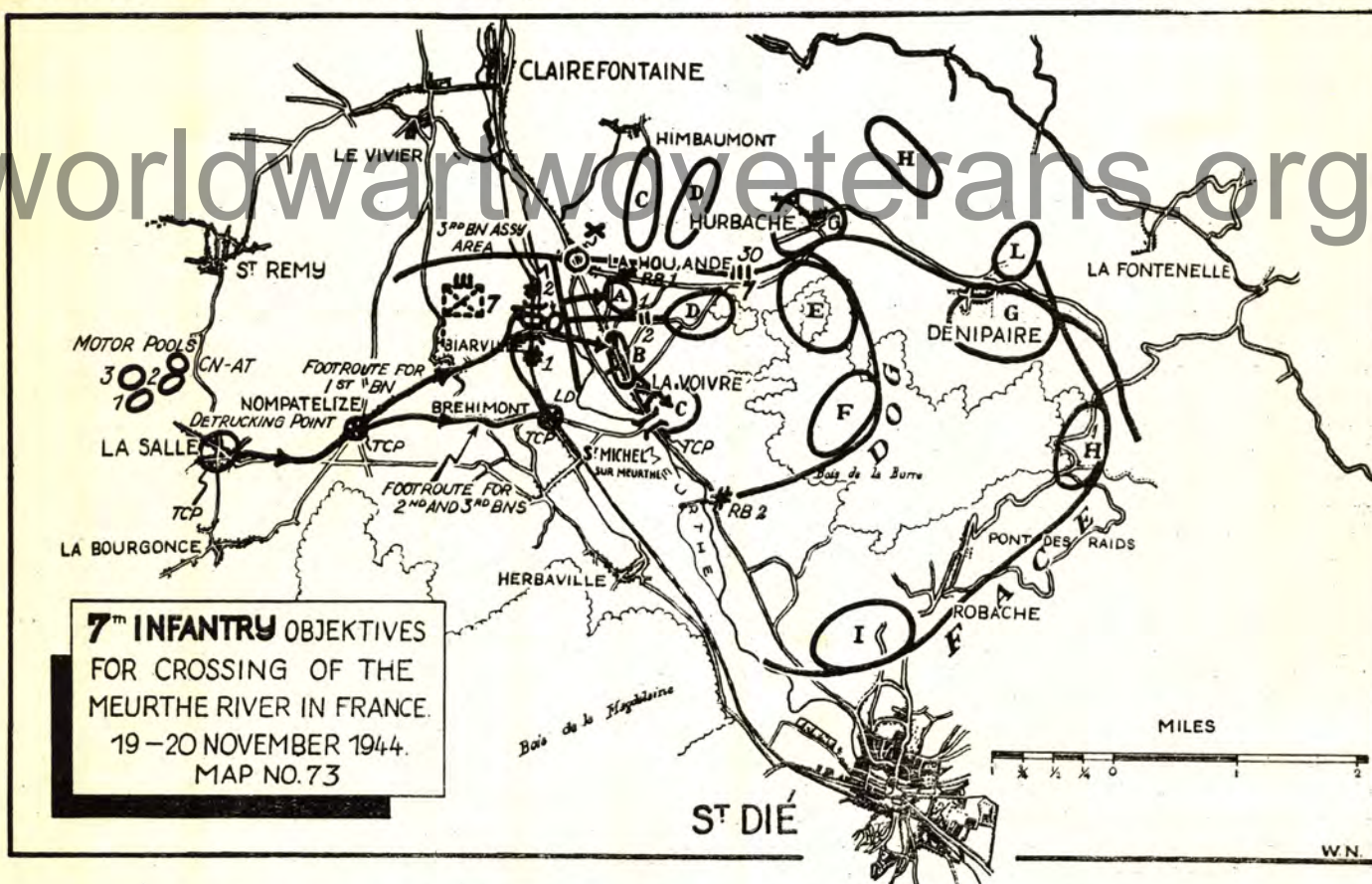
It is a very significant fact that for all amphibious assault operations against hostile shores or across defended river lines and for other assault operations the Third Infantry Division in World War II had always employed the web-footed "Cotton Baler", or "7th Light Foot" Infantry Regiment. In the assault against French Morocco it was the Seventh and 30th Infantries in the assault wave. For the invasion of Sicily all three regiments threw in an assault battalion. To cross the swollen Volturno in southern Italy the 7th Infantry made the main assault for the "Rock of the Marne" Division with the 15th Infantry on its right and the 30th Infantry in reserve. For the Anzio landing the Third Infantry Division again employed elements of all three regiments in the assault, as it had for Sicily. In breaking out of the Anzio Beachhead the Seventh Infantry was in the center and captured Cisterna-di-Littoria. In the invasion of Southern France the Division teamed the 15th Infantry with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment and held the 30th Infantry in reserve once again. And in November 1944 as the Third Division planned to force a crossing of the Meurthe River, it was a foregone conclusion that the Seventh Infantry would get the nod.

prepared on Division order to continue, to seize phase line "Soldier". The Seventh Infantry was to protect the Division's right and hold the St. Michel bridge site with appropriate forces until relieved by Division order, while the 30th Infantry had a similar mission on the left at the Clairefontaine bridge site.

The 15th Infantry was to screen the assembly of the assault regiments and secure a line of departure for the crossing, then employ all its organic and attached weapons in direct support of the crossing. On Division order the "Dragon" Regiment was to cross the Meurthe River in the zone of either assault regiment prepared to pass through.

The Third Infantry Division Battle Patrol with a forward observation party provided by the Division Artillery was to cross the Meurthe River and in conjunction with the Seventh Infantry seize and hold the St. Michel bridge site. When contact was to be established the patrol would become attached to the Seventh Infantry.

The mission of Third Division Artillery was to fire a preparation for thirty minutes prior to H-Hour on vital targets selected by the commanding officers of the assault regiments, on known and suspected enemy gun locations and communications centers. Close support was to be rendered to the Infantry by massed fires on successive objectives and targets of opportunity, with particular attention to the exposed flanks and the Hurbache Valley. Enemy observation and positions were to be smoked on call. The artillery was to be prepared to mark with smoke, on call, targets to be identified for fighter



Plans for the Meurthe River Crossing called for the 7th and 30th Infantries to assemble under cover of darkness in forward areas by H-2 then cross the Meurthe in assigned zones with principal Infantry elements at H-Hour and seize objectives indicated on phase line "Dog". The units were then to coordinate rapidly, continue the advance, seize phase line "Face" and be

bombers. The anti-aircraft half tracks of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion were to be employed by the Artillery to support the crossing by direct fire from dug-in positions.

⁸³ O. I. No. 94, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Brouvelieures, France, 8 Nov. 1944.

The 10th Engineer Combat Battalion in conjunction with the First Battalion, 36th Engineer Combat Battalion, was to operate assault rubber boats at the crossing sites for the Infantry. One Infantry foot bridge per assault battalion and one light assault bridge per assault Infantry combat team, at or near the assault crossing sites, were to be constructed. Dozers were to be provided near the assault crossing sites to assist in crossing water-proofed armored vehicles. Following crossing operations the Engineers were to support the attack with particular attention to mine and booby trap removal, bridge construction and road maintenance in the Division zone.

The 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were ordered to assist the assault Infantry regiments in reconnaissance for crossing sites for armor, and for suitable routes in the zone of advance. The armor was to be placed in hull-down positions to support the Infantry crossings by direct fire.

The 3rd Chemical Battalion was to assemble a smoke generator detachment with each regiment and be prepared on call to smoke the crossing areas and bridge sites after daylight, D-Day. The chemical mortars were to render maximum support to the crossing and subsequent advance.

Colonel Ben Harrell and his Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour, and Major Jack M. Duncan, Regimental S-3, made plans for the "7th Light Foot".

The Commanding Officer named the First Battalion under the command of Major Kenneth W. Wallace and the Second Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro to be the assault battalions. Each was to cross one rifle platoon by assault boats during the early night of D-1 in the vicinity of Biarville and seize the line of departure for an early morning attack on D-Day. Then the two battalions were to move the remainder of their troops by vehicle during the hours of darkness from the bivouac areas in Fremifontaine and Pierrepont, via Autrey and Jeanmenil, to detrucking points in La Salle. The troops were then to march by foot commencing at 0100 D-Day, from La Salle to the two bridge sites and cross to assembly areas east of the Meurthe River. The first road east of the river between La Voivre and La Hollande was to be the line of departure for the morning attack. With the Second Battalion on the right the two assault battalions were to attack at H-Hour and seize initial objectives (see Map No. 73). The Red Troops were to take the road junction on the south edge of La Hollande and establish a block while the Second Battalion troops were to capture La Voivre and send elements for Objective "C" to the southeast and contact the Third Division Battle Patrol which was to seize the bridge site opposite St. Michel-sur-Meurthe and establish a road block southeast on the St. Die road near La Pecherie.

The Third Battalion, under the command of Major Glen E. Rathbun, and in reserve, was to closely follow the assault battalions from the bivouac areas to La Salle, by vehicle, then by foot over the bridges to the east side of the river and be prepared to attack between the First and Second Battalions on Regimental order.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion, Detachment, 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion,

part of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol with twenty .50 calibre machine guns, and the First Platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop with six .50 calibre machine guns, were to support the attack from selected or direct fire positions from H-30 to H-Hour.

The enemy was not expected to have the area east of the Meurthe River, in the zone of the Seventh Infantry, very heavily guarded though it was known he had been preparing defenses for some time with the use of forced labor.

The night of 16-17 November 1944 the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol sent a six-man patrol to the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe with the mission of crossing the Meurthe River and reconnoitering the east bank. The patrol failed to accomplish its mission due to the swiftness of the water and lost a boat in the attempt. The next night an officer and two enlisted men from the Battle Patrol, accompanied by three enlisted men of Company "A", 10th Engineers, crossed the river by boat east of Biarville and reconnoitered the east bank. No enemy were encountered.

During the afternoon of 18 November the Seventh Infantry completed its short training program and prepared to break bivouac and to enter combat once more. D-Day was set for 20 November and H-Hour was named as 0645.

During the short stay in the vicinity of Fremifontaine efforts were made to make the men as comfortable as possible with many being billeted in houses in Le Haute Ville and La Basse Ville, the two villages of Fremifontaine. Those who could not be billeted in houses were quartered in pyramidal tents in the Bois de St. Helene. The Regimental Special Service Officer, Captain Ralph S. Reed, procured quantities of wine which was distributed to the various companies on the afternoon of 18 November and that night those who desired "bent their elbows" and imbibed the spirits. Two soldiers there were, in Company "I", who consumed more than the average. As matters developed, on the next day as the company waited for transportation, one successfully contrived to avoid the impending campaign. He and a full blooded Indian from Oklahoma sat back against a haystack before an open fire. He kept goading the full blooded Indian who was called "Chief", by extending one foot from under himself and saying, "Go ahead and shoot me, shoot me in the foot: I don't care." Then he would draw his foot back and say, "Wait awhile." He repeated that act several times until the "Chief" said, "If you want me to shoot you I'm just the man that can do it." Then once as he performed his act and repeated his request, he failed to withdraw his foot fast enough, for the Indian pulled his pistol and shot him clean through the foot. He then exclaimed, "Goddam Chief, you did."

First Lieutenant Denver C. Jividen, commanding officer of Company "I", was summoned to the scene and sent the injured man off by ambulance to the Medical aid station from whence he never returned as his combat days were over. The Indian then proceeded to sober up and get ready for combat which he never shirked. On two previous occasions when officers and men had sought cover and concealment, the "Chief" had delivered such effective fire from his Browning automatic rifle that the enemy fire was neutralized. In the days to come the "Chief" again demonstrated his great personal bravery and courage which seemed to be almost superhuman. Upon more than one occasion he used his superior strength to aid and lighten the load of failing and lagging

comrades. He was one of the outstanding combat soldiers of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment.⁸⁴

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE MEURTHE RIVER BY STEALTH AND ATTACKS TO THE EAST

In the afternoon of 19 November 1944 two assault rifle platoons, one each from the First and Second Battalions, moved to the vicinity of Biarville by truck. In the early night the rifle platoons were ferried across the Meurthe by boats manned by personnel of the 10th Combat Engineers. The riflemen seized the line of departure and outposted the ground east of the river to protect the Engineers who commenced construction of two foot bridges, one for each assault battalion. In order to cover the sound of the movement of the bridging equipment to the river, the supporting artillery fired one round every fifteen seconds for twenty minutes into enemy defenses on the east side of the river. The experienced and capable 10th Engineers worked with amazing efficiency and at 2000 the two footbridges were completed and marked with illuminating signs.

Meanwhile the "7th Light Foot", under the cover of darkness, functioned like a well oiled machine. The Regimental Command Post closed out of Fremifontaine and opened in Biarville at 1845. The Second Battalion troops passed the IP in St. Helene by vehicle at 2300 and detrucked in La Salle at midnight. The First and Third Battalions followed at half-hour intervals by the clock. The Battle Patrol, Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, attached and supporting weapons occupied their firing positions without a hitch.

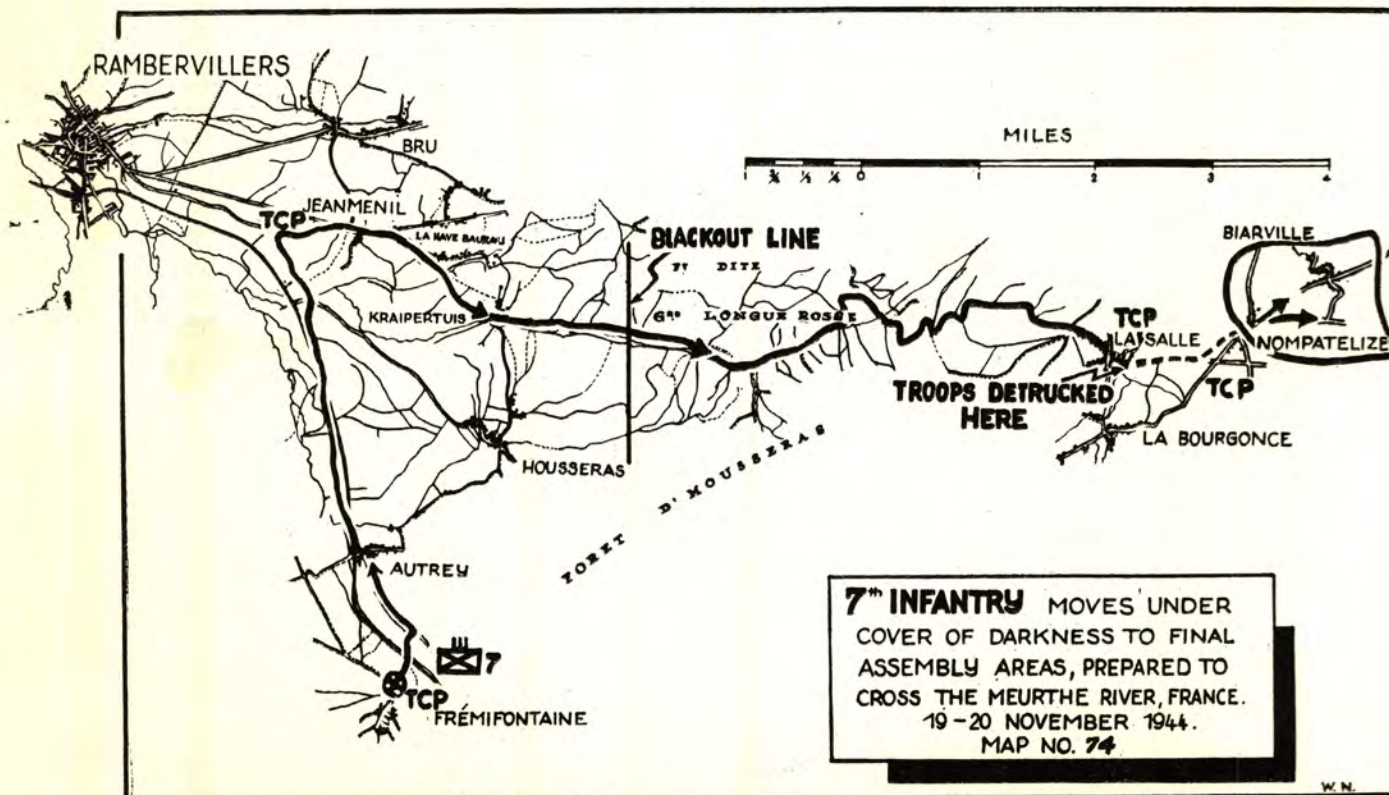
The troops marched by foot to Nompateize where a traffic control post was established by Regimental Headquarters. At 0100, 20 November 1944, the Second Battalion troops passed the control post and moved due east through Brehimont on the road to St. Michel-sur-Meurthe to the railroad tracks paralleling the river, then moved north along the tracks to Bridge Site Number One

east of Biarville. Enemy artillery interdicted the road junction near Nompateize and caused a few casualties but failed to slow up the operation. The First Battalion troops marched to Bridge Site Number Two via Nompateize and Biarville. Without the loss of a man the Seventh Infantry troops crossed by the two foot bridges during the night. At 0445 the First and Second Battalions were in position to attack at H-Hour. By 0600 the Third Battalion, which had followed the Second Battalion route, was across the river and occupied reserve positions.

The old stand by, the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, the Third Infantry Division Artillery with the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion attached, the 6th Field Artillery Group in direct support and Battery "D", 216th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, in general supported, and all the attached and supporting weapons of the Regiment opened up with a terrific thirty minute preparation on enemy defenses at 0615. At 0645 the preparatory fires lifted and the Seventh Infantry pushed off to the east in the attack.

The Second Battalion on the right advanced through heavily mined areas and received enemy artillery fire. Some small arms and machine gun resistance were encountered but overcome and the White Battalion troops

⁸⁴ The "Chief" or Private First Class Frank Pettus, which was his real name, completed the Southern France, Vosges Mountains and "Colmar Pocket" Campaigns without injury but he was seriously wounded during the Rhine River Crossing operations during the German Campaign. The "Chief" was never officially cited for gallantry but in the opinion of the writer was one who was deserving of award. For the shooting incident referred to above the "Chief" was brought before a Special Courts Martial board in Feb. '45 and judged guilty of violating one of the Articles of War. He was reduced to the grade of Private and fined two-thirds of his pay for a period of six months. In the opinion of many of his buddies the wrong man was court-martialed. In their opinion the man who asked to be shot in the foot should have been brought to trial for they believed that he had successfully contrived to avoid hazardous duty in the front lines and the river crossing operation that was about to come off.



entered the town of La Voivre at 0745. As "Easy" and "Fox" Companies cleaned out all resistance in La Voivre, capturing twenty-eight prisoners of war, "George" Company, under the command of Captain Leonard D. Hanney pushed on to the bridge site opposite St. Michel-sur-Meurthe.

In the early morning actions following the crossing of La Meurthe, Second Lieutenant Carl U. Albertson of Company "E", Technical Sergeant Donald H. McKibben and Technical Sergeant Joseph V. Hodgins, who was wounded in the action, both of Company "F", and Staff Sergeant Harry E. Havens, Jr., of Company "G" who was also wounded in the action won distinction for themselves while leading their units.⁸⁵

The First Battalion on the left attacked with "Baker" and "Charlie" companies under the command of Captain James B. Rich, Jr., and First Lieutenant Malcolm B. Toney, respectively, and held "Able" Company under the command of First Lieutenant Robert E. Evans in reserve. The troops crossed 400 yards of flooded terrain then moved through a 100 yard belt saturated with mines. Heavy casualties were suffered in the mine fields but the momentum of the assault never slackened.

At 0800 the assault companies of the First Battalion had seized their first objective the road junction and high ground south of La Hollande and established a road block on the road going east. With hardly a pause the assault companies drove on toward their second objective, the hill approximately one mile to the east and which overlooked the town of Hurbache. As they approached its crest, they were subjected to intense fire from a strong force of German riflemen, bulwarked by two machine guns formidably emplaced. Driving the Germans before them the Red Battalion troops seized the crest of the hill and "Charlie" Company entered the town of Hurbache at 1635 to help 30th Infantry elements clear it. The Red Battalion troops remained in Hurbache and on the hill until the next morning.

For the First Battalion that day Staff Sergeant Winston F. Pierce and Sergeant Patrick C. Kennelly, both of Company "D", and Private First Class Richard P. Dimedio of Company "C" performed gallantly. All three men were wounded during the actions.⁸⁶

The Third Battalion placed its three rifle companies abreast along the first road east of the Meurthe River and while waiting to be committed suffered many casualties from mines and enemy artillery. At 0825 Colonel Harrell ordered Major Rathbun to commit his troops between the First and Second Battalions, which was done immediately. "King" Company under the command of First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne led off, passed through heavily mined areas in the face of enemy artillery fire. "Love" Company commanded by Captain Phillip T. Terry and "Item" Company under First Lieutenant Denver C. Jividen followed in order. After passing through the mine fields the battalion moved rapidly. At 1035 "King" Company was on Hill 379. Patrols were sent to the southeast for Hill 582.

Major Rathbun's troops moved rapidly and had seized Denipaire by 2100. In seizing the town the Battalion overran enemy artillery positions and shot up an enemy horse column which was being brought up to withdraw the artillery pieces. Much booty including a new enemy flak wagon was captured.

For the Third Battalion on 20 November 1944, Second Lieutenant Donald F. Stegmann of Company "K" and Private Julio G. Esquibel of Company "M" displayed gallantry. Members of the Medical Detachment who distinguished themselves were Captain Robert W. Donnelly, Staff Sergeant Robert E. Crane and Private First Class Guy W. Dodson.⁸⁷

The crossing of the Meurthe on 20 November 1944 was a very successful operation. The Seventh Infantry, and the 30th on its left, had caught the Germans off balance. The sector though well prepared for defense was undermanned. The heavily sown mine fields and enemy artillery fire was a very serious obstacle, however, and in spite of the seeming ease with which the "Cotton Baler" Regiment executed its missions, severe casualties were suffered. A total of 167 casualties were sustained by the Regiment during the morning of 20 November 1944. Two officers and twenty-nine enlisted men sacrificed their lives that day that the Regiment could move to accomplish its mission.



Three of the 60 "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 20-24 November 1944 were: (1) 1 Lt. Forrest H. Coleman, Jr., Co. "M"; (2) 1 Lt. John J. Greene, Co. "L", and (3) 2 Lt. Lawrence J. Tracy, Jr., Co. "A".

Forty enemy were captured and a small number wounded. According to the majority of the prisoners, our attack did not come as a surprise, though of course, they had no intimation that it would occur on any given day. However, the increased air activity on 19 November caused the enemy to assume that our attack was imminent and the artillery fire on 19-20 November strengthened that belief. Nearly all of the prisoners realized that their Meurthe positions could do no more than delay the advance; positions had not been completed and were greatly undermanned, which was aptly illustrated by the 7/726 GR, 716 Infantry Division which held a three kilometer sector with only forty men. A shortage of men was responsible for the lack of outposts, which somewhat explains the lack of enemy interference with the river crossing itself. The general enemy reaction, from company commanders down to riflemen, was one of resignation. They all complained of poor communications, lack of orientation concerning the tactical situation, and poor leadership on the part of the battalion and regimental officers. Little if anything was known of future operations or intentions. There was some talk of a "final" winter line further to the east in the high Vosges. There were no indications of any reserves and the prisoners were sceptical about the possibility of holding up our advance. Defenses were still incomplete and Russians and conscripted civilians were still preparing entrenchments.

Thus far, the nature of the enemy reaction to our attack was of a delaying action along the axis of our advance. Three new battalions were committed in front of the Seventh Infantry in the vicinity of Nayemont:

⁸⁵ GOs No. 11, 22, 59 & 158, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 & 22 Jan., 23 Feb. & 12 May '45. 2 Lt. Albertson, T/Sgts. Hodgins & McKibben & S/Sgt. Havens were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁶ GOs No. 35, 227 & 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Feb., 25 June & 18 July '45. S/Sgt. Winters, Sgt. Kennelly & Pfc Dimedio were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁷ GOs No. 11, 13, 208, 211 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11, 13 Jan., 12 & 15 June & 9 Aug. '45. 2 Lt. Stegmann, Capt. Donnelly, S/Sgt. Crane, Pfc Dodson & Pvt. Esquibel were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

the 202nd Mountain Battalion, 716th Fusilier Battalion and elements of a Cossack Bicycle training battalion. While the Infantry crossed the Meurthe, Engineers worked to construct treadway and bailey bridges in the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe and were harassed by artillery fire. Eleven tanks and six tank destroyers crossed over the treadway bridge during the morning and were temporarily attached to the First Battalion. Another tank attempting to ford the river sank out of sight in the raging torrent.

7th INFANTRY PUSHES ON TO THE EAST

The Seventh Infantry pushed on to the east on 21 November 1944. The First Battalion struck across open country and fanned out. "Able" Company advanced on La Fontenelle which it seized without resistance. However "Charlie" Company came under furious and withering fire on the outskirts of Launois from an estimated company of Germans, emplaced in buildings and equipped with bazookas, two machine guns and a variety of small arms. While the First and Second Platoons laid down a base of fire, the Third Platoon plunged through machine gun crossfire to storm the hostile positions. The intrepid assault overwhelmed the enemy force. The town was penetrated, three Germans killed, sixteen captured and the rest driven back. Then the First and Third Platoons advanced 100 yards through machine gun and bazooka fire to blast a German rifle squad from a position in a building. "Charlie" Company then cleared Launois and Marie as "Baker" Company occupied Hill 627, organized its defense and blocked the road.

The Third Battalion meanwhile advanced along the road to St. Jean d'Ormont and seized the town after receiving fire from two enemy self-propelled guns and engaging enemy in a fire fight. The advance was continued against scattered small arms resistance and the town of Battant de Bourras was seized during the night.

The 103rd Infantry Division crossed over the Meurthe River by Third Infantry Division bridges on 21 November 1944 and passed through the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, to the southeast to enlarge the bridgehead. The Second Battalion troops moved to Denipaire and early 22 November passed through the Third Battalion in Battant de Bourras to continue the

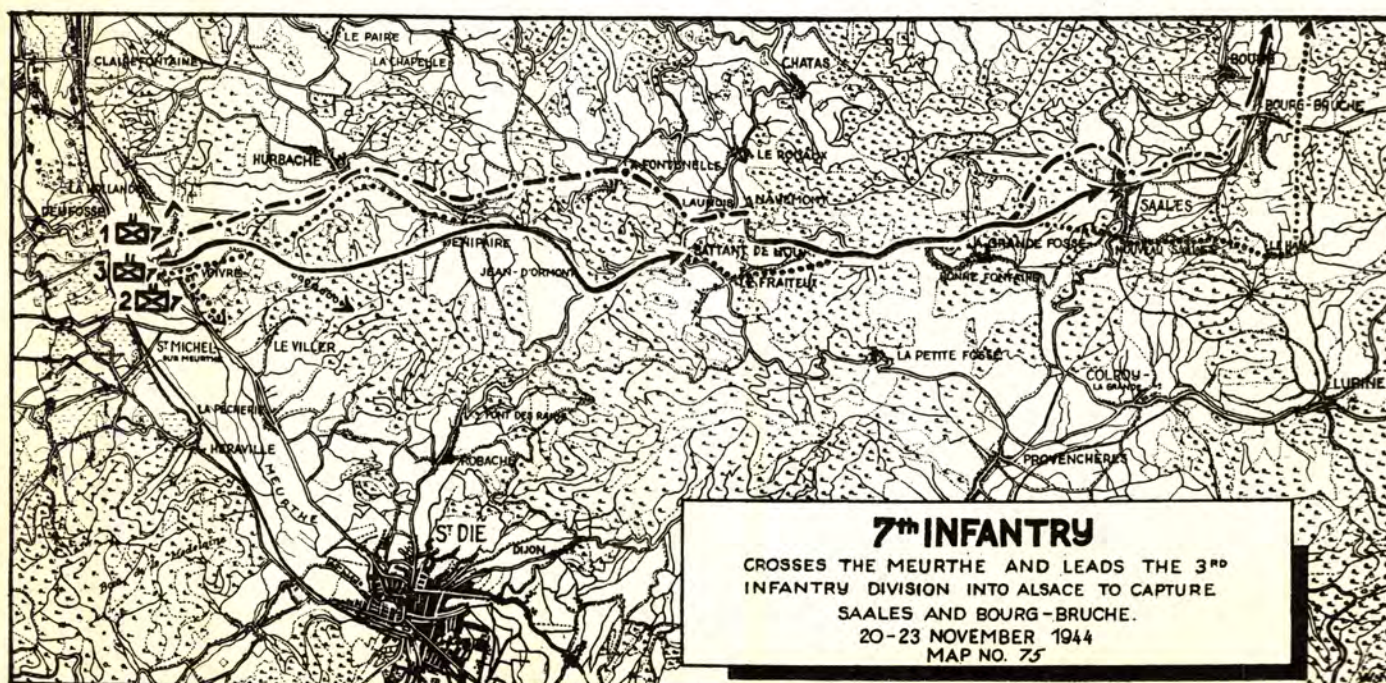
attack. At 1050 Hill 619 was seized and enemy fire from Le Fraiteux crossroads was drawn. Second Lieutenants Willis B. Conklin and James A. Crough, both of Company "E", led the actions which eliminated the enemy roadblock at Le Fraiteux.⁸⁸ The Second Battalion continued on to the east.

Early in the morning of 22 November, Company "A" advanced in an attack on the town of Nayemont, situated on an open slope and adjoining Launois. Up to that point the Red Battalion had encountered only hastily organized resistance but in Nayemont, the enemy was massed in formidable strength and prepared to fight with fury and determination to hold the town. An all-day fight resulted. Two squads advanced well ahead of the company and occupied the first house in town without encountering enemy fire. Two assault platoons follow across 400 yards of bare, coverless terrain. Midway to its goal, these platoons encountered heavy fire from enemy flakwagons on a high ridge 500 yards to their right front. Led by First Lieutenant Robert A. Evans, the Company Commander, the Third Platoon and the Company OP Group stormed through this fire to the house. The First Platoon which was in a vortex of flak and mortar fire, crossed the open field in short rushes. As the men moved forward across the bare expanse of open ground, enemy riflemen fired at them from concealed positions.

The two assault platoons of Company "A" engaged a strong enemy force emplaced in the adjoining house approximately one hundred yards away, in an hour-long fire fight. Two tanks were brought up for support, but as they came abreast of the first house, one was knocked out by 77mm fire from the ridge and the other was forced to withdraw. An assault squad flanked the German strongpoint from the left, fired rifle grenades through the shattered windows, then stormed inside to take three prisoners and drive off the remaining enemy.

Supporting tanks finally located the hostile "77" and knocked it out but the route into Nayemont was still guarded by heavy flak and rifle fire and a deadly maze of enemy mines. Paced by two light tanks and a tank

⁸⁸ GOs No. 29 & 177, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Jan. & 16 May '45. 2 Lts. Conklin & Crough were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



destroyer, the Second Platoon of "Able" Company advanced into this maelstrom of German fire, suffering casualties almost instantly. The light tanks detonated mines which blew off their tracks. Alone, the Infantrymen fought their way forward, yard by yard and inch by inch, reaching the first block of houses after an hour of alternate rushing and crawling through fire.

Then the task of clearing the compact group of houses began in earnest. A squad from the Third Platoon rushed forward across fifty yards of open terrain in a flank attack on an enemy house-stronghold. Machine gun fire blazed at the "Cotton Balers" at a range of seventy-five yards.

Supporting tanks and 60mm mortars opened up on an enemy flakwagon and destroyed it. Harassing fire continued from the ridge, however, as the "Cotton Balers" worked their way forward from house to house, blasting the Germans from their positions at point-blank range. First Lieutenant Evans led an assault squad in storming a house with hand grenades, captured eleven dazed Germans, then received volley after volley of German fire from the adjoining building only fifteen yards away.

The enemy placed an artillery concentration on the area, despite the fact that combat was occurring at such close range that shells threatened both sides impartially. In an effort to use his position as an artillery observation post, First Lieutenant Evans sent Private First Class Albert J. Limpp back for wire, but the runner was killed by a sniper's bullet. Isolated in its advance position, the squad was pounded by shells while rifle bullets shattered the windows and dug into the walls. The Germans inside the building pleaded with their captors to surrender, but the squad doggedly held on. The squad leader then took two men, and, plunging through a hail of fire, rushed the enemy-held house. Hurling hand grenades and firing through the rear doorway, the three men engaged the Germans inside the building until the rest of the platoon reached them. Storming the house, they then captured twenty-six Germans, including a battalion commander and his executive officer. Meanwhile the First Platoon leapfrogged its squads from one house to the next, driving the enemy back relentlessly and clearing fifteen buildings. Forcing its way into a building behind a storm of hand grenades, the platoon overpowered seventeen Germans in a brief, but fierce fire fight.

During the afternoon, Companies "B" and "C" enveloped the town from the flanks, joined forces on a ridge and blocked the enemy's escape. Although wounded in the leg that day, Captain James B. Rich, commanding "Baker" Company, led his Third Platoon in a charge on the remaining houses in Nayemont. Striking swiftly from an unexpected direction, the Third Platoon overran two German platoons, 39 prisoners were taken and an unknown number killed.

"Able" and "Charlie" Companies completed the mopping up before dusk, took a total of 85 prisoners and killed or wounded an estimated 50. Nayemont was taken and the First Battalion dug in for the night on the outskirts of the town. The speed and fearlessness with which First Lieutenant Evans had led "Able" Company into the town had resulted in its principal portion being cleared by his company. In a subsequent action he was killed.

In addition to First Lieutenant Evans, Staff Sergeant Bennie A. Eye, Sergeant William A. Corbe and Private Chester F. Davis, all of Company "A", and Private William M. Chaves, Jr., of Company "D", covered themselves with honor during the fighting for Nayemont.⁸⁹

After Nayemont was taken the Regimental Battle Patrol advanced east on the Saales road about a mile and encountered mined enemy road blocks and enemy troops supported by an anti-tank gun just south of Hill 752.

THIRD BATTALION LIBERATES SAALES, ALSACE

The Third Battalion came out of reserve, passed through the Second Battalion and continued the attack during the night of 22-23 November 1944. The road block which had been encountered by the Battle Patrol was by-passed to the south by Major Rathbun's Third Battalion troops and at 0100 "Item" Company seized the town of La Grande Fosse.

"King" Company led the Third Battalion in a continuation of the attack from La Grande Fosse at 0430. In the inky blackness the troops ran smack into a Kraut roadblock which was unarmed however. Fearing the roadblock might be flanked with mines, First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne, the Company Commander, ordered the men to scale the ten foot barrier of logs. Over they went and on through the mud and drizzling rain toward Saales, to reach it before morning light should foil their plans. "Love" Company followed and discovered there were no mines near the block. Company "K" hit the outskirts of Saales at 0730 receiving very little small arms fire from the Boche who were just getting up and coming out of their hutments to their emplacements. The Germans had expected the Yanks, but not for several days. One of the Krauts came out of his hutment with raincoat and overcoat thrown over his rifle and of course never got the opportunity to fire a shot. The "Cotton Balers" jumped over the dugouts, many of which were relics of World War I, cleaned them out, cut the barbed wire and moved through the elaborate Boche winter line of defense. An enormous amount of equipment was captured and it was discovered the Germans still had not completed their defensive line. One enemy sniper who saw the Third Battalion troops coming took a hasty shot then headed for the woods but was later captured.

The Third Battalion's Forward Observation Post was set up in a house at the western edge of the town. Just as "Item" Company passed they received anti-tank fire, making things warm for the "Cotton Baler" Riflemen. It was the first anti-tank fire received in the town. Within ten minutes "Love" Company charged into the town, killed ten enemy and took ten prisoners. The Germans, after discovering Americans in their midst, opened up with small arms fire, 20mm flakwagons and light mortars. In the center of the town where the German Gestapo had its headquarters, men of Company "L" walked in on a German officer who stated that it was impossible for the Americans to be in town. But a "Tommy" gun stuck in his ribs convinced him differently. From another building "Cotton Balers" had roasted duck and hot coffee for chow, a little delicacy left behind by the retreating Boche. A forty-man group of Germans tried a futile counter-attack against "Love" Company but they were completely routed in twenty minutes time.

Though the Germans in Saales were taken completely by surprise by the Third Battalion troops, they did not quit without a fight. Company "K" became engaged in a stiff fight after the surprise effects had worn off.

⁸⁹ GOS No. 40, 171, 177, 256 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Dec. '44, 9 Feb., 22 & 25 May & 15 July '45. 1 Lt. Evans & Sgt. Chaves, both posthumously, S/Sgt. Eye, Sgt. Corbe & Pvt. Davis were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

When an 88mm gun fired on his platoon from a concealed position, halting it and causing several casualties, Private First Class Emil Stefek, Jr., of Company "K", left cover to locate and destroy the hostile weapon. Armed only with an M-1 rifle, he rushed ten yards through heavy sniper fire and assumed a firing position behind the inadequate cover of a water fountain. As the "88" fired at him from a range of only 200 yards and a German sniper severely wounded him, Private First Class Stefek engaged the enemy and dispatched two of the 88mm gun crew with his M-1 rifle. When he attempted to continue his lone battle, his rifle jammed. With a third German running toward the "88" he had no time to eliminate the stoppage. With only seconds to spare, he dashed to a Browning Automatic Rifleman, seized his weapon, and returned with it to his position behind the fountain just as the German had completed loading and laying the "88". One burst from the automatic rifle killed the new German gunner as he was about to fire. Private First Class Stefek's bold attack on the strong enemy position in Saales disorganized the remaining German force in the town, enabling the temporarily halted troops to drive forward, eliminate all sniper resistance, capture large enemy stores and seize intact an elaborate trench and concrete pillbox system which the enemy had had no time to man. The brave and courageous young man died of his wounds that day. For the extraordinary heroism which he displayed that morning Private First Class Emil Stefek, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁹⁰

The Third Battalion continued fighting from house to house inside the town, pot-shooting at snipers and clearing out the remaining troops left behind. The battalion captured two 88mm guns and two smaller calibre anti-tank guns, a large amount of ammunition and the prize booty of all, the German SS troop and Gestapo Headquarters, with all its records intact. It was the first such headquarters taken by any VI Corps unit. Four enemy Infantry companies plus one engineer company had been completely taken by surprise. They put up a stiff fight but were no match for Major Rathbun's Third Battalion "Cotton Balers", who were in complete possession of Saales at 1535. Three strong blocks were established around the town, one by Company "I" on the road south to Nouveau Saales, one by Company "L" on the road to the east toward Bourg-Bruche and one by Company "K" on the road to the north by St. Barbe. The Battalion Observation and Command Post were set up in the town.

The capture of Saales by the Third Battalion in its lightning night move marked another first for "Cotton Baler" troops. They were the first Third Infantry Division and VI Corps troops into the ancient province of Alsace, and Saales was the first Alsatian town to be freed. It marked the first real breakthrough of the enemy's Vosges winter line and broke any hope the Germans had of holding there until spring. Saales was the key spot of the German drafted-labor movement in that part of France. Men of French and Russian descent were brought to Saales, put into German uniforms and forced to construct elaborate defenses by cutting timber, stringing barbed wire and digging trenches and emplacements. But they were never able to finish, for they were pulled out just a short while before the "Cotton Balers" entered the town. During the entire operation the Blue Battalion had been out of communication with Regimental Headquarters and was completely on its own. Major Rathbun paid high tribute to his troops when he said, "The men were superb and operated perfectly."

Private First Class Ruben Caesar of Company "M" and Private James H. Robertson of Company "L" won

honors during the early morning fighting in Saales. Colonel Ben Harrell personally directed the operations which removed the blocks before the town.⁹¹

The First Battalion moved by truck from Nayemont through La Grande Fosse and detrucked at the little settlement of Beausoleit. Colonel Harrell had ordered the First Battalion troops to move to the heights of St. Barbe then assist the Third Battalion in clearing Saales. The Red troops executed their maneuver but when they entered Saales in the afternoon they found the Third Battalion troops already in complete possession.

FIRST BATTALION CAPTURES BOURG-BRUCHE IN STIFF FIGHT 23-24 NOVEMBER 1944

At 1730, 23 November 1944 the First Battalion moved out in a column of companies from Saales to attack the neighboring town of Bourg-Bruche. There the Germans had marshaled a powerful striking force and were on the verge of counter-attacking the Third Battalion to recapture Saales, but once again Colonel Harrell foiled the enemy's plans by throwing a hard-hitting battalion at him before he could get set.

Approximately 150 yards beyond Saales forward elements of Company "B" encountered heavy machine gun and rifle fire from both sides of the road. Fighting in the deceptive light of dusk, the Third Platoon captured 16 Germans, wounded and killed an undetermined number and put the rest to flight. Staff Sergeant James P. Wils was honored for the part he played during the action.⁹²

At 1930 hours, the First Battalion resumed its advance along the highway. After proceeding approximately one mile, blasts of machine gun crossfire and rifle-launched grenades flayed the troops of "Baker" Company which was in the assault. Reconnaissance disclosed that a strong German force was defending the railroad overpass at Brehimoulin, which had been partially demolished by explosives. Huge chunks of concrete blocked the highway where it passed beneath the railroad. Two machine guns on the embankment rained fire on the advancing troops and caused four casualties with the first blasts of fire. Rifle grenadiers moved ahead and blasted the enemy positions. Riflemen moved to within 25 yards of the underpass. The light was so weak and uncertain that the soldiers were obliged to fire at the muzzle blasts from the enemy weapons. The Germans then sent a platoon to strike at the left flank of Company "B" but the enemy force stupidly silhouetted itself on the embankment and was decimated by grenades and rifle fire.

Withering fire from the men in Company "B" gradually drove the stubborn enemy from the forward slope of the embankment. Second Lieutenant Joseph J. Gross, leader of the First Platoon, then led three successive advances to seize the top of the embankment, but each time his men were hurled back by machine gun fire from a building 50 yards to their right. Disregarding a storm of fire, Second Lieutenant Gross climbed the embankment alone, located the German machine gun position and directed Private First Class James J. Horne, a rifle grenadier, to knock it out. As Private First Class Horne stepped to the top of the embankment a rifle grenade hit

⁹⁰ For authority see GO 16, Hq. 7th Army, 23 Jan. 1945.

⁹¹ GOs No. 278, 299 & 313, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Dec. '44, 15 & 27 Aug. '45. Col. Harrell, Pfc Caesar & Pvt. Robertson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹² GO No. 171, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 22 May '45. S/Sgt. Wils was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

fifteen yards from him and enemy bullets barely missed him. Coolly taking aim he sent three rifle grenades through a window of the house, knocked out the machine gun and killed four Germans. As a result the vehicle with a mounted machine gun, in the underpass, withdrew and Company "B" was able to continue its advance.⁹³

As the beaten enemy withdrew toward Bourg-Bruche, the First Battalion troops resumed their advance. A tank dozer began to clear the cement blocks and rubble around the overpass so that the road could be reopened for armor and vehicles. The First and Third Platoons of "Baker" Company drove on for the crossroads of Les Paires west of the railroad at Bourg-Bruche, where there were three houses just to the south and one to the north.

Breaking into the first house with hand grenades and blazing Browning automatic rifles, the First Platoon captured three and killed a fourth German. The Germans were formidably emplaced in two of the other buildings and dominated the crossing with their fire. Flakwagon and "88" shells deluged the intersection with continuous and accurate fire. The intrepid First Platoon surged forward, lost two men killed and five wounded and became halted.

Second Lieutenant Wendell D. Leavitt left the one building in "Baker" Company hands and ran 300 yards back to friendly armor, despite the enemy shells. He mounted a supporting tank and guided it forward. Despite the heavy small arms fire that ricocheted off the tank and rifle grenades that exploded within twenty yards of him, he rode atop the tank until he brought it into position 75 yards from the enemy. Then directing the fire of the tank's 76mm cannon he temporarily silenced the German 88mm and flak guns. He then pounded the enemy-held buildings where the German Infantry was entrenched and directed the tank's machine gun fire at a church steeple occupied by an enemy sniper. Assault elements of the First and Third Platoons then charged forward, broke their way into the building-strongholds and destroyed Germans in room to room battles in the pitch black darkness, killed four of the enemy, captured thirteen and put the rest to flight.

As "Baker" Company fought for the Les Paires Crossroads, "Charlie" Company drove up the right side of the highway and penetrated into Bourg-Bruche proper. The Third Platoon which had been reduced to only nine men by the bitter fighting in the Vosges, occupied a large house, well in advance of the main positions of the assault companies. The platoon, which comprised four experienced soldiers, four raw reinforcements and an aid man, was subjected to an all-night ordeal of panzerfaust, rifle and hand grenade fire. Surrounded and besieged by a determined enemy force, the small group, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst, held its position alone and unaided for five hours. The front and rear doors were blown apart. Approximately twenty grenades and rockets exploded inside the large, ramshackle building and transformed the rooms into an inferno of flying shards of steel. One man was so deafened by the concussion from the constant explosions that he lost his hearing. After two and one-half hours of fighting, a squad of Germans assaulted the house, hurled half a dozen grenades through the battered windows and demanded that the skeleton platoon surrender. The valiant defenders replied by throwing hand grenades back at their assailants, caused heavy casualties and forced the Germans to abandon their efforts to take the building by storm.

Another group also found itself under virtual siege in a captured house. First Lieutenant Melvin L. Groot, Privates First Class Arthur J. Binder, Merle M. Dettbarn, Ervin E. St. Pierre, and Private Paul V. Huston

were wounded at the outset by a hail of German grenades and rockets. Barricading all entrances with furniture, the men held out all night against successive forays by a strong enemy assault force, which was familiar with every street and house in the town. Fighting with grenades and rifles, the determined "Cotton Balers" stuck grimly to their post, despite overwhelming odds, until the coming of daylight enabled them to break through the cordon thrown around them.

After inspiring his small platoon to hold off the Germans through the night, Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst made a reconnaissance to the front at daylight and observed two Germans near a pill box. Moving to within ten yards of the strongpoint he persuaded the two enemy, with his pointed rifle, to surrender. He then called on Germans in nearby positions to capitulate and succeeded in taking a total of 51 prisoners.

At daybreak, a company of Germans infiltrated to the First Battalion's rear, captured a medical jeep and four American prisoners. The jeep was then used to set up a road block at Road Junction 514 by the big bend south of Bourg-Bruche. Company "L" of the Blue Battalion moved out of Saales to destroy and remove the block. As two German guards led the four American captives through Bourg-Bruche, the First Sergeant of Company "C" spotted them. At one hundred yards range he shot and killed both Germans and freed the prisoners.

Meanwhile the First and Third Platoons of "Charlie" Company joined forces and proceeded to clean out the houses on the right side of the east-west road which runs through Bourg-Bruche. The Second Platoon followed in support. The attack occurred under continuous fire from powerful enemy artillery emplaced on a ridge running north-south and masking the eastern portion of the town. The ridge contained a long communications trench and heavily fortified emplacements. Pressing their attack, the two platoons reached a tavern near a railroad underpass, where they remained despite concentrated mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. Using the attic of the tavern as an observation post, they directed artillery fire on the German gun emplacements, knocked out an "88", blew up an ammunition dump and destroyed a dug-in 20mm flakwagon.

While "Baker" and "Charlie" Companies were battling, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace committed "Able" Company in an attack on the eastern section of the town.

Company "A" drew furious blasts of flak and machine gun fire, then received intensive mortar concentrations. Second Lieutenant Lawrence J. Tracy Jr., First Sergeant Francis M. Herring and Private First Class Samuel Merlino were killed early in the fight. The Third Platoon stormed forward nevertheless and succeeded in capturing nine Germans and two flak wagons. Resistance began breaking.

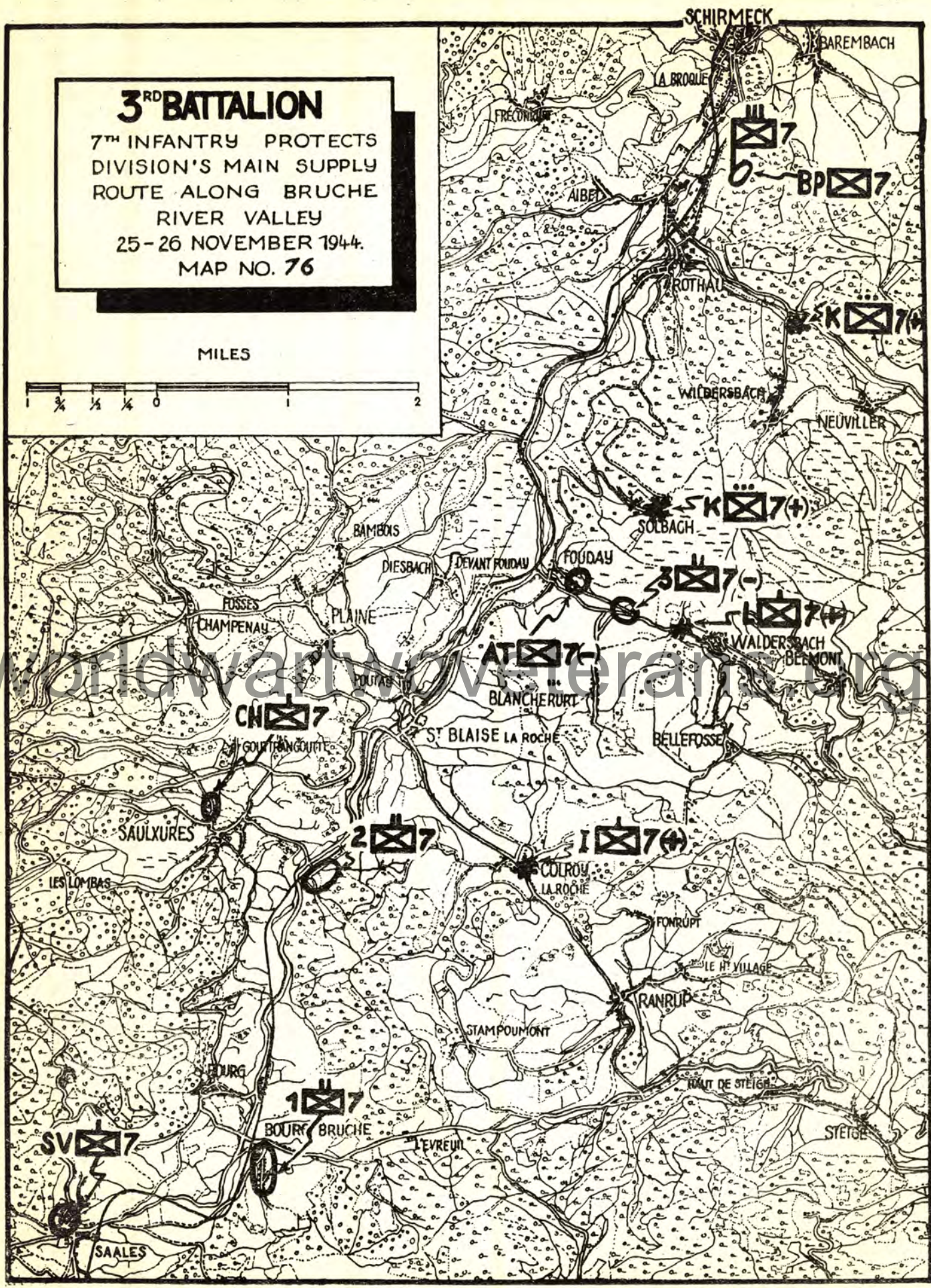
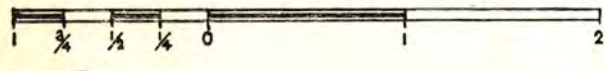
Companies "B" and "C" occupied positions in a cluster of buildings and rained fire on the Germans emplaced on the ridge. By mid-afternoon they had killed a large number and silenced two machine guns. Friendly mortars and artillery pounded the forward slope of the ridge, and in an effort to kill as many Germans as possible, forward observers brought fire to within fifty yards of their own positions.

At about 1300 hours, the Third Platoon of Company "C" assaulted the communications trench dug into the ridge. As the platoon surged up the hill slope enemy resistance collapsed and approximately 85 prisoners were

⁹³ GO No. 130, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 April '45. Pfc Horne was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

3RD BATTALION
 7TH INFANTRY PROTECTS
 DIVISION'S MAIN SUPPLY
 ROUTE ALONG BRUCHE
 RIVER VALLEY
 25-26 NOVEMBER 1944.
 MAP NO. 76

MILES



taken. Remnants of the battered German garrison fled from Bourg-Bruche. By 1630 the town was firmly in the hands of the First Battalion, except for isolated snipers. Approximately 200 prisoners had been taken and 75 of the enemy killed. The remainder of the enemy force scattered through the Vosges in a desperate, but unsuccessful, attempt to avoid capture or destruction. The bloody night and day battle for Bourg-Bruche had pulverized a strong German force.

FIRST BATTALION IS CITED BY THE PRESIDENT

For its outstanding performance in action during the period of 20-24 November 1944 in its rapid crossing of the Meurthe River and the capture of Nayemont and Bourg-Bruche, the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, received the Presidential Unit Citation.⁹⁴

Second Lieutenant Gross, who was killed in a subsequent action, Second Lieutenant Leavitt and Staff Sergeant Ernst were cited for the gallantry they displayed during the fighting for Bourg-Bruche. Others also cited for actions during the same fighting were First Lieutenant Walter R. Warne and Private First Class John A. Henrich, both of Company "D"; Sergeant Homer E. Probst, Technician Fifth Grade William H. Healy, Private First Class Phillip A. Brandenburg and Private Arthur Benjamin, all of Company "A"; and Private First Class John Gojmerac of Company "B".⁹⁵

The Second Battalion, which remained in La Grande Fosse in Regimental Reserve the night of 23-24 November 1944, sent a strong patrol to Bonne Fontaine and to the road junction farther south. At dawn the White Battalion troops marched from La Grande Fosse through Beausoleit to Les Frenots then cut southeast to Nouveau Saales and across country to Le Han where an enemy force was overcome in a brief fire fight and 28 prisoners of war taken. The battalion moved north from Le Han and cut the Bourg-Bruche-La Salee road about two-thirds of a mile east of Bourg-Bruche. Company "F" was left there to block the road and the remainder of the battalion moved on to contact enemy in the vicinity of Petite Alhan and Hill 679. A fight ensued with small arms and machine guns and the Second Battalion troops captured 51 prisoners of war during the night. Company "F" was relieved of its road block by Company "C" and rejoined the battalion.

Meanwhile the Third Battalion had moved out of Saales. The block the enemy had established at Road Junction 514 was eliminated and the troops passed through the First Battalion troops in Bourg-Bruche at 1545 to continue the attack to the north. Enemy resistance was encountered but overcome and at 1840 Companies "K" and "L" were on the objective, the second railroad crossing north of Bourg-Bruche and southeast of Saulxures. Company "I" trailed and was at the first railroad crossing west of Tifanrupt. Twenty-three prisoners of war had been taken during the advance.

The rapid advances of the Seventh Infantry after crossing the Meurthe River had smashed through the German winter line in the Vosges. By keeping at least one battalion always in the attack, even at night, Colonel Harrell had given the enemy no rest or opportunity to get set. The Krauts were always kept off-balance and rocked back on their heels with devastating blows to the head and body. The going was tough on the "Cotton Baler" boys, but they were made of stern stuff and stood up under the terrific strain.

Meanwhile the 30th Infantry, on the left, hurried to keep pace with the Seventh Infantry. A task force consisting of 15th Infantry elements was organized and

thrown into the fray. In conjunction with a battalion from the 30th Infantry the task force captured Saulxures. The Seventh Infantry passed to Division reserve as the 15th Infantry task force and 30th Infantry elements moved on to the main road and pushed north.

Early 25 November 1944 the Blue Battalion moved by foot through St. Blaise La Roche to Fouday then turned east and assembled in Le Trouchy.

As the Third Infantry Division, due to the magnificent work of its assault battalions, had smashed through the German Winter Line and was way ahead of all other VI Corps units, the Seventh Infantry, which smashed main defenses, got the mission on 25 November of protecting the Division's rear and exposed right flank as the 15th and 30th Infantries chased the fleeing Kraut toward Strasbourg.

The First Battalion (reinforced) was kept motorized and assembled in Bourg-Bruche while the Second Battalion was assembled near the main road by La Goutelle.

The Third Battalion (reinforced) protected the Division's axis of supply and communication by defending the southeast open flank with strong road blocks and strong combat patrols. Company "I" established a block at Colroy-la-Roche and sent patrols toward Ranrupt. An enemy road block consisting of riflemen and machine guns was encountered. Company "L" established a block at Le Trouchy. Patrols to Waldersbach encountered a strong enemy road block consisting of fallen trees, riflemen and machine guns. Fire was received from what was believed to be an enemy self-propelled gun and mortars in Waldersbach. Artillery was directed into the town, and patrols which later entered Waldersbach reported two enemy 75mm howitzers had been knocked out by the fire. A bridge in the town was blown as the enemy had withdrawn. Company "K" established a block southeast from Rothau and during the night of 25-26 November sent patrols into Neuville and Natzviller, but failed to contact any enemy. Another block was established by Company "K" in Solbach and patrols sent to the east.

The Regimental Command Post closed out of Saales and opened in Rothau. The Third Infantry Division continued its rapid advance east through the LaBruche River Valley on 26 November. The 15th Infantry advanced without opposition from Schirmeck to the outskirts of Mutzig while the 30th Infantry seized the towns of Grendelbruch, Laubenheim and Mollkirch against light opposition.

Meanwhile the Second French Armored Division, fighting for the XV Corps on the left of the VI Corps, made a spectacular dash through the Saverne Gap and captured all of Strasbourg, except a bridgehead the Germans held on to in the vicinity of the Kehl bridges.

7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO STRASBOURG THE NIGHT OF 26-27 NOVEMBER 1944

From its command post in Mullerhof on 26 November the Third Infantry Division issued orders for the continuance of its advance to the historic Rhine River.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ For authority see GO 254, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 14 July 1945.

⁹⁵ GOs No. 11, 70, 89, 120, 161 & 235, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan., 26 Feb., 9 Mar., 6 April, 14 May & 29 June '45. 1 Lt. Warne & Pfc Henrich were each awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 2 Lt. Gross, posthumously, 2 Lt. Leavitt, S/Sgt. Ernst, Sgt. Probst, T/5 Healy, Pfc Brandenburg & Gojmerac & Pvt. Benjamin were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹⁶ O. I. No. 100, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Mullerhof, France, 26 Nov. 1944.

In recognition and honor of its magnificent and unequalled record the Seventh Infantry, or "Cotton Baler", Regiment minus one battalion was ordered to move by truck during the night 26-27 November to an assembly area in West Strasbourg in the vicinity of Cronenburg, and was directed to relieve the Second French Armored Division the following night. A defense of the west bank of the Rhine was to be organized.

The 15th Infantry was ordered to continue its advance in its zone with all possible speed and seize the west bank of the Rhine south of Strasbourg while the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had a similar mission north of the city. The 30th Infantry was to pass into Division reserve. The Third Reconnaissance Troop was to operate south of the 15th Infantry and on the 27th of November Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armored Division was to pass through the Third Infantry Division from Schirmeck, and advance on Erstein and Benfeld to the south.

Accordingly, without incident, the Seventh Infantry minus the Third Battalion, which continued to protect the Division's exposed flank, moved with its attachments and supporting units into Strasbourg, the Cathedral City on the Rhine, the Capital of Alsace and of the Bas Rhin Department of France, which before the war was populated by 192,000 German and French speaking inhabitants.

The Second French Armored Division was relieved the following night as planned and at 0730, 28 November Colonel Ben Harrell assumed command of the city from the French General Jacques LeClerc.

The Third Battalion was released of responsibility of manning its road blocks on 28 November and assembled in Strasbourg, but was attached to a task force. The city of Strasbourg was divided into four areas. The Battle Patrol, Second and Third Platoons of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion's Reconnaissance Company and the Third Platoon, of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, commenced continuous patrols of assigned areas.

The enemy still held the waterfront section of Strasbourg on the islands between the Bassin Des Remparts or Wallbecken, Bassin Vauban or Verbindungsbecken

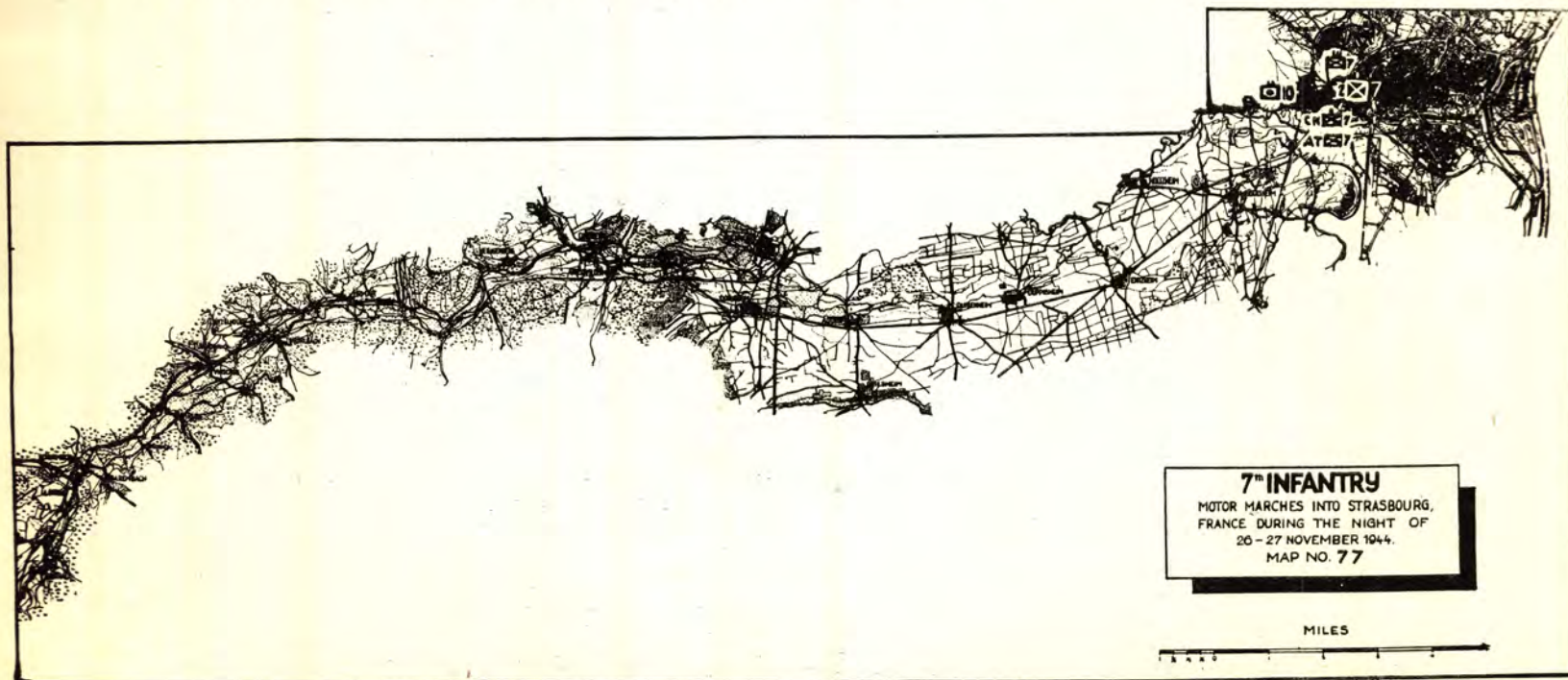
(according to whichever map you use, French or German) and the Rhine River.

The Regiment commenced immediately the task of wiping out the enemy bridgehead. During the night of 28-29 November the First Battalion pushed "Charlie" Company and one platoon of "Baker" Company across the Bassin Vauban or Verbindungsbecken. "Charlie" Company seized the buildings of Us de Sojerries without trouble while the "Baker" Company platoon, guided by a Frenchman, crossed further north without resistance.

The Second Battalion however contacted enemy along the railroad tracks that cross the islands and engaged in a hand grenade fight during the night. The enemy harassed the Second Battalion troops with artillery during the night and at 0600 in the morning concentrated fifty rounds on the "Cotton Baler" dogfaces. Company "F" bagged one prisoner who said that there were two divisions of enemy troops in Kehl, across the Rhine, and that a counter-attack might be attempted. He further stated that there were from 300 to 375 enemy troops dug-in on the Strasbourg side of the river near the bridges.

Both sides laid low during the day of 29 November and the Germans, through a civilian, asked for a truce to evacuate the forty or more families of civilians living in the apartment houses near the three bridges which spanned the Rhine, the railroad bridge, and two bridges for vehicular traffic, one being of wooden structure. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro sent word to the enemy that he would deal only with a German officer who must come through the lines to make terms for a truce. The enemy failed to send an officer and no truce was made. However as many civilians as possible were evacuated by the Second Battalion through prisoner of war interrogation channels.

A train was seen pulling into Kehl during the afternoon and the 10th Field Artillery Battalion directed fire on it. Cannon Company spotted enemy tanks in the Hippodrome south of the tracks near the Rhine River and fired on them. While patrolling its section of the city of Strasbourg that afternoon the Battle Patrol was fired on by enemy snipers. It was known that many enemy had changed to civilian garb before the city had capitulated and it was not safe to traverse the streets unaccompanied or unarmed, especially at night.



First and Second Battalion patrols operated aggressively during the night of 29-30 November. "Charlie" Company sent a patrol across Le Petite Rhin or the Kleiner Rhein and reported a building burning. Company "F" bagged three more prisoners in the vicinity of the railroad tracks. Company "E" investigated the peninsula between Le Petite Rhin and the Bassin du Commerce and found it unoccupied. The boxcars on the railway were unoccupied but enemy held the warehouses and apartment houses. Much activity was heard in Kehl.

The following day the enemy shelled the power plant, held by the First Battalion, with heavy concentrations and put it out of order, as well as the water plant. The Second Battalion evacuated more than 100 civilians as preparations were made to launch an attack against the enemy-held bridgehead.

**7th INFANTRY WIPES OUT KEHL
BRIDGEHEAD IN THE "BATTLE OF THE
APARTMENT HOUSES" 30 NOVEMBER
TO 2 DECEMBER 1944**

At 2300 on 30 November Company "C" opened the Seventh Infantry attack to wipe out the enemy's bridgehead west of the Rhine.

After two attempts to cross the railroad bridge spanning Le Petit Rhin, or Kleiner Rhine, had been thwarted by intense fire from three enemy machine guns and an

estimated company of riflemen, Captain Gerald A. Desrosier of First Battalion Headquarters organized and directed a third and highly successful attempt. Despite bursting mortar shells and machine gun fire, he led an assault platoon to the bridge and directed the troops across. The men then overran the enemy positions, knocked out six machine guns and three mortars, killed and wounded 19 enemy, captured 37 and drove the remainder back.⁹⁷

At 0645 on 1 December the Second Battalion jumped off in the attack to clean out the apartment houses. Contact was made with the enemy and a heavy small arms fight was had.

At about 1030 hours Sergeant John J. Kelly of Company "F" elected to give his life to destroy an enemy machine gun position. Ordering his decimated and weary squad to follow him, Sergeant Kelly charged across 75 yards of flat, exposed terrain toward an enemy strongpoint in and around a public building. When ankle-high, grazing machine gun fire inflicted multiple wounds on both of his legs, Sergeant Kelly continued to stagger forward, although only one man of his squad followed, for an additional 35 yards. Advancing through the machine gun fire, he reached a platform 25 yards from his objective and took cover behind it. When his assistant requested permission to fire a rifle grenade at the German

⁹⁷ GO No. 89, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Mar. '45. Capt. Desrosier was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



machine gun emplacement, Sergeant Kelly refused on the grounds that the risk was too great. Although every movement he made was a signal for a fresh burst of machine gun fire and renewed sniper activity, Sergeant Kelly pulled the pin of a hand grenade and, rising on his wounded legs to a standing position, hurled it into the German position 25 yards away. As he fell back mortally wounded by machine gun fire, his hand grenade exploded, destroying the gun position and the two-man German crew. Refusing to allow his assistant to give him aid, he again urged his squad to move forward in the attack. As his men charged into the German strongpoint, killing four and capturing one of the enemy, Sergeant Kelly died. For his extraordinary heroism in action that day he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁹⁸

A large direct fire weapon across the railroad yard commenced shooting at the "Cotton Balers" and shook the whole peninsula when it fired. Progress was slow in the morning but the Second Battalion troops captured eleven enemy.

The Second Battalion fought the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" with a determined enemy who barricaded themselves in the buildings and spotted them with snipers. Using bazookas and armor, holes were punched in the buildings through which the "doggies" rushed to clear out building after building. The fighting became severe as Private First Class Carl W. Young, Privates Dale Carson, Rodolfo G. Cruz, Gaston J. Foussard and Jack B. Huff all of "Easy" Company, Private First Class Ellis N. Lee and Private Clifford E. Lombardo of "Fox" Company and Private First Class Calvert Johnson of "George" Company were killed by sniper's bullets.

Meanwhile Company "C" reached the northern section of the Hippodrome against machine gun fire. "Able" Company joined the attack. Company "G" of the 30th Infantry became attached to the Regiment and furnished reserve for the Red Battalion. "Baker" Company held the electric plant.

Late in the afternoon the enemy set off a series of demolitions which destroyed all three bridges over the Rhine. A big gun believed to be a large railway gun in Kehl, fired direct onto the islands and peninsulas and rocked them with the big explosions.

At about 2100 the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" was at an end as the Second Battalion controlled all the buildings. During the night and early morning of 2 December, the White Battalion cleared the peninsula between the Bassin de L'Industrie or Industriebecken and the Rhine River, while "Able" and "Charlie" Companies cleaned the Hippodrome and advanced to the Rhine.

For bravery displayed during the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" and in wiping out the Kehl Bridgehead the following named enlisted men of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment were cited: Privates First Class John T. Clayton, Milton E. Colon, Julius Fuller and Henry J. Rosinski, all of Company "C"; Private First Class James R. Snyder and Private Orville Hobbs of Company "E", and Sergeants Steve Gavron, Fred A. Krizan and Alton A. Leonard, Jr., all of Company "F".⁹⁹

COLONEL HARRELL LEAVES THE REGIMENT AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL IZENOUR ASSUMES COMMAND

Shortly after the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" ended and Seventh Infantry troops took up their first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II, Colonel Ben Harrell departed from the Seventh Infantry to report at

Seventh Army Headquarters in Epinal, France. He was to eventually become G-3 of the American Fifth Army in Italy under General Lucian K. Truscott who succeeded General Mark W. Clark.

The veteran Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour assumed command of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Having led the First Battalion through the last phase of the Sicilian Campaign, across the swollen Volturno in Southern Italy, onto the Anzio Beachhead where he was wounded and evacuated on that bloody day of 30 January 1944, and where he returned to lead the Red Battalion out of the Beachhead into Cisterna di Littoria



Colonel Ben Harrell commanded the Seventh United States Infantry from 22 August to 2 December 1944, in France, and then jumped to the position of G-3, Fifth United States Army in Italy, which position he held until September 1945. Before he assumed command of the Regiment he had served as its S-4 and S-3 from 1940 to 1942, as G-3, Third Infantry Division from 1942 to 1944, and G-3, American VI Corps from February to August 1944. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with the Class of 1933.

and in triumph and glory into Rome, the Eternal City, on 4 June, which was one of his greatest days, and on 15 August onto the beaches of Southern France then on the dash up the beautiful Rhone River Valley, before he assumed the duties of Regimental Executive Officer on 15 September, he was indeed a capable successor to the long line of able men who have commanded the famous Seventh Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel Izenour was born on 6 October 1913 in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. He received his early education in the public schools of Mansfield, Ohio, and attended Ashland College before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, from the State of Ohio. He graduated from the Army's officer training

⁹⁸ For authority see GO 83, Hq. 7th Army, 8 Mar. 1945.

⁹⁹ GOs No. 13, 35, 70, 113, 171 & 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan., 4 & 26 Feb., 29 Mar., 22 May & 25 June '45. Sgts. Gavron, Krizan & Leonard, Pfc Clayton, Colon. Fuller, Rosinski & Snyder & Pvt. Hobbs were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

institution with the class of 1938. His first assignment as a second lieutenant was with a machine gun company of the 13th Infantry Regiment. He later commanded Company "L" of that regiment before commanding Company "K" of the 33rd Infantry in the Panama Canal Zone. His first service with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was as commanding officer of "King" Company in the States. He then served as executive officer of the Third Battalion, 30th Infantry, until he returned to the Seventh Infantry. He commanded the Third Battalion from 1 June to 4 July 1943. He first assumed command of the First Battalion on 25 July 1943. His gallantry in actions and outstanding service had merited awards to him of the Silver Star Medal and Legion of Merit Award.

That afternoon a group of American bombers winged their way over Strasbourg for German targets but were intercepted by eighteen enemy Messerschmidts and were forced to drop their loads, which fortunately for the "Cotton Balers" and people of Strasbourg, fell east of the Rhine. While the First and Second Battalion wiped out the Kehl bridgehead the Third Battalion performed the special task of guarding intelligence targets in the city of Strasbourg as prescribed by Seventh Army and the Sixth Army Group Headquarters. Some of the places put under guard included an amphibious motor vehicle plant, an important naval munitions experimental plant, and the notorious laboratory at the University of Strasbourg, whose doctors were accused of performing experiments with poison gas and disease cultures on living humans.



Major Glenn E. Rathbun commanded the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 25 May to 22 June 1944, and from 3 October to 4 December 1944 when he was seriously wounded and evacuated.

The Third Battalion was relieved of guard duties at the Physics Building, Adolf Kosmier, Matford Factory, Hotel De Ville and the Pioneer Gasno by Company "A" on 2 December, then commenced relief of the Second

Battalion and Company "C", of defensive positions on the west bank of the Rhine during the night of 2-3 December which was completed at 0100. Company "B" remained in defensive positions at the electric plant while Company "C" reverted to a mobile reserve held at a warehouse building just west of the Bassin Vauban. A gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company went into position near the point between the Bassin Vauban and Le Petit Rhin.

The Second Battalion moved by truck and assembled in the vicinity of Robertsau in north Strasbourg then sent Company "G" to man machine gun and listening posts from the point between the Bassin des Petroles and the Rhine, north along the west bank of the river.

On 3 December the First Battalion took on additional guarding duties. A signal dump and several hundred railway boxcars were protected from looters. Company "G", of the 30th Infantry, was relieved of attachment. The Mine Platoon of Anti-Tank Company continued to guard the laboratories at Fort Ney north of Strasbourg.

During the night Captain Cook of Company "A", 10th Engineers, and members of his company reconnoitered positions along the Rhine in the Third Battalion sector for wire laying.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL IZENOUR AND MAJOR RATHBUN ARE BOTH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

On 4 December Captain Cook accompanied by one of his platoon leaders called at the Regimental Command Post to talk over plans for wire laying, with Lieutenant Colonel Izenour. The Commanding Officer took the engineers to the Third Battalion Command Post where Major Glenn E. Rathbun joined the group and they went on to observation posts in the apartment houses where visual inspections of positions along the Rhine could be made. After formulating plans for laying the tactical wire the group commenced the return journey. After passing under the railroad overpass the group made its way up the street toward the bridge over Le Petit Rhin when an artillery shell was heard whizzing through the air from the direction of friendly positions. Thinking the shell was on its way to Kehl no one jumped for cover but to the dismay of all it landed in the street not far away from the group of officers. Fragments seriously wounded Lieutenant Colonel Izenour and Major Rathbun but the engineer officers escaped uninjured. Lieutenant Colonel Izenour received a bad wound in the thigh which tore away most of the flesh but Major Rathbun received even a more serious wound. A fragment entered the Third Battalion commander's left ear, gouged out his left eye and ruined the sight of his right eye. By a miracle he lived and was evacuated with Lieutenant Colonel Izenour.

Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro then temporarily assumed command of the Regiment as Captain Robert D. Marsh and Captain Ralph M. Flynn temporarily assumed command of the Second and Third Battalions respectively.

Both sides exchanged artillery and mortar fire throughout the remainder of the day with the enemy chucking in heavy stuff from a gun estimated to be of 240mm calibre and fires were started in the Strasbourg gas works by the enemy shelling.

Members of the Battle Patrol were fired on again during the night of 4-5 December as patrols were conducted throughout the city. Two shots penetrated a jeep. The Engineers went ahead with their plans for tactical wire laying and laid triple concertina wire from the bridges north to the tip of the peninsula.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HEINTGES ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

On 5 December Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges, a former "Cotton Baler", and a soldier all his life, returned to the Regiment he loved so well, and assumed command.

John Arnold Heintges was born in Coblenz, Germany, on 9 December 1912. During the First World War his father and three uncles served in the German army while one uncle served with the French Army, another with the American army and a sixth uncle remained neutral in Sweden. His father was killed in action on the Russian front in 1915.

At the age of nine the future commander of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was brought to the United States by his mother, who married an American Army officer. His first year of high school education was received at Columbus High School, Columbus, Georgia, then while his step-father served at Fort McKinley on Great Diamond Island in Casco Bay, Maine, he attended Portland High School for his sophomore and junior years and sold newspapers in his spare time. His senior year studies were made in Alaska and in 1930 he graduated from Haines High School, Haines, Alaska. He spent nine months in the hard north country with the Forest



Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges who commanded the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 4 July to 18 November 1943, and from 24 February to 4 March 1944, assumed command of the Regiment on 5 December 1944.

Service and a year more with the Presbyterian Mission, but all the while kept his eye on West Point, which was his goal. He then returned to the States, prepped at Stanton in New York, took the competitive examinations for West Point and realized his ambition by entering the United States Military Academy from Maine, and graduated with the class of 1936.

The first assignment for Second Lieutenant John A. Heintges was with the old 5th Infantry at Fort Williams, Maine, for a period of about six months. He then went to the Philippines and served two years with the 45th Infantry, Philippine Scouts. Returning to the States once more he served with the 24th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. While there he took the regular Infantry course and communications course at the Infantry School. He was assigned to the 18th Infantry, First Division, and engaged in the Louisiana maneuvers. His next assignment was to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to help re-

activate the 13th Infantry as a company commander and later as regimental S-3. In time he returned to the Infantry School and served as an assistant director of training. He was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant on 12 June 1939, to that of Captain on 9 September 1940, to that of Major on 1 February 1942 and to that of Lieutenant Colonel on 6 January 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges received assignment in 1943 to the First Division overseas but was sidetracked by Fifth Army to help establish the Battle Training Center in North Africa. He was transferred to the Third Infantry Division in June 1943 and assumed command of the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, two days prior to embarkation for Sicily. Though placed in command just a few days prior to invasion, he was nevertheless well prepared to command, having worked with the Division G-3 Section, and was thoroughly familiar with all plans of action and the island to be invaded.

Through Sicily, South Italy and on the Anzio Beachhead, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges distinguished himself as an outstanding leader and was the anchor man of the highly regarded Izenour-Duvall-Heintges combination of commanders. He left the Seventh Infantry while on the Anzio Beachhead to serve again with the Third Division G-3 Section, then on 2 June 1944 he became executive officer of the 30th Infantry Regiment, in which capacity he served until he returned to the Seventh Infantry on 5 December 1944. While serving with the "Friscan" Regiment he had garnered new honors to those already won with the Seventh Infantry, and was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious services and the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in actual combat. In the days to come he was to prove himself a most able and worthy successor to the great line of commanders of the Seventh Infantry down through the years.

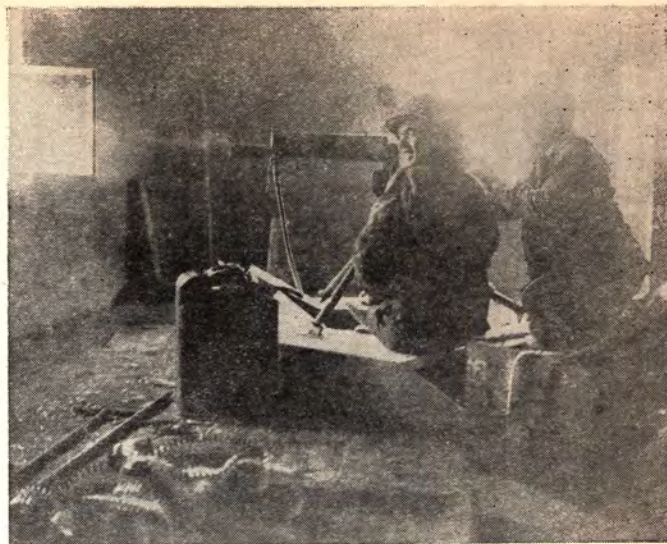


One of the bridges over Le Petit Rhin in Strasbourg, France.

On 6 December Major Jack M. Duncan assumed command of the Second Battalion while Major Richard T. Young assumed the duties of Regimental S-3. Captain Kenneth E. Browneller became S-1. Captain Flynn continued to command the Third Battalion until 16 December when Captain Robert V. Horton commanded for a short while before Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey returned to his old command on 20 December.

During the period 2 to 20 December 1944 the Seventh Infantry maintained its "Watch on the Rhine", policed and guarded Strasbourg. It was the second time that "Cotton Balers" had taken up a watch on the west bank of the great river, the first time being in World War I.

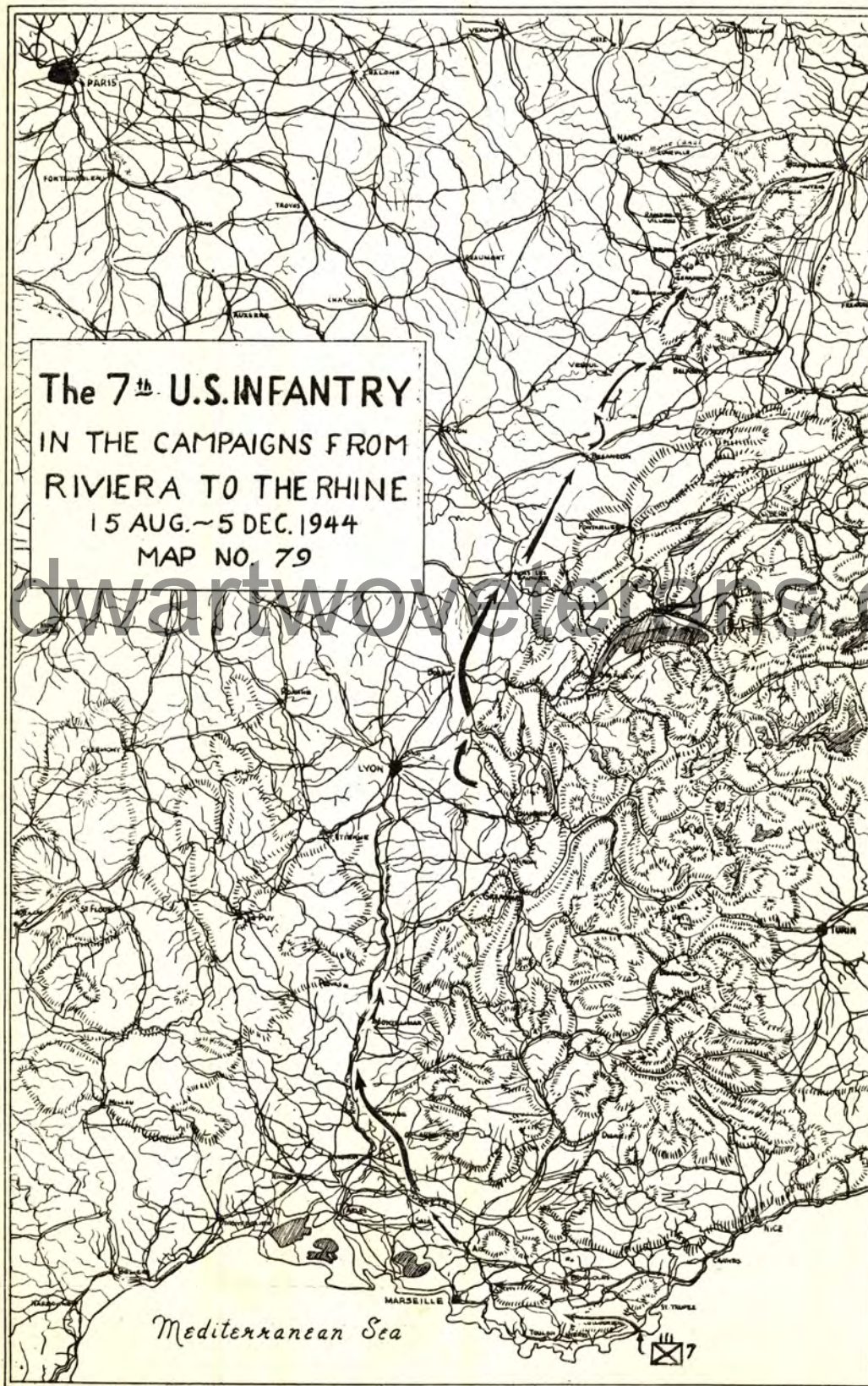
Strasbourg, where the "Cotton Balers" took up the Second "Watch on the Rhine", had once been a great



Top photos show a "Cotton Baler" sniper and machine gunners firing at enemy across the Rhine from locations in factory buildings and apartment houses in the water front district of Strasbourg. Center photos show mortar men at work. Lower left photo shows how Strasbourg looked from the air. The famous cathedral stands out above all other buildings in the city. Lower right photo shows shells exploding in Kehl, Germany.

gateway for people visiting south Germany, Switzerland and Austria. "Cotton Balers" found it suffering only little from the lightning thrust of the Second French Armored Division. Some sectors where the Nazis had set up Gestapo and other headquarters had been badly damaged, however, by American bomber planes. The dominating feature of Strasbourg is its beautiful and world famous cathedral, an architectural beauty long a must for sightseers. Its graceful, beautiful spire pointing straight upward, rises above all other buildings in the city and

may be seen for miles throughout the country. The Nazis had stolen the beautiful stained glass of the windows and shipped them off to Germany. The famous clock with images of the Twelve Apostles could not be seen. Unfortunately the Cathedral had been hit twice by American bombs and large holes gaped in the dome. All benches and seats had been removed from the cathedral as no services had been held there for four long years due to the ban placed by Nazis authorities. Shortly after the Second French Armored Division had liberated the



city private services were held for the French General Jacques Le Clerc but on Friday morning, 8 December 1944, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the first public services were held with Catholic Chaplain Ralph Smith of Third Infantry Division, assisted by the Seventh Infantry Catholic Chaplain, Captain Raymond E. Vint, officiating. Nearly 3000 Catholic soldiers from the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantries and other organizations were trucked to the vicinity of the Cathedral and attended the Mass.

Strasbourg is a city of islands on islands caused by the Ill River, Le Petit Rhin, the Rhine and the several canals which connect them. The innermost island which is the center of the old city is caused by the Ill River dividing into two branches, which rejoin about 2000 yards to the northeast. The Rhine-Marne Canal crosses the Ill River in the northern sector of the city while the Rhine-Rhone Canal comes up from the south to join the Ill. The Breusch River joins the Ill from the west. The City of Strasbourg in peacetime contained large factories for producing machinery, locomotives, electrical equipment, flour, textiles, chemicals and shipyards. The Port of Strasbourg, a river port, was rated as one of the leading ports of France with an annual capacity of ten million tons. In spite of the many allied bombings the city was generally in good shape and there was no general devastation.

When the "Cotton Balers" entered Strasbourg they did not receive a rousing welcome such as they received in Casablanca, Rome, the Eternal City, or in the many cities and villages of southern France. It was estimated that there were about 10,000 enemy aliens in the city who were being rounded up by the French gendarmes, American military police, security forces, and the French Forces of the Interior, then sent to internment camps to the rear. Some German soldiers had remained in the city but were quickly rounded up. The people of Strasbourg were quiet and orderly. They played a conservative game. They took no chances in welcoming the Americans with open arms for fear the Germans might return. Though for the most part Strasbourg is a German speaking city, most of its citizens like to think of it as neither French or German, but Alsatian. In a few days as the people came to know that the Allies were there to stay, the streets became bedecked with the French Tricolor and the American Stars and Stripes. The people became more friendly. The "Cotton Balers," experts at fraternization as well as fighting, came to like Strasbourg even better than many other places they had visited.

After the Seventh Infantry wiped out the Kehl bridgehead all the remaining civilians living in the basements of the apartments and warehouses were evacuated from the port area. Lying alongside many of the docks were stranded river barges many of which had been damaged by bombings. Four of the craft were Dutch which had operated from Rotterdam, up and down the Rhine. The crews and several families still occupied them after about two months. When the "Cotton Balers" put on their attack to clean out the bridgehead, for a time these people found themselves floating somewhat uneasily in a no man's waterland. They were brought in to the prisoner of war interrogation cage for questioning. When it was discovered that their true identity was Rotterdam Dutch rather than Kraut Dutch they were evacuated to points of safety.

From 2 to 11 December 1944 the Regiment manned and improved its defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine in the port of Strasbourg. The battalions alternated the tasks of occupying the defensive positions, guarding vital targets in the city, or resting in reserve.

"Cotton Balers" occupying the defensive positions got their first views of the enemy's formidable Siegfried Line positions on the east bank of the Rhine, at and near Kehl. There the Rhine, a mighty barrier in itself, was defended by heavy casemates at intervals of approximately 100 to 300 yards, built into the face of the bank. The level open terrain behind the river was studded with pillboxes and casemates covering all roads and streams and formed a complete interwoven pattern of fire. Numerous communication and fire trenches linked the various units of the system. Some wire and a few anti-tank ditches were used toward the river, near or bordering on the wooded areas.

On 11 December 1944 the regiment extended its defensive line along the west bank of the Rhine to the north by assuming responsibility and control of the sector held by the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, north of Gamsheim. The Third Battalion reinforced with one platoon of Anti-Tank Company, one platoon of Company "A," 756th Tank Battalion, one platoon of Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, relieved the Cavalrymen. Companies "I" and "L" were placed on the line



along the river and Company "K" was held in mobile reserve. Battery "B" of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion supported the Third Battalion in its sector and Cannon Company moved to supporting positions.

On 17 December the Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol became attached to the Regiment and relieved Troop "A" of the 94th Reconnaissance Squadron of positions in Gamsheim, Offendorf, Herrlisheim, Rohrwiler and Drusenheim to further lengthen out the sector of Seventh Infantry responsibility to the north.

During its closing days in the first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II harassing fire was exchanged with the enemy with machine guns, mortars and artillery. In the northern sector held by the attached troops, the Third Reconnaissance Troops had a skirmish with a small number of enemy who crossed the Rhine by boat. Rumor was rife among the civilians that the enemy was to recross the Rhine in force north of Strasbourg and advance on the city. The Seventh Infantry was ready for any move the enemy might decide to make. A platoon of Company "L" and the Intelligence Platoon of Third Battalion Headquarters moved to Gamsheim to support

the Third Reconnaissance Troop. Company "C" was alerted and held in readiness to move immediately to repel any enemy threat. Supporting artillery was particularly active during the hours of darkness and harassed enemy positions on the east bank of the river. Patrols were alert for possible enemy parachute drops.

An enemy spy was taken in Strasbourg whose mission

it was to note the reaction of the people of the city to the Allies and report on any propaganda posted in the city. Another spy was detected on the west bank of the Rhine about to escape by a boat manned by enemy who had come from Kehl to pick him up. The spy was seriously wounded and the enemy boat riddled by machine gun fire until it sank with its occupants, who were killed.



The winners of the Silver Star Medal shown above are: (1) Pfc. T. J. Rice, Co. "K", posthumously, (2) Pfc. J. C. Babincsak, Co. "H", (3) Cpl. L. R. Grimes, 1 Bn. Hq. Co., (4) Sgt. E. Hudspeth, Co. "H", (5) Sgt. S. Reno, Co. "K", (6) 1 Sgt. B. V. Reynolds, "Co. "G", (7) 2 Lt. E. G. Johnson, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (8) 2 Lt. J. C. Lynch, Co. "C", (9) 2 Lt. W. M. Rice, Co. "C", (10) 2 Lt. C. K. Seifarth, Regtl. B.P., (11) 2 Lt. J. C. Jernigan, A.T. Co., (12) 2 Lt. J. B. Lehman, Co. "L", (13) 1 Lt. D. J. Lostumbo, Co. "L", (14) 1 Lt. P. V. McGhan, Co. "K", posthumously, (15) 1 Lt. H. J. Mondelli, Co. "T", (16) 1 Lt. W. S. Van Wey, Co. "M", (17) Capt. A. Brown, Co. "A", (18) Capt. C. A. Peterson, Co. "A", (19) Capt. W. B. Stewart, Co. "C", (20) Capt. J. F. Powell, Co. "E", (21) Capt. M. D. Biggers, Co. "K", (22) Capt. F. Petruzell, Co. "K", (23) Capt. J. W. Blaikie, Co. "K", (24) Capt. R. J. Yates, Co. "L", (25) Capt. R. M. Flynn, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (26) Capt. P. E. Rowe, M.D., (27) Lt. Col. E. W. Duval, C.O. 2d Bn., (28) Capt. R. L. Kerr, Co. "B". Five members of the Rgt who received the medal from Lt. Gen. M. W. Clark on 15 Jan. 1944 in the Piano di Quarto area, near Naples, Italy, are shown in the lower strip of photos. Left to right they are: Pfc. E. Snead, Co. "C"; Cpl. A. Stoessel, Co. "D"; 2 Lt. V. D. Reynolds, Co. "A"; 1 Lt. M. F. Smith, A.T. Co.; and Lt. Col. R. E. Moore, R.F. & S.

PART SIX

The Colmar Pocket Campaign

(21 DECEMBER 1944—18 FEBRUARY 1945)

CHAPTER I

Defense

When the Seventh Infantry reached the Rhine River in early December 1944, eliminated the Germans' Kehl bridgehead in Strasbourg, Alsace, and set up its first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II, it and other units of the Third Infantry Division and the Second French Armored Division were approximately eighty miles farther east than units of any other Allied division on the entire Western Front.

Up north American and Allied forces were surprised and very seriously threatened by a Christmas offensive launched by the German Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt, that broke through and overran front line units and created a huge bulge in Allied territory in Belgium and Luxembourg, and threatened to extend into France.

To the south of Strasbourg the Germans held a bridgehead west of the Rhine River, in Alsace, which they referred to as "Bridgehead Alsace" but which the Americans and French referred to as the "Colmar Pocket", named after the Alsatian city Colmar, which was occupied by the enemy. When the American Seventh Army had broken through the Vosges to reach the Rhine River at Strasbourg and the First French Army came up on its right, the enemy who had not retreated across the Rhine were compressed around the city of Colmar. The enemy decided to hold on to Colmar and set up strong defensive positions in the Vosges Mountains to the west of the city. The Rhine Plain in Alsace between the Vosges Mountains and the great river is cut by numerous rivers and streams and has an elaborate system of canals. The enemy used these water barriers to protect his bridgehead from attacks either from the north or south. His main escape route was by the bridges over the Rhine between Neuf-Brisach and Vieux Brisach. The First French Army had applied considerable pressure against the enemy's lines but had failed to penetrate them. The result was that the German lines surrounding Colmar became a virtual ring of steel as the enemy emplaced himself in the most strategic positions the mountain studded region, rivers and canals afforded.

The German 19th Army which had been punched from the Riviera to the Rhine, reeling under heavy blows received from Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch's Seventh American Army on the coast of Southern France, at Montelimar, Besancon, and in the Vosges Mountains, defended the bridgehead. The enemy soldiers were weary from their many battles but were still full of fight. The following is a translation of an article which appeared in *Die Wacht*, the newspaper of the

German 19th Army, on 15 December 1944, concerning the bridgehead and the condition of the German soldiers at that time.

"BRIDGEHEAD ALSACE"

Around the time when the golden-yellow and bluish-black grapes dropped from the vines, cut by the vintners, and when, late in the evenings, carts loaded down with full barrels, rumbled over the uneven streets of the small Alsatian villages, the war seemed to be still far away, even though the autumn wind brought with it the thunder of the guns from the west, over the peaks of the Vosges and from the plains of the Burgundy Gate. As they had always done, the toy-like houses lay perched against the vineyards. Only the people who live here with faces more serious than they usually displayed, listened towards France, along the border strip of which the front line now took its course, now that the German divisions, after their disengaging move from Southern France, had dug themselves into the ground once more.

Late autumn storms had swept the last remaining leaves from the trees and the vines offered a confused picture of brown, bald sticks. It was during those days that the war with its fast movements—with which one always has to figure in this time of motorized warfare—took the jump into Alsace. The American thrust to Strasbourg in the North and the penetration of French Colonial troops to Hueningen (Huningue) in the South formed the new front line which can best be described by the term "Bridgehead Alsace". In order to guess the further intentions of the Americans and Colonial French, one did not have to be in the possession of a great deal of strategical knowledge, nor did one have to work through Clausewitz's book "About War". The plain doughboy in his foxhole knew it as well as the artillery man at his gun, the ack-ack boy mentioned it just as the guy in the TD or on the assault gun, and the civilians in all the villages and little towns whispered it to each other: "Now the Americans will push south, the Colonial French will press north from Huningue and they'll meet in Colmar, maybe, or somewhere on the Rhine between the Vosges and the Black Forest." The names of Schlettstadt (Selestat) and Mulhouse which soon appeared in the news from the front only served as nourishment for all these suppositions.

But while the people of this country sit together on the long evenings and still try to figure things out, the German soldier in Alsace fights one of the toughest defensive battles. Up on the crests of the Vosges the western-most positions are covered by the deep snow, enveloped in the bitter cold, and from there, through the lowlands of the Rhine Plain, continue the row of foxholes which since weeks have been filled to the brim with water by the pouring rain.

For days and weeks they have had no rest and they have simply dropped the word "relief" from their vocabulary a long time ago. Their uniforms hardly ever get dry, and they are yellowish from the mud and dirt. Their sleep they have to steal, bit by bit, minutes, sometimes seconds, at a time. Yes, this Alsatian soil, once again in its war-rich history, experiences anew a miracle, the miracle of the German grenadier. In every squad yawns many a painful gap, but the ones who survive get to-

gether more closely, fight all the more stubbornly against barages and dive-bombers, against tanks, Shermans, Renaults, Churchills, and against Infantry. None of those who try to assault the German main line of resistance would still have the nerves and force to resist, if they should have had to go through the same things the German grenadiers had to experience during the last weeks. And this is the miracle which cannot be explained by words, and certainly not by some nice phrases. In the December days of the sixth year of war a new part of German history and heroism is being written here in Alsace, and sealed with the blood of many German soldiers.

Here fight the divisions of that army which has once already been declared dead by the enemy, when it battled open its way from the Mediterranean through the Rhone Valley with the doggedness and force which cannot be measured by ordinary standards, since it exceeds everything which can normally be expected from strength.¹

Though the enemy was weary from long fighting he was powerful enough to launch savage counter-attacks at forces that sought to eliminate his bridgehead. The First French Army encountered considerable resistance in all its zones. Early in the month of December 1944 the enemy struck fiercely at the Second French Armored Division, and at the American 36th Infantry Division, which was fighting under French command then. Then the enemy struck twice against the south flank of the First French Army just west of Mulhouse. The enemy was determined to hold the bridgehead. On 17 December, it was believed the Germans held nine nominal divisions in the "Colmar Pocket" with the bulk of three opposing the American 36th Infantry Division, namely the 16th and 716th Infantry Divisions and the 189th Volks Grenadier Division, and possibly, substantial elements of the 198th Infantry Division.

7TH INFANTRY QUITS ITS "WATCH ON THE RHINE" AND MOVES TO THE FRINGE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET"

During the afternoon and evening of 20 December 1944 the Third Battalion (reinforced), Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol were relieved of their defensive positions along the Rhine River north of Strasbourg by the Second Battalion, 143rd Infantry. The Seventh Infantry Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies were relieved by respective units of the 143rd Infantry during the same period.

At 0830 on 21 December the Third Battalion (reinforced), Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, Regimental Headquarters Company, Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, Service Company Train, Company "A", 10th Engineers, and Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, crossed the initial point established by Third Division Headquarters in Entzheim, and moved by a route marked by military police through Goxwiller, Epfig, Blienschwiller, Dambach-la-Ville, Chatenois and St. Hippolyte and closed into the vicinity of Bergheim at 1030. The Regimental Company Post established itself in the Chateau de Reichenberg about 1500 yards to the northwest of Bergheim.

Relief during daylight hours of as many elements as possible of the 142nd Infantry was accomplished. Companies "I" and "L" completed relief of Companies "E" and "F" of the 142nd Infantry in Rorschwihr and Guemar. Company "K" waited until darkness to relieve Company "G" of the "Texan" Regiment in the part of Ostheim west of La Fecht River. The greater part of the town east of the river was in enemy hands.

Anti-Tank Company relieved its namesake company of the 142nd Infantry and placed a gun platoon in position by Road Junction 181. The Mine Platoon went

into position near Ganzimatti Ferme. The remainder of the company took up positions by Cross Roads 177, east of the Station de St. Hippolyte or Hirtengaerten as called on German maps.

Company "A", 10th Engineers, moved into St. Hippolyte, as Cannon Company occupied positions near Orschwiller. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, which followed the first serial, put Batteries "A" and "B" into positions near Bergheim and Battery "C" near Orschwiller.



The Seventh Infantry Command Post was located in the Chateau de Reichenberg from 21 to 29 December 1944.

Meanwhile the First and Second Battalions were completely relieved of their Rhine River positions in Strasbourg by the Third Battalion, 143rd Infantry, and moved tactically by vehicle over the same route used by the Third Battalion and other units. The First Battalion troops detrucked a little south of Ribeauville at 1630, then marched to the vicinity of Beblenheim and commenced relief of 142nd Infantry units, and completed the work at 2130. Company "A" occupied a line from Mittelwihr to the chateau 900 yards northeast. Company "C" continued the line to the northeast, nearly to Road Junction 190, near which Company "B" established a road block with one platoon. Company "B" also established an outpost about 1000 yards east on the road to Ostheim, and conducted patrols during the night but held the greater part of the company in battalion reserve on the east edge of Beblenheim.

The Second Battalion which closed into Ribeauville at 1730 constituted Third Division reserve. Company "G" established three blocks that day then added two more the next, all around Ribeauville.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol was attached to the Third Battalion and every two hours sent out motor patrols from its location in Kientzheim to Selestat to contact the Second French Armored Division, flanking the Regiment on the north, then back through the various Third Battalion units. The 15th Infantry occupied positions to the south of the Regiment. Company "C" of the 99th Chemical Battalion became attached to the Regiment and furnished support.

¹ Annex "C" to G-2 Periodic Report No. 144, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 Jan. '45.

THE 7TH INFANTRY OCCUPIES DEFENSIVE POSITIONS 21 DECEMBER 1944—
19 JANUARY 1945

Actually what had happened on 20-21 December 1944 was that the Third Infantry or "Rock of the Marne" Division, which had fought as a unit of the American Seventh Army since the invasion of southern France, had exchanged positions with the 36th Infantry or "Texan" Division. For the new campaign, in which the Seventh Infantry Regiment was to play a prominent role in the assault, the Third Infantry Division was to operate as a unit of the First French Army under the supreme command of General d'Armee Jean Joseph Gabriel de Lattre de Tassigny.

The First French Army with the Second French Armored Division as a principal striking arm was made up mostly of colonial troops such as the Goumiers, Algerians, Marocs, Senegalese, Spahis and French Foreign Legion. The French armor was greatly handicapped and limited in its operations in the "Colmar Pocket" due to the many rivers and the elaborate system of canals, which presented barriers. The French Colonial Infantry troops long known as excellent mountain fighters, nevertheless, lacked the experience, training and equipment to assault across rivers and water barriers. And that was the reason why the versatile Third Infantry Division, expert at amphibious operations as well as mountain and desert fighting, was on loan to the French general, to spearhead the drive that was to eliminate the pocket.

For the first month while in the "Colmar Pocket" the Seventh Infantry held two separate defensive positions. During the first night in the first defensive position the Seventh Infantry units on the line conducted aggressive patrols as well as the usual contact patrols. One patrol of Company "L" moved east from Guemar toward Illhausern, and succeeded in surprising and capturing three enemy who manned a machine gun.

On 22 December the Regimental Battle Patrol sent a daylight patrol to the Junghurst Maison Ferme near L'Ill River but failed to contact the enemy. The Battle Patrol relieved the Anti-Tank Mine Platoon at Ganzimatti Ferme with a seven-man outpost group.

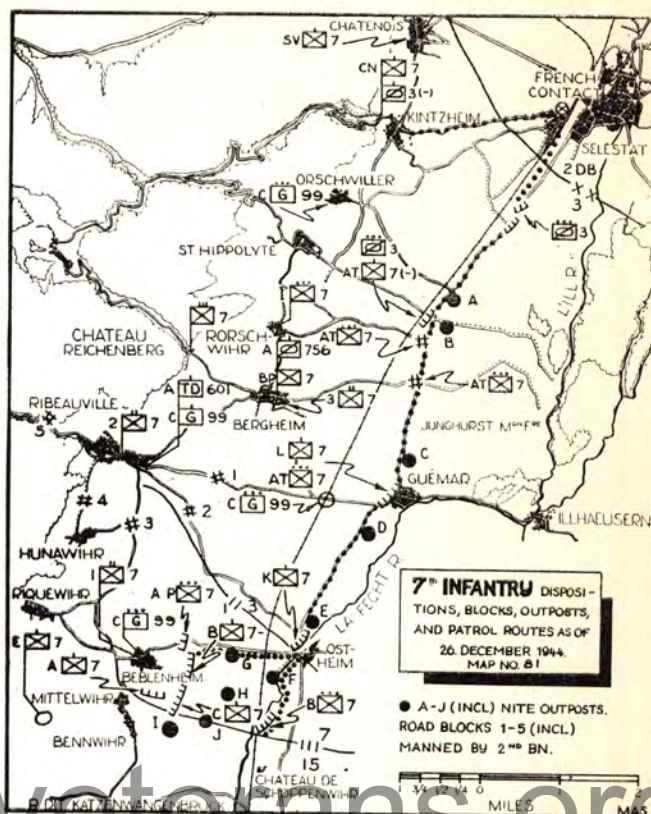
During the night of 22-23 December Company "B" moved one platoon to a position on the west bank of La Fecht River due east from Mittelwihr. A series of ten listening posts were established and operated each night thereafter.

The following morning the First Battalion advanced its line a few hundred yards to conform with the advance of the 15th Infantry on the south, which was staging a limited objective attack for the Third Infantry Division to capture Sigolsheim and Bennwihr and to clear Hill 351, which is located between the two towns.

Until 29 December the Seventh Regiment continued to hold its defensive positions with the First and Third Battalions, Anti-Tank Company and the Third Reconnaissance Troop on the line from the position east of Mittelwihr on La Fecht River, north through Ostheim and Guemar to Selestat, where contact was established with French elements.

The men who patrolled day and night during this period, or operated the listening and outposts, were the real heroes. Sometimes they failed to contact enemy, but quite often enemy were encountered and pitched battles resulted. The Pont dit Katzenwangenbrack over La Fecht River north of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr and the Junghurst Maison Ferme were the favorite objectives. The Third Reconnaissance Troop relieved the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol of occupying positions

so that the patrol could engage in its primary work. Attempts by patrols to reach the Chateau de Schoppenwihr failed as the enemy had it heavily guarded. Fire fights usually resulted. Enemy tanks protected the Pont dit Katzenwangenbrack at nights. The enemy finally destroyed the bridge. One day a patrol from Company "L" engaged four enemy machine guns in a fight and



suffered casualties. When the wounded were later recovered it was discovered the enemy had booby-trapped one of the casualties. "Love" Company in Guemar received such accurate enemy mortar and artillery fire it was suspected that civilians were signalling information to the enemy in regard to the "Cotton Baler" locations. The result was that the entire civil population of Guemar and the part of Ostheim held by our forces was evacuated. Defensive positions were improved by wire and mine laying. Extensive fire programs were fired by the artillery and the Seventh Infantry Cannon Company.

The Second Battalion had it relatively easy during the period as it was in Third Division reserve. Five blocks around Ribeauville were manned by the White Battalion troops.

Elements of the 15th Infantry commenced relief of the Seventh Infantry on position at midnight of 28-29 December. The Third Division, with the fresh 254th Infantry of the new 63rd Infantry Division attached,



Three officers who lost their lives in late December 1944 were: (1) 1 Lt. Robert E. Evans, Co. "A", died of injuries; (2) Capt. Leo G. Oberndorf, Co. "A", and (3) 1 Lt. Alex M. Karluk, Co. "M", killed in action.

readjusted its lines because of the relief of the Third Algerian Infantry Division, 5th Armored Division, and the Second Goumiers Tabor Division on the right and a general regrouping of all units of the First French Army in order to free reserves. The Ninth French Zouaves Regiment was to enter the line on the Third Division's right. Upon completion of the adjustments and reliefs, the American Third Infantry Division was to place particular attention to defense of Ribeauville, Ammerschwahr, Kaysersberg, Orbey, La Place and La Chappelle positions.

The First and Third Battalions and Anti-Tank Company were completely relieved during the afternoon of 29 December 1944. The Red Battalion assembled in Riquewahr and the Blue Battalion in St. Hippolyte, as Cannon Company assembled in Kientzheim and prepared to move with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion. The Third Division Battle Patrol became attached to the Third Battalion. The Second Battalion was relieved of its blocks around Ribeauville and prepared to move.

The Second Battalion, reinforced with Anti-Tank Company and platoons from Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, moved by motor at 0800 on 30 December. The route followed ran west from Ribeauville along the road which goes up the narrow defile, in the heavily wooded Vosges Mountains, and winds around to the southwest through Aubure and Freland across the Weiss River to the Station de Freland, on the road northwest out of Kaysersberg. When the convoy reached Station de Freland it then moved west through Hachimette to the vicinity of Orbey.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and the 7th Infantry Cannon Company moved from Bergheim to Ribeauville during the afternoon. Then from Ribeauville they followed the same route of the Second Battalion to the vicinity of Hachimette. There firing batteries went into position. Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company also moved during the afternoon to Hachimette where the command post was established in Kuster Hotel.

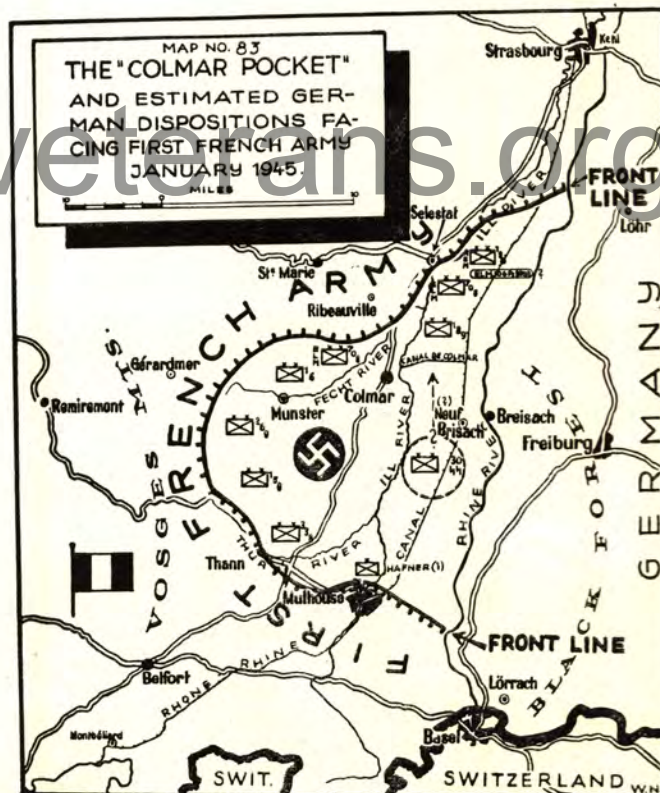
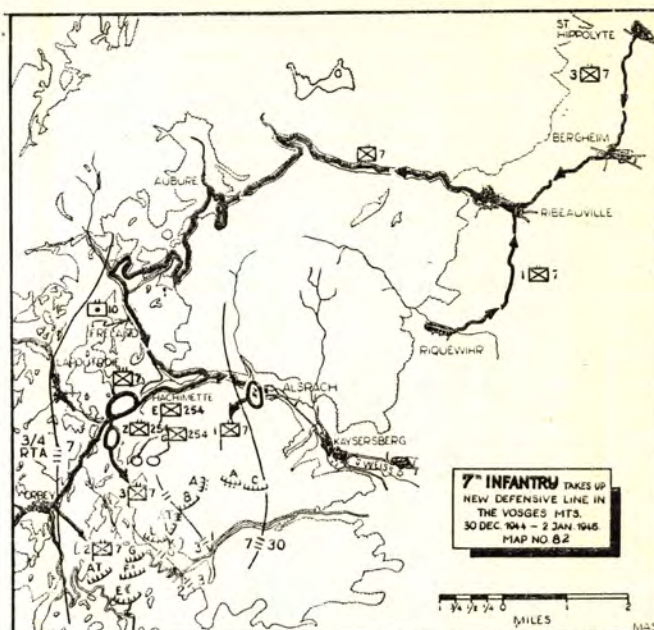
The Second Battalion commenced relief of the 2eme Battalion, Iere Regiment Tirailleurs Algerien in its right front sector at 2100 and completed the work at 0100 on 31 December 1944 without incident. In the early morning light enemy mortar and artillery concentrations were received. Company "G" occupied positions near La Chappelle. "Fox" Company was a few hundred yards to the southwest near LeFaite while "Easy" Company held a line in the vicinity of Le Chene and La Place. Anti-Tank Company went into position on the hill near Le Bouleau. The attached armor was disposed among the units.

The First Battalion with a platoon of light tanks from Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, two flak-wagons from a detachment of 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion and a platoon of chemical mortars moved out of Riquewahr to Ribeauville then over the used route to Station de Freland, but there it turned east and moved to the vicinity of Alspach. Relief was commenced immediately of the 2eme Regiment Goumiers Tabor Marocain.

The Third Battalion, with two "flakwagons", a platoon of chemical mortars and the Third Division Battle Patrol, moved in one column out of St. Hippolyte at 1100 to Ribeauville then moved over the prescribed route for an assembly area in the vicinity of the road junction west of Hachimette.

The First Battalion completed relief of French forces

in its sector at 1415. Company "B" went into position on a line from Hill 883 northeast to the vicinity of Herrenwassen stream. Company "C" continued the line east another thousands yards. Company "A" established a block with one platoon on the road between "Baker" and "Charlie" Company lines and held the remainder of the company in battalion reserve.



The Blue Battalion relieved elements of the 2eme Battalion, 7eme Regiment Tirailleurs Algerien, 3eme Division Infanterie Algerien, during the night and occupied positions in the center of the Seventh Infantry line. Companies "L", "K", and "I" occupied a line from La Goutte south of Hill 885 to the northeast of Company "B's" position.

On 30 December elements of the 254th Infantry Regiment consisting of its Second Battalion, Cannon Company, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Com-

munications Platoon and Service Company were officially attached to the Seventh Infantry and assembled in Val de Ville, northwest of Selestat. On the first day of the new year the new attachments assembled in the vicinity of Allagouttes with the exception of the Service Company which was attached to Seventh Infantry Service Company in Lapoutroie, and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon which was attached to the First Battalion. The remainder of the attached troops furnished reserve for the Seventh Infantry and worked on counter-attack plans to destroy or throw back enemy forces which might break through the front line positions. Four sections of the French 20th Mule Company were attached to the Regiment on 31 December. The Goums and their mules, old companions of the "Cotton Balers" in Italy, hauled supplies to places that jeeps could not reach.

Until 4 January 1945 the Regiment maintained its front line defensive positions and improved them by laying tactical wire. Aggressive patrols were conducted. A patrol of Company "G" captured eight enemy without firing a shot one night. Other patrols engaged enemy in small arms fights. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of the 254th Infantry Regiment and the Third Division Battle Patrol were relieved of attachment and reported to the Third Battalion, 15th Infantry.

Company "E", 254th Infantry, was attached to the Second Battalion and during the night of 4-5 January 1945 relieved the 4th Company, First Battalion, First French Parachute Regiment to extend the Seventh Infantry's sector of responsibility another thousand yards on the right or west.

From 5 to 15 January 1945 the Seventh Infantry continued to hold and improve its front line positions by laying tactical wire, mines, trip-flares and booby traps. Aggressive patrols, artillery and mortar actions marked the period. From the 7th to 9th all elements of the 254th Infantry Regiment were relieved of attachment and moved to the vicinity of Ribeauville. Anti Tank Company replaced Company "E" of the 254th Infantry on the right end of the line. Some readjustments and shifting of companies were made.



During the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign the Seventh Infantry fought the bitter cold and deep snow of the Vosges Mountains as well as the enemy.

Again the heroes were those who patrolled and felt the enemy lines. Each night from four to eight reconnaissance and combat patrols operated to the front besides the regular contact patrols to adjacent units. All rifle companies as well as the Regimental Battle Patrol

sent patrols out in the snow and cold of the Vosges winter. The enemy did the same thing and frequently sharp clashes resulted from meeting engagements. One four man enemy patrol was taken intact as it approached First Battalion lines early one cold, bitter morning. Another four man enemy patrol infiltrated the positions of Company "E", 254th Infantry Regiment, the night before that company was detached from the Seventh Infantry, and reached the vicinity of the command post where it fired rifle shots before withdrawing.

Staff Sergeant Mitchell Tarasiuk of the Regimental Battle Patrol engaged an eight-man enemy patrol which was attempting to cut off his unit the night of 11 January. With "Tommy Gun" fire he killed three Germans and routed the remainder of the enemy force.²



The house shown above, near Orbe, France, served as the command post of the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, during January 1945.

On the night of 13 January 1945 while Private Conrad L. Lacombe, a scout of the Regimental Battle Patrol, was leading a reconnaissance patrol toward a house near Le Chene, France, the enemy sent up a flare and opened up with machine gun fire. Bullets from a machine gun less than twenty yards to his front, tore through Private Lacombe's camouflage suit and jacket as he hugged the snow-covered ground. Meanwhile he readied a grenade. When the enemy sent up a second flare, he hurled the grenade into the emplacement, inflicted casualties and silenced the weapon. He then turned his "Tommy Gun" on a machine pistol operator twenty-five yards away, and silenced him with several bursts of fire.²

The complete story of the operations of the Seventh Infantry patrols would fill a book and unfortunately only a few can be told here. A "Fox" Company patrol encountered enemy minefields one night and suffered casualties. A "Love" Company patrol led by Staff Sergeant Herman F. Nevers approached La Baroche and the leader was captured and taken into a house where he was grilled by an enemy interrogator before fifteen others, many of whom wore black uniforms. Staff Sergeant Nevers always kept a small pistol concealed in one of his boots, which the enemy failed to detect when they "frisked" him. To their surprise he suddenly drew the pistol and held them at bay while he backed out of the

² GOs No. 345 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. S/Sgt. Tarasiuk & Pvt. (later S/Sgt.) Lacombe were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

door and into the blackness of the night. On another occasion the enemy booby trapped a small house used by Company "E" as an outpost. When the outpost group sought to enter one night the house blew up, just before anyone actually entered. Luckily the trip cord had been pulled prematurely. The night of 12-13 January 1945 saw three patrols engaging in stiff fights. The enemy suffered casualties. The next night a "Fox" Company patrol engaged fifteen enemy in a spirited small arms fight in the snow. The enemy also raided a Company "E" outpost and two men became missing.

7TH INFANTRY PLANS STRONG RAID ON ENEMY POSITIONS

On order of the division commander, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges outlined plans for a raid in force on enemy positions south of Hills 885 and 883 on the morning of 16 January 1945.

The Third Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey, was directed to employ two rifle companies in the attack and one in reserve. One company was to assemble at "Y", cross line of departure "White" at 0630 in the attack, seize successively Objectives 1, 2 and 3, destroy all enemy positions, and re-enter Seventh Infantry lines on completion of the mission. Another company was to assemble at "Z", cross line of departure "Blue" at 0730 in the attack, seize and hold Objective "X", destroy or capture enemy in its zone, and protect the right flank of the company attacking

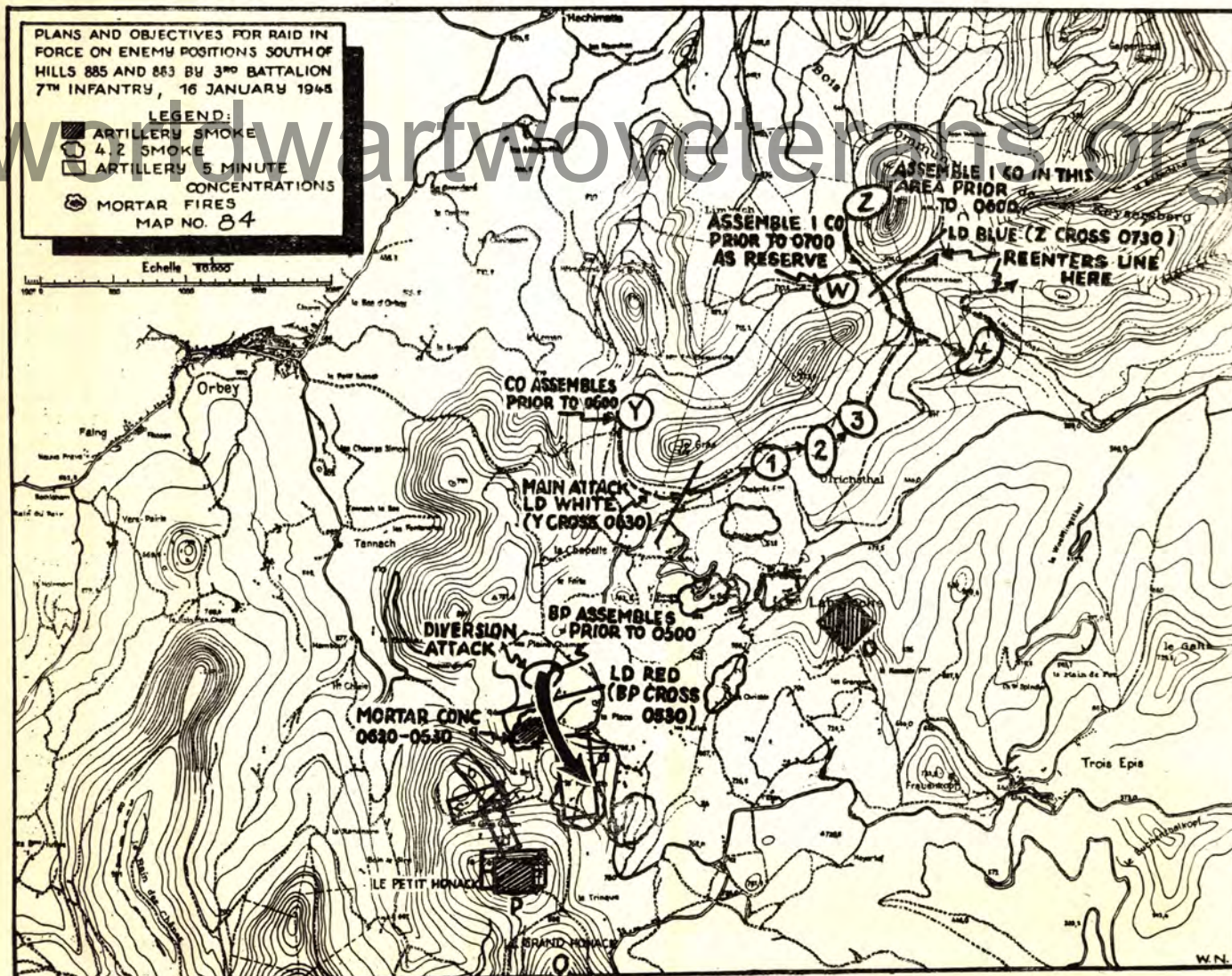
from "Y", until ordered to withdraw by order of the Third Battalion commander. A third company was to assemble at "W" as reserve and be committed only on regimental order.

The Second Battalion was directed to conduct a diversionary attack on enemy positions in the vicinity of Hill 806 by employing the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol. The Battle Patrol was to assemble in the vicinity of the Company "E" location prior to 0500. Then from 0520 to 0530 the Second Battalion was to place mortar concentrations on "g". At 0530 the Battle Patrol was to cross line of departure "Red", attack and destroy enemy positions in the vicinity of Hill 806, fire all its weapons and withdraw prior to day-break.

Commencing at 0530 the 10th Field Artillery Battalion was to place successive five minute concentrations on areas designated by "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", and "f", then support the attack with fires as requested by the Third Battalion commander. The artillery was to smoke areas "O", "P", and "Q" from 0800 to 0900. Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, was to smoke designated areas and support the attack. The First and Second Battalions were to be prepared to furnish fire support on call.

THE RAID OF 16 JANUARY 1945

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol assembled in its assigned area near Le Chene as directed, but ten minutes before H-Hour a mortar barrage fell on the assembly



area. One of the leaders, Second Lieutenant Richard S. Brown, was killed and five men were wounded.

Private First Class Joseph E. Pawlen, Jr., of the Medical Detachment crawled to the aid of the wounded. While shells burst fifteen to twenty yards from him, he lay on his stomach and amputated with a scissor the badly mutilated leg of one of the casualties. After evacuating the other injured soldiers, he enlisted the aid of a tank destroyer and evacuated the more seriously wounded man, whose life he saved.³

Second Lieutenant Stanley Petropolis led the remainder of the Battle Patrol in the attack and carried out the diversionary efforts as planned.

Company "L" commanded by Captain Phillip T. Terry crossed line of departure "White" at the appointed time but encountered enemy mortar and small arms fire. The advance was continued until eight enemy machine guns in the vicinity of Labaroche held up the company.

When others assigned to perform the mission showed hesitancy, Private First Class Graham Stewart voluntarily abandoned the cover of a bank and ran twenty-five yards over open terrain toward an enemy-held house with a demolition charge. Reaching the side of the house, he tossed a thermite grenade through a window and then followed it with the explosive. Before Private First Class Stewart could reach the safety of the embankment, the resulting blast, destroyed the house and hurled him over the bank. A piece of flying timber struck him on the knee. Two enemy machine gunners, later captured, stated that the house had sheltered thirty Germans.⁴

A heavy fight ensued and three enemy machine guns were knocked out. The Germans retaliated with machine gun fire and heavy mortar concentrations which inflicted casualties on "Love" Company. Technical Sergeant Ned Finch, Staff Sergeant Walter F. McCoy, Sergeant Onis L. Rains, Private First Class William B. Fortuna and Private First Class Joseph Ungar were killed. Unable to advance further Company "L" was ordered to withdraw.

Company "I", under the command of Captain Edward J. Brink, crossed line of departure "Blue" at 0700 in the attack.

At one point sudden machine gun and rifle fire at seventy-five yards range disorganized one of the "Item" Company platoons. Sergeant Edward A. Mottershead rallied a group of men and led them forward to within fifty yards of the enemy's well-concealed positions. Although severely wounded by a bullet in the hip, he retained command and continued to direct fire against



The village church in Hachimette, Alsace, France.

the enemy. His men laid down such effective fire that the enemy withdrew and abandoned a machine gun. Sergeant Mottershead's courageous leadership enabled his company to continue on its mission.⁵

With one enemy machine gun removed, Company "I" continued on to Objective "X" where at 0900 it became engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. Sergeant William C. Hartman was killed. In a sharp engagement Company "I" knocked out three enemy machine guns, killed twelve Germans, captured thirteen and fulfilled every detail of its mission.



Major General John W. ("Iron Mike") O'Daniel and Lieutenant Colonel Heintges talk things over just before the awards ceremony for 7th Infantry personnel near Hachimette.

Meanwhile, due to the inability of "Love" Company to advance, Company "K" the reserve company under the command of Captain Francis J. Kret, was committed. A line of departure was crossed in the vicinity of the "spiderweb" at 0835. Enemy resistance in the form of machine gun fire was encountered.

Company "K" advanced on Objectives 3 and 2 where a number of enemy were killed and an estimated 100 flushed from the position. When its ammunition was exhausted the company withdrew. All Seventh Infantry units were back within their own lines at 1300.

A total of twelve enemy machine guns had been destroyed, an unknown number of enemy killed, seven captured and the enemy flushed from forward positions. Cost of the raid to the Seventh Infantry was one officer and six enlisted men, four of whom were non-commissioned officers, killed in action and twenty-seven wounded. Company "L" suffered most with five men killed and thirteen wounded.

Captain Edward J. Brink, First Lieutenant Milan J. Teekell and Private First Class Benjamin Nathanson, all of Company "I", and Staff Sergeant Floyd J. Backus of Company "K" were cited for actions performed that day.⁶

³ GO No. 306, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Aug. '45. Pfc Pawlen (later a T/5) was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴ GO No. 89, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Mar. '45. Pfc (later Sgt.) Stewart was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. Sgt. Mottershead was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GOs No. 113, 168, 171 & 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Mar., 20 & 22 May & 18 July '45. Capt. Brink, 1 Lt. Teekell, S/Sgt. Backus & Pfc Nathanson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

SEVENTH INFANTRY HOLDS ITS LINE WITH ATTACHMENTS AS "COTTON BALERS" REST AND PREPARE TO RESUME THE OFFENSIVE

Following conclusion of their raids, Third Battalion forces and the Regimental Battle Patrol withdrew to assembly areas in and near Hachimette.

On 16 January the 290th Engineer Battalion and the Third Battalion (less Company "L") of the 254th Infantry were attached to the Seventh Infantry and were used to hold the front line positions until the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was relieved of responsibility for the sector on 19 January.

Relief of the First and Second Battalions and Anti-Tank Company was accomplished during the night of 16-17 January. The Red Battalion then assembled in Alspach while the White Battalion and Anti-Tank Company assembled in Lapoutroie before moving to Kaisersberg during the morning. The Second Battalion however had left its 60 and 81mm mortar sections and its anti-tank platoon in place to support the engineers who were to experience their first duty in the front lines.

On the 17th, Company "L", 254th Infantry, also became attached to the Regiment and relieved the Battle Patrol and Company "L", 30th Infantry, on the left, to further extend the sector of Seventh Infantry responsibility. The Third Reconnaissance Troop remained in position in the additional sector and was also attached to the Regiment.

The line was held with the attachments until on 19 January when the remnants of the 112th Infantry, a regiment of the 28th Infantry Division, which had been greatly depleted by the German offensive in the "Bulge", relieved the Third Battalion, 254th Infantry, and the Third Reconnaissance Troop, which in turn were relieved of attachment to the Seventh Infantry. The 290th Engineer Battalion, 20th French Mule Company and one platoon of Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, were released from attachment to the Seventh Infantry but attached to the new organization and continued their missions. All the Seventh Infantry mortar and machine gun sections, which had remained in

the lines to support the attachments, were withdrawn and at 1700 on 19 January 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges passed command of the sector to the commanding officer of the 112th Infantry. For the first time since 19 November 1944 the Regiment was officially out of the line as during the previous changes from one sector to another the shifting had been done by one battalion



Four of the ten "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 14-16 January 1945 were: (1) Sgt. William C. Hartman, Co. "I"; (2) S/Sgt. George W. Partin, Co. "A"; (3) Pfc David A. Wolaver, Co. "H" and (4) 2 Lt. Richard S. Brown, Reg't I B.P.

at a time and there were always some Seventh Infantry troops in the lines in one place or another. Even during the period from 17 to 19 January 1945 when the line was held by the attachments, the heavy weapons personnel were in the lines and Cannon Company rendered support.

From 18 to 21 January 1945 the rifle companies rested, rehabilitated and engaged in some limited training. At an awards ceremony which was held during the period, the commanding general of the Third Infantry Division decorated a number of "Cotton Balers" for extraordinary heroism and gallant actions displayed on previous days.

CHAPTER II

Phase One of the Attack

22-26 JANUARY 1945

On 20 January 1945 the First French Corps of the First French Army opened the attack against German forces in the "Alsace Bridgehead" or "Colmar Pocket", from Mulhouse in the south. Two days later the Second French Corps, with the American Third Infantry Division in the assault role, was to attack from the northwest at night. The attacking regiments were to force crossings of La Fecht and L'Ill Rivers, pivot to the south and cross the Canal de Colmar in an encircling movement designed to isolate and capture Colmar and to seize the important terrain features to the east of Colmar, preliminary to a continued attack. On the following day at dawn the Premiere Division Infanterie Marocain was to launch an attack on the Third Division's left as all available forces of the First French Army were to be brought into action to converge on Neuf-Brisach, and eliminate the "Colmar Pocket".

The action of the American Third Infantry Division developed into three distinct assault phases and it is a noteworthy fact that the Seventh Infantry Combat Team played a principal assault role in all three phases. In the first phase the 30th Infantry teamed up with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment until relieved by the 15th Infantry. In the second phase the 15th Infantry was to attack alongside the inimitable "7th Light Foot" across the Canal de Colmar but was delayed. In the third and final phase the Seventh Infantry "doughboys" alone opened the attack between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin and the Rhine River.

For Phase I, plans of Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges called for the First and Third Battalions, under the respective commands of Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace and Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey, to assemble their troops northeast of Beblen-

heim, under cover of darkness on 22 January 1945. Each of the assault battalions was to move one assault platoon across La Fecht River during early darkness prior to H-Hour, which was established at 2100. The assault platoons were to seize and secure bridgeheads and protect bridge building parties from Company "A", 10th Engineers, and to cover crossings of the main forces of the battalions at H-Hour.

The First and Third Battalions, following the successful crossings of La Fecht River on bridges "Red" and "Blue" on the south edge of Guemar, were to swing to the south and southeast, clear their zones of all enemy and capture successive objectives. The First Battalion drew the mission of capturing Ostheim, Objective "A", and was ordered on completion of that assignment to send a strong combat formation of not less than one company to Objective "D" to block the road from the

as rapidly as possible and seize Objectives "N", "P", "Q", and "S" while the Battle Patrol was to move on "M", and seize and hold the crossing there until engineers should install another bridge. Upon seizure of "S" the Second Battalion was to send strong combat patrols to the south, organize road blocks and strong-points with armor, anti-tank guns and mines to prevent a possible enemy armored thrust from penetrating the Regiment's positions. The battalion was then to be prepared to continue the attack on Regimental order.

Cannon Company under the command of First Lieutenant George Guckert was to occupy firing positions east of Zellenberg and support the Regiment in its zone of advance by coordinating fire with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion.

Anti-Tank Company under the command of First Lieutenant Murlan F. Smith was to assemble initially in



Two views of Kayserberg, Alsace, France, during January, 1945.

worldwarveterans.org

south and to protect the right flank of the Second Battalion which was to pass through in the right half of the Regiment's zone. The Third Battalion was to advance with all possible speed on the left and seize successive objectives which included Houssen, Objective "O". Upon seizure of Objective "T" the Third Battalion was to send strong combat patrols to the south toward Colmar and block enemy armored approaches from the city with tanks, tank destroyers, anti-tank guns and mines, and be prepared to attack southwest, south or southeast on Regimental order. Blue Battalion patrols along the left flank were to report all available crossings over L'III River, maintain contact with the 30th Infantry on the left and protect the Regiment's left flank.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, attached to the Second Battalion, was to occupy Objective "E" from Concentration Area 1 and at H-Hour was to simulate a crossing of La Fecht River in the vicinity of the railroad bridge, and fire all its weapons for ten minutes to create a diversion.

The Second Battalion, commanded by Major Jack M. Duncan, was to cross La Fecht River by the First and Third Battalion bridges on Regimental order, pivot to the south and go into the attack. The White Battalion forces were to assault Objective "K", the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, from Objective "Z" and get support, on signal, from the Battle Patrol, which by that time was to have two medium tanks. Signal of the battalion commander to the Battle Patrol which would bring the supporting fire was to be two green flares. Flares with white and red clusters were to signal that a lifting of fire was desired. Upon reduction of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr the Second Battalion was to continue the attack

the vicinity of Riquewihr and be prepared on order to move one anti-tank platoon each to the Second and Third Battalions over the Ostheim bridge and hold one platoon in reserve in the vicinity of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr.

Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to infiltrate into firing positions in the vicinity of Riquewihr and Zellenberg during the night of 21-22 January 1945 and support the initial attack of the Regiment by direct fire in zone "DOG-FACE" from 2130 to 2200, in zone "FACE-SOLDIER" from 2300 to 2330, in zone "SOLDIER-BOY" from 0100 to 0200 and in zone "BOY-OKAY" from 0200 to 0300.

One platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, three sections of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, two platoons of Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, all attached to the Regiment, were to assemble in the concentration areas during the night of 21-22 January and be prepared to move on Regimental order. The chemical mortars were to be attached to the First and Third Battalions initially.

Upon completion of the vehicle bridge at Ostheim by the engineers, the attachments were to be rushed to the support of the battalions on order. One mine clearing squad each, from Company "A", 10th Engineers, were to support the Second and Third Battalions.

On the left of the Seventh Infantry the 30th Infantry was also to cross La Fecht River, seize some assigned objectives then cross L'III River. On the right, west of La Fecht River, the 254th Infantry was to attack through a holding line held by 28th Infantry Division units, seize objectives and support the Seventh Infantry

attack by fire on Ostheim, from all its available weapons from 2200 to 2230 the night of the attack.

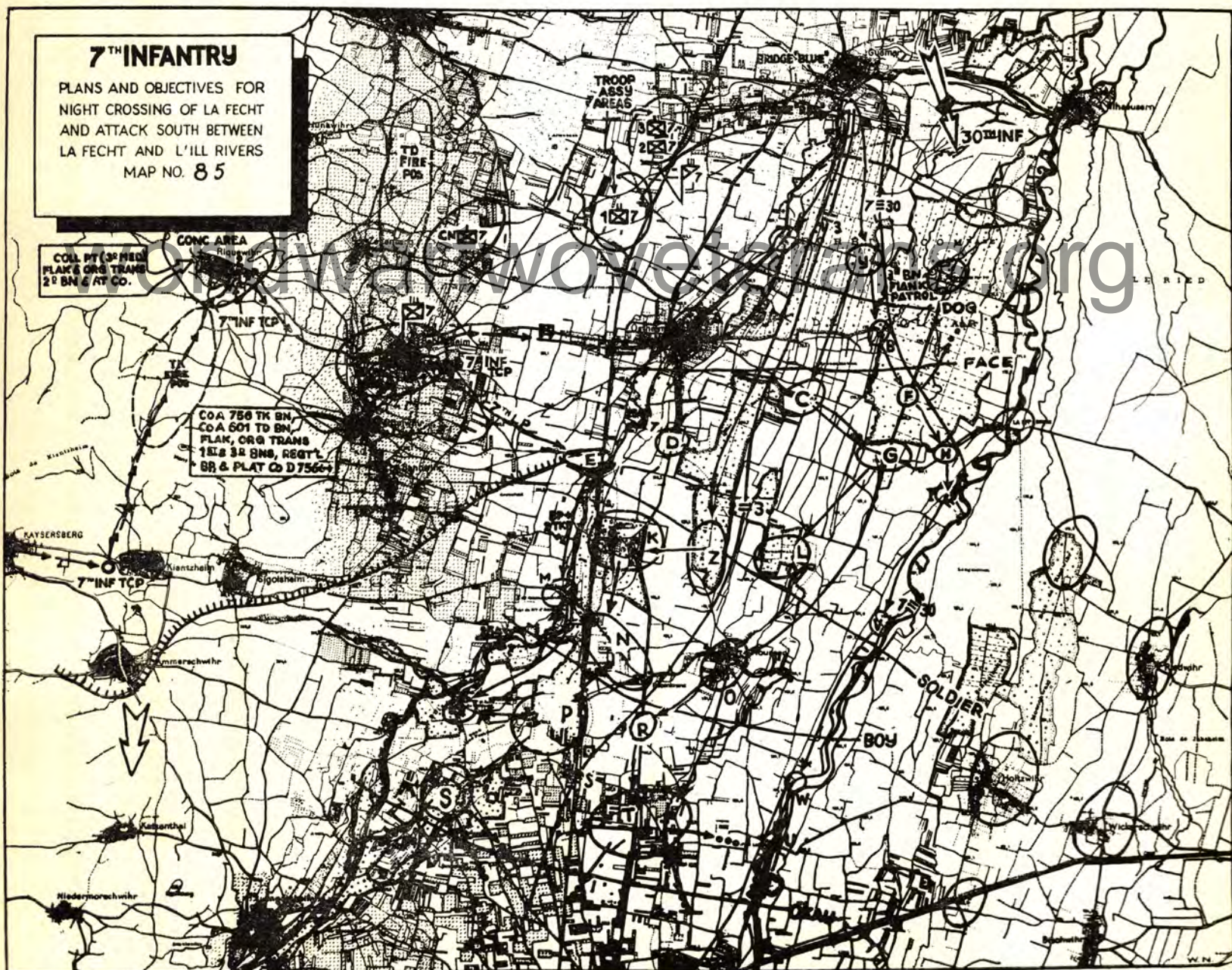
The terrain which was to be the new battle ground for the Seventh Infantry is a part of the flat Alsatian Plain which lies between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine River. The Forêt Communale de Colmar and Bois dit de Rothleible provided wooded areas for concealment of both enemy and Seventh Infantry movements.

The exact enemy strength in the Seventh Infantry sector was undetermined. Prisoners had not been captured in that sector for some time but it was believed that the German 708 Division controlled the area. Continuous reports of enemy activity consisting of chopping and hammering in the wooded areas had been received and indicated that enemy dugouts and defenses were within the sector. Patrols had drawn sniper fire from across La Fecht River. No recent enemy artillery or mortar positions had been located; however, small-sized mortars had been firing concentrations on the part of Ostheim west of the river held by American forces and comparatively heavy artillery had been received.

7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO POSITION FOR THE NIGHT ATTACK

Attached armor and tactical vehicles of the Regiment used the bridge in Kaysersberg as their initial point and moved to firing positions and concentration areas during the night of 21-22 January without incident.

At 1000 on 22 January foot troops of the First Battalion moved through Kaysersberg enroute to Concentration Area 1. The route followed was to the east to Road Junction 229.3 on the edge of Kientzheim, then north over the unimproved road which runs up the saddle between the wooded mountains of the Bois de Kientzheim on the left and Mont de Sigolsheim on the right to Riquewihr. The enemy from vantage points to the south observed the movement of the "Cotton Baler" troops and interdicted the road junction and road north, to where it crossed the first rise. The Red Battalion troops moved through the interditory fire and successfully closed into its concentration area early in the afternoon. The Blue Battalion troops, having moved from Hachimette to Kaysersberg by vehicle, followed the First



Battalion troops on foot by a two and one-half hour interval. On reaching the road junction and starting the trek north the Blue Battalion troops received heavier fire from enemy self-propelled artillery and sustained casualties, which caused some delay, but the troops hurried on past the danger zone and closed into Concentration Area 1 at 1545. The Second Battalion troops experienced less trouble and closed into their area near Riquewihr at 1800. The Regimental Command Post opened in Beblenheim.



Chaplain Raymond E. Vint conducted services out of doors near Guemar, Alsace, just a few hours before the first attack of the "Colmar Pocket" operations was opened.

Final check of all personnel was made in the concentration areas. Canteens were filled. Wearing the white "spook suit" each individual carried one "K" ration, and the bothersome gas mask, besides firing weapons. Each rifleman carried four bandoliers of ammunition and a minimum of two fragmentation grenades. Each battalion was equipped with ten toboggans for hauling heavier equipment. Skis and snow shoes were with the regimental train. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, established a forward casualty collecting station in Riquewihr as initial evacuation of casualties was to be made through Guemar, but later over the Ostheim bridge when established.

The Blue Battalion troops made the first move for the forward assembly areas at 1750 and entered their area south of the Station de Ribeauville two hours later. Red and White Battalion troops followed at half-hour intervals.

During the early darkness two assault rifle platoons, one each from the First and Third Battalions, crossed La Fecht River in the vicinity of Guemar and secured bridgeheads on the east side of the river. Under the protection of those platoons construction parties from Company "A", 10th Engineers, completed two foot bridges over the icy river. Speedily and efficiently the work was completed before H-Hour, when two Seventh Infantry rifle battalions were scheduled to cross the river in strength.

On the first anniversary day of the Nettuno landings, but not to the exact hour, the main bodies of the First and Third Battalions, Seventh Infantry, crossed La Fecht River by the two foot bridges. H-Hour was 2100. In fifteen minutes' time "Item" Company was completely across and reported no activity. "Able" and "King" Companies followed. The movement by stealth in the darkness of the night was working. However, when "Charlie" and "Love" Companies were in the process of crossing, enemy artillery fire began to be received as the enemy became aware of what was going

on. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol meanwhile had occupied Objective "E" and staged its diversion to the south in a simulated crossing.

After crossing the river the First and Third Battalions swung to the south and southeast and began advancing toward their objectives. The supporting weapons of the Regiment opened with their fire as planned.

In another diversionary attack Second Lieutenant William M. Moegelin of Company "C" led a patrol in fording the icy La Fecht near Ostheim. He led his nine-man patrol to a point twenty yards from a hostile machine gun nest. An attack was made on the enemy position. The weapons of six men failed to operate. With the few remaining weapons the enemy machine gun was engaged for about fifteen minutes, until one man was wounded. Second Lieutenant Moegelin then withdrew his men and led them to another position. There he was wounded by an exploding mine. His patrol assumed a defensive position.

The First Battalion encountered numerous mines and wire obstacles in the Bois Communal de Colmar in its zone while the Third Battalion ran into enemy small arms and machine gun opposition.

The First Battalion troops became bogged down on the edge of a mine field and were disorganized by the exploding mines and enemy fire which was received. It was then that the battalion commander and a platoon leader from Company "A" displayed extraordinary heroism while leading the troops. Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace crossed the uncharted mine belt and by example inspired men to follow him. Leading a unit over a foot bridge he was exposed to enemy small arms and machine gun fire. He directed an assault on enemy emplacements and personally captured six Germans. First Lieutenant Bernard F. Coday led his platoon through the mine field under enemy automatic fire. He then advanced in the assault over a foot bridge which was swept by the crossfire of three enemy machine guns. Reaching the far side of the ravine he plunged forward and fired his carbine into enemy positions. He destroyed a three-man machine gun crew and put other Germans to flight. During a second assault he was wounded but continued to direct his platoon's attack from a prone position in the snow, until all enemy strong points in the wooded area were destroyed. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace was awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross and First Lieutenant Coday was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷



Ostheim was almost completely destroyed by bombardments from both sides during the Colmar operations.

⁷ For authority see GOs No. 585 & 622, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 6 & 18 Oct. '45.

When the First Battalion finally passed through the mine and wire obstacles and overcame enemy resistance in the Bois Communal de Colmar, it moved rapidly for its objectives. Ostheim was entered at 0400 and the Red Battalion troops then became engaged in a very heavy small arms and machine gun battle for the town, as the enemy were determined to hold on to the place. The patrol of Second Lieutenant Moegelin, which had earlier made a diversionary attack, joined the main forces of the battalion in Ostheim. In the ensuing fight Second Lieutenant Moegelin was killed.⁸

The First Battalion troops battled with fierce determination and at 0950 had cleared all the town except two blocks in the southern district. There the Germans stubbornly held on and it was not until 1730 in the late afternoon that the enemy troops were completely expelled from Ostheim. Staff Sergeants Lee S. Ashford and Kenneth L. Russ, Privates First Class Philip A. Brandenburg, Winn McCarty and Edward T. Winiarski, all of Company "A"; Sergeant Paul D. Helms, Corporal Jack Silberman and Private First Class William F. Daly, Jr., all of Company "D"; First Lieutenant John R. Mayhew of First Battalion Headquarters Company; Captain Frank J. Szladek and Second Lieutenant Robert L. Tillman of the Medical Corps were outstanding during the actions.⁹

The Third Battalion overcame its initial resistance and "I" Company, under the command of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony, on the right, and "L" Company, directed by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley,

ordered to cross the river over bridges "Red" and "Blue" and carry out its assigned mission. By 230140 all Second Battalion troops were across the river and were moving to the south. At 0435 the forward elements were at the southern edge of the Forêt Communale de Colmar. Company "E" pushed on across the flat, open, snow-covered terrain separating the Forêt Communale de Colmar from the Bois dit de Rothleible, and encountered concentrated enemy automatic fire.

In the early morning the point-blank fire of about one hundred Germans equipped with rifles and an estimated twenty machine guns wounded approximately thirty members of Company "E". Captain James F. Powell rallied the scattered elements of "Easy" Company. It was then that Private First Class Stephen C. Ludlam displayed the extraordinary heroism that merited a posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁰ With his company thus caught on the open, snow covered field by withering point-blank automatic and rifle fire, he and seven others advanced in the attack. Enemy bullets riddled his snow suit as he poured out M-1 rifle fire from exposed positions against a dug-in enemy force but twenty-five yards away. Three of his comrades, Privates First Class Richard F. Albus, William L. Catts and Philip Di Mura, were killed in the action. With his four remaining comrades Private First Class Ludlam fought intrepidly against hopeless odds for forty-five minutes. He personally silenced an enemy machine gun and killed seven Germans before he was mortally wounded.



Thirteen of the 26 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 23 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Richard F. Albus, Co. "E"; (2) Pfc Bradford L. Bing, Co. "G"; (3) Pfc William L. Catts, Co. "E"; (4) Pfc Philip Di Mura, Co. "E"; (5) Pfc Frank J. Flynn, M.D.; (6) Pfc Joseph A. Gurski, Co. "G"; (7) Pfc Gilbert J. Hinrich, M.D.; (8) Pfc Donald H. LaBare, Co. "G"; (9) Pfc Donald B. Mitchell, Co. "G"; (10) Pfc David P. Rorer, Jr., Co. "G"; (11) Pvt. Richard A. Solver, Co. "A"; (12) Pfc Jewel Wagner, Co. "G"; (13) Capt. Beverly G. Hays, Co. "C".

on the left, advanced rapidly through the woods. At 2230 the troops were across the east-west road between Road Junctions 177.1 and 178.1. "Love" Company was on Objective "Y". Mortar and small arms fire were received. Resistance was overcome and the troops pushed on for Objective "C", which was taken against moderate resistance. At 0715 on 23 January the Third Battalion troops jumped off for Objective "G", with some elements moving for the Brunnwald woods, Objective "L".

During the operations Lieutenant Colonel Heintges set up a forward command post in one of the few buildings of Ostheim west of La Fecht which were not completely demolished.

The Second Battalion, which had closed into its forward assembly area at 2200 on 22 January, was

Staff Sergeant Herbert C. Hoover and Technician Fourth Grade John C. Rowe, who had both been wounded, and Private First Class Delbert W. King, from different positions, drew the hostile fire and engaged

⁸ GO No. 163, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 May '45. 2 Lt. Moegelin was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹ GOs No. 77, 113, 120, 175, 177, 227, 235, 249, 256 & 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 & 29 Mar., 6 Apr., 24 & 25 May, 25 & 29 June & 15 July '45. Sgt. Helms, Pfc's Brandenburg & Winiarski were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal & Capt. Szladek, 1 Lt. Mayhew, 2 Lt. Tillman, S/Sgts. Ashford & Russ, Cpl. Silberman, Pfc's Daly & McCarty were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁰ For authority see GO No. 574, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 4 Oct. '45.

the enemy with Thompson sub-machine guns and rifles, and thus enabled Captain Powell, who was greatly assisted by Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Antonucci, to withdraw Company "E" to the cover of the Bois dit de Rothleible.¹¹

Artillery fire was directed on the enemy positions. Following a reorganization of Company "E", that rifle unit with Company "G" abreast of it, made a second attack for the Second Battalion across the snow-covered tableland.

Captain Powell was wounded when his company was about mid-way across the open space. He continued to lead his men however and brought them into the midst of the enemy positions. A hot battle ensued with both sides using all their available small arms and automatic weapons. The enemy then directed mortar fire into the battle areas. Staff Sergeant Antonucci boldly moved among his men despite the bursting mortar shells and directed skillful maneuvers of his platoon under fire. After an enemy machine gun inflicted eleven casualties among his men, the non-commissioned officer led his remaining men in a charge which resulted in the destruction of the German machine gun, the killing of several of the enemy and the capture of fifteen Germans.¹¹

Captain Leonard D. Hanney and First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane courageously led Company "G" across the snow-covered terrain during the attack on the strongly held enemy positions. When the company was mid-way across the open field the estimated one hundred enemy soldiers opened up with violent bursts of fire from numerous machine guns and laid concentrated mortar fire on the field. Privates First Class Bradford L. Bing, Joseph A. Gurski, Donald H. LeBore, Austin M. Long, Donald B. Mitchell, Wayne D. Mooney, David P. Rorer, Jr., Jewel E. Wagner and Sergeant Walter G. Wiede were killed.

As his squad encountered deadly machine gun fire from wooded positions fifty yards to his front, Private First Class Arthur Marcotte, of "George" Company, advanced intrepidly over the bullet-swept ground, and fired his sub-machine gun from the hip. Twenty yards from a hostile emplacement, he killed the three-man crew with a hand grenade. Seconds later, a sniper's bullet ripped into his stomach. Mortally wounded, Private First Class Marcotte staggered blindly forward for thirty yards and fell exhausted to the snow-covered ground but opened fire with his "Tommy-gun". He killed the sniper but died of his wound a few minutes later. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹²

Twenty-five casualties were suffered by Company "G" but due much to the courage and skill of its commanding officer the company continued forward. The light machine gun sections set up bases of fire as the riflemen of "George" Company assaulted the hostile positions. In one instance the platoon led by First Lieutenant McKane overran enemy positions during a fire fight at point blank range, killed six Germans and captured twelve others, including a mortar observation group and four machine guns intact.

The resolute attack of Companies "E" and "G" overran the enemy emplacements and resulted in the killing of forty Germans, the capture of thirty others and the withdrawal of other enemy from the area. Besides those already mentioned from Company "E", Captain Hanney, Sergeant Noel A. Gladden, Private First Class George H. Hartstein and Private First Class John J. Miele, who was killed in a subsequent action, all of Company "G", and Technician Fifth Grade Beuford L. Olson of the Medical Detachment were cited for gallantry displayed on that day.¹³

Enemy forces, which had been routed by the Third Battalion during its move through the Foret Communal de Colmar during the night, infiltrated through Second Battalion rear elements and caused enough alarm and diversion to upset the plans of the Regimental commander. Company "F" and other elements of the Second Battalion had to turn and attack the enemy within their midst. Sharp small arms and machine gun battles were fought before the Second Battalion forces were able to wipe out the enemy pockets of resistance. The northern sector of the Bois dit de Rothleible was cleared of all resisting enemy at noontime of 23 January. Because of the opposition encountered by Companies "E" and "G" and the infiltration of the other enemy forces into the rear elements of the battalion, the Second Battalion did not proceed with as much speed as was hoped. In fact it was necessary for a reorganization of the battalion during the afternoon.

The progress of the Third Battalion, which was at first quite rapid, was temporarily halted when the enemy launched a counter-attack with Infantry and tanks on the Regiment's left front. The enemy formations were broken up by fire from the supporting artillery and mortars. The Third Battalion then seized Objective "L". Private First Class James F. Morgan, a runner of Company "L", was brave and gallant during the action.¹⁴

Due to the developments, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges altered his plans and sent the First Battalion after the Chateau de Schoppenwihir, which originally had been a Second Battalion objective.

Company "A", under the command of Captain Michael Meliska, moved south from Ostheim to Objective "D". The remainder of the First Battalion maneuvered through the Bois dit de Rothleible and passed through the Second Battalion during the night. At 0200 on 24 January Companies "B" and "C" began the attack for the chateau. Strong opposition was encountered and at day-break the enemy counter-attacked with Infantry and six tanks. Captain Beverly G. Hays of "Charlie" Company was among the killed. First Lieutenant Robert B. Tallman assumed command of the company during the height of the battle.

Concentrated small arms fire and blasts of enemy automatic fire coupled with the action of the enemy tanks halted the assault companies of the First Battalion. When an enemy Mark VI or "Tiger" tank approached to attack the exposed flank of "Baker" Company, Private Clifton C. Thomas staved off the tank assault single-handedly. He ran 75 yards through heavy fire, without cover or concealment, and engaged the tank from an exposed position. Three enemy machine guns trained their fire upon his position. With only seconds to accomplish his mission, he launched two grenades which struck the tank and caused it to withdraw. Private Thomas was killed however by the enemy machine gun fire. For his extraordinary heroism he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁵

¹¹ GOs No. 145, 171, 187, 208 & 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Apr., 22 & 30 May, 12 & 25 June '45. Capt. Powell was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Antonucci & Hoover, T/4 Rowe & Pfc King were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² For authority see GO No. 585, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 6 Oct. '45.

¹³ GOs No. 66, 113, 158, 208 & 264, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Feb., 29 Mar., 12 May & 19 July '45. Capt. Hanney, Sgt. Gladden, Pfc Hartstein & Miele were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁴ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Morgan was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ For authority see GO No. 279, HQ, 7th Army, 28 June '45.

With the enemy counter-attack stopped Lieutenant Colonel Wallace again displayed outstanding leadership. He walked through barrages of enemy shell fire and urged the assault companies to continue the attack. The attack was renewed and elements of the rifle companies reached an embankment only twenty yards from the German positions. The First Battalion commander then disregarded exploding grenades and enfilading tank fire and led his men in the assault, which finally carried the enemy positions. For his actions of that day Lieutenant Colonel Wallace was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁶

Companies "B" and "C" succeeded in crossing the open ground between the Bois dit de Rothleible and the Chateau de Schoppenwihr. Three of the six enemy tanks had been knocked out by "bazooka" fire and the supporting artillery fire. A hot fight continued however throughout the day. Company "A" was unable to close in on the chateau from the north because of the powerful enemy resistance, but moved around through the Bois dit de Rothleible, and under the cover of a heavy smoke screen laid down by Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, crossed the open ground on the tanks and tank destroyers which were attached to the First Battalion. The First Battalion forces experienced difficulty in clearing the enemy from their well dug-in

Baler" company. Although the ditch provided inadequate protection from the automatic fire of advancing enemy Infantry, he calmly directed round after round of artillery on the foe from his prone position and hurled the Germans back to the shelter of a dike. For three hours he remained at his observation post despite wave after wave of German Infantry which surged forward. Each time the enemy were stopped before his position. As the last all-out German assault swept forward, he ordered the artillery to concentrate on his own location. Friendly shells exploded near him and wounded his assistant, yet First Lieutenant Connor continued to direct artillery fire on the assault enemy elements swarming around him until the German attack was shattered and broken. By his exemplary heroism he was responsible for the killing of approximately 50, and the wounding of an estimated 100 Germans. For his heroism First Lieutenant Connor was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁸

Using the artillery and all supporting weapons to the fullest extent the Second and Third Battalions repulsed the strong enemy counter-attacks of 24 January 1945. The Seventh Infantry troops highly praised the accurate shooting of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, commanded by Captain Orlando A. Richardson, Jr., Company "A", 601st



Five of the 10 members of the Regiment who were killed in action on 24 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Harry J. Brinke, Co. "E"; (2) Pfc Sterling B. G. Hall, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (3) T/5 John T. McBride, Co. "G"; (4) Sgt. Ernest C. Schultz, Co. "E"; (5) Pfc Norman Silberstein, Co. "E".

positions in and around the chateau but succeeded in the end, with Company "A" and the supporting armor giving it full fighting strength. The Chateau de Schoppenwihr was captured, and the area to the west between the railroad tracks and La Fecht River was cleared of enemy at 1850, after an all-day fight.

Captain Withhold F. Dylewski and First Lieutenant Walter R. Warne of Company "D", and First Lieutenant Richard L. Kerr and Private First Class Arthur F. Burr of Company "B" were cited for actions performed on that day.¹⁷

While the First Battalion battled for the Chateau de Schoppenwihr the Third Battalion experienced a rough time, as well, battling on the Regiment's left. A powerful enemy force consisting of an estimated 600 fanatical German Infantrymen, supported by six Mark VI or "Tiger" tanks, tank destroyers and artillery, counter-attacked from the southeast and east. The Second Battalion which had moved to Objective "Z" also was hit by an enemy counter-attack from the south.

First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor of Third Battalion Headquarters Company performed with extraordinary heroism during this critical time. He ran through the impact area of enemy artillery concentrations and directed friendly artillery fire on enemy forces. Unreeling a spool of telephone wire as he ran, he plunged into a shallow ditch thirty yards beyond the foremost "Cotton

Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Captain Francis X. Lambert, and other supporting elements which played a primary role in stopping the enemy. A total of nine enemy tanks were knocked out by their accurate fire, but not without losses, as six American pieces of armor were destroyed by the enemy.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol moved south from Ostheim and joined the First Battalion at the Chateau de Schoppenwihr during the evening.

Enemy Infantry had succeeded in getting a toehold in the southern portion of the Brunwald patch of woods and reinforced their positions during the night. The Third Battalion raided the enemy there and encountered mortar fire and stiff opposition in a machine gun and small arms fight. Company "L", commanded by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dille, maneuvered around the tip of the woods and encountered three enemy machine guns and a flakwagon in a fierce fight. Company "K" remained in contact with the enemy throughout the night.

¹⁶ For authority see GO No. 442, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 27 Aug. '45.

¹⁷ GOs No. 89, 113, 208 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 & 29 Mar., 12 June & 25 Sept. '45. Capt. Dylewski, 1 Lt. Kerr, 1 Lt. Warne & Pfc Burr were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁸ For authority see GO No. 47, HQ, 7th Army, 10 Feb. '45.

**7th INFANTRY MAKES ALL-OUT ATTACK
25 JANUARY 1945**

Following heavy artillery and mortar concentrations laid on Houssen and adjacent areas by the supporting weapons, the Seventh Infantry launched an all-out attack to the south with attached armor supporting the three battalions, at daybreak 25 January 1945. Only Company "I" did not participate in the attack. "Item" Company was left to contain the enemy in the southern portion of the Brunnwald woods.

The First Battalion attacked on the right, from the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, for the Station de Bennwihr, Mariafeld Ferme and Rosenkranz. The Second Battalion attacked in the center with the Third Battalion on the left as Houssen was the objective of both, and was divided into two equal attacking zones.

The enemy were well entrenched before the towns and put up a stiff fight before withdrawing into the villages themselves and there fighting bitterly. At about 0600 hours when his platoon was caught in the cross-fire of three enemy machine guns, Technical Sergeant Harry E. Havens of Company "G" mounted a friendly tank and directed fire which killed seven of ten Germans who were defending a position. The others withdrew. He then charged on foot through enemy fire and burst into an enemy-held house, killed two Germans and dispersed other enemy soldiers. After leading his men through anti-tank and "88" fire in the capture of three enemy guns, Technical Sergeant Havens assaulted a communications trench, captured four Germans, then led a house to house fight for the possession of twelve buildings in Houssen. Through his fearless leadership 15 Germans were killed, 10 wounded and 30 captured. For his extraordinary heroism in action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁹

First elements of the Second and Third Battalions entered Houssen between 0730 and 0800 that day and both battalions claimed the honors which go to first entry of a place. The Third Battalion took 50 prisoners and reported that the bulk of 700 enemy was withdrawing from the town because of the pressure of the attack but there were many Germans left with plenty of fight.

Many gallant actions were performed that day. With M-1 rifle fire Private First Class George W. Clark of

Company "G" killed the gunner and three other Germans who manned an anti-tank gun that had disabled a friendly tank destroyer. Second Lieutenant Lester H. Norve of Company "F" singlehandedly eliminated an enemy strong-point that was holding up the advance of his company, by killing four Germans with a 30 round burst of "Tommy-Gun" fire and then took four other enemy prisoners. Sergeant Ellis P. Hull of Company "G" eliminated another enemy defensive position with grenade fire that killed two Germans and forced others to flee. Private First Class William C. King, also of Company "G", who was himself killed in a subsequent action, killed two Germans in a bitter street fight in Houssen. First Lieutenant Charles W. Webb, Private First Class William G. Coon and Private First Class Leon P. Looney, all of Company "H" and each wounded in action during the fighting, effectively rendered heavy weapons support to the attacking riflemen. Sergeant Walter V. Albritton of Company "G" made a daring, singlehanded assault on a German position, killed two, wounded four and captured six of the enemy. Private First Class Joseph A. A. Beaudoin of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Staff Sergeant James L. McIntyre of Company "E" and Sergeant Ralph D. Hollars of Company "G" conducted themselves with distinction.²⁰

Meanwhile on the right, First Battalion forces had captured thirty-one Germans, including two officers, and by 0900 had seized the Station de Bennwihr and Mariafeld Ferme, and was fighting a sharp engagement for Rosenkranz.

Company "I" launched an attack that cleared the Brunnwald wood patch and drove the Germans there into the open where they were killed or taken prisoners.

The enemy launched a counter-attack against the First Battalion and followed that up with another against the Second and Third Battalions. Bitter fighting ensued.

¹⁹ For authority see GO No. 185, HQ, 7th Army, 10 May '45.

²⁰ GOs No. 77, 89, 113, 130, 168, 175, 249 & 264, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1, 9 & 29 Mar., 13 Apr., 20 & 24 May, 10 & 19 July '45. 1 Lt. Webb was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 2 Lt. Norve, S/Sgt. McIntyre, Sgts. Albritton, Hollars & Hull, Pfc's Beaudoin, Coon, Clark, Looney & King were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



KILLED IN ACTION

Photos of 11 of the 23 "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives on 25 January 1945 are here shown.

(1) Pfc Clyde J. Adkins, 3 bn. Hq. Co.; (2) Pfc Byron G. Camp, Jr., Co. "G"; (3) Pfc Benito C. Diaz, Co. "E"; (4) Pvt. Charles W. Fleming, Co. "G"; (5) S/Sgt. John H. Forkey, Co. "F"; (6) Pfc Vincent E. Hiland, Co. "E"; (7) Pfc Donald W. Hurd, Co. "E"; (8) Pfc Anton Kuttin, Jr., Co. "G"; (9) Pfc Emmett R. Teague, Co. "E"; (10) Pvt. Theodore E. Turpin, Co. "F"; (11) 1 Lt. Robert W. Smitherman, Co. "G".

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS VALDEZ DISPLAYS CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY

During the fighting for Rosenkranz by the First Battalion, Private First Class Jose F. Valdez, a Browning automatic rifleman of Company "B", performed with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, and sacrificed his life to stem the attacking enemy. At 0900 hours he killed three Germans in a fire duel at about fifty yards range and then engaged two companies of Germans who were infiltrating through the woods and deluging his position with automatic and rifle fire at close ranges.

Private First Class Valdez voluntarily covered the withdrawal of his hopelessly outnumbered five-man patrol, and continued his singlehanded fight until he was mortally wounded in the stomach. Alone and dying, he directed devastating mortar and artillery fire on the enemy for fifteen minutes. His directions brought the supporting fire to within fifty yards of his own position, killed an estimated fifty Germans and constituted the major factor in the repulse of the enemy counter-attack. Private First Class Valdez was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was the sixth award of the nation's highest valor medal to a "Cotton Baler" for action in World War II.²¹

The counter-attacks were stopped early in the afternoon with heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Company "G" contacted Company "C" in Rosenkranz and the town was cleared of Germans, as was Houssen.

During the actions which stopped the enemy thrusts, gallantry was shown by Sergeant Fred O. Mongold and Private John V. Olsen of Company "H", Private Carlo A. Parisi of Company "D", Private Peter T. Munderville of Company "A", Staff Sergeant George P. Grabner and Private First Class Tom G. Roderick of Company "I", Private First Class Grover E. Hungerford of the Medical Detachment and Private First Class Francis X. Jablonski of Company "G".²²

Early 26 January, enemy were seen forming south of Rosenkranz and Houssen for an attack. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, fired heavy concentrations on the enemy groups and dispersed them.

The First Battalion attacked enemy in bunker positions in the Bois de la Fecht and in turn was counter-attacked. The enemy attack was stopped, then the "Cotton Balers" of "Able" and "Baker" Companies advanced through the woods and cleared out nests and bunker positions.

Company "A" encountered small arms and machine gun fire, some tank and mortar fire, but succeeded in advancing. A number of enemy were killed and fourteen captured. The company penetrated through the woods to a place where La Fecht River and the road from Station de Bennwihr both bend and nearly touch. The First Battalion then established its line from that point, northeast along the road, through the Station de Bennwihr, and east to Rosenkranz.

At 1030 the Third Battalion received a strong enemy counter-attack by German Infantry supported by four tanks from the east. Artillery and mortars were brought to bear on the enemy to support the riflemen and the enemy attack was repulsed.

East of Houssen a dyke ran north and south. Though the enemy attack had been thrown back from the vicinity of Houssen the Germans were well entrenched behind the dyke. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges ordered the Blue Battalion to attack the enemy positions, clean out the troublesome area and extend the Regimental line on the left to the III.

THIRD BATTALION CLEANS OUT ENEMY BETWEEN DYKE AND L'ILL RIVER

Following receipt of his orders Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey alerted Companies "L" and "I" and the Regimental Battle Patrol to participate in the attack.

Following artillery preparations the attacking forces jumped off at 1300. Company "I" under the command of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony moved south out of the Brunwald woods. The Battle Patrol supported by armor and led by Second Lieutenant Stanley Petropolis moved east out of Houssen while Company "L" led by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley moved south out of Houssen along the dyke.

Cannon Company fired into a 400 yard zone at the southern end of the dyke and the assault guns of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, fired heavy interdictions on four points south toward Colmar.

Company "I" and the Battle Patrol both encountered heavy small arms and machine gun fire from enemy in strong positions. Second Lieutenant Petropolis was killed during the action.

Company "L" encountered small arms fire but succeeded in advancing. As the three attacking elements routed out enemy the 10th Field Artillery Battalion had a field day firing on enemy personnel in the open fields. By late afternoon the mission of the Third Battalion forces was accomplished. The enemy strong points were reduced and the Regimental line pushed to L'III River.

First Lieutenant William D. Anthony of Company "I", Staff Sergeant Robert A. Higgins and Private First Class Willard K. Seymour of Company "L", Staff Sergeant Joe W. Tussey of the Battle Patrol, and Private First Class Gilbert E. Vasquez of Company "M", distinguished themselves during the actions of 26 January 1945.²³

The valiant "Cotton Balers" of the Seventh Infantry Regiment had been in continuous attack since 22 January 1945. They had done so well that the Third Division commander planned to employ them again in the assault for his second phase of the attack on the "Colmar Pocket".

During the four-day attack the Seventh Infantry had cleared the western half of the Foret Communale de Colmar, the Bois dit de Rothleible, Brunwald and the Bois de la Fecht and also liberated Ostheim, Houssen, Rosenkranz, the Station de Bennwihr and Chateau de Schoppenwihr. A large number of enemy had been killed; 383 Germans including five officers had been taken prisoners of war. All this was not accomplished without sacrifice; four officers and 69 enlisted men lost their lives during the fighting. A total of 284 were wounded. There were 145 non-battle casualties.

During the night of 26-27 January 1945 the Seventh Infantry was relieved on position from La Fecht to L'III River by the 109th Infantry of the 28th Infantry Division, which was to hold until the Seventh Infantry could

²¹ 7th Infantry "Cotton Baler", Vol. 1, No. 34, Hersfeld, Germany, 26 Apr. '46.

²² GOs No. 77, 113, 163, 168, 182 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 & 29 Mar., 16, 20 & 28 May & 4 Oct. '45. S/Sgt. Grabner & Pfc Hungerford were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Sgt. Mongold, Pfc Jablonski & Roderick, Pvts. Munderville, Olsen & Parisi were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²³ GOs No. 54, 77, 113, 168 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 Feb., 1 & 29 Mar., 20 May & 4 Oct. '45. 1 Lt. Anthony & Pfc Vasquez were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Higgins & Tussey & Pfc Seymour were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

be maneuvered around to the east for a night assault across the Canal de Colmar. Enemy artillery fire was received while the relief was conducted. By 270500 the Second Battalion had assembled in the Bois dit de Rothleible while the First and Third Battalions had assembled in the Foret Communale de Colmar south of the Niederwald settlement. Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, was temporarily released from attachment and moved to the wood north of Holtzwihr where it remained in Division reserve.

SITUATION ON THE LEFT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

As the Seventh Infantry had successfully attacked south between La Fecht and L'III Rivers the 30th Infantry met with a catastrophe and was so badly hurt that it was kept out of offensive action for quite some time thereafter.

The night of 22-23 January the 30th Infantry assault elements successfully crossed the eastern half of the Foret Communale de Colmar and at daybreak crossed L'III River. By 0900 its First Battalion was completely across the river and moved south along the east bank to the bridge at La Maison Rouge which was seized. Patrols were sent toward new objectives. The Third Battalion crossed over the seized bridge at noontime and was followed by the Second Battalion in the afternoon. The foot elements of the entire "Frisan" Regiment were east of L'III River and were driven for their objectives, though no armor was on hand to support them. The First Battalion closed on Riedwihr, the Third on Holtzwihr and the Second went into the Bois de Riedwihr. Company "L" remained at La Maison Rouge bridge to accompany supporting armor when it should cross over L'III River. At 1600 Companies "I" and "K" entered the northern edge of Holtzwihr, but fifty minutes later an unknown number of enemy tanks supported by Infantry attacked the Third Battalion forces with such strength that they were forced to withdraw across L'III River. The First Battalion attacked Riedwihr at 1722 on 23 January. It met no opposition until it was about 100 yards north of the town when the enemy opened up with heavy grazing fire from tanks and automatic weapons that "caused considerable confusion and forced the Battalion to withdraw." Meanwhile the Second Battalion in the Bois de Riedwihr was also hit by powerful enemy forces at 1800 and it too was forced back across L'III River. A misfortune of war occurred at 1730 that black day for the 30th Infantry, when the first medium tank to cross L'III River at La Maison Rouge broke through the bridge and because of that no friendly armor was able to support the Infantrymen. All 30th Infantry battalions were back on the west side of the river. The Regiment had suffered heavy casualties in killed and wounded and was badly crippled. The enemy had captured large numbers of the 30th Infantry troops. The First Battalion withdrew its tattered remnants to the Foret Communale de Colmar while the Second Battalion withdrew as far as Ostheim where it went into Division reserve and also during the hours of darkness the Third Battalion withdrew to the town of Guemar, where just the night before it had crossed La Fecht River at full strength. All 30th Infantry battalions rehabilitated and commenced the work of reorganization.²⁴

The 15th Infantry which was initially in Third Division reserve was moved to assembly areas in Foret Communale de Colmar during the afternoon of 23 January. During the withdrawal of the 30th Infantry elements, the Third Battalion of the 15th Infantry was ordered to move to the vicinity of La Maison Rouge and

contain the bridgehead over L'III River. At 0300 on 24 January the battalion attacked to enlarge the bridgehead. In the morning the enemy threw a counter-attack at the "Dragon" battalion. Four enemy tanks and Infantrymen overran Company "I". A bitter fight ensued and later in the day the First Battalion attacked through the Third and was reinforced with two platoons of tanks and one platoon of tank destroyers.²⁵

The next few days saw some bitter fighting east of L'III River and it was not until 1030 on 26 January 1945 that Riedwihr was completely captured by the 15th Infantry.²⁶

The 30th Infantry reorganized and rehabilitated in Ostheim and Guemar. On the 25th its Second Battalion returned to the east side of L'III River and took up defensive positions. The other two battalions of the regiment continued to reorganize.²⁷ The First Battalion moved during the afternoon of 26 January from Guemar across L'III River to the Bois de Riedwihr, where it joined Combat Command 4 of the Second French Armored Division. The Third Battalion moved during the night to the vicinity of La Maison Rouge. Early on 27 January the French armor, followed by the 30th Infantry elements, attacked south towards the Canal de Colmar. Light resistance was encountered and overcome. Holtzwihr and Wickershihr were captured by the French and 30th Infantry elements, with the small total of thirty-four enemy captured.²⁸

Meanwhile the 254th Infantry Regiment, which had advanced to the Weiss River on the west of La Fecht River, was relieved by elements of the 28th Infantry Division. The 254th Infantry was then brought around to the Third Infantry Division's battered left flank. Late on 25 January the 254th Infantry attacked for Jepsheim and after hard fighting completely captured the town on the 28th.

During the period 22-28 January the French Foreign Legion and other mixed elements of the French forces on the left engaged in stiff fighting as well and captured Illhaeusern, Elsenheim and Grussenheim.

PHASE TWO OF THE ATTACK 29-31 JANUARY 1945

PLANS FOR THE ASSAULT

While "Cotton Baler" troops remained assembled in the Bois dit de Rothleible and Foret Communale de Colmar, and other troops of the Third Infantry Division, with the French, fought to clear the area east of L'III River and north of the Canal de Colmar, plans were made by higher headquarters for Phase II of the assault on the "Colmar Pocket".

On 27 January the Third Infantry Division issued instructions for "Operation Kraut Buster", which called for a crossing of the Canal de Colmar by stealth at 2100 the night of 28 January.²⁹

The plan called for the Seventh Infantry, this time with the 15th Infantry, to be in the assault wave again.

²⁴ G-3 Report No. 24, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 24 Jan. '45.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ G-3 Report No. 26, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 26 Jan. '45.

²⁷ G-3 Report No. 25, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 25 Jan. '45.

²⁸ G-3 Report No. 27, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 27 Jan. '45.

²⁹ Operation Instruction No. 16, "Kraut Buster", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Jan. '45.

The two regiments were to cross the Canal de Colmar and seize the towns of Bischwihr, Muntzenheim, Wihr-en-Plaine and Portschwih, then hold, on Line C-D, within their respective zones. If surprise should be lost then the maximum of prepared fires were to be employed by the regiments. The 10th Engineers, with the Third Battalion 40th Engineers attached, were to support the crossings with one Infantry footbridge per assault battalion and two Class 40 bridges at Sites 1, 2 or 3. The Third Infantry Division Artillery was to support the crossings and subsequent action with prearranged fires massed in the zone of advance. A deception fire program was to be conducted between the 74 and 76 eastings from darkness until midnight D-Day or until surprise should happen to be lost.

On the right the 28th Infantry Division was to make a simultaneous limited attack and seize the Line C-D in its zone.

The 30th Infantry, still smarting from its wounds, was to continue its mission of holding, and protect the Division's right with particular attention to the gap on the right. The 254th Infantry on the left was also to continue its mission and hold the lines in its zone. Both holding regiments were to be prepared to assemble on Division order.

On Third Division order, Combat Command 4 of Cinquieme Division Blindée was to attack through Line C-D in the Seventh Infantry zone, while on order of the II French Corps, under which the Third Infantry Division was then operating, other commands of the French armored division were to exploit through Line C-D in the 15th Infantry sector and move south and southeast on Neuf-Brisach.

At a meeting of all unit commanders and staffs to discuss plans, the commanding officer of the French armor which was scheduled to exploit through the American Infantry, after the assault across the canal and the capture of the first line of four towns south of the canal was accomplished, refused to move his armor unless there would be a prior artillery preparation. Whether there was to be a prior preparation by the artillery or not should not have troubled the French commander because his forces were not to be brought into play against the enemy until the attack was several hours old and the canal was assaulted and bridged and a sizeable piece of land held south of the canal.

During the second phase of the "Colmar Pocket" attack the Seventh Infantry was to be supported initially by its regular attachments from the 756th Tank Battalion and the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Before the attack was a day old French armored units, though not officially attached to the Regiment, were to also operate with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Close cooperation, understanding and teamwork between the Seventh Infantry rifle units and the supporting armored units did not exist during the second big attack of the campaign in the "Colmar Pocket". There were two reasons for the lack of vital team play, namely, that the American and French armor each had a tendency to want to let the "other fellow do it" and also the French units did not always know what was expected of them by the Seventh Infantry commanders. Better liaison between the attacking units could have been established.

Because of the objections of the French commander but probably more so because American engineers did not have sufficient time to bring in enough small rubber boats and Bailey bridging materiel, it was decided to delay the operation twenty-four hours and then to precede the attack by an artillery, mortar and smoke preparation of thirty minutes.

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges and his staff completed plans for the part to be played by the Seventh Infantry. The First and Third Battalions were once more to be in the assault. They were to cross the canal by boats and capture the town of Bischwihr with the First Battalion seizing Objectives 1 and 2, and the Third Battalion Objectives 3, 4 and 5. Following construction of foot bridges by the engineers, the Second Battalion was to cross the canal over the bridges, pass through the First Battalion and seize Wihr-en-Plaine, Objectives 6 and 7. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, attached to the Second Battalion, was to seize Objective "T" near Bailey Bridge Site 1.

Anti-Tank Company was to assemble in Riedwihr and be prepared to cross the canal on Regimental order to establish anti-tank defense. Cannon Company was directed to displace by infiltration to firing positions near the Bois de Riedwihr and be prepared with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "C", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion to support the attack. Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to place their supporting armor in direct firing positions just north of the canal during darkness of D-Day prepared to fire on targets of opportunity west of the No Fire Line (A-B). They were to fire in Bischwihr only on targets specifically designated by red rifle flares from the assaulting battalions. The light tanks of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, and the flakwagons of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion attached to the Regiment were to be initially placed under the control of the commanding officer, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and occupy direct firing positions in the same zone under his direction.

Upon completion of the Bailey bridge at Site 1 the attachments were to cross over the Canal de Colmar on order of the Regimental Commander and be attached to the battalions. The Second Battalion was to get the most support for its attack on Wihr-en-Plaine: five medium tanks, four light tanks, four tank destroyers, two flakwagons, a platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars and a gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company. The Third Battalion was to have three medium tanks, three tank destroyers, two flakwagons, a platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars and a gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company. The First Battalion was to draw only three tank destroyers, two flakwagons and a platoon from Anti-Tank Company, as it was to be in reserve following passage through by the Second Battalion. Company "A", 10th Engineers, was responsible for the bridge building. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, under the competent direction of the "Fedalaman", Captain Hal Ferguson, was prepared to establish a collecting point in Riedwihr and to evacuate the battle casualties.

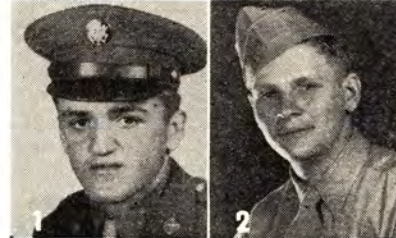
The Canal de Colmar runs from the junction of the Canal de la Lauch and L'III River, 900 yards northeast of Colmar, due east to the Canal du Rhone au Rhin. It is approximately 50 feet wide and from six to eight feet deep. The water level of the canal is several feet above the level of the flat land of the Alsace Plain as it is banked by steep levees twelve feet high, which are fifteen feet in width at the bottom and eight feet in width at the top. The current of the water was slow. Though not frozen over, the water was very cold. Because of the steep banks and the fact the assaulting Infantrymen would be above the level of the land commanders were more concerned than if the "dog-faces" were assaulting a river line. It appeared to be a more difficult assignment.

While the "Cotton Balers" waited in the snow-covered woods for the next attack they suffered much from the cold. The bunker positions formerly used by

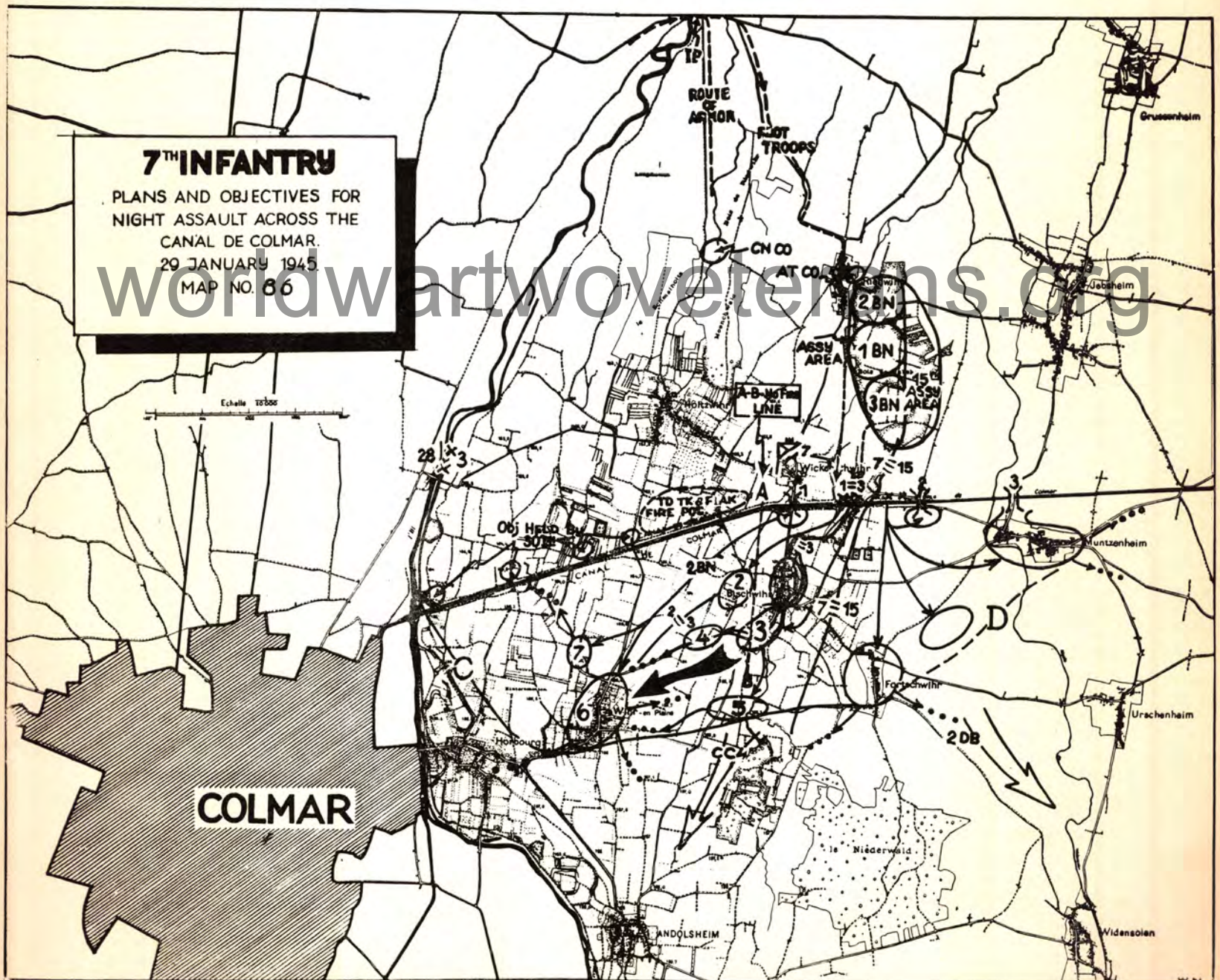
the Germans were used to the fullest extent but there were not enough of them to house all the men. A few tents were pitched but many men slept in snow fox holes and utilized tree branches as best they could. Counting the night of the relief when they moved back to the forested areas they spent three nights and three days in the area. The Regimental Surgeon, Major Edmund B. Sinclair, made an inspection of the battalions on the 27th and reported that there were at least 200 cases of frozen feet which if not treated would develop into trench feet. The worst cases were sent to Beblenheim to receive medical care. That day 80 new reinforcements, a small number, were ready to report to the rifle companies, many of which were low in strength, but the reinforcements were without shoe pacs or overshoes. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges ordered that they be withheld from assignment to the rifle elements until properly equipped. Many matters beset the Commanding Officer but plans were pushed for the next assault. "Cotton Balers" suffered much, torn in mind and body, as they were, but with the determination to uphold the great traditions of the Regiment of overcoming all

obstacles they stuck grimly to their assignments and prepared to smash the enemy once more.

Patrols were sent to the banks of the Canal de Colmar nightly. Though the area between Holtzwihr and the Canal de Colmar and west to L'III River had been reported clear by the 30th Infantry, some enemy still operated there nightly. The night of 28-29 January 1945 a patrol from Company "A" moved south out of Wickerschwihl and drew fire from north of the Canal and due west. Privates John M. Svalina and William V. Williams were killed by the enemy fire. Outlook for the crossing the next night did not appear too promising.



Pvt. John M. Svalina (1) and Pvt. William V. Williams, both of Co. "A", were killed in action on 27 January 1945.



7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO POSITION FOR ITS SECOND ASSAULT OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" CAMPAIGN

During the afternoon of 29 January the Seventh Infantry Combat Team commenced moving into firing positions and forward assembly areas for the night assault which was to start at 2100. With the Third, First and Second Battalions in order, the foot troops commenced moving out of the Forêt Communale de Colmar and Bois dit de Rothleible at 1700, crossed L'Ill River by La Maison Rouge bridge and completely closed into their forward assembly areas in the Bois de Jebnheim at 1900. The armor and flak wagons took up their firing positions and Anti-Tank Company moved into Riedwahr as scheduled.

Tactical vehicles of the battalions and Regimental Headquarters experienced much difficulty however in moving over the road which crossed L'Ill River at La Maison Rouge bridge as the French armor and vehicles got on the road, and completely blocked it for hours. It was the only road that could be used and it was impossible to detour through the deep snow fields. The French, who were not to be in the assault, started using the road several hours before it was actually necessary for them to do so. The traffic jams that resulted prevented the 15th Infantry from jumping off in the assault on time and was the direct cause of the assistant Third Division commander attempting to halt the attack of the Seventh Infantry while it was in progress. Better liaison between Third Division Headquarters and the French command would have prevented such a dilemma. Much cursing and swearing was heard before the traffic jam was broken in places and the vehicles inched their way to the turn-off just east of La Maison Rouge and then moved uninterrupted to the battalion areas and Riedwahr.

The Regimental Command Post set up in Riedwahr just fifteen minutes before H-Hour while the artillery preparations were under way. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges went on to Wickerschwahr where he set up an advanced post that he might keep in closer touch with operations. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro, Executive Officer, and Major Young, Regimental S-3, remained at the post in Riedwahr.

THE ASSAULT ACROSS THE CANAL DE COLMAR

At 2025 an intense preparation by twenty battalions of medium and heavy artillery, Cannon Company, Company "C", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and all supporting weapons of the Regiment opened up on the Canal de Colmar, enemy rear areas and concentration areas and continued firing until H+80, then lifted to fire on designated areas and targets of opportunity.

It was a cold night with no moon shining. The flash of the roaring artillery and cannon lit up the whole sky. The shells crashed into enemy positions with great explosions. "Cotton Balers" left their forward areas in tactical formations for the Canal de Colmar. Carrying parties transported the rubber boats to the north bank of the Canal. It was nearly time to cross.

At two minutes before H-Hour, after the artillery had roared for thirty-three minutes and the assault "Cotton Balers" were in the process of pushing their rubber boats over the north bank of the Canal de Colmar and into its icy waters, the assistant Third Infantry Division commander, Brigadier General Robert T. Young, called the Regimental War Room in Riedwahr by phone, and threw consternation into the room, which

was a beehive of activity, when he asked Lieutenant Colonel Thobro: "Can you stop the battalions from moving out?"

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro replied: "I don't think so as they should be crossing now."

"How about your bridging?" asked the assistant Third Division commander.

"We do not need it right away, as we are depending mostly on rubber boats for the crossing," explained the Seventh Infantry Executive Officer.

Brigadier General Young then said: "Well, the 15th doesn't have its bridging and I want to arrange a jump-off at 2230. We will fire the preparation all over again. Try to stop them and let me know in fifteen minutes."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro expressed doubts that the Seventh Infantry attack could be stopped and asked, "Is that an order?"

The assistant Third Division commander replied: "Yes."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro then said: "I'll try to stop them but it is now three minutes past 2100, and they should be crossing now."‡

At that the conversation ended and Lieutenant Colonel Thobro went out of the little room to contact the Commanding Officer in Wickerschwahr.

It was impossible to stop the inimitable "Cotton Balers" once they had jumped off in the attack. Though some could have been halted, not all units could be contacted on a split second's notice and it was better to let the "7th Light Foot" go through with its plans even though the 15th Infantry could not jump off on time.

At 2115 another call came from the 15th Infantry Command Post. First Lieutenant Nathan W. White, liaison officer, received the call and was asked: "Can you stop the crossing?" His reply was: "I don't think so." Brigadier General Young then requested to speak to Major Richard T. Young, the Seventh Infantry S-3. The questions he put to Major Young were: "Can you stop the crossing? Have you contact with the C.O.?" Major Young told him: "S.X. has gone to the O.P. personally to try to stop the operation. We should have an answer within ten minutes." Brigadier General Young then ordered: "Call me back at the 15th Infantry and let me know as soon as possible."

While these conversations were carried on, the First and Third Battalions, functioning smoothly, had initiated the crossing operations on the exact second of H-Hour, at 2100. The artillery preparations were not answered by the enemy's guns and no opposition was encountered at the crossing sites, though a little later mortar fire was received on the Regiment's left flank.

At 2120 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges called the Regimental War Room from his observation post and reported that two rifle companies were completely across the canal and that the operation was progressing very satisfactorily. He stated that he could not stop the operation at that time.

At 2138 the commander of the Third Infantry Division, Major General John W. O'Daniel, who had been caught in the traffic jam himself and had just opened a forward command post of his own in Riedwahr, called the Regimental War Room and demanded the situation. When told how matters were progressing, he barked in his best fighting voice: "O.K. keep pushing," and the conversation was over.

‡ Unit Journal, 7th U. S. Infantry, 29 Jan. '45.

The entire First and Third Battalion troops crossed the Canal de Colmar without incident and moved for their objectives.

Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey's Blue Battalion moved speedily against no opposition initially, bypassed Bischwihr on the left to enter the town from the south. Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace's Red Battalion encountered enemy in the vicinity of Bridge Site 1. Enemy tank and machine gun fire began to be received.

Company "B" under Captain James B. Rich engaged the enemy in a small arms fight near the bridge site while the remainder of the Red Battalion companies pushed for Bischwihr, to enter it from the north.

At 2245 both the First and Third Battalion troops were in Bischwihr. At 2350 Company "B" had cleaned out all resistance in the vicinity of the bridge site and captured twenty-four Germans. The Third Battalion had encountered some resistance going into Bischwihr from the south but took twenty-eight prisoners of war. At midnight the First and Third Battalions reported Bischwihr all clear. However the report was a little premature as new resistance developed and fighting was resumed.

The resistance in Bischwihr was quickly overcome and the two battalions rounded up an additional group of forty-seven enemy between them. The Third Battalion pushed on to the road junction southwest of Bischwihr. The Seventh Infantry was first to cross the Canal de Colmar and was first to capture a town south of the canal.

As the First and Third Battalions carried out their assignments the Second Battalion under Major Jack M. Duncan stood ready to be committed. Though in reserve initially, the White Battalion was to see the toughest fighting during the second phase of the assault on the "Colmar Pocket". At 2155 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges

ordered Major Duncan to start moving his troops out of the assembly area in the Bois de Jebshheim.

Company "A", 10th Engineers, commenced construction of two footbridges over the Canal de Colmar at 2205 and completed the work at 2245. At 2330 the White Battalion troops started crossing over the bridges. At midnight two companies were across and were moving on Wihr-en-Plaine. At 0130 as the forward elements approached the town, enemy tank fire was received and a hot reception was promised.

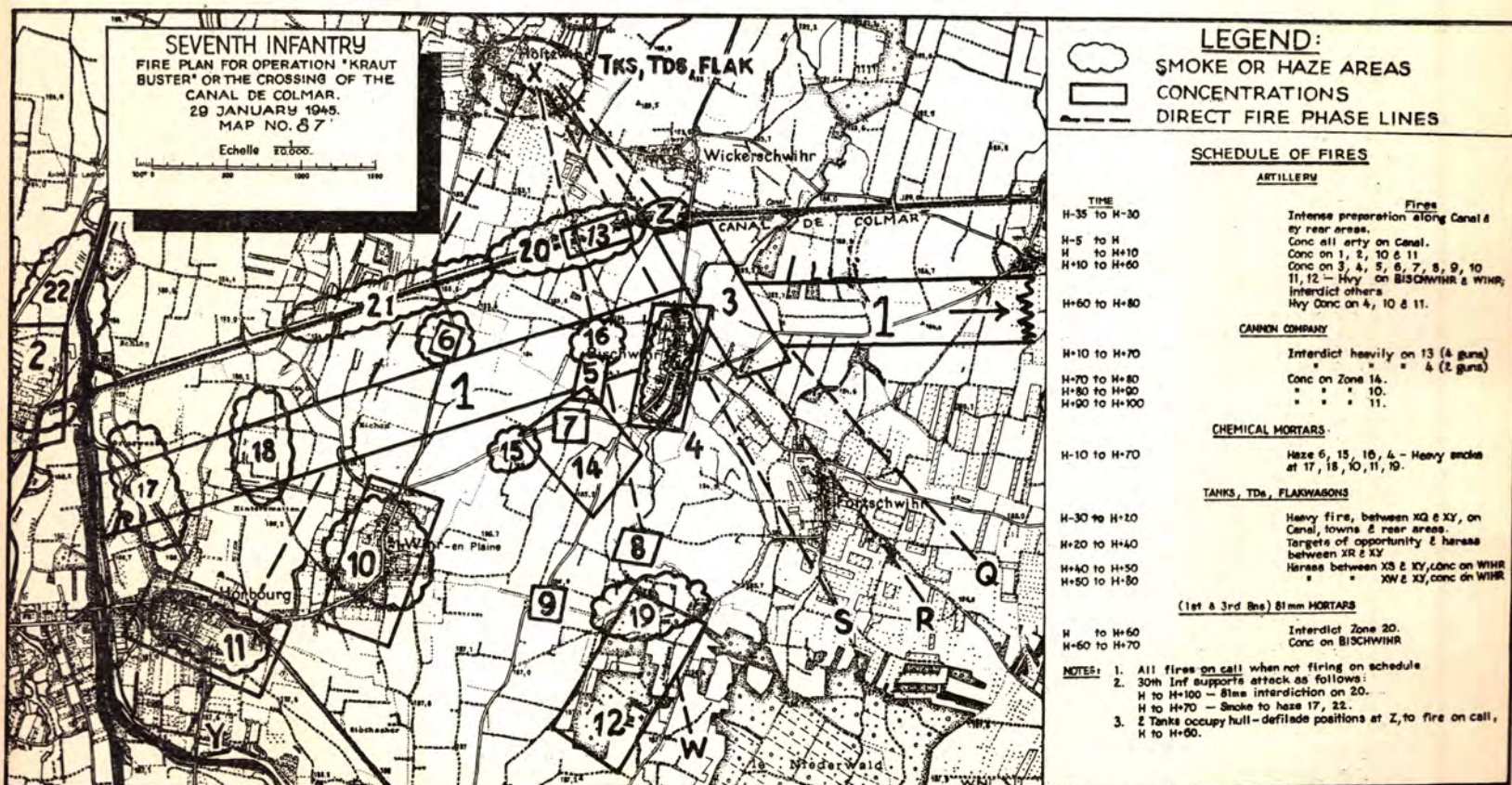
"Fox" Company, under the command of First Lieutenant Earl F. Swanson, and "George" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane, boldly pushed on and entered Wihr-en-Plaine at 0205.

At 0300 the Second Battalion was halted by enemy tanks which rolled over the assaulting riflemen. Private First Class Joseph L. Bale of Second Battalion Headquarters Company fearlessly attacked with his rocket launcher. Ignoring shells which exploded nearby and machine gun bullets which raked his position, he knocked out an enemy tank and forced some of the Germans to withdraw.

A fierce fight was fought in the darkness and at 0630 the enemy counter-attacked the White Battalion forces with Infantry and armor. At 0745 all fighting elements of the Second Battalion were in the town and fought a fierce fight with enemy on three sides.

The fighting in Wihr-en-Plaine became severe and the Second Battalion was momentarily thrown on the defensive. Sergeant James R. Fox of Company "E" was severely wounded but successfully defended four houses in the town with his six-man squad, from attacks by a hostile tank and about forty Germans who were part of the powerful force counter-attacking the village. Staff Sergeant David F. Holder of Company "H" was also outstanding during the actions.³⁰

³⁰ GOS No. 208, 211 & 306, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 15 June & 20 Aug. 45. 1 Lt. Kyte (posthumously), S/Sgt. Holder & Sgt. Fox were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



The Germans succeeded in making a penetration between the rifle companies of the Second Battalion. About sixty of the enemy, supported by tanks, then attacked the Second Battalion Observation Post group and came very close to killing or capturing Major Jack M. Duncan and his entire command group. First Lieutenant George J. Kyte Jr., a forward observer for the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, speedily and accurately directed fire on the enemy armor and caused the German vehicles to change position and expose themselves to "bazooka" fire. His speedy action was an important factor in saving the command group from annihilation. In a subsequent action he was killed.³⁰ It was then that Private First Class Bale braved the enemy shell fire in a singlehanded attempt to destroy his second tank of the day, but he was killed in the attempt.

Private Mario Pomponio, a reinforcement of Company "E" with no previous combat experience, vaulted on to a six-foot wall and while exposed to blasts of automatic fire, killed a four-man machine gun crew at fifteen yards range with M-1 rifle fire. He then charged into the core of the enemy positions, killed a second machine gun crew and captured ten Germans after a fierce fire-fight. His intrepid, singlehanded assault was a major factor in breaking the enemy counter-attack. The brave and gallant young man was killed in the next day's fighting.

For their extraordinary heroism displayed on 30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, Private First Class Joseph L. Bale and Private Mario Pomponio were each posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³¹

Company "L" and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol rushed to the assistance of the White Battalion troops. The engineers, who were delayed in constructing the Bailey bridge at Site 1, completed the work at 0745 and twenty minutes later supporting armor commenced crossing, and also rushed to the support.

The tactical vehicles of the battalions, the chemical mortars, Regimental Anti-Tank Company and the flak-wagons followed the tanks and tank destroyers over the Bailey bridge to render additional support to the riflemen.

By 1000 the White Battalion, with its reinforcements, beat off the enemy and at noontime controlled the northern half of Wihr-en-Plaine. The armor rendered valuable assistance. Private First Class Clarence Mitchum and Private John A. Nelson of Company "L", Sergeant Norman A. Deeke, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Private First Class Donald F. Rowles of the Battle Patrol were gallant during the action.³²

At 0945 that morning, Lieutenant Colonel William G. Rosson, Third Division G-3, called the Regimental War Room and gave the information that Combat Command 4 was beginning to roll. However the French armor did not roll very fast. At 1100 the Division G-3 called again and informed Major Young, Seventh Infantry S-3, to begin thinking of a possible crossing of the Rhone-Rhine Canal. The crossing site that he directed to be considered was the place where the canal divides so that actually two crossings in one would be necessary. He stated that if the new crossing operation were to be initiated, it would take place on one day's, or a day and a half, notice.

Meanwhile the Third Division commander directed that the Second Battalion capture Horbourg as well as Wihr-en-Plaine. At 1155 the Division G-3 called once more with the information that the French expected the Seventh Infantry to push a battalion through Le Niederwald and to cut the road east of Andolsheim, above

Maison Ferme d'Andolsheim and then occupy Andolsheim, once the French captured the place. He stated that the French armor should be moving in two hours. He repeated the instructions of the Division commander that the Second Battalion was to capture Horbourg and further stated that when the French were ready they would attack through Horbourg to Andolsheim.

The original plans of exploitation by French armor through Line C-D were not being carried out. The Seventh Infantry must go still further. Actually there was no exploitation in the true sense of the word. According to orders the First Battalion, in reserve in Bischwihr, was alerted to push on for Le Niederwald on Regimental order.

At 1430 that afternoon the combined forces of the Second Battalion, Company "L" and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol made a determined attack on enemy in the southern half of Wihr-en-Plaine and after a hard close-in fight cleared the entire town of enemy. The Battle Patrol then moved to the northwest to the vicinity of Eichen as security.

Colonel Lionel C. McGarr, commanding officer of the 30th Infantry, called at 1345 to report his regiment was having considerable trouble with enemy north of the Canal de Colmar and that his supporting weapons would continue to shoot at the junction of L'III River and Canal de Colmar. His report and request for help was a surprise to the Seventh Infantry commander because his very headquarters had previously reported the particular area clear of enemy. At 1445 the Second Battalion had reported what was thought to be an enemy company moving north along a road out of Horbourg to the canal. At 1506 the artillery reported the 30th Infantry was directing artillery on the junction of the road and Canal de Colmar, numbered 189. The Division Commander, because of these reports, became concerned with the situation both north and south of the canal on the



Three of the 20 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 30 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Thomas F. Fanning, Co. "L"; (2) Pvt. Archie J. Morrison, Co. "C" and (3) Sgt. Robert E. Weaver, Co. "B".

west and at 1506 had called the Regimental War Room, which was then in Wickerswihr, and ordered that the First Battalion be placed south of the Canal and make a sweep west to clean out enemy behind the Second Battalion and continue on to L'III River. His orders were relayed to Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, who was in Bischwihr. Accordingly the First Battalion was alerted to make the move at 1600.

At 1555 while Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, from his advanced post, conversed with Major Duncan in Wihr-en-Plaine, Major General O'Daniel cut in on the

³¹ For authority see GOs No. 185 & 279, HQ, 7th Army, 10 May & 28 June '45.

³² GOs No. 208, 212 & 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12, 16, & 24 June '45. Sgt. Deeke, Pfc Mitchum & Rowles & Pvt. Nelson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

line and told the "Cotton Baler" commander: "The Second Battalion must attack on Horbourg tonight, within the next half hour and take the town."

The following is a verbatim report of the conversation that ensued:

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "The C.O. of the Second Battalion is on the line."

Major Duncan: "I agree that the town should be taken as soon as possible but I can't seem to effect the proper coordination with the French who are to accompany me in the attack."

Major General O'Daniel to Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "If both operations cannot go off, call off the First Battalion attack and the French will take care of the situation up on the Second Battalion's right. Push the operation on Horbourg. The 75th will push through you sometime before tomorrow morning. General Schlusser (French General) is willing to assist in cleaning out Wihr and taking Horbourg. Carry out the operation with the greatest possible speed and take the town prepared to move on to Andolsheim with another battalion. After the Second Battalion and French have taken Horbourg the Third Battalion will follow the French on the attack on Andolsheim. First Battalion will go down through the woods as planned."

The attack of the First Battalion to the west was cancelled and the smoke mission of the chemical mortars which was to screen the advance was also cancelled. Actually there was no need for an attack to the west by a full battalion. The reports of enemy in strength in that area were not based on accurate information.

At 1700 the First Battalion moved south out of Bischwihr and entered Le Niederwald. The advance was rapid and against light resistance. Companies "A" and "C" cut the road south of the woods to the northwest of Maison Ferme d'Andolsheim at 2035 the night of 30 January. The First Battalion Command Post, set up at Pont de Chasse. French armor moved behind the troops through the woods.

The Division Commander called back at 1710 and asked: "What have you on the right rear?" Lieutenant Colonel Thobro told him that the Battle Patrol had been sent to cover the flank. Major General O'Daniel then said: "Will send you a platoon of the 601st Tank Destroyer Reconnaissance Company to patrol in behind and to the right of the Second Battalion. Have the reconnaissance platoon cover the area from the Canal to Horbourg and keep your flank secure. You can use your Battle Patrol with the reconnaissance platoon. If you don't have your Battle Patrol available organize some troops to go with the reconnaissance platoon."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro replied: "We are afraid our Battle Patrol was the group which was thought to be enemy coming in on the flank from the west."

At 1830 the enemy struck back at the White Battalion forces and Company "L", in Wihr-en-Plaine, but were repelled with heavy losses.

SECOND BATTALION ATTACKS FOR HORBOURG NIGHT OF 30 JANUARY 1945

At 2230 the Second Battalion troops and Company "L" pushed off in the attack for Horbourg and were followed by a French Armored Infantry force of Combat Command 4 which intended to pass through the White Battalion troops once the road junction on the east edge of the town was taken. Little headway was made as stiff enemy resistance was encountered.

Companies "E" and "L" were in the lead. At 0120 on 31 January they were 300 yards short of the road

junction. Fifty yards were gained in the next three hours against strong resistance during the night and the troops were held up by an enemy anti-tank ditch. Company "E" was counter-attacked but repelled the enemy in a bitter fight. During the night the artillery placed "Time on Target" concentrations on Horbourg and Andolsheim. The chemical mortars directed 36 rounds into Andolsheim and set the town on fire. The enemy retaliated by scoring direct hits on the chemical mortar ammunition dump. Fire from four enemy self-propelled guns kept the American armor attached to the Second Battalion, and the French armor, off the road to the road junction. Because of the resistance encountered and the enemy fire coming up the road neither the American or French armor passed through the Infantrymen. The French armor was waiting for the road junction to be taken and then they would pass south on Andolsheim. The American armor was also waiting.

At 0145 the Division Commander called and said he wanted Horbourg taken by noontime. Because the resistance at the road junction held up the "Cotton Balers" the French felt it was too late to initiate their plans. There was talk of postponement.

The First Battalion in Le Niederwald reported at 0700 that there was 200 enemy in the patch of woods to the northwest, west of Laufgraben stream. Artillery fire was directed on the woods.

At 0745 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges called Major General O'Daniel to report and discuss plans. He said: "Horbourg is a sticky deal. Still have trouble with the French. Have two companies to commit and believe we can clear it up if the French will jump with us. The enemy is interdicting the road into Horbourg from the south and west of the river."

Major General O'Daniel: "There is a possibility that the Third Battalion will have to move to the woods at 775420 (the patch of woods northwest of Le Niederwald) and a shoot be laid on the area."

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "Three PWs were taken out of the woods this morning and they were convicts left out to fight. There were 400 enemy in the sector including Andolsheim according to the PWs. The French have jumped off in the direction of Andolsheim. Have three TDs with the Third Battalion."

The Division Commander: "Hold what you have got with the Third Battalion. May send a battalion from the 75th through. Continue to hit Horbourg with the Second Battalion and I'll get the French to push also. Use maximum artillery fire before the jump off."

The Third Battalion, minus its Company "L", was then alerted to move on the patch of woods northwest of Le Niederwald and plans were made for a renewed attack on the troublesome road junction and Horbourg.

In fairness to the commander of the French armor operating with the Second Battalion it should be said that he had his orders from his superiors in regard to when he should commit his tanks and like a soldier who obeys instructions he refused to throw his forces into the battle until the road junction was taken. However few operations go off as planned and as the situation develops units sometimes find themselves being committed earlier than expected. One of the main reasons for the lack of cooperation existing at that time was improper and insufficient liaison between the Americans and French. The "Cotton Balers" at this time were quite tired from their exertions since 22 January and were low in strength. Companies operated with only 20 to 50 men each. In such a weakened condition themselves they were not too anxious to press the attack on new objectives. On 30 January at 1305 Major Duncan him-

self had reported back to the Regimental War Room that Company "L", attached to his battalion, had but twenty men left. The companies had gone into the attack originally way understrength so their small numbers on the 31st of January were not due entirely to casualties sustained, which in reality were relatively small during the second phase of the "Colmar Pocket" attack. But during the fighting the Second Battalion had suffered most. In killed alone Company "E" had lost 20 men. Company "G" 20 and Company "F" 11. During the attack from 29 to 31 January 1945 relatively few casualties were evacuated.

Supporting artillery reported ammunition supplies were running dangerously low. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion reported its then present ammunition allowance as 60 rounds per gun per day and stated that it would have to be strictly adhered to.

The Third Battalion jumped off for its objective at 0930 with Company "K", under Captain Francis J. Kret, in the lead. "King" Company entered the patch of woods shortly thereafter and encountered strong small arms resistance. Company "I" joined in the fight and at 1115 the woods were cleaned of enemy and a number killed and sixteen taken prisoners. The enemy had not occupied the woods in such great force as previously reported or had withdrawn most of their forces.

In spite of the low ammunition supplies the artillery gave a ten minute fire preparation for the Second Battalion attack. Against strong resistance the road junction was taken at 1140 then the French armored Infantry force plunged ahead and into Horbourg. The few Second Battalion troops followed. A house to house battle ensued and in mid-afternoon the enemy started to pull out of Horbourg.

The west bridge over L'Ill River to Colmar was blown by demolitions but the one on the south was seized intact by the French. It was prepared for demolitions in case the enemy should attempt a counter-attack. Colmar was sealed off from the east.



Sgt. Floyd L. Heskitt, Jr., on the left, and Pfc John Droney, both of Co. "E", were killed in action on 31 January 1945.

At that time the combat strength of the Second Battalion was so low that its efficiency as a fighting battalion was practically non-existent. Company "E" had only eighteen men left.

The enemy fired heavy mortar concentrations on Horbourg as our artillery placed "Time on Target" concentrations on the east section of Colmar. The First Battalion cleaned out Le Niederwald that day.

Commencing with the First Battalion at 2320, elements of the 289th and 290th Infantry Regiments of the 75th Infantry Division relieved the Seventh Infantry forces during the night of 31 January and 1 February 1945.

The Second Battalion and Company "L" assembled in Wihr-en-Plaine while the First and Third Battalions assembled in Bischwihr, Fortschwihr and Urschenheim. Phase II of the "Colmar Pocket" attack was over.

ACTION ON THE LEFT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

Although delayed in crossing the Canal de Colmar because of the traffic jams which had prevented supporting engineers from bringing up bridging equipment on time, the 15th Infantry finally crossed on the left of the 7th Infantry crossing sites and made up for lost time. During the period 29-31 January the 15th Infantry captured the towns of Muntzenheim and Fortschwihr.

Elements of French Combat Command 5 passed through the 15th Infantry and cleared Urschenheim with little trouble but had a rough time clearing Durrenentzen, which was completely cleared of enemy on 1 February. Other French forces, advancing south between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, seized Marckolsheim and Artzenheim.

The 30th Infantry, in reserve, moved the night of 31 January, crossed over the Canal de Colmar and assembled in Urschenheim. Early on 1 February the "Friscan" Regiment moved southeast toward the Bois de Durrenentzen, Bois d'Urschenheim and Bois de Biesheim.

The 254th Infantry held and improved defensive positions east of Jebbsheim.

On 1 February 30th Infantry elements were counter-attacked by enemy Infantry and armor. The Third Division commander ordered that one Seventh Infantry battalion be moved to the patch of woods called Le Geisenlehnwald and held ready to move in any direction. The First Battalion was sent to the designated place. The enemy attack did not develop into a heavy engagement and the 30th Infantry was able to check the enemy without the help of the "Cotton Baler" First Battalion.

PHASE THREE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" ATTACK 2-5 FEBRUARY 1945

Major General O'Daniel did not give the Seventh Infantry much rest before committing it again. But he had the enemy on the run and was justified in attacking with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment once more, before the enemy could get set.

As French forces had captured Marckolsheim and were reported in Artzenheim, the Third Division commander ordered the Seventh Infantry to cross the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, pass through the French and attack to the south between the canal and the Rhine River to cut off Neuf-Brisach. For Phase Three of the attack the Seventh Infantry would alone open the attack but be supported by fire from the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments, which had alternated the accompanying assaulting role in the two previous phases. After the attack had progressed each of the other regiments was to then engage in the attack itself.

The first day of February was another busy day for the commanding officer of the Seventh Infantry and his staff. With enemy still holding the Bois de la Hardt, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges and his S-2, First Lieutenant John D. Foulk, led groups on reconnaissance. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro, Major Young, the liaison officers, and Major Richard A. Smith worked on movement instructions and coordinated various units of the command.

When the Commanding Officer returned from his reconnaissance he announced his findings and plans. He informed his staff that Iere Division Infanterie Marocain

had seized Marckolsheim and Artzenheim and that the forward elements of the French were in the last named place. The bridge over the canal at Marckolsheim was intact but the bridge at Artzenheim was destroyed. He issued orders for the supporting armor and vehicles of the Regiment to move across the canal by the Marckolsheim bridge and for the foot troops to cross the canal by bridges to be constructed near Artzenheim. He then made a request to the Third Division commander that 254th Infantry elements be assigned the mission of protecting the engineer construction parties, who he hoped would complete the foot bridges by 0300 on 2 February when the Seventh Infantry battalions were scheduled to cross over the canal. He selected a line on the south edge of Artzenheim as the line of departure for the morning attack to be launched at 0500. The Second and Third Battalions were named to be in the attacking echelon with the First in reserve. The Regimental Battle Patrol and the Reconnaissance Company of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were ordered to protect the left flank of the Regiment during the operation.

In spite of the haste with which the operation was initiated, movements were conducted smoothly during the night of 1-2 February. The armor and vehicles moved north through Jepsheim, Grussenheim and Elsenheim, then turned east to Marckolsheim and from there moved south to Artzenheim. Company "A", 10th Engineers, built three foot bridges, each sixty feet in length, over the Canal du Rhone au Rhin in the vicinity of Artzenheim. No enemy opposition was received and the bridges were completed at 0100. The First Battalion troops marched from Urschenheim at 0130, crossed the Canal de Colmar at Ancienne Voie Romaine dite Heidenstrassel, and then moved northeast over the road to the bridges. The Second and Third Battalions trucked to Jepsheim and then moved the rest of the way by foot.

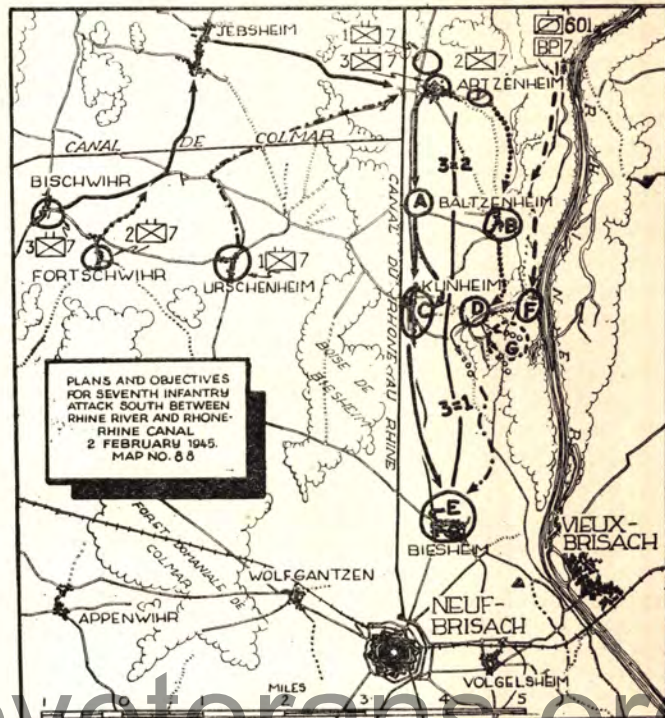
SEVENTH INFANTRY ATTACKS SOUTH BETWEEN RHONE-RHINE CANAL AND RHINE RIVER, 2 FEBRUARY 1945

Following preparations by six battalions of artillery the "7th Light Foot" Infantry jumped off in the attack at 0500 on 2 February 1945. The attacking battalions met very little resistance at first. At 0630 the White Battalion had seized Baltzenheim without a fight and captured the small number of five Germans. The Third Battalion followed the road close to the canal and had no trouble in entering the town of Kunheim, but soon fought enemy in a light engagement. The town was cleared by 0900. The Second Battalion became engaged with enemy east of Baltzenheim and took sixteen additional enemy prisoners. West of Kunheim the Canal du Rhone au Rhin is a double waterway for about 1000 yards. The easternmost canal comes up from the south-east, south of Kunheim. The bridge over that canal was found to be blown with a 50 foot gap in it. The advance was held up until engineers, protected by the Infantry, could make a passageway for the supporting armor.

The First Battalion was committed at 0800 and advanced through the woods east of Kunheim. The woods were combed and four ferries were discovered to be operating across the Rhine River east of Kunheim. Moving on south through the woods the First Battalion forces encountered about 100 enemy supported by two tanks. Companies "A" and "B" became heavily engaged with the Germans. Air missions were requested and conducted on Biesheim and the Cimitiere des Juifs.

Engineers completed a Bailey bridge and two foot-

bridges over the canal south of Kunheim during the night. The Second and Third Battalions crossed over and at 0230 following artillery preparations attacked to the south. The Third Battalion was on the right. In the attacking wave were Company "E", under First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin, Company "G", commanded by First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane, Company "K", commanded by Captain Francis J. Kret, and Company "I", under the leadership of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony. "Companies "F" and "L", under



the command of Captain Earl F. Swanson and First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley, were the reserve rifle companies for their respective battalions. Sections of tanks and tank destroyers were with the assaulting companies while the flakwagons remained with the reserve companies.

Approaching Biesheim during the darkness the two-pronged attack immediately ran into trouble. Unlike Baltzenheim and Kunheim, Biesheim was to demand a hard fight. It was held by the enemy in great force.

Company "K" encountered strong enemy resistance and had the bulk of the company cut off by the Germans. After heavy casualties were sustained the company occupied trenches west of the main highway and were contained there by the enemy for eighteen hours. Heavy casualties were suffered by "King" Company. Privates First Class Peter Gross and Beanford L. Nanna, Privates Archie T. Kizirian and Paul R. Lockwood, Privates First Class Vernon W. McDonald, Frank J. Mylek, Robert D. Nance and Andrew A. Wildrick, Privates Robert T. Tauchen and Radis A. Vise were killed by the enemy.

Company "I" entered Biesheim at about 0345 and was followed by "Love" Company. Heavy machine gun and small arms fire was received and the two units became heavily engaged. The Second Battalion then entered Biesheim and contacted the Third Battalion elements as the fight still waged bitterly.

Two light tanks and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol were sent to rescue the main forces of Company "K" trapped in the trenches, but failed when enemy tank fire destroyed the light tanks and drove off the Battle Patrol. Sergeant Robert Osganian, Technician Fifth Grade Elmer R. Musil and Private First Class

Donald A. Stone of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, were among the killed. Sergeant Clarence W. Denton, Technician Fifth Grade Lawrence Durant, Private Edward J. Wright and Private Robert W. Conn, of the same company, were seriously wounded.

In order to relieve the situation the First Battalion was alerted and moved to the vicinity of the Cimetiere des Juifs, northeast of Biesheim, and became engaged in a heavy fight with the enemy in the graveyard. All three battalions were then fighting desperately.

During the early daylight hours Company "L" with a tank and a tank destroyer attempted to move into the center of the town but encountered stubborn, determined resistance that halted the company. The tank and tank destroyer were destroyed by Panzerfaust fire.

Several attempts were made by Third Battalion forces to contact and rescue the trapped "King" Company forces in the trenches northwest of the town, but each time they failed due to accurate devastating fire over the flat terrain.



Three of the 27 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 3 February 1945 were: (1) Pvt. Adrian S. Fletcher, Co. "C" (2) Pfc Everett J. Kimble, 1 Bn. Hq. Co., and (3) Lt. Orville L. Dilley, commanding Co. "L".

The fight for Biesheim continued throughout 3 February against a powerful enemy determined to hold at all costs and who counter-attacked to regain the north section of the town. Positions fluctuated all day as the enemy succeeded in infiltrating back into the northern sector of the town and surrounded some Seventh Infantry elements. The situation was tense and extremely fluid.

A platoon of medium tanks led by Second Lieutenant Bert E. Gilden of the 756th Tank Battalion, with Company "L" doing the mopping up, succeeded in clearing one of the streets of enemy from house to house; ten enemy were killed, sixty-five taken prisoners and six 80mm mortars taken intact.

The enemy directed heavy mortar, artillery and flak-wagon fire into the northern section of the town, on the Company "K" forces that were cut off and the road leading north out of the town, which rendered the highway useless. Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, smoked Neuf-Brisach and adjacent areas in attempts to block the enemy's vision. An enemy "Tiger" Tank was cornered in Biesheim but then broke loose and caused much havoc.

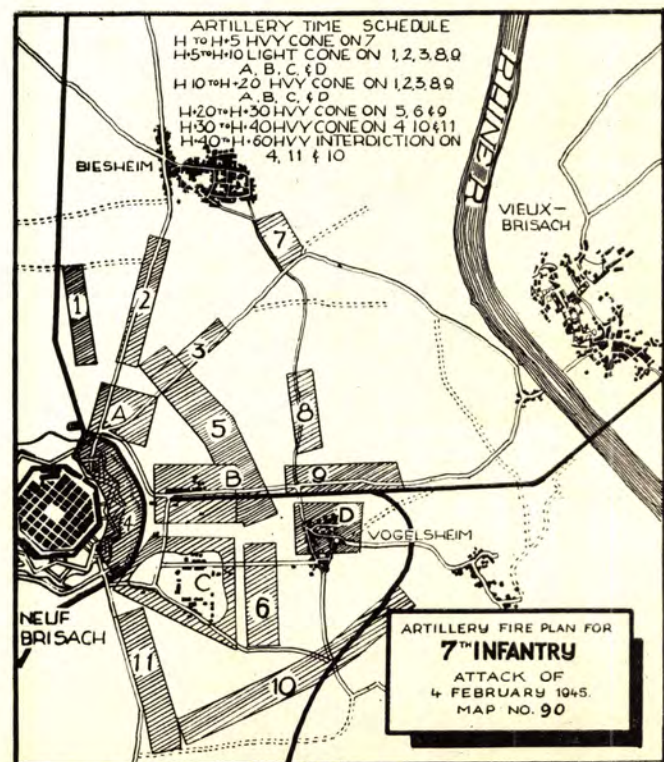
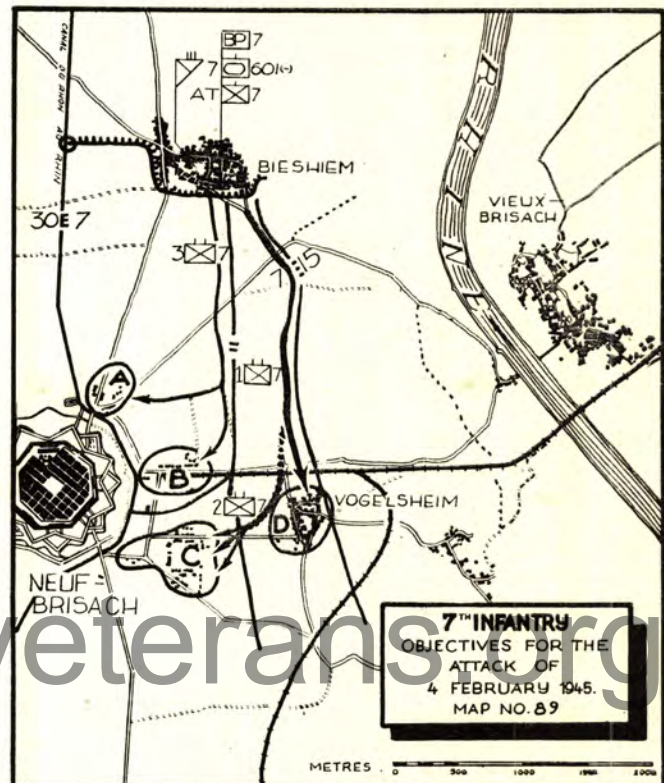
Company "L" continued its heroic efforts but suffered several casualties. First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley, the commanding officer, Private First Class Raymond M. Davis, Jr., and Private Donald M. Mitchell of "Love" Company were killed during the action and many other members of the company wounded.

First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor, Third Battalion S-2, assumed command of Company "L" which was then badly battered and disorganized. He led it in a continuation of the assault and was nearly killed himself.

Closing-in in hand to hand combat, twelve of the enemy were killed by Company "L" and seventy-five were taken prisoners.

The Third Battalion was finally able to contact beleaguered "King" Company during the night and the wounded casualties were evacuated. Supply vehicles reached the battalions. The "Tiger" tank moved north during the night and did considerable firing before it escaped.

The fight for Biesheim and the Cimetiere des Juifs carried over to the 4th of February. The fighting in Biesheim was particularly bitter with the Second Battalion combatting enemy on three sides during the morn-



ing. Enemy resistance was broken by mid-day and large numbers of prisoners began to be captured. Nearly 500 were taken in the town. At 1400 the town was cleared.

Many were the gallant actions performed during the fighting for Biesheim and the Cimitiere des Juifs. A few of the responsible persons were later cited. Staff Sergeant Edgar Petrey of Company "K", who was killed in a subsequent action, had organized a defense with his ten-man platoon which held off an overwhelmingly superior enemy force for approximately twelve hours. Private First Class Ralph W. Moore, a runner of Company "M", was unusually gallant before he was killed by a German sniper. Major Jack M. Duncan, the commanding officer of the Second Battalion, Sergeant Alfred L. Lukenbill of Company "E", who was wounded during the action, Technical Sergeant George C. Pletzke of Company "C", Private First Class Woodrow J. Schoenfeld, a radio operator of Company "I", Private Ernest M. Amundsen of Company "D", and First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor displayed gallantry.³³

While the Seventh Infantry had seized Baltzenheim and Kunheim and fought for Biesheim, other units of the Division did little hard fighting but rendered assistance and support to the Regiment. The 254th Infantry established "outposts along the Rhine River from Artzenheim south to protect the rear and flank of the Seventh Infantry." The 15th Infantry assembled in Kunheim on 3 February while the 30th Infantry remained in position west of the Canal du Rhone au Rhin in the Bois de Biesheim and sent patrols to the south.³⁴

On 4 February the 15th Infantry organized a task force and cleared the rear areas of enemy and captured twenty-five prisoners. Then the "Dragon" Second and Third Battalions passed through the 254th Infantry in the wooded area on the west bank of the Rhine River and cleared the Bois de Boulay. The 30th Infantry continued to apply pressure on the enemy in Neuf-Brisach with small combat patrols throughout the period. The "Friscan" First Battalion remained in support of the Seventh and 15th Infantries. The other two battalions moved to assembly areas in Baltzenheim and Kunheim.³⁵

The 75th Infantry Division operating on the right had seized the town of Appenwihr with its 291st Infantry Regiment making the main effort. An enemy counter-attack supported by eight to twelve "Tiger" tanks had forced it to withdraw from the town, however. Appenwihr was not retaken until the morning of 5 February. Later that day the 75th Infantry Division attacked for the towns of Hettenschlag and Wolfgantzen.

The Second Platoon of Battery "A", 353rd Searchlight Battalion, became attached to the Third Infantry Division during the afternoon of 4 February and went into position on the west side of the Widensolen Canal. That night the platoon illuminated the battlefield with reflected light for the attack made by the Seventh Infantry.

7th INFANTRY MAKES NIGHT ATTACK— CAPTURES VOGELSHEIM AND SEALS OFF NEUF-BRISACH. 5 FEBRUARY 1945

Under the eerie "artificial moonlight" of the searchlights, which focused on the low-hanging cloud banks above the positions of the enemy, the Seventh Infantry attacked south from Biesheim at fifteen minutes past midnight 4-5 February and was supported by an artillery fire program. The three rifle battalions attacked abreast.

Commencing at H-Hour the artillery laid a heavy concentration of five minutes duration on the road south-

east to the Mont Beaupuy crossroads. Then followed light concentrations for five minutes, which were dropped on the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, the roads leading to Neuf-Brisach from the north and northeast, the road into Vogelsheim, the road junction numbered 195.2 northeast of the Porte de Strasbourg in Neuf-Brisach, the electric plant, tobacco factory, Caserne Abattu and Vogelsheim. The same points then received a heavier concentration of ten minutes duration. The artillery continued to pour heavy concentrations and interdictions on the objectives until H+60 then fired on call.

The night attack did not encounter powerful enemy resistance as the enemy was withdrawing as rapidly as possible and the days of the "Colmar Pocket" were numbered.

The First Battalion on the left moved rapidly and entered Vogelsheim at 0210. Companies "A" and "C" were in the attacking echelon with "B" following, to clean up by-passed enemy.

First Lieutenant Victor M. Morris, commanding Company "A", displayed great leadership during the attack on Vogelsheim. He urged his men forward through two impact areas of artillery and tank fire. Although wounded four times by shell fragments, he rushed from man to man while shells exploded close by. He then led his decimated company on tanks and then ordered the reluctant tank force to renew its advance.



Three members of the Regiment who were killed in action on 4 February 1945 were: (1) Pvt. Clarence W. Paige, Co. "B"; (2) Pfc Charles R. Walker, Co. "B", and (3) 2 Lt. Ralph C. Street, Co. "H".

Under artillery and sniper fire, he led his assault platoons in storming the town, killing eight and capturing ten of the enemy. In recognition of his heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Private First Class Frank A. Corbin Jr., of Company "A", who was killed in the action, and Staff Sergeant Robert E. Zierolf of Company "D", distinguished themselves during the fighting for Vogelsheim.³⁶

By 0710 most of the town was in hand and by noontime the Red Battalion troops were in complete control of Vogelsheim, but received heavy enemy artillery fire from east of the Rhine River.

³³ GOs No. 43, 70, 168, 299, 306, 313 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 26 Feb., 20 May, 15, 20 & 27 Aug., 5 Sept. '45. 1 Lt. Connor was awarded the 3d Oak Leaf Cluster & T/Sgt. Pletzke the 1st to the Silver Star Medal. Sgt. Petrey (posthumously), Maj. Duncan, Sgt. Lukenbill, Pfc Moore & Schoenfeld & Pvt. Amundsen were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ G-3 Report No. 34, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Riedwihr, France, 3 Feb. '45.

³⁵ G-3 Reports Nos. 5 & 6, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Riedwihr, France, 4-5 Feb. '45.

³⁶ GOs No. 326 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Pfc Corbin (posthumously) & S/Sgt. Zierolf were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion (reinforced), on the right, encountered enemy south of Biesheim but pushed through for the tobacco factory. Company "L", commanded by Second Lieutenant Earle R. Stall, Jr., turned west for Objective "A", the road junction numbered 195.2 near the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, on the northeast edge of Neuf-Brisach.

Staff Sergeant Bonnie J. Chambliss of Company "L" led a five-man reconnaissance patrol in advance of the main forces of the company. The patrol quietly overpowered two German guards outside a building. Tossing hand grenades and spraying the rooms of the building

was then the scene of bitter fighting between the Seventh Infantry and the enemy. The 15th Infantry then assisted in the clearing of the Cimitiere des Juifs and passed through the 254th Infantry outposts to clear the Bois de Boulay, Strohstadt Ferme and Fort Mortier and advance to the bridges over the Rhine. Both the highway and railroad bridges were found blown.

From 2 to 6 February the 30th Infantry blocked west of the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, conducted aggressive combat patrols and supported the attack of the Seventh Infantry. Though the 30th Infantry did not engage in heavy fighting during the last attack phase of the opera-

Four of the 18 members of the Regiment who sacrificed their lives on 5-6 February 1945 were: (1) Pfc Frank A. Corbin, Jr., Co. "A"; (2) S/Sgt. Robert C. Mier, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (3) Pvt. George M. Peters, Co. "C"; and (4) Pfc Arthur H. Gottschalk, Co. "H".



with "Tommy Gun" fire the members of the patrol forced 26 Germans to surrender. Three 75mm guns were also seized outside the building. Shortly thereafter Company "L" advanced, captured 31 more Germans and established the roadblock as directed.³⁷

The remainder of the Third Battalion fought its way south against moderate resistance and reached Objective "B", the Manufacture de Tabac, the railroad station, and electrical plant east of Neuf-Brisach. Little trouble was encountered and by noontime Third Battalion forces had cleared out the area and taken 72 prisoners of war.

The Second Battalion followed to the right rear of the First Battalion, after the jump-off. Passing Objective "B" some enemy tank fire was received but the battalion pushed on. At 0415 Companies "E" and "G" turned west for Objective "C", the Caserne Abatucci, where a small arms fight was waged before the area became cleared at noontime.

Neuf-Brisach, was sealed off from the east and roads to the Rhine and Vieux-Brisach were cut. Enemy pulled out of Neuf-Brisach to the south. The railroad bridge over the Canal du Rhone au Rhin near the electrical plant was seized by Blue Battalion forces during the night of 5-6 February. They found it prepared for demolition. An anti-demolition squad of Company "A", 10th Engineers, removed the charges.

Second Battalion forces established a road block at Road Junction 197 and completed the work of sealing off Neuf-Brisach from the north, east and south.

ACTION BY OTHER THIRD DIVISION UNITS DURING THE THIRD ATTACK PHASE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" OPERATIONS

On the day that the Seventh Infantry opened the Third Division attack between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin and the Rhine River the other units of the division remained in position west of the canal, improved their defensive locations or prepared to support the attack. The 254th Infantry however assembled and prepared to follow the Seventh Infantry to protect the rear and left flank of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. On the third day of February the 254th Infantry established outposts along the Rhine River and then maintained them until the 8th when relieved.

On 3 February the 15th Infantry assembled in Kunheim and at 0050A on the 4th committed its First Battalion to clear out an area north of Biesheim which

tions some of its troops were the ones destined to enter and occupy Neuf-Brisach.

Much has been written about the "Battle" and the "Capture" of Neuf-Brisach.³⁸ Actually a battle was never fought for the place itself in World War II nor was the town captured. The "Battle of Neuf-Brisach" like the "Battle of Colmar" was fought and won in outlying places by the Allies. Patrols from the 30th Infantry were guided into the town by civilians and did not fire a shot. Seventy-eight enemy were found in the former fortress town and surrendered. The town had been badly battered by the air and artillery arms. The action of the Seventh Infantry and other forces in cutting off the town had compelled the enemy to withdraw. The following quotation is taken from an official Third Division report which gives the best account of the occupation of the town:

At 0800A (6 Feb.) a four-man patrol from Company C (30th Inf.) visited the northwest wall of town and was fired upon by enemy machine guns. The patrol leader returned to his company and guided it to the moat near the entrance. Here there were two bridges. The one furthest to the west was blown, but the moat was dry. The inner one was intact.

At about 0930A, a platoon from Company B moved south along the Rhine-Rhone canal. As the platoon neared the railroad bridge, soldiers observed a civilian who, after some persuasion, jumped down into the dry moat and led the platoon to a narrow, low-ceilinged 60-foot tunnel which led through the wall into the town.

In one building in the north part of town 38 prisoners were taken. The others were brought in groups of three or four, until a total of 76 had been accounted for. By 1115A it was radioed that the town was clear of enemy. The Company B platoon entered shortly after and took two more prisoners.

The remainder of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, was then ordered to occupy the town and to set up a perimeter defense in bunkers which lined the top of the town wall.³⁹

³⁷ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 May '45. S/Sgt. Chambliss was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁸ Error even crept into the report of the Army Chief of Staff. In reference to the "Colmar Pocket" operations in a biennial report, General of the Army George C. Marshall stated: "The climax of the battle was a night assault on the bridgehead town of Neuf-Brisach by infantry of the U. S. 3d Division using assault boats and scaling ladders on the moats and walls of the fortified town, very much after the fashion of medieval battles". (Marshall, "The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific", Simon & Schuster, p. 45). There was no "night assault" on Neuf-Brisach or a battle "very much after the fashion of a medieval battles" and assault boats were not used in crossing the moat. The moat was dry, a fact to which the writer can testify because he walked through the moat on 6 Feb. '45.

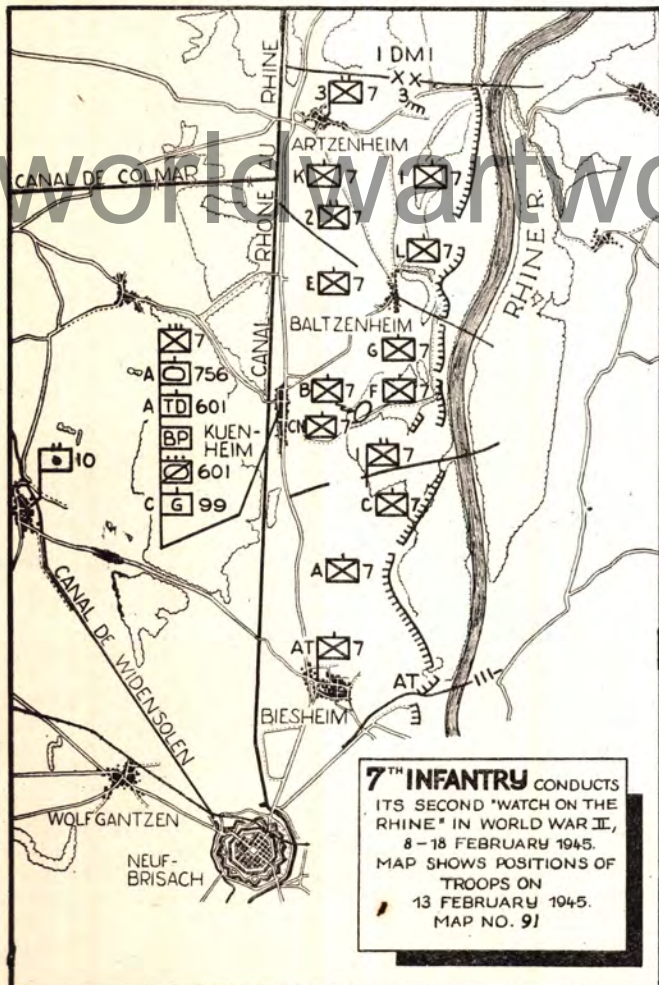
³⁹ Annex "A", Report of Operations for the Period 1-28 Feb '45, Hq, 3d Inf. Div., 23 Mar. '45.

The Seventh Infantry remained located around Neuf-Brisach until the 8th of February and engaged in mopping-up operations. French forces advanced from the south and established contact with American and French forces which had operated from the north. The "Colmar Pocket" was wiped out.

On the morning of 8 February Seventh Infantry elements moved by vehicle from Vogelsheim, the Manufacture de Tabac and Caserne Abatucci to Biesheim, Kunheim, Baltzenheim and Artzenheim. Preparations were made for relief of the 254th Infantry in its zone and to assume defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine River for the second time in World War II.

7th INFANTRY CONDUCTS ITS SECOND "WATCH ON THE RHINE" IN WORLD WAR II, 8-18 FEBRUARY 1945

Relief of the 254th Infantry along the west bank of the Rhine River from the vicinity of Artzenheim on the north to a position opposite Biesheim was effected during the afternoon of 8 February. The 1st Division Bindee bordered the Regiment on the north. The 30th Infantry assumed positions on the south. All three battalions of the Regiment and the Mine Platoon of Anti-Tank Company occupied positions. From 8 to 18 February 1945 the Seventh Infantry conducted its second "Watch on the Rhine" during World War II with little activity.



Contact patrols operated between the units with numerous outposts and listening posts being manned. A minimum of artillery and mortar fire was fired across the Rhine into Germany for two reasons. The build-up

of a reserve of ammunition was desired and it was not thought necessary to place heavy shoots on the east bank of the river, for the enemy could retaliate with heavy artillery into "Cotton Baler" positions. The fire policy enforced was one of firing on targets of observation and opportunity.



General Charles De Gaulle, head of the provisional French government, took part in the honorary services at Colmar for the American and French forces which had cooperated to eliminate the enemy pocket.

The number of listening posts maintained by the Regiment along the Rhine River was thirty, nine each by the First and Third Battalions and twelve by the Second Battalion. One night floating logs and debris were mistaken for enemy rafts and boats on the Rhine River and fired on by Seventh Infantrymen with rifles, machine guns and mortars. Trip flares were laid in front of positions and smoke was laid to screen positions during daylight hours.

The night of 13-14 February a nine-man enemy patrol entered the Regiment's lines from the 30th Infantry sector on the south and shot up a Company "B" outpost before returning. Anti-Tank Company relieved its Mine Platoon with a gun platoon on the right flank on the 15th. The enemy subjected the Regimental Command Post in Kunheim to a heavy shelling from self-propelled artillery across the Rhine and set fire to a pile of ammunition.

When light flashed during the night of 14-15 February in the vicinity of a pill box in the Siegfried line on the east of the Rhine River, Cannon Company fired a mission on the position. The same night four Russians succeeded in escaping from the Germans, crossed the Rhine by boat and entered Seventh Infantry lines. They were taken prisoners by Third Battalion forces and interrogated. Four more of their comrades performed the same stunt the night of 17-18 February.

One day Outpost No. 1 spotted an enemy on a tower east of the Rhine and another in a tree nearby; 500 rounds of machine gun ammunition were fired at the two enemy who were hit and seen to fall from their lookout perches.

French forces of the 4eme Regiment Tirailleurs Marocain commenced relief of the Seventh United States Infantry during the morning of 18 February 1945. All Third Battalion forces except those at two outposts of Company "L", who could not be relieved in daylight

hours, were relieved, as was Company "G" of the Second Battalion during the morning. The night of 18-19 February 1945 saw the complete relief of the Regiment being effected by the French. Other units of the Third Infantry Division were relieved and the period of operation under the French command was at an end.

During the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign the Seventh Infantry displayed some of its finest offensive fighting of World War II. The new commanding officer who had compiled a brilliant record as a battalion commander demonstrated that he was equally brilliant in the role of a regimental commander. Under his leadership the Regiment struck savagely and mercilessly at the foe in lightning thrusts that knocked the enemy off balance and left him unprepared for follow up blows. Through his command of the German language, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, on numerous occasions, personally secured vital information by interrogating prisoners of war immediately after they were captured by the front line "Cotton Balers". Valuable time was saved and information important at the moment was thus obtained.

The rifle battalions all gave excellent accounts of themselves, were ably led and reflected great credit on the commanders and their men. The deeds of gallantry and heroism, many already recounted, testify to the superb manner in which the troops fought. Following the hectic First Round in which the enemy lost Ostheim, the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, Rosenkranz, Station de Bennwihr, and Houssen to the hard hitting "Cotton Balers" but in powerful counter-blows drove back and crippled the 30th Infantry, the Seventh Regiment assaulted across the Canal de Colmar to deal the enemy another devastating blow in Round Two.

Inability of the 15th Infantry to attack on time because of poor logistics and improper liaison with the French by higher headquarters, did not deter the Seventh Infantry from carrying out its mission and attacking at the prescribed time. Bischwihr, Wihr-en-Plaine and Hombourg were wrenched from the enemy's grasp.

For Round Three, in which the enemy was knocked out, the Seventh Infantry alone opened the Third Division attack between the Rhine River and the Rhone-Rhine Canal. Baltzenheim, Kunheim, Biesheim and Volgelsheim were captured and the enemy was forced to flee from Neuf-Brisach.

Like at the close of every other campaign, the roll call revealed that many "Cotton Balers" were absent. For the two-month "Colmar Pocket" Campaign under French supreme command the Seventh Infantry lost 185 enlisted men and 12 officers killed and died of wounds received in the action. One other died of injuries received, 38 were missing from the action, 648 wounded, 53 injured and 23 were taken prisoners of war by the enemy. Nearly all the casualties were suffered during the period 22 January-6 February while the offensive was on.

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER COMMENDS HIS TROOPS

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH INFANTRY
OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER
A P O NO. 3

13 February 1945.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: All Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, 7th Infantry.

1. The efficiency of an Infantry Regiment is judged during combat by its actions and the victories it wins on the field of battle. Officers and men of the 7th Infantry, you have added new pages of glory and honor to the Regiment's history during the recent campaign when the Regiment was never in reserve

but spearheaded every drive the 3rd Division made in its prominent role of eliminating the COLMAR POCKET. Your fighting was superb. You defeated the enemy in every round, surmounted every obstacle, seized and captured every objective assigned to you by the Commanding General, a record only you can boast of in the campaign just ended. The enemy has learned to fear you and respect you. You have the admiration of your companions in arms. Your Commanding Officer salutes your fighting qualities and is proud to command you.

2. When not in combat an Infantry Regiment is judged by the appearance it makes and the courtesy it shows to all people within and from without the command. It is the aim of this command to secure the same high rating when not in combat as when actually fighting the enemy. All officers and non-commissioned officers will, by the power of example and, if necessary, by disciplinary measures, inculcate into the minds of the men the ideals of right manners, good conduct, cleanliness and uniform appearance. Special attention will be given the subject military courtesy and discipline, and corrective action taken immediately whenever deficiencies are manifested.

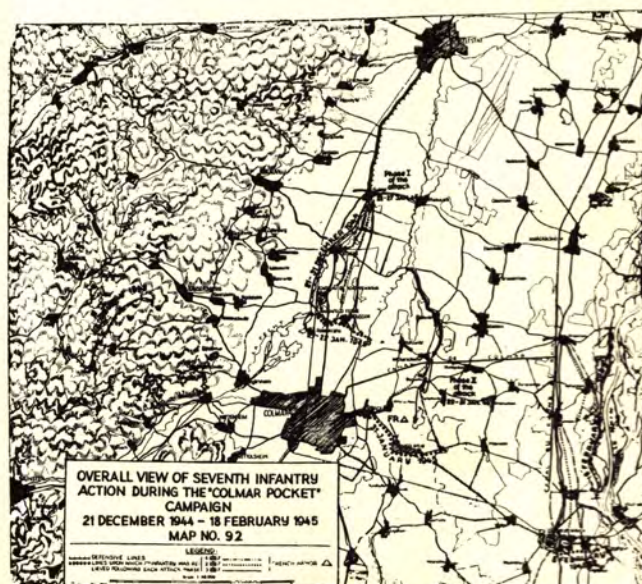
3. This memorandum will be read to all members of this Regiment at earliest opportunity.

JOHN A. HEINTGES,
Lt. Col., 7th Infantry
Commanding.

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IS CITED BY THE FRENCH AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

When the American Third Infantry Division was relieved by the French on 19 February 1945, its longest stretch of combat in World War II, which commenced with the Invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944, was ended. In the actions of the American Seventh Army and the French First Army a principal role was played by the American Third Infantry Division which the Germans had long before, in Italy, called the American "Sturm" Division and the French called the American "Elite" Division.

At a colorful ceremony in Colmar the head of the French government, General Charles De Gaulle, paid high tribute to the "Rock of the Marne" Division for its outstanding work in the liberation of France and awarded to it the coveted French Fourragere. All members who served with the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry and other units of the Third Infantry Division during the period were authorized to wear the French Fourragere.⁴⁰



⁴⁰ Decision 976, Prov. French Gov't, 27 July '45.

The official French citation was read by General d'Armee Jean Joseph Gabriel de Lattre de Tassigny, Commanding General of the First French Army, then he pinned the coveted cord of honor to the division colors. Thus the Third Infantry Division became the first American division to be cited by the French Government and awarded the French Fourragere for service in World War II. Major General John W. O'Daniel was made an honorary private first class in the French Foreign Legion.



Members of the Medical Detachment are shown outside the Second Battalion Aid Station which was established in Baltzenheim, Alsace, during February, 1945. Front row, l. to r., Pfc James Etheridge, T/5 Don Hamrick, Pfc James Cameron, Pfc Emil Ladner, T/5 Bueford Olson, and Pfc Lewis Hardy. Middle: Pfc Harold Flax. Back Row: 2 Lt. R. L. Tillman, Pfc Charles O'Connor, T/4 Matthew Gasper, T/4 Joseph Harvey, T/4 Theodore Siegal, T/5 James Beck, S/Sgt. Bernard Rampola, and T/5 Theodore Thompson.

OFFICIAL FRENCH CITATION

To the Elite Division which remained faithful to the finest traditions of courage and sacrifice which had been its pride during the last war when it acquired the name of "Rock of the Marne":

Under the vigorous leadership of General O'Daniel, a chief known for his energy and his ability to maneuver, the division, remaining in line without interruption, fought victoriously from the beaches of the Mediterranean to the banks of the Rhine.

Attached to First French Army under command of General de Lattre de Tassigny for the operation of the Colmar Pocket, the Third Division has by the power of its ever renewed attacks taken a large part in the victorious battle of Colmar. During the night of 22-23 January 1945 this division succeeded in crossing by surprise the Fecht and Ill rivers and captured the first enemy line of resistance moving across a terrain covered with obstacles and in spite of a raging snow blizzard.

Giving the enemy no rest and pursuing him with an ever increasing ardor, the division crossed the Colmar canal to successfully surround and capture the town of Neuf-Brisach, thereby cutting one of the only two possible lines of retreat of the enemy still fighting in the region south of Colmar.

The division during this action captured over four thousand PWs, thus brilliantly completing the series of glorious operations in which it participated from the Mediterranean to the Rhine.

P. C. February 20, 1945.—Signed:

GENERAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY,
Commander in Chief—First French Army.

Besides by the French, the Third Infantry Division was cited by high American military leaders and eventually by the President of the United States. The citations are here reprinted.

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL SIXTH ARMY GROUP

To the Commanding General, Officers and Men of the
Third Infantry Division:

On January 23rd your Division launched an attack on the enemy with the ultimate objective of reducing the Colmar Pocket. With the 254th Infantry of the 63rd Division attached, by a night operation you forced a crossing of the Ill River and established a bridgehead south of Illhausern. You held this bridgehead in spite of heavy armored counter-attacks from the rear and flanks. Later, you succeeded in capturing Riedwihr and then drove south, crossed the Colmar canal and by swift maneuvers secured two bridge sites and captured six towns in eight hours. You built bridges with great rapidity and, driving with your armor, you outflanked Colmar and cut off the retreat of the enemy by way of Neuf-Brisach in the northern sector of the pocket. Your successes enabled the II French Corps to push eastward to the Rhine and forced the enemy south to his only route of escape. Throughout this hard fighting, opposed by a fanatical Hun and terrible weather, you killed many of the enemy, captured large numbers of prisoners and seized large quantities of materiel.

This commendable operation was carried out in the best tradition of the Third Infantry Division and has added another glorious chapter to your outstanding record which includes almost four hundred combat days and nineteen Medals of Honor. I congratulate each officer and man on this fine organization of which you should all be justly proud.

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

To this commendation is added the congratulations, respect and admiration of the Seventh Army.

A. M. PATCH
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

My congratulations. Again, well done, Third Division.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

Members of the Third Infantry Division:

You have just completed an outstanding operation against the enemy for which your actions have been justly recognized in the form of citation by the French Government as well as your own. We have a reputation as being an efficient fighting division.

Now that we are out of the line for a while, we must not lose sight of this reputation earned. It must be maintained throughout our every action. Therefore, see to it that you are known as belonging to the Third Division by the way you salute, by the way you conduct yourself while on pass, and by the way you do the innumerable things that go with being a soldier. In other words, fight like hell, play like hell when it's your turn, and work like hell to be ready to fight like hell when again called upon. Such is the Third Division.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL
Major General, U. S. Army
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PRESIDENTIAL CITATION
GENERAL ORDERS WAR DEPARTMENT
NO. 44 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
SECTION XIII 6 June 1945

2. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Sec. 1, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942) the following unit is cited by the War Department for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period indicated, under the provisions of Section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The Third Infantry Division with the following attached units:

254th Infantry Regiment,
 99th Chemical Battalion,
 168th Chemical Smoke Generator Company,
 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion,
 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP),
 756th Tank Battalion,
 IPW Team 183.

Fighting incessantly, from 22 January to 6 February 1945, in heavy snow storms, through enemy-infested marshes and woods, and over a flat plain criss-crossed by numerous small canals, irrigation ditches, and unfordable streams, terrain ideally suited to the defense, breached the German defense wall on the northern perimeter of the Colmar bridgehead and drove forward to isolate Colmar from the Rhine. Crossing the Fecht River from Guemar, Alsace, by stealth during the late hours of darkness of 22 January, the assault elements fought their way forward against mounting resistance. Reaching the Ill River, a bridge was thrown across but collapsed before armor could pass to the support of two battalions of the 30th Infantry on the far side. Isolated and attacked by a full German Panzer Brigade, outnumbered and outgunned, these valiant troops were forced back yard by yard. Wave after wave of armor and Infantry was hurled against them but despite hopeless odds the Regiment held tenaciously to its bridgehead. Driving forward in knee-deep snow which masked acres of densely sown

mines, the 3d Infantry Division fought from house to house and street to street in the fortress towns of the Alsatian plain. Under furious concentrations of supporting fire, assault troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber boats during the night of 29 January. Driving relentlessly forward six towns were captured within eight hours, 500 casualties inflicted on the enemy during the day, and large quantities of booty seized. Slashing through to the Rhone-Rhine Canal the garrison at Colmar was cut off and the fall of the city assured. Shifting the direction of the attack, the division moved south between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Rhine toward Neuf-Brisach and the Brisach Bridge. Synchronizing the attack, the bridge was seized and Neuf-Brisach captured by crossing the protecting moat and scaling the medieval walls by ladder. In one of the hardest fought and bloodiest campaigns of the war, the 3d Infantry Division annihilated three enemy divisions, partially destroyed three others, captured over 4,000 prisoners, and inflicted more than 7,500 casualties on the enemy.

By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,
 Chief of Staff.

Official:
 J. A. ULIO
 Major General
 The Adjutant General



The 28 "Cotton Balers" shown above who won the Silver Star Medal are: (1) Pfc. Frederick Bassett, Co. "C", (2) Pfc. Michael S. Balogh, Co. "H", (3) Pfc. Calvin T. Bradshaw, Co. "C", (4) Pfc. Paul D. Clever, Co. "M", (5) Pfc. Lewis W. Gullett, Co. "E", (6) Pfc. Stephen J. Nemeth, Co. "H", (7) Pfc. James W. Schultz, Co. "A", (8) Cpl. Troy B. Hollon, Cn. Co., (9) Sgt. Paul E. Helms, Co. "D", (10) S/Sgt. Micheal C. Fanelli, Co. "F", (11) S/Sgt. Mays G. Overton, Co. "I", (12) S/Sgt. George K. Pletzke, Co. "C", (13) Capt. Charles L. Treadway, Co. "M", (14) Capt. Robert V. Horton, Cn. Co., (15) Pfc. Christian A. Funk, Co. "H", (16) Cpl. Donald E. Scott, Co. "B", (17) S/Sgt. Conrad L. Lacombe, Regtl. B.P., (18) 1 Sgt. Robert M. O'Kane, Co. "B", (19) 2 Lt. Donald F. Stegman, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (20) 1 Lt. Herbert E. Bothee, Co. "K", (21) 1 Lt. Sam S. Fitzsimmons, Co. "I", (22) 1 Lt. George R. Townsend, Co. "K", (23) Capt. Eugene F. Bacon, Co. "H", (24) Capt. Edward J. Brink, Co. "I", (25) Capt. Francis J. Kret, Cos. "I" & "K", (26) Capt. Frederick O. Rachiele, M. C., (27) Capt. Frank J. Syladek, M. C., (28) Capt. George W. Yarnall, M. C.

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PART SEVEN

The German Campaign—15 March-8 May 1945

CHAPTER I

Preparation and Plans

Early 19 February 1945 the Seventh Infantry commenced movement by motor from the Rhine and to rest areas north of Nancy, France. The route followed was through Colmar, St. Die, Luneville and Nancy. The units closed in to their assigned areas during the night.

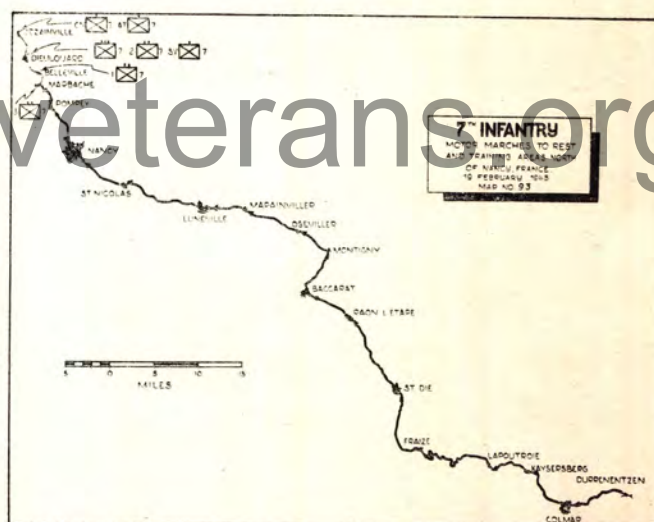
The Red Battalion closed into Belleville, the White Battalion into Dieulouard, the Blue Battalion into Marbache, Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies into Jezainville. Service Company set up in Dieulouard where the Regimental Command Post was also established. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, was established in Pont-A-Mousson. Attachments were released from Seventh Infantry control.

The Regiment rested and rehabilitated its troops the first few days in the new area. "Cotton Baler" received a hearty welcome by the populace in the towns of the province of Lorraine, where they were billeted in the homes of the people and public buildings. Moving pictures and shows were provided for the men and each company held dances which were attended by the old and young "belles" of Lorraine, who quickly learned the American "jitterbug" steps and enjoyed the dances. Passes were given to the men to visit the historic city of Nancy. Sundays were devoted to religious services.

Commencing 26 February a limited training program was conducted which included inspections, disciplinary training and conditioning marches. The personal appearance of the men, care and cleaning of equipment took up part of the time. The Articles of War were re-read and lectures given on morality and sex. A "team spirit" was renewed within the squads, platoons and companies with the non-commissioned and commissioned officers learning the names of all the new men, being intent on becoming better acquainted.

On 2 March a more intensive program of training was initiated with eight hours per day devoted to weapons training and small unit problems in the attack and defense. One-third of the training was conducted during the hours of darkness. Emphasis was placed on "village and street fighting" which took place in Pournoy la Chetive, where a "typical" German village was set up. Demonstrations of street fighting by selected personnel preceded the use of the village by small unit formations of the battalions. Full use was made of demolitions, grenades, rocket launchers, flame throwers and other Infantry weapons. Tank destroyers were used in the exercises. Every measure was taken to make the problems as realistic as possible for the new members of the Regiment. During the night training "artificial

moonlight" was used. Anti-Tank Company was organized into tank destroyer sections and training was begun with the rocket launcher, better known as the "bazooka", as the primary weapon of the company rather than the anti-tank gun, though the gun was not neglected. Firing was conducted. Cannon Company fired its weapons on the artillery ranges. Numerous schools were held for the officers and non-commissioned officers which included classes for forward observers in the direction of artillery and mortar fire.



On 7 March an impressive ceremony was held on the historic plain of Lorraine, two miles west of Dieulouard, when the gallant Seventh Infantry was highly commended by Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, Commanding General of the American Seventh Army, Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division, and his assistant, Brigadier General Robert T. Young, for the prominent part it played in reducing the "Colmar Pocket" and in previous operations.

On a grey, cool, early afternoon, after preparing and practicing all morning, the splendid troops of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment were arrayed in battalion formations to the admiration of a large civilian gallery. The Regimental Colors with their numerous campaign streamers flapped in the breeze as one of the oldest and most decorated regiments in the United States Army stood at attention.

General Patch presented the nation's highest valor award to Sergeant James P. Connor of the Battle Patrol for the actions he performed at Cavallaire-sur-Mer, in Southern France, 15 August 1944. Company "E" received its well-deserved Presidential Unit Citation and the Regiment was officially awarded its "Combat Infantry Regiment" streamer, which was welcome, but unnecessary, as every combat soldier knows that the Seventh Infantry has always been and will always be a "Combat Infantry" Regiment. Numerous Purple Heart Medals, Silver Star Medals, Bronze Star Medals and Soldier's Medals were also awarded to Seventh Infantry personnel. The ceremony ended with the magnificent "7th Light Foot" Infantry, with her colors, streamers and banners flying, and her inimitable "dogfaces", passing in review before the commanding generals. It was a sight that would thrill the heart and bring tears to the eyes of those who know what the Seventh Infantry has been through, has meant and will always be to the United States of America. It is the Regiment that is always "willing and able" and has never failed in its assigned mission.

During the stay north of Nancy the Commanding Officer, John Arnold Heintges, became a full colonel of the United States Army. It was a promotion justly given and there was not a man in the entire Regiment who did not feel happy for the "old man," as he had proven his ability and many felt he should have had the promotion long before.

One change occurred on the Regimental Field and Staff during the Nancy interlude, when Lieutenant Colo-

nel Clayton C. Thobro departed for the United States on temporary duty. Not professionally trained to be a soldier, the man from Wyoming had shown great promise during his first days in the Army. He had landed with the Regiment at Fedala, French Morocco, that dark morning of 8 November 1942 as a second lieutenant. During the ensuing campaigns he had displayed unusual talents, coolness and bravery while under fire on the field of battle. A man of few words but bold and resolute of action he had become one of the Seventh Infantry's outstanding field commanders and had proven himself fully capable of handling a rifle battalion under the most trying conditions. He never asked an officer or enlisted man to perform a mission that he would not have done himself. He was greatly loved by the officers and men who served under him for he shared their every hardship. Many are the stories that are told by the firesides of his great scorn for personal danger or welfare. One of the most dangerous assignments for a soldier in his battalion was to become his orderly, jeep driver or body guard. In the thick of battle he was always up front and once during the bitter fighting of the Vosges Mountains every member of his staff had been killed or wounded and he stood alone. When he himself was wounded and Colonel Harrell sent an officer to relieve him, he stubbornly refused to relinquish command. A man of high ideals he was never known to curse or blaspheme as he held great control over himself in the most trying of circumstances. Holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit Award, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal he was one of the Seventh Infantry's most decorated members.

Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey moved up to assume the Regimental Executive Officer's position while the South Carolinian, Major Ralph T. Flynn, assumed command of the Third Battalion. Jack M. Duncan received promotion to the grade of lieutenant colonel.

On 9 March a new phase of instruction was initiated with the technique of river crossings as the subject. The battalions organized boat teams and waves. The next day actual river crossings by boat teams were conducted over the Moselle River in the vicinity of Belleville. On 11 March the Regimental Combat Team, less Service Company and the administrative elements, moved by motor to the vicinity of Lake Parroy where first the Regiment was to conduct a crossing problem of its own then take part in an exercise by the entire Third Infantry Division.

During the amphibious training that was conducted on 12 March one of the boats capsized. Private First Class Donald F. Dunham and Private Michael M. Gerhart, Jr., both of Company "A", were drowned in Lake Parroy.

The training was cut short on the 12th by order of higher headquarters. The tactical situation on the 7th Army front was such that the Commanding General ordered the Third Infantry Division to be committed without delay.

Before crossing the Rhine River the Seventh Infantry was to crack the Siegfried Line. The troops of the Regiment were trucked back to the billeting areas north of Nancy. At 2130 on 12 March Colonel Heintges received orders from higher authority regarding the new offensive action. The Regimental Staff then worked night and day in making plans and reconnaissance for the new operation.

The American 7th Army under its great leader, planned to resume the offensive on D-Day, which was set for 15 March 1945. Objectives of the 7th Army were to destroy the enemy in its zone; penetrate the Siegfried



Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, commanding U. S. 7th Army, congratulates Sgt. James P. Connor and awards him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Maj. Gen. O'Daniel looks on.

Line, seize the west bank of the Rhine River and cross the great river between Mannheim and Mainz to establish a bridgehead in preparation for a subsequent advance to the northeast. The three corps of the 7th Army, the VI, XV and XXI Corps, were all to attack at D-Day, H-Hour, but the XV Corps employing the veteran 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions and the 100th Infantry Division in the assault, was to make the main effort in the center on the axis of Rimling-Zwiebrucken;

Lt. Col. Clayton C. Thobro was one of the Seventh Infantry's ablest and best liked commanders of World War II. He temporarily commanded the Regiment from 4 to 5 December 1944. He commanded the Third Battalion from 4 to 13 March 1944, and commanded the Second Battalion from 16 July to 4 December 1944. He served as Regimental Executive Officer from 5 December 1944 to 26 February 1945. After spending a leave in the United States he returned to the Regiment after hostilities had ceased in Europe and again assumed command of the Third Battalion on 10 May 1945.



to penetrate the Siegfried Line in its zone; capture Zweibrucken, Hombourg and Kaiserslautern, and continue the attack to seize the west bank of the Rhine in its zone. On Army order the XV Corps was to cross the Rhine River north of Mannheim and secure a bridgehead for further operations to the northeast. Also on Army order the XV Corps was to pass one Infantry division to the VI Corps in the vicinity of Pirmassens.

The VI Corps attacking on the 7th Army's right was assigned the mission of seizing and securing the Bitche-Hagenau road and Maginot Line positions in its zone, to continue the attack on the general axis Hagenau-Pirmassens; penetrate the Siegfried Line; capture the high ground east and northeast of Pirmassens; and assist the advance of the XV Corps. Landau and Neustadt were to be captured by the VI Corps.

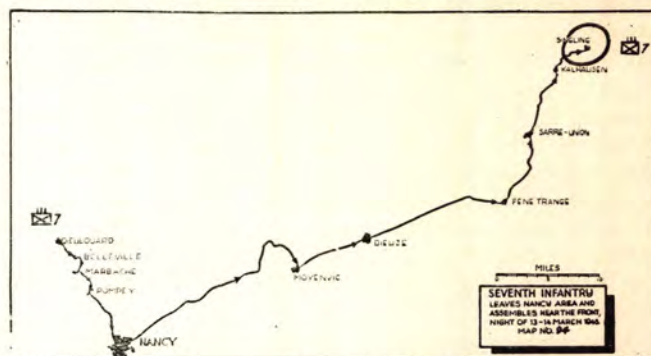
On the 7th Army's left the XXI Corps was to attack on D-Day, H-Hour, capture Saarbrucken, Neunkirchen and St. Wendel, then advance to the Rhine in its zone.

The 44th and 71st Infantry Divisions, having been on the defensive for quite some time, were to continue their missions of holding the XV Corps front line until passed through by the attacking 3rd, 45th and 100th Infantry Divisions and support the attack on D-Day, H-Hour, to the limit of range of all their available weapons. The 44th Infantry Division was to be passed through by both the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions whereupon it would assemble in Army reserve. The 71st Infantry Division was to be passed through by the 100th Infantry Division, then on Corps order, after D-Day, relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Bitche.

Plans called for the veteran 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions to make the main XV Corps attack. The "Rock of the Marne" Division was to make its main effort initially in the direction of Schweyen-Oberaubach, breach the Siegfried Line east of Rimschweiler, capture that part of Zweibrucken in its zone, the high ground in the area of Weisbach, Morsbach and Winterbach, then continue the attack in the direction of Kinds-

bach to capture Kaiserslautern. It was to then be prepared to assist in the exploitation with at least one motorized regimental combat team.

The main effort of the 45th, or "Thunderbird", Division was to be initially in the direction of Obergailbach, Seywiller, Wattweiler and Hombourg. The "Thunderbirds" were to breach the Siegfried Line east of the Blies River, capture that portion of Zweibrucken within its zone, capture Hombourg and the high ground in the area of Reiskirchen, Hombourg and Bechhofen.



Then it was to continue the attack in the direction of Weilerbach and assist the "Rock of the Marne" Division in the capture of Kaiserslautern by seizing the high ground in the vicinity of Morlautern, to protect the Corps' left, or west, flank and be prepared to assist in the exploitation with at least one motorized regimental combat team.

The 100th, or "Century", Division was to attack through left elements of the 71st Infantry Division, on the XV Corps right, to capture Bitche, the Camp de Bitche and the high ground in zone north and south thereof. Thereafter the "Centurymen" were to advance north with all or part of the division and protect the right or east flank of XV Corps.

The 6th Armored Division was to be prepared on XV Corps order after D-Day for prompt displacement to areas near Wittling, Sarre-Union and Butten. After H-Hour the tank division was to maintain suitable liaison and command personnel with necessary transportation and communication facilities at the command posts of the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions. It was to maintain active reconnaissance and up-to-the-minute plans for rapid movement to exploit a breakthrough by the regular, "dirt" Infantry, which, as usual, had the dirty work of removing the obstacles. The armored division was to be prepared on six hours notice to pass through either or both of the attacking 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions on XV Corps order and secure exits to the Rhine Plain at Baddurkheim, Grunstat and Driesen prepared to continue a rapid advance to the Rhine itself.

The 106th Cavalry Group, with one company of the 1109th Engineer Combat Group attached, was to be prepared to move on XV Corps order on three hours notice to cover the Corps' right, or east, flank from the vicinity of Walschbronn, until relieved by the 100th Infantry Division; to reconnoiter to the east and northeast. After a breach of the Siegfried Line was to be made the cavalymen were to cover the Corps' left, or west, flank, initially from the vicinity of Kusel and St. Wendel, and to reconnoiter to the north and northwest.

PLANS FOR THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

For the new offensive the Third Infantry or "Rock of the Marne" Division was to be supported by elements of XV Corps Artillery, the 1101st Engineer Combat Group, elements of Battery "A", 353 Searchlight Battalion, which was to provide "artificial moonlight" from

lowing rapid coordination on Phase Line "FEDALA" they were to continue the advance with utmost speed to Phase Line "FRANCE". There the combat teams were to be prepared on division order to rapidly breach the Siegfried Line in their zones, capture Zweibrucken and then advance rapidly to seize objectives on Phase Line "COME". As in past operations the attacking regiments were directed to destroy all enemy encountered. The flanks were to be protected and contact maintained with adjacent units. Commencing at daylight the regiments were to be prepared to smoke the objectives.

The 15th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, initially to be held in reserve, was to be prepared to assume the mission of either assault combat team. On division order it was to be prepared to exploit the advance in the division zone by employing reinforced transportation to motorize itself. Close liaison was to be provided with the assault combat teams and up-to-the-minute plans, including route data, for rapid employment, were to be maintained. The "Dragon" Regiment was to be prepared to breach the Siegfried Line.

Major General O'Daniel wanted the attack "pressed with the ruthless vigor that has routed every enemy formation opposing the Third Division." The men were to be brought to the highest possible state of offensive spirit prior to the jump-off. Bayonets were ordered to be sharpened. The division commander directed that maximum effort be exercised at all times to seize and secure bridges; and that commanders exercise every measure to insure secrecy and tactical surprise. All combat vehicles operating north of the line of departure commencing at daylight, D-Day, were to display cerise, or orange, panels to identify themselves to friendly aircraft, and all units were to be prepared to mark the front lines with smoke or panels on call. By-passing technique was directed to be used to the maximum for the new operation and the regiments were to be prepared to initiate night actions of not less than reinforced company size each night. Ordinarily a darkness objective line would be established and the unit ear-marked for the night effort would pass through leading elements on that line. To the maximum extent possible, a battalion was to be used for the night action and be rested during the daytime. It was further directed that every effort be made to remove mines from main routes prior to daylight, D-Day. Gas masks were to be carried by all personnel. The use of the alternate code signs was to be discontinued effective at H-Hour. After that time the regular insignia, markings and signs, which were to be removed or covered before leaving the Nancy area, would be used.

7th INFANTRY MOVES TO THE FRONT ONCE MORE AND PREPARES TO ATTACK

Following his receipt of orders for the new operation, late during the night of 12 March, Colonel Heintges dispatched billeting and reconnaissance parties early the next morning for the initial areas to be occupied by the Regiment, about seven miles south of the international boundary line between France and Germany, in the vicinity of Kalhausen, southeast of Sarreguemines and east of the river Sarre.

Moving in three serials the Regiment motor-marched during the night of 13-14 March 1945 via Pompey, Nancy, Highway No. 74, Moyenvic, Dieuze, Fenetrange, Sarre-Union, Oermingen and Kalhausen to assembly areas in the vicinity of Singling, France. The Regiment made the seventy-five mile motor-march without incident and was closed into the new area at 0230. Reconnaissance was conducted and plans formulated for the

new offensive action. The Regimental Command Post moved on to Bettviller during the morning. As D-Day was the 15th of March and H-Hour was established as 0100 there was no time to waste, but the Regimental Field and Staff completed its preliminary work with time to spare. Colonel Heintges conferred with his battalion commanders and issued his instructions for the attack. He ordered that the battalions be moved at dusk to designated concentrations areas near the line of departure held by the 44th Infantry Division elements. Lieutenant Colonels Wallace and Duncan were ordered to attack with their battalions at H-Hour, 0100, on 15 March 1945.

As the zone of the Seventh Infantry was split by La Bickenalbe River the Commanding Officer outlined three plans for the attack.² Under Plan 1, the First Battalion, on the left, was to attack to the north and seize Objectives 5, 4, 3 and 2 in order and attack Objective 1 from the rear, at the same time, with at least one company, which, upon clearing of Objective 1 was to be prepared to assist the remainder of the battalion in reducing Objective 2. The Second Battalion on the right was to advance rapidly and seize Objectives 6, 8, 11, 10, 9 and 7. The bridge at Peppenkum, Objective 9, was to be seized and secured. During the seizure of Objective 7, Objectives 11, 10 and 9 were to be held with sufficient forces to protect the right flank. The Third Battalion, in reserve initially, was to be ready to attack rapidly to the northeast on Regimental order and seize Ormersviller, Objective 12; to protect the right flank and establish contact with the 30th Infantry on the right.

In the event La Bickenalbe River could not be crossed by the First Battalion between Objectives 5 and 4, Plan 2 would then be put into effect which called for Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops to continue the attack rapidly from Objective 5 to Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7 with blocking elements left at Objectives 10 and 9 to secure the flank. Under Plan 2 the Second Battalion after taking Objective 6 was to move on 11 and 12 and forget Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7. The Third Battalion was to be committed on the left under Plan 2, rather than on the right, to seize Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 3, which were the little towns of Guiderkirch and Erching, the southeast arm of Baumbusch woods and high ground in the vicinity of La Bickenalbe stream.

Plan 3 was to develop out of Plan 2 in the event the First Battalion could not cross La Bickenalbe stream at Objective 9. In that event the Red Troops were to seize and hold Objective 10 and the right half of Objective 9, be prepared to resume the advance to the north or northeast. The Second Battalion was not to be affected by execution of Plan 3, its mission was to remain the same as in Plan 2 but the Third Battalion was to continue its attack from Phase Line "FEDALA" and seize Objective 7 and the west half of Objective 9 prepared to continue the attack.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol was to remain in Concentration Area "C" prepared to move on order as a "mopping up" or combat patrolling force.

Anti-Tank Company was to move from its initial assembly area, commencing at H-Hour, to Concentration Area "C" prepared to be employed as a tank destroyer or "bazooka" company. Its 57mm guns were to be held in the initial assembly area.

No artillery preparations were to be fired in advance of H-Hour but the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company were to support the attack from previously reconnoitered positions on call.

² Operations Instruction No. 19, HQ, 7th Infantry, 14 Mar '45.

Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, was to attach one mine sweeping detail to each of the First and Second Battalions then move the remainder of the company to Concentration Area "D", commencing at H-Hour, prepared to clear mines and obstacles and open roads in the Regimental zone, on order.

Company "A" and the First Platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, a Detachment of Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, were to move from initial assembly areas to Concentration Areas "A" and "B", commencing at H-Hour. As soon as routes of advance were declared open the armor was to be promptly attached to the attacking rifle battalions.

Company "B", 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was to assemble initially in Area "E" prepared to reconnoiter and occupy firing positions on order.

The Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol were attached to the Regiment and ordered to assemble in Concentration Area "C" commencing at H-Hour and be prepared to exploit any breakthrough by rapid advance in the Regimental zone.

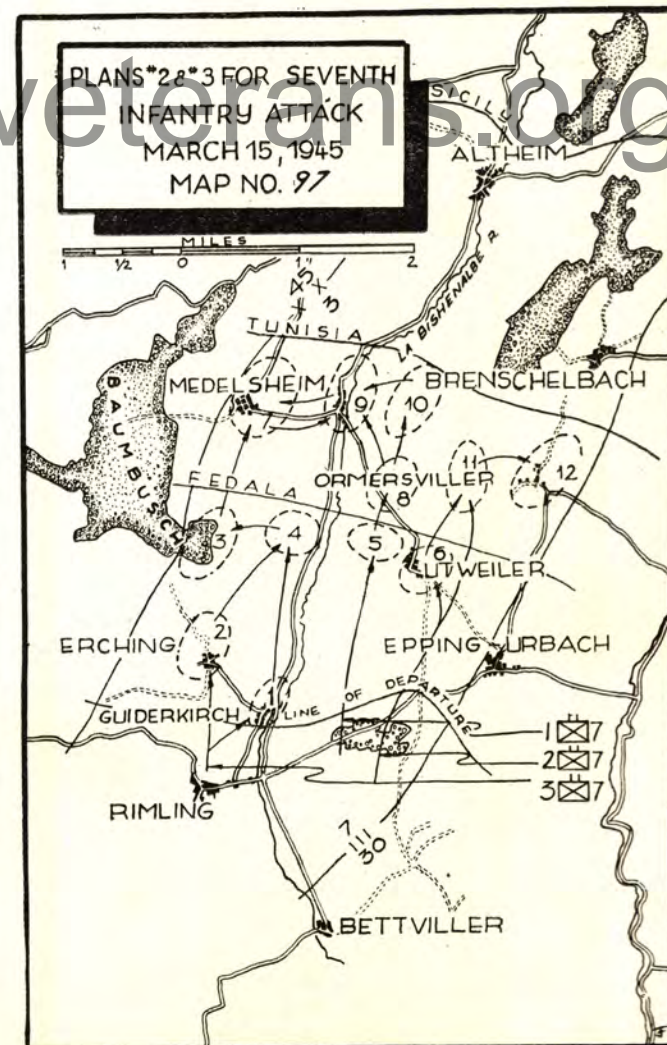
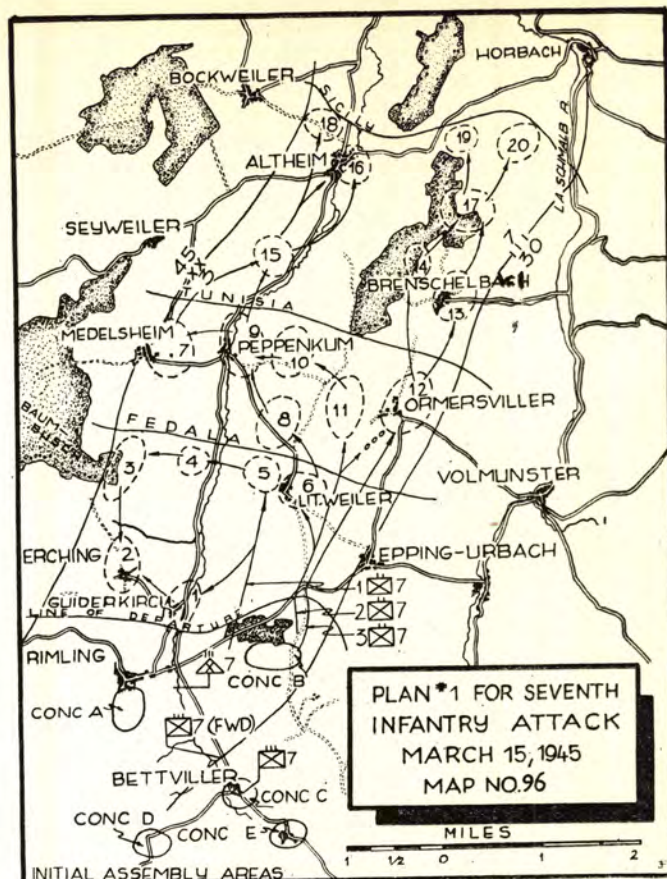
All attachments were to maintain constant liaison with the Regimental War Room or Command Post.

The estimate made of the enemy situation was that the attack by the Seventh Infantry would initially encounter elements of the 17 SS Panzer Grenadier Division which included the 37th and 38th SS Regiments. Approximately 25 to 40 enemy were known to occupy the houses at Guiderkirch and conducted sniper action whenever American troops approached. Frequently an assault gun from the 17 SS Tank Battalion, which consisted of from 18 to 20 assault 75mm guns, had fired on American troops from the vicinity of Le Mertzzenwald and Baumbusch woods. Enemy troops were said to be mostly conscripted soldiers who often patrolled into the 44th Infantry Division lines and surrendered on the least provocation. Within the previous week the enemy had been replacing the conscripted personnel with whatever troops he could assemble from his baggage trains and rear echelon personnel which consisted of quartermaster and train personnel, reconnaissance, engineer and anti-aircraft artillery troops. An estimated 200 to 300 enemy troops were expected on the Regimental front.

The enemy defenses consisted initially of hasty field fortifications and thence the mighty Siegfried Line defenses. Although the enemy had prepared elaborate trenches, weapons pits and bunkers, patrols had established the fact that the Germans continued to maintain a "floating defense", probably due to the lack of personnel to man all the defensive positions. Two-man fighting holes covered with logs and earth formed small bunkers that would be encountered at tactical localities. From Eppenkirchen to Wiesskirchen the enemy regularly manned reverse slopes. However, positions had been prepared on crests and were expected to be occupied on alarm. South of Ormersviller the enemy was organizing small delaying positions which consisted of foxholes and machine gun emplacements.

The only enemy armor reported in the Seventh Infantry sector was that of the 17th SS Tank Battalion mentioned above as consisting of 18 to 20 self-propelled guns. Use of the armor would be limited due to terrain conditions. However the road net was complete and would assist greatly in armor employment.

Because American patrols had had very few casualties due to mines, and the 44th Infantry Division leaders had reported that the enemy mine fields were easily identified with the majority of the mines consisting of anti-



tank mines placed on top of the ground and booby trapped mines that were identified by stakes with red and white ribbons attached, it was not expected that too much trouble would be experienced from mines. There the estimate erred, as actually for the preceding month while the 44th and 71st Infantry Divisions had done nothing but hold, without aggressive defensive tactics being employed, the enemy had heavily increased his mine defenses. That was readily discovered once the night attack got underway and German Schu, Teller and anti-tank box mines began to explode.

Enemy air activity had been practically non-existent. Two weeks previous, with two captured American planes, the enemy had attacked the town of Bining. Only high altitude photographic planes had been identified during daylight hours. It therefore was not expected that the enemy would concentrate heavy air activities during the initial attacks.

Enemy artillery fire had been extremely light throughout the sector with small concentrations merging on one place at a time. The German artillery had been slow in

reacting to American patrol action and all enemy artillery observed had been of light calibre. After breaching his initial defenses it was expected the enemy artillery would become even lighter but it was known the enemy would employ all his available self-propelled assault guns to cover the artillery withdrawal.

The terrain in the Seventh Infantry sector began with rolling ground. The predominating hills were north of Utweiler. The valley of La Bickenalbe stream, which was in the left center and parallel to the axis of advance, constituted the Seventh Infantry zone of action. Little was known of the road conditions but it was expected that armor would be able to operate over the roads and trails along the ridgeline in the right sector of the zone. As the attack should advance the terrain would become increasingly rough with cross valleys such as was encountered in the Domfaing-Les Rouges Eaux areas in the Vosges campaign.

The enemy was expected to defend on his positions and maneuver local reserves to the Siegfried Line, then perform a delaying action under pressure of the attacks.

CHAPTER II

Seventh Infantry Leads the Third Infantry Division into Germany and Breaches the Siegfried Line

At dusk 14 March the Seventh Infantry troops moved from their assembly areas in the vicinity of Singling France. The First Battalion closed into Concentration Area "A" near Rimling while the Second and Third Battalions closed into Concentration Area "B" near Le Buchenbusch woods.

A revision of the plan in regard to the use of artillery was made. Though the original plan called for no artillery preparations before the jump-off at H-Hour, it was decided to lay heavy concentrations on the area above Phase Line "FEDALA" at the time of attack.

It was a cool, damp night with no snow on the ground. The rains of the previous days had made the ground gooey and sticky with mud.

While the artillery boomed, the First and Second Battalions passed through the 324th Infantry Regiment of the 44th Infantry Division and precisely at 0100 jumped off in the attack. A machine gun was encountered almost immediately by the First Battalion troops but overcome and the troops on the left moved rapidly to establish another first for the Regiment by being the first Third Infantry Division troops into Germany. First Scout, Private First Class Wayne T. Alderson, of "Baker" Company, was the first "Cotton Baler" to step across the international boundary line into Germany. The official time for the entry of "Baker" Company into the enemy's homeland was 0131, thirty-one minutes after H-Hour.

The First Battalion troops continued to advance rapidly and overcame small arms resistance. As the lead elements closed on Objective 5, Company "A" branched off to the left and attacked Guiderkirch from the rear.

Following clean-up of Objective 5, Companies "B" and "C" crossed La Bickenalbe stream with little trouble. At 0520 the First Battalion troops had seized Objective 4, Road Junction 304, and were moving for the Baum-

busch woods which were also seized. Company "C", under the command of First Lieutenant William T. Wright, was left in the woods and the high ground nearby, as Company "B" commanded by Captain James B. Rich, Jr., pushed south for Erching.

At 0530 when Company "B" was halted near Erching, France, by fire from two German Mark IV tanks, Private First Class Clarence Firestone advanced in a lone assault on the enemy armor. Carrying his "bazooka", he crawled and ran about 125 yards through tank and machine gun fire and ignored bullets which struck his entrenching tool. Fifty yards from the first tank he set it afire with a single rocket. Two Germans were killed and the second tank was forced to withdraw. Company "B" was then able to resume its advance. Private First Class Firestone was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism.³

Company "A", commanded by First Lieutenant Abraham S. Jaffe, encountered strong enemy resistance in and around Guiderkirch. At 0430 Colonel Heintges ordered the Regimental Battle Patrol to move on the town from the south and help clear up the situation by contacting Company "A". The patrol encountered enemy on the southern edge of the town.

When Company "A" was halted in a narrow ditch under machine gun cross-fire and heavy mortar concentrations, Private William D. Avery voluntarily crawled out of the ditch in a singlehanded assault on the enemy automatic weapons. Advancing 15 yards over exposed terrain through enemy fire, he engaged two German machine guns in a duel at close range, emptied eight magazines from his Browning automatic rifle into the hostile emplacements, killed three Germans and silenced the weapons. His intrepid action enabled Company "A"

³ For authority see GO No. 342, HQ, 7th Army, 28 July '45.

to resume the attack and capture its objective. For the heroism he displayed Private Avery was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁴

Company "A" and the Battle Patrol continued to engage the enemy in and around Guiderkirch in a stiff battle but won the contest at 0900 when the town was declared clear of all resisting enemy and 53 Germans were held as prisoners of war.

Following the attack made by Private First Class Firestone on the enemy tanks, Company "B" seized Erching during the morning against moderate resistance.

For the First Battalion that early morning, Private Lawrence R. Russeau and Private Edward J. Vilt of Company "A", Private Earl K. Stevenson of Company "B", Staff Sergeant Oakley Salisbury, Sergeant John F. Kreis, Private Cecil B. Coffin, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Technician Fifth Grade Herbert G. Johnson, all of Company "D", Private Albert E. Whittington and Private Robert R. Willbanks of First Battalion Headquarters Company displayed gallantry in action.⁵

In spite of the resistance encountered matters had gone quite smoothly for the First Battalion forces but not so for Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's charges. Shortly after crossing the line of departure with Companies "E" and "F" abreast and "G" following in reserve, the Second Battalion troops entered a field heavily strewn with mines which began to explode. The explosions of the German Schu mines notified the enemy of the Second Battalion's location and within a short time mortar and artillery fire commenced to fall on the hapless battalion. The inevitable result was that the command became badly disorganized with numerous casualties sustained. Most unfortunate from the standpoint of the welfare of the battalion as a whole was when the personnel carrying the radio equipment of the battalion and of the artillery forward observer, First Lieutenant Jack Ivester, were killed, wounded or dispersed and the radios lost or destroyed. Without communication the battalion commander could not immediately notify his commanding officer of the plight his troops were in or call for supporting artillery fire. Company "H" having its personnel distributed with the rifle companies lost three of its radios destroyed and two entire machine gun sections lost by casualties and dispersal.

In the darkness of the night and confusion while under fire it was exceedingly difficult to fully reorganize. Some there were who withdrew and straggled. The Second Battalion greatly reduced in strength, possibly fifty percent, moved on out of the field and drove on for Utweiler which was entered and captured against moderate resistance between 0530 and 0600. About sixty enemy were taken prisoners of war.

Through great leadership and gallantry displayed by men of all ranks the Second Battalion had overcome its first great obstacle and driven on to Utweiler with a fraction of its original strength. First Sergeant David M. Carroll of Company "E" lost his right foot when he stepped on a mine that morning. Though seriously wounded he refused immediate treatment, encouraged others to continue on to the objective and directed the evacuation of other wounded personnel. Private Clarence W. Mai of Company "G", who was severely wounded in the face by fragments; Private First Class Joseph P. Germershausen, an aid man of the Medical Detachment who was wounded in both legs and blinded by a detonated mine, and Technical Sergeant Aubrey D. Miller of Company "H" were three others who were gallant and sacrificing during the terrible experience. Captain George W. Yarnall, the Second Battalion Surgeon, moved for-

ward through the shell fire and exploding mines to aid the casualties. For hours he performed amputations, administered blood plasma, applied dressings and evacuated casualties. Technician Fifth Grade Joseph O. Kitchen of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, though wounded in action, voluntarily continued duty and was first to sight enemy tanks approaching on Utweiler and gave the alarm. Private Hobart E. Brown of the Medical Detachment performed many mercy missions.⁶

The Blue Battalion moving up behind the Second also experienced trouble. Its artillery radios were knocked out by enemy fire and casualties were sustained. Though the mine-sweeping squads of Company "A", 10th Engineers, and Anti-Tank Mine Platoon assisted by the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon of the 324th Infantry Regiment had been at work clearing mines, there were many, mostly plastic or wooden mines, that had not been detected or removed. This was soon discovered when the armor started to move to the support of the foot troops. Four tanks moving to the support of the Second Battalion were disabled by the exploding mines. Then counter-action by the enemy delayed a resumption of the attack until later in the day.

The Third Division Commander called the Regimental War Room for the situation at 0415 that morning and after receiving what was known, revealed that the 30th Infantry on the right had encountered strong resistance and was making little headway. He was told the "Cotton Baler" Third Battalion was moving up behind the Second Battalion ready to be committed. At 0615 he called back and directed that the Third Battalion be used to take Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7 but the Commanding Officer could not comply as the flanks were too exposed due to the forward position of the troops. A series of setbacks occurred that prevented the Commanding Officer from carrying out "Iron Mike's" wishes.

At about 0730 that morning the enemy directed flak wagon fire and fire from self-propelled guns at the Second Battalion forces in Utweiler and then at about 0800 closed in on the town with a combination of four flak-wagons and nine tanks and tank destroyers, which included two "Tigers". It was a tough situation to be in without support of any kind. Attached armor had not gotten through to the battalion and without communication, artillery could not be called into play. That was the fundamental reason for the almost complete destruction of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion that day. Communications personnel of the Regiment and Second Battalion had not laid telephonic lines of communication to the forward position and without radios there was no means of communication with the Regimental Commander, except by foot messenger. The situation grew worse in just a few minutes. The enemy armor closed in on the town from three sides and began shooting it up, then enemy Infantry of about 200 in number attacked. The houses one by one were lowered or badly damaged by the enemy fire. "Cotton Balers" fought back with "bazookas" and rifles and with what few machine guns

⁴ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

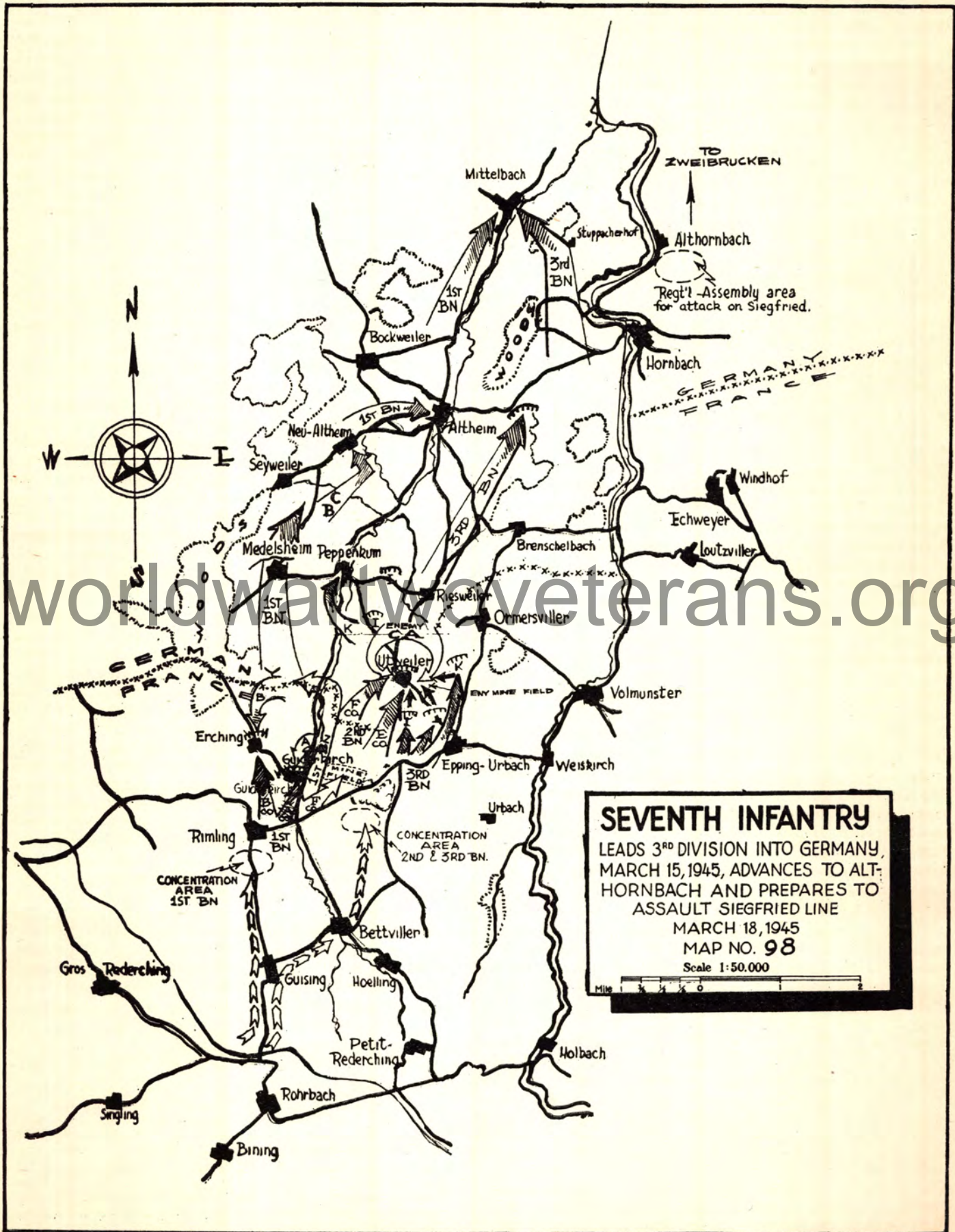
⁵ GOs No. 175, 177, 182, 187, 226, 262 & 313, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24, 25, 28 & 30 May, 24 June, 18 July & 27 Aug. '45. Pvt. Coffin (posthumously), S/Sgt. Salisbury, Sgt. Kreis, T/5 Johnson, Pvts. Russeau, Stevenson, Vilt, Whittington & Willbanks were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GOs No. 187, 198, 208, 227, 249, 264 & 268, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May, 7, 12 & 25 June, 10, 19 & 21 July '45. Capt. Yarnall, 1 Sgt. Carroll, T/Sgt. Miller, T/5 Kitchen, Pfc Germershausen, Pvts. Brown & Mai were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

were on hand until the ammunition was exhausted. Many officers and men were killed and wounded. Great confusion existed and command was lost. Groups were forced to surrender to the enemy, others tried to hide

themselves and a few made a run for it to escape. The Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, for all intents and purposes, had been destroyed.

Though the Commanding Officer knew the Second



Battalion was in serious trouble he did not know that a catastrophe had befallen the White Battalion troops. The first definite information came at 0950 when a call from the 30th Infantry's Second Battalion Command Post was received and an officer stated that a sergeant from the Seventh Infantry's Company "H" had entered with word concerning the White Battalion. Staff Sergeant James R. Shipp was put on the phone and in a halting voice, tense with emotion and excitement, said: "Our forces—occupying the town of Utweiler—were surrounded—by six enemy tanks—and the tanks were closing in on the town—there was no enemy Infantry with the enemy tanks—most of the battalion—is still in town—enemy tanks blowing down all the buildings in the town—Battalion CO is still in the town—have no communication with the battalion."

The sergeant was told to remain where he was and that transportation would be sent for him.

At 1100 First Lieutenant John Ananich, Jr., of Company "H" who also had escaped, and Staff Sergeant Shipp entered the War Room. The lieutenant stated that to him at least five known enemy tanks and one other vehicle had surrounded Utweiler and shot it up. "We had the choice of giving up or making a go for it, which a few of us did. We did everything we could. Had the town captured and about 60 PWs taken. We used up all of our bazooka ammo. Outside the town I entered a pill box where there were 15 Company 'E' men. The First Sergeant of Company 'E' lay there with one leg shot off."

The lieutenant further stated that many troops in Utweiler surrendered to the enemy. When asked the size of the enemy tanks he stated he did not have time to determine their size.

It was a bad report to receive. It was hoped the situation was not so bad as reported by the sergeant and his lieutenant. The Commanding Officer alerted the Third Battalion, Anti-Tank Company and attached armor of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion that they would make an attack with artillery support at 1405 to retake Utweiler and rescue the remnants of the Second Battalion.

Then the Commanding Officer himself went to the front to direct the attack. When four of the attached tanks struck mines on a road and then sustained direct hits from hostile shell fire, Colonel Heintges persuaded remaining tanks, which had withdrawn, to follow him back up the road. Despite intense enemy self-propelled shells that hit less than 50 yards from him and although flak fire swept the area, Colonel Heintges brought the armor 500 yards up the road and inspired the crews to launch the attack with the riflemen.⁷

When 1300 came around and no word was received from Lieutenant Colonel Duncan it was assumed he was killed, wounded or taken prisoner. By that time 150 personnel from the Second Battalion had been picked up. They were those who had been dispersed in the mine fields at the beginning of the operation.

At 1400 a terrific, revengeful, artillery preparation, was opened up by the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and other battalions in the form of a "box barrage" on Utweiler, with no fire in the fourth quadrant, as it was there that Colonel Heintges believed that the surviving Second Battalion forces in the town were located, which was correct. As the artillery roared vengeance on the Germans, Companies "I" and "L", and the "bazooka" teams of Anti-Tank Company, supported by 15 pieces of armor, launched their powerful attack to retake Utweiler. Air missions and artillery were fired on Pempkum, Medelsheim and Ormersviller.

The enemy felt the fury and power of the assault and could not hold up for long under it, but the Germans put up a bitter fight and finally withdrew from Utweiler very reluctantly. Captain William D. Anthony vigorously led Company "I" in the assault and it was his company that first entered the town that afternoon for the rescuing forces. His men shattered the German Infantry defenses guarding the town. Advancing boldly through concentrated enemy artillery fire he brought his men to cover. Although severely wounded by German flak fire, Captain Anthony directed the assault on, and seizure of, Utweiler, Germany, and retained command with inflexible willpower until he lost consciousness. Captain Anthony was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions of that day.⁸

Company "I" was first reported in Utweiler at 1512. Company "L", under the command of Captain John E. DeLeon, entered shortly after that. The armor of the 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the bazooka-men of Anti-Tank Company did some good shooting that day. A total of seven enemy tanks and tank destroyers were destroyed by their fire. By 1830 the re-inforced Third Battalion forces and Anti-Tank Company had re-taken Utweiler.

Staff Sergeant James L. Clayton, Sergeant Robert B. Humbert and Private First Class Lorenzo Medina, all of Company "F", were among the personnel captured by the enemy in the morning. In the afternoon during the friendly artillery concentrations which scored many hits on enemy positions, including the building they occupied, the three "Fox" Company soldiers capitalized on enemy confusion to seize hostile weapons. When



1 Lt. Robert W. Rankin, Co. "F", was one of the 37 "Cotton Balers" who were killed during the action for Utweiler, Germany.

approximately 30 surprised German guards attempted to thwart their escape, the three "Cotton Balers" fired at the enemy, wounded one and caused the others to surrender over to them. One half hour later the friendly Third Battalion forces re-captured the town.⁹

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, his S-2, Second Lieutenant Albert V. Becker, Jr., Private Jerome Schmuckler and one other soldier were found in a bomb crater which was partly filled with water and located south of Utweiler. The Second Battalion commander and his

⁷ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. Col. Heintges was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁸ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

⁹ GO No. 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. S/Sgt. Clayton, Sgt. Humbert & Pfc Medina were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

three companions had been in the hole with water to their arm pits for seven hours. Nineteen wounded members of the Second Battalion were found in the town as the Germans had not had time to evacuate all the wounded prisoners that they had taken, though it was learned that they did take with them First Lieutenant Harold W. Erhardt of Company "H", who had been seriously wounded.

Only a few members of the White Battalion other than those already named were found to have successfully hidden themselves from the Germans and escaped capture. Among the small number were First Lieutenant Eugene Bacon, the commanding officer of Company "H", and First Lieutenant Charles W. Webb of Second Battalion Headquarters Company. As the heavy weapons company had its sections divided among the rifle companies First Lieutenants Bacon and Webb had entered Utweiler with Company "E" and a command group of the Second Battalion.

From the few survivors a partial story of the tragic events of that dark morning were unfolded. In referring to the enemy tanks that attacked the White Battalion forces, First Lieutenant Bacon said: "They attacked in Indian fashion surrounding the town. Then they proceeded to lower the houses on us. They started on the north end of the town and fired on the stone houses lowering them, and firing on those men who were outside in foxholes. Many of the houses caught fire. The house my group was in caught fire and we moved back. Men in other houses were also forced to withdraw and it developed into sort of a rout. Much confusion existed. Thirty-five of us gathered in one house. When the enemy Infantry attacked and started throwing hand grenades in the windows some of the men started to surrender. The group fought it out for about 15 minutes until one man succeeded in running out and yelling "Kamarad" and gave up. Others followed suit and the situation was lost."¹⁰

First Lieutenants Bacon and Webb then fled themselves and escaped to the cellar where they hid in a potato bin and covered themselves over with boards, straw and potatoes. The Germans occupied the house and the two lieutenants had to remain in hiding. Frequently Germans would enter the cellar to look around. Once a German SS major sat on a board two feet from First Lieutenant Webb's head and ate some American rations that had been taken from the prisoners. The two officers reported that First Lieutenant Erhardt had been brought into the house by the Germans and for a time they could hear the Germans talking to him and recognized his voice when he replied, though he talked but little. The two officers said that the Germans did not mind the American artillery or planes but definitely did not like the Infantry-armor attack put on that afternoon. "We remained in the bin covered over for seven hours and were badly cramped when rescued at about five o'clock."¹⁰

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan entered the Regimental War Room at 1840. His clothes were soaked and muddy and he appeared slightly shocked. When he spoke his voice was weak but the old fire was there and he said: "It's the first time I fought a war without radio or armor and it will be the last time." He was unhurt except for two slight scratch wounds from flying mine fragments. He stated that some men were killed and buried in the rubble of Utweiler and also, with a tinge of sadness, that many had been forced to surrender to the enemy.

For the Third Battalion that afternoon during the counter-attack which re-captured Utweiler, Captain

John E. DeLeon, First Lieutenant Charles A. Brown, Private First Class Elias A. Hernandez and Private Charles A. Carothers, all of Company "L", and First Lieutenant Sam S. Fitzsimmons and Second Lieutenant Carl E. Retherford of Company "I" distinguished themselves.¹¹

On that dark day of 15 March 1945 while the Seventh Infantry had once more led the Third Infantry Division in its achievements by being first for the Division into Germany and had made the deepest penetration, it had suffered a grievous blow. For the first time in World War II and possibly for all time (though the writer has no detailed information regarding action prior to this war) the Seventh Infantry had had a battalion rendered almost totally ineffective. Once before, on the Anzio Beachhead during the bloody battles of 30 January 1944, a battalion had been greatly reduced, even to smaller numbers than the Second Battalion on 15 March 1945, but there had remained some semblance of command and its survivors were not dispersed and scattered. It remained, though woefully weak, a fighting unit. The Second Battalion on 15 March 1945 as a fighting unit was virtually destroyed. There was the task of gathering up the scattered remnants and reconstituting it.

First Lieutenant Joseph G. Lambert, Motor Officer of the Second Battalion, reported into the Regimental War Room during the evening and gave the following information in regard to the strength of the elements gathered up:

	Officers	Enlisted Men
Company "E"	1	10
Company "F"	0	2
Company "G"	1	39
Company "H"	3	68
Battalion Hqrs. Co.	4	56
Total	9	175

The Second Battalion had gone into the night attack with 640 officers and men¹² and in the space of several hours had been reduced to 184 scattered and ineffective personnel. Records compiled later showed that of the 456 personnel missing, 21 had been killed in the action, 72 wounded and evacuated, 17 missing and 222 had been taken prisoners by the enemy. The other 124 members were to be gathered up in the next two days.

"Fox" Company had sustained the greatest losses. Captain Earl E. Swanson, one of the ablest company commanders to lead a "Cotton Baler" rifle company during this war and who had risen from the grade of private, and First Lieutenant Robert W. Rankin, with thirteen of their men, gave their lives. The enlisted men of the company who were killed by the mines or exploding enemy shells were Master Sergeant Arthur C. Rose, Staff Sergeant Leonard Berg, Privates First Class Hubert

¹⁰ As told to the writer by Lt. Bacon on 18 Mar. '45.

¹¹ GOs No. 175, 177, 227, 228, 295 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 25 May, 25 & 26 June, 9 Aug. & 17 Sept. '45. Capt. De Leon, 1 Lt. Brown, 1 Lt. Fitzsimmons, 2 Lt. Rutherford, Pfc Hernandez & Pvt. Carothers were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² Only on one or two occasions in World War II had the 7th Infantry gone into combat with her rifle battalions at full strength. The rifle companies and battalions operated with numbers far below the Table of Organization figures while Service and Headquarters Companies operated with as much as 20 per cent overstrength. Reinforcements were received only when the total figures for the Regiment fell below the figure established for a Rifle Regiment as a whole. Therefore the rifle elements of the Regiment were practically always under strength.

H. A. Kleibocker, Edward M. Kolodziej, John Mekruit and William T. Neal, and Privates Edward D. Clark, John T. Creegan, Cleborn S. Davis, Marie DeSiste, Kenneth L. Duncan, Paul D. Gibson and George C. Sallee. Their names rank with the immortals of the gallant Seventh Infantry.

The number from Company "F" who were wounded and evacuated was not so large as the number killed. Staff Sergeant Gilbert Susser, Privates First Class Hillary H. Medford, Robert A. Nast and Norman Snyder were seriously wounded while Privates First Class Matthew Bielski, Benjamin E. Loup, and Privates Daniel V. Donahue and John H. Rose were lightly wounded. Eighty-three members of Company "F" were taken prisoners by the enemy including Second Lieutenants William R. Telley, Donald H. McKibbon and Charles E. Segler, Jr.



Sgts. Shepherd and Crawford of the Second Battalion Medical Detachment are photographed in the main street of Utweiler the day after the "Battle of Utweiler".

Company "E" did not lose so many killed as did Company "F" but had many more wounded. The five from "Easy" Company who were killed were: Sergeant Robert H. Reynolds, Private First Class Andy Evanich, Privates Gordon C. Bearer, William G. Forister and Selmer L. Pederson. On the company's seriously wounded list were First Sergeant David M. Carroll, Sergeant William V. Cattrell, Technician Fifth Grade William H. Carson, Privates First Class Odelle Coille, Floyd G. Danforth, Henry T. Flynn, John R. Lorden and Privates Arnold Cretelle, Bernard J. Flynn, Jr., Thomas L. Hrehs, Thomas P. Lyons, Dale L. Schumacher, Hoke L. Smith, Gordon H. Spiess and Joseph R. Vallero. Among the lightly wounded were the following from Company "E": Staff Sergeants Lawton J. Durrance and Shirley E. Stage, Sergeant Vernon M. Milburn, Technician Fifth Grade Walter F. Brown, Privates First Class Howard L. Bailey, Lester L. Baughman, Burland L. Bayless, Alfred L. Lukenbill, Warren S. Pearson, Harry H. Richard and Gilberto Vigil; Privates George Anderson, George B. Baker, Jr., Ben E. Banks, William D. Brown, Harold A. Bullock, Willard L. Dunlop, Herman H. Head, Harold I. Levine, T. G. Pearson, Wilbur H. Reekie, James P. Rinn, Jr., and James E. Ross. Company "E" had two officers, Second

Lieutenants Harold E. Coyle and James A. Crough, and 39 enlisted men taken prisoners of war.

Company "G", being the rifle company in reserve, Company "H" and Headquarters Company suffered badly but not like Companies "E" and "F". Sergeant Norvel C. Smith is the only man of Company "G" listed as killed on that day while "H" and Headquarters Companies do not have any men listed among the dead for the day the Regiment entered Germany. However, Technical Sergeant Frank Acker of "George" Company was so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds on the 20th and First Lieutenant Harold W. Erhardt of Company "H", who was seriously wounded and taken prisoner and evacuated by the Germans, died two weeks later in a German prisoner of war hospital, just after Americans were to capture the town in which it was located. First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane of Company "G" was missing in action while First Lieutenant Clarence J. Grant, Second Lieutenant William J. Davis and 61 enlisted men of the same company were taken prisoners of war by the enemy. "H" Company had 25 of its members taken prisoners while the Headquarters Company and Medical Detachment also had a few each. Eleven officers had been lost by the Second Battalion that morning, two killed, one missing and eight prisoners, one of whom, as mentioned, later died.

COMPANY "K" BECOMES INVOLVED IN ACTION OF ITS OWN

During the hours of darkness Company "K" had somehow avoided the mine fields and advanced to the draw northeast of Utweiler near St. Joseph's Church and not far from Ormersviller. During daylight enemy armor and riflemen took the company under fire, staged a counter-attack and kept the "King" Company "Cotton Balers" contained in the draw.

Company "K" fought for its life and succeeded in repulsing the enemy. Second Lieutenant Herbert E. Bothee, mortarmen Sergeant Richard B. Millman and Private First Class Robert H. Jurgensen, Private First Class Bruce F. Stuchbury, a Browning automatic rifleman, and Private First Class Bernard J. Ryan, a "bazooka-man", all of Company "K", and Private Hugh L. Tarrant of Company "M" were cited for actions performed.¹⁴

During the night of 15-16 March Company "K" rejoined the Third Battalion in Utweiler. Though the Regiment had sustained heavy losses on 15 March 1945, it nevertheless had accomplished a great deal, and by no means was its offensive spirit lost. Guiderkirch, Erching, Utweiler and the Baumbusch woods had been cleared, and over 200 Germans were made prisoners.

On the right the 30th Infantry had made less headway and the Third Division commander moved up the 15th Infantry to be committed through the 30th. At 2100 the First Battalion of the 15th Infantry started moving to Epping-Urbach where 30th Infantry elements were passed through and at 2210 the battalion attacked for Ormersviller, which in original plans had been a Seventh Infantry objective.¹⁵

¹⁴ GOs 175, 227, 257, 262 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 May, 25 June, 15 & 18 July & 9 Aug. '45. 2 Lt. Bothee, Sgt. Millman, Pfc Ryan, Stuchbury, Jurgensen & Pvt. Tarrant were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ G-3 Report No. 75, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Etting, France, 16 Mar. '45.

SEVENTH INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK AT MIDNIGHT

Following artillery preparation the Seventh Infantry, with grim determination, pressed the attack at midnight 15-16 March. The First and Third Battalions attacked abreast while Anti-Tank Company constituted the Regimental Reserve in Guiderkirch. The Third Reconnaissance Troop occupied and held Erching and maintained contact with 45th Infantry Division elements on the left.

The Third Battalion attacked in a column of companies from Utweiler with "Item" Company, under First Lieutenant Eli Levy, in the lead. At 0030 the lead company was at the road junction just north of Utweiler and moving northeast for Objective 11. Company "L" moved up and turned to the left for Objective 10, the Dickerwald woods, which were entered at 0325 in the face of artillery fire.

Meanwhile the First Battalion, attacking from Objectives 3 and 4, encountered moderate resistance and infiltrated into Medelsheim. Private Lawrence V. Tucker of Company "A" eliminated a German machine gun emplacement by killing three enemy soldiers with grenade and rifle fire, then he singlehandedly cleaned out one of the buildings in the town and took four Germans prisoners of war. Private First Class Daniel V. Peterman of Company "D", who was wounded during the fighting for Medelsheim, also distinguished himself during the action.¹⁶ Medelsheim was completely cleared of enemy soldiers during the morning.



Pfc Thomas H. Dreher, Co. "K", and Pfc Robert H. Graham, Co. "C", gave their lives for the glory of the Regiment on 16 March 1945.

Between them, the First and Third Battalions captured 231 prisoners of war during the morning of 16 March. The number included six German officers.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion placed a TOT on Peppenkum then the Battle Patrol moved north out of Guiderkirch and found Peppenkum abandoned. Anti Tank Company moved up and occupied the town during the morning. Engineers under the protection of the Third Division Battle Patrol swept the road from Guiderkirch to Peppenkum.

Meanwhile the First Battalion of the 15th Infantry had captured Ormersviller shortly after midnight and continued on. The Third Battalion of the "Dragon" Regiment followed to Ormersviller then swung southeast and seized Volmunster, originally a 30th Infantry objective, then moved north and northeast as its Second Battalion also moved up. The 30th Infantry assembled its battalions near Volmunster by noontime and constituted Division reserve.¹⁷

At 1410 the "Cotton Baler" First and Third Battalions continued their attacks. Major Flynn's Battalion seized the little village of Riesweiler in its advance and entered the Nasserwald and Grosserwald woods. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops engaged enemy in a bitter small arms battle in Neu-Altheim at 1545. First Sergeant Herbert A. Dunn of Company "C" led an attack which killed seven Germans and captured 21 others.¹⁸

The Blue Battalion forces met only light opposition and at 1700 had passed through Objectives 14 and 17, and were on Objectives 19 and 20. By that time the First Battalion troops had cleared Neu-Altheim of all resistance. Task Force Smith, named after the Anti-Tank Company Commander and consisting of his company with a platoon of light tanks and the Division Battle Patrol, pushed up the road from Peppenkum. The Third Reconnaissance Troop continued its screening and contact mission on the left flank.

FOR THE THIRD NIGHT IN SUCCESSION THE 7th INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK

As the searchlights shone into the heavens, the Third Battalion sent out aggressive patrols and the First Battalion continued the attack at 0020 on 17 March for the third night in succession. Snipers and scattered resistance were encountered in Altheim but quickly overcome. At 0445 Altheim and Road Junction 310, at Muhlberg, Objectives 16 and 18, were taken.

Task Force Smith coming up from the south bypassed a mine field and entered Altheim. At 0630 the Third Division commander attached the Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry to the Seventh Infantry and the "Friscan" Battalion began moving for Objective 20.

At 1115 Companies "L" and "K" jumped off for the woods southeast of Mittelbach while a task force consisting of one rifle platoon from the First Battalion, a "bazooka" platoon of Anti-Tank Company and five light tanks moved from Altheim up the Mittelbach road. With little opposition the Third Battalion companies reached their objective and sent patrols into Mittelbach which was found unoccupied but heavily booby-trapped. The task force reached its objective south of the town.

The attached "Friscan" Battalion jumped off in the attack to the northeast at 1400 on the 17th. Company "F" with armor moved through Hornbach, through the Schmalscheidehenwald, to the vicinity of Auf'm Lohn. The other two rifle companies of the battalion moved up through Althornbach and at 2000 that night the "Friscan" Battalion was in position on the high ground north of the town.

7th INFANTRY BREACHES THE SIEGFRIED LINE 18-20 MARCH 1945

At about 1730 hours 17 March 1945 Major Richard T. Young, the Regimental S-3, who was located in Altheim at the time, received orders from Third Division Headquarters for the Seventh Infantry to make a complete shift to the east of more than 3,000 yards and to attack the Siegfried Line defenses northeast of Rimschweiler at 0545 the next morning. At the time Colonel Heintges was up front visiting Major Ralph M. Flynn of the Third Battalion. The Commanding Officer and his Third Battalion leader were located in a pill box on the outer fringes of the Siegfried Line, north of Mittelbach. They were studying the German Westwall defenses in that sector, as the Regimental Commander

¹⁶ GOsNo. 326 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 & 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Peterman & Pvt. Tucker were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ G-3 Report No. 75, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Etting, France, 16 Mar. '45.

¹⁸ GO No. 256, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. 1 Sgt. Dunn was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

expected to have the Seventh Infantry called upon to penetrate the defenses in that zone, where he had good information to believe, and later events proved him to be correct, the defenses were thinner than those northeast of Rimschweiler and greatly undermanned. By interrogating prisoners of war captured in the Mittelbach area he had learned of the defensive strength there.

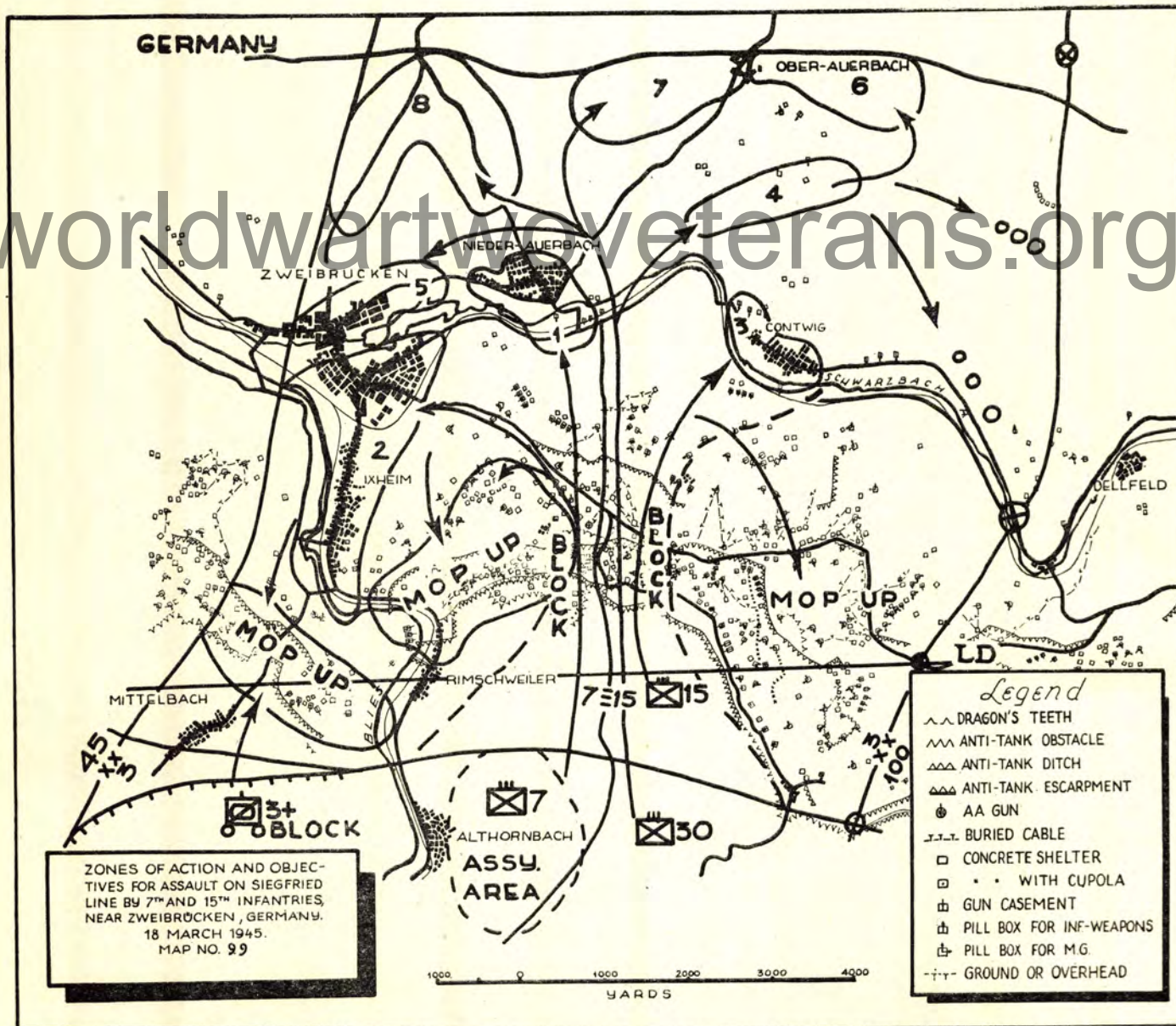
When informed of the orders from Third Division Headquarters Colonel Heintges was surprised to receive them, as they necessitated a withdrawal of all forces of the Regiment from their tactical positions and an assembly of them in the vicinity of Alt-Hornbach during the night, then an attack with them before daylight. Furthermore, in the short time allowed it was impossible even for the commander, himself, to make the vitally important study and reconnaissance of the new sector prior to the attack. The daylight hours of 17 March were rapidly slipping away. At the time the orders were received not a single map of the new area had come down from higher headquarters, which showed the Siegfried Line defenses in the new zone.

The attack on the Siegfried Line required the fullest co-operation from supporting engineers, who in the short time allowed were unable to make all necessary preparations and study, which probably was the reason for their failure to properly 'blow' the 'Dragon Teeth'

during the operation. As all roads in the area were mined and bridges blown, engineers had to busy themselves in clearing the routes of communication and supply. It was a most difficult task to assemble the entire Regiment in the vicinity of Alt-Hornbach in the time allowed.

Never before in World War II had the Seventh Infantry been called on to make a major attack with such little preparation and study. In less than twelve hours the 'Cotton Baler' Regiment was called on to disengage itself, though it is true it was not heavily engaged at the time, to shift to the east and assemble, then go into the attack on the mighty Siegfried Line itself, the vaunted German Westwall, which the high command from the United States Chief of Staff down to army commanders had been studying for years.

Despite the great demands made upon the Regiment, Colonel Heintges, with full confidence that the 'Cotton Balers' could carry out the difficult mission, issued the necessary orders to his subordinate commanders. Of the battalions, the Second moved first at 1930. At 0300 on 18 March the entire Regimental Combat Team had closed into areas around Alt-Hornbach. While the troops were moving Colonel Heintges and his entire staff were unusually busy formulating plans. Major General O'Daniel ordered the 15th Infantry to attack on the right of the Seventh Infantry. Once again the



30th Infantry was to be held in reserve. No finer tribute could the commanding general have paid to the fighting qualities of the "7th Light Foot" than to select it for this assault against Germany's vaunted Westwall, which ran from Switzerland to the North Sea.

Plans of attack called for the two rifle regiments to assault in columns of battalions. The 15th on the right planned to hit the line with its First, Second and Third Battalions in order while Colonel Heintges decided his order of battalions would be the First, Third and the Second, which was partially recovered from the Utweiler events.

Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops were given the tough assignment of making the "Cotton Baler" assault to penetrate the Siegfried Line, northeast of Rimschweiler, where it was most dense, and seize Objective 1, Nieder-Auerbach. Major Flynn's battalion was to follow the First Battalion, turn left and seize Objective 2, the southern half of Zweibrucken. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion, upon seizure of Objective 2 by the Third Battalion, and on order of the Regimental Commander was to block to the west and southwest and assist in mopping up.

Anti-Tank Company attached one "bazooka" platoon to each the First and Third Battalions, then assembled the remainder of the Company in Alt-Hornbach in Regimental reserve.

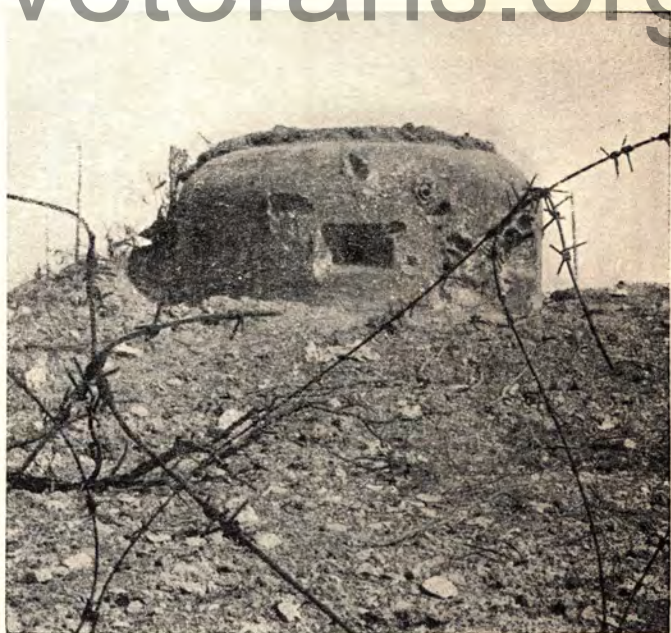
Company "A" of the 10th Engineer Battalion attached one combat platoon to the First and Third Battalions and held a third with the Regimental reserve.

The Third Reconnaissance Troop and Division Battle Patrol with the platoon of light tanks of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, protected the Regimental left front and flank by blocking action.

The Third Infantry Division Artillery was to fire harassing, counter-battery, and destructive fires from 0300 to H-60, then, from H-28 to H-Hour, fire heavy preparation fires in the zone of advance. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and one battery of four M-12, 155mm assault guns for reduction of pill-boxes, were to be in direct support of the Regiment.

Maps of the area were finally received. Study of the Siegfried Line defenses showed that the Seventh Infantry faced the strongest section of the Siegfried Line in the Third Division area. Whereas the fortifications facing the flank units consisted of two rows of "Dragon's Teeth" with three rows of pill-boxes between, the defenses facing the Seventh Regiment comprised three rows of "Dragon's Teeth", with intervening pill-boxes spaced in great depth. The assault battalion had to penetrate a row of "Dragon's Teeth", movable blocks and concrete shelters with cupolas northeast of Rimschweiler before hitting a main dense line of "Dragon's Teeth" backed up by an anti-tank ditch. Another line of "Dragon's Teeth" followed the main line and in between the various lines were numerous obstacles consisting of concrete shelters, casements and overhead cables. Pill-boxes with automatic weapons were scattered everywhere and gun emplacements, both fixed and mobile, for heavy calibre weapons were placed throughout the area. Casements in the Zweibrucken defenses were of the "B-Werk" type—massive steel and concrete structures with two turrets, each of which was armed with two machine guns. The "Dragon's Teeth" were concrete tetrahedrons, four feet high and six feet apart. Areas between the "Dragon's Teeth" and the most advanced enemy command posts were obstructed by concertina barbed wire obstacles reinforced with spiral irons sunk into concrete casings. Accessible terrain in front of the "Dragon's Teeth", such as depressions, was

covered by the dreaded "S"-mines. Barbed wire between pill-boxes was strung in an ingenious fashion, covering every route of approach, with openings to lure the inexperienced soldier into death traps. Trip wires were laid in and around concertina obstacles. Leaders wondered how heavily manned the defenses would be. It was hoped lightly, but regardless of how numerous were the defenders the Seventh Infantry planned to strike with all the power and determination possible.



A view of the "Dragon Teeth" and obstacles of the Siegfried Line.

Patrols probed the enemy defenses and brought back the information that the enemy had observation posts manned by three or four soldiers each along the line. Some pill-boxes had been located when the doors were opened and light shone out. The "Dragon Teeth" were covered with wire and mines and were defended by open trenches.

At 0300 the artillery opened its harassing fire. At 0310 the Seventh Infantry Commander reported to Division Headquarters by phone that his "Cotton Balers" were ready to assault, and simply waited for the appointed hour. The troops moved for the line of departure. Veteran "Cotton Balers", there were a few left, noticed nothing unusual to the approach to the jump-off line that night but they experienced a different feeling perhaps. Moving up in the darkness of the night, as the big guns spit red and roared out their thunder, was nothing new to them. They had done it more times than air pilots had flown missions.

During the previous dark nights they had gone to the line of departure on the oceans in small boats to assault hostile shores, they had moved up to assault across defended river lines, to attack so-called impregnable mountain fortresses, to lunge across flat lands covered by murderous fire, to attack old medieval forts, or to strike at the enemy in dense forests. But this was something new. They were to hit the Westwall, or the Siegfried Line, which the Germans repeatedly had said was impregnable, impossible to breach.

At 0545 as the artillery lifted and jumped 500 yards farther into the "Fatherland", the "Cotton Balers" of the First Battalion jumped off in the attack. The artillery completed its initial preparations at 0605, then fired smoke and intense screening missions on the flanks of the penetration that the First Battalion troops made.

A major effort had been made by B-26 medium bombers of the 1st Tactical Airforce (Prov.) in preparation of the Third Infantry Division's attack on the Siegfried Line near Zweibrucken. The United States 42nd Bomb Wing and the Second Brigade de Bombardement (French Air Force) B-26 Marauder made attacks on 15-16 March against the Siegfried Defense Line in the sector being attacked by the Seventh Infantry on the 18th. The 368th A/C had dropped 5009 bombs



1 Lt. Paul J. Delaney, Jr., 1 Bn. Hq. Co., and 1 Lt. Ernest K. Guard, A. T. Co., were two of 19 "Cotton Balers" killed in action in the Siegfried Line on 18 March 1945.

with a total weight of 628.075 tons consisting of 1164 x 100, 313 x 250 and 714 x 500 pound bombs. The 141st A/C had dropped 246.75 tons of bombs. No noticeable effect had been made however by these bombings on the pill-boxes or "Dragon Teeth" in the Seventh Infantry sector, but as the bombing continued it had great morale value to the troops.

Fortunately the enemy defenses were not fully manned but there were enough enemy on hand to render stiff resistance to the "Cotton Balers."

The First Battalion moved rapidly, as the attached "Friscan" battalion screened the line of departure and rendered support with its 81mm mortar sections. Com-

pany "A", the left assault element of the First Battalion, advanced across 800 yards of open terrain, by-passed several silent pill-boxes to the right and penetrated three belts of the "Dragon's Teeth", crossed the anti-tank ditch and reached a zig-zag trench in the vicinity of the Muhlthaderof Ferme at 0630. There the foremost company halted fifty yards from the crest of a hill and waited for Company "B" and the First Battalion Observation Post group, trailing behind, to catch up. As the OP group and "Baker" Company drew abreast of the pill-box installations previously by-passed by "Able" Company they came under the fire of six enemy machine guns firing from the positions. The fire was so intense and covered the intervening ground so thoroughly that some of the troops were unable to reach the cover of a trench running parallel to the row of "Dragon's Teeth". Private First Class Frank J. Colombo, of First Battalion Headquarters Company, jumped out of the trench drawing the enemy fire. While he engaged the hostile forces with his rifle at fifty yards range, his companions were able to reach positions of cover. Then, when five Germans moving down a connecting trench, approached the Americans he advanced to within thirty yards of them and fired two rifle grenades, killing one hostile soldier, wounding another, and forcing the others to withdraw.¹⁹

Company "C", the right assault element of the First Battalion, advanced but had to take cover into zig-zag communication trenches, because of devastating machine gun fire issuing from pillbox strong points located on the reverse slope of a small knoll.

The First Battalion forces then became subjected to devastating fire of all types, including extremely heavy concentrations of "88" and artillery fire. Company "B" was the target of withering cross-fire from machine guns and snipers emplaced in pill-boxes on both left and right fronts and distances ranging from 50 to 150 yards. Enemy mortar fire inflicted several casualties on Company "A". All movement immediately drew sheaves of machine gun fire from pill-boxes to the front and both flanks. The engineers did not blow the "Dragon Teeth". Due to the heavy fire deluging the area, they did not properly lay their charges and the resulting explosions failed to accomplish the desired result. Attached armor of the First Battalion could not function and reach the troops they were supposed to support. Communication did not exist between the assault companies of the First Battalion, "A" and "C", and Lieutenant Colonel Wallace and Company "B".

About half an hour after the First Battalion Observation Post group and Company "B" reached the trench, engineers made their way to the area and braved intense fire in order to blow apart several of the "Dragon's Teeth", enabling a friendly destroyer of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion to move up and fire into the nearest pill-box. Shortly thereafter, a second tank destroyer arrived and screened the movement of Second Lieutenant Will P. Barbour, Jr., a platoon leader of Company "B", and a squad of his men to attack another pill-box. Hurling smoke grenades into the pill-box, the platoon forced 33 Germans to emerge in surrender. As Second Lieutenant Barbour attempted to check the vicinity for the presence of other enemy, he was shot and killed by snipers. The capture of this bunker enabled the battalion commander to set up a relatively safe observation post

¹⁹ GOs No. 177, 299, 316 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 May, 15 Aug., 1 & 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Kovatch was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt Toney, T/5 Benda, Pfc Colombo & Elchlinger were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and to re-establish contact between Company "B" and the assault units of the battalion, several hundred yards ahead.

All the companies of the First Battalion continued to receive intensive concentrations of mortar fire during daylight hours of 18 March in what was an evident



1 Lt. George J. Kyte, Jr., a forward observer from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, was killed in action 18 March 1945 while with the forward elements of the 7th Infantry.

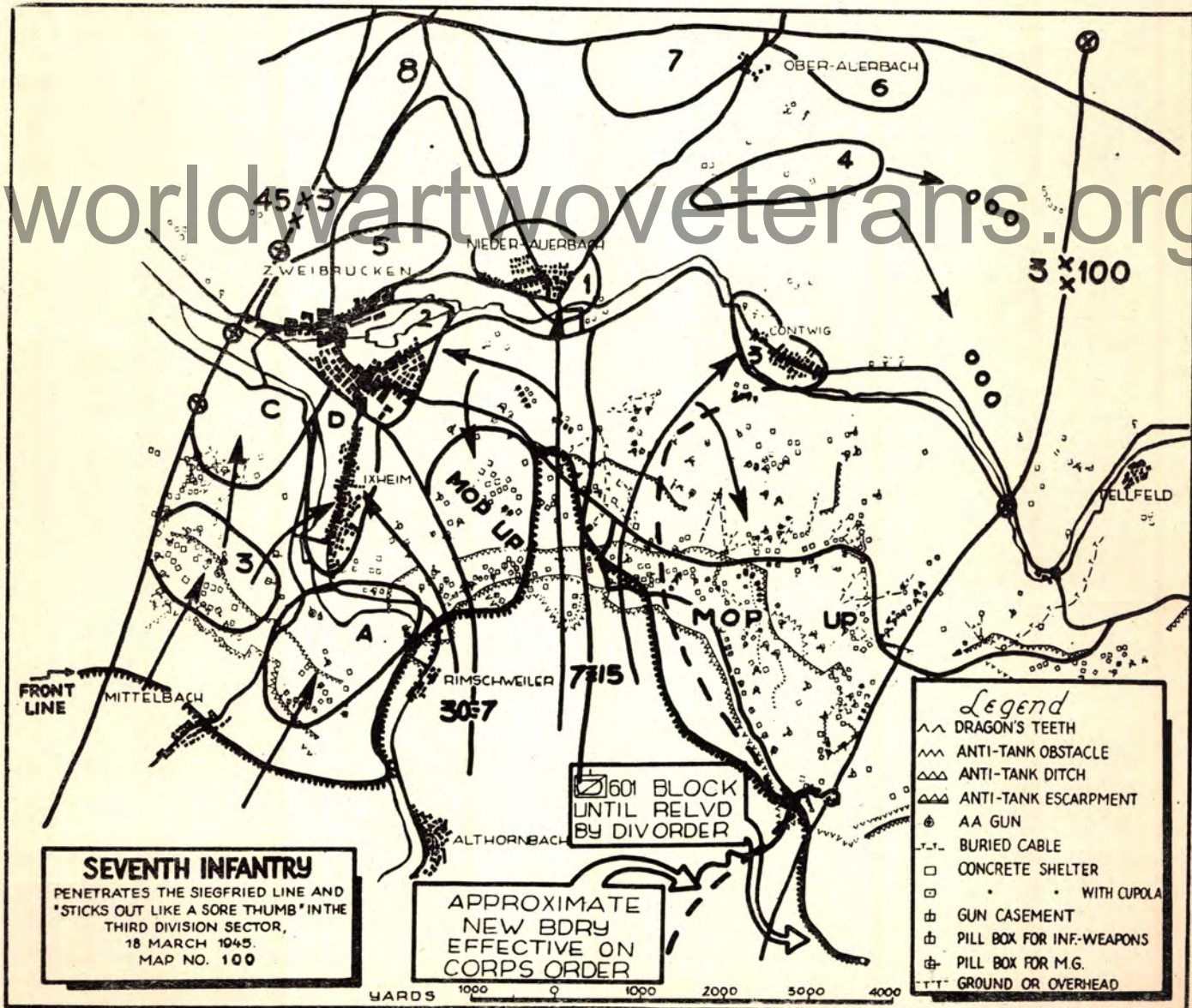
attempt by the Germans to drive them from their positions. Privates First Class John Elchlinger and Merle S. Kovatch, both wounded in action, and Technician Fifth

Grade Douglas P. Benda, all of Company "B" and First Lieutenant Malcolm B. Toney, First Battalion S-2, distinguished themselves during the action.¹⁹

The Third Battalion moved from the line of departure at 0700 on 18 March to follow in the wake of the First Battalion. No sooner had the leading elements of the Blue Battalion cleared the woods in which it had assembled then the enemy laid down an artillery concentration on the troops and wounded fourteen members of the battalion. When forward elements of Company "I", the lead company, were approximately 100 yards from the first row of "Dragon's Teeth", they were halted to await engineers coming up to blow a gap in the line. It took two hours for the engineers to arrive, during which time four members of the company were killed and eight others wounded by the mortar and artillery fire.

At about 0930 Company "I" moved forward with supporting armor, under continued enemy shell fire. Heavy artillery and direct "88" fire halted the friendly armor. Nevertheless, the company kept advancing until it reached two empty pill-boxes, where it was subjected to machine gun and sniper fire from by-passed positions to the rear, and was forced to hold up its forward movement.

After an all-day battle in the Siegfried Line, and as darkness fell, the enemy launched a series of slashing



counter-attacks against the narrow corridor blasted out by the rifle companies of the Regiment. At about 1900 hours, a re-inforced company of Germans struck at the First Battalion with Company "A" receiving the brunt of the blow. Enemy soldiers gained the trench occupied by the company and assaulted with point-blank small arms and hand grenade fire. Many members of Company "A" were wounded and seven were overrun and captured.

When his light machine gun crews abandoned their weapons in the face of the furious counter-attacks, Staff Sergeant Albert E. Haskell of Company "A" fought off the enemy at 35 yards range, ignoring bullets that killed a companion and missed him by inches. He burned out three M-1 rifles to hold the enemy at bay and then fought with hand grenades to kill 10 and wound 25 Germans. He remained at his post, despite a grave and painful wound, until the enemy was decisively beaten. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Haskell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²⁰

Private Jesse Jewell of Company "A", who was twice wounded in the ensuing action, but killed three Germans in a fire duel, and Private First Class David P. Jackson of Company "D" gallantly fought to stem the counter-attacks. For the Third Battalion, Sergeant Fred G. Anderson and Private First Class Sylvester Klish, both of Company "L" and both wounded during the action, gallantly fought the enemy. Technician Fifth Grade Arthur M. Sloan, Private First Class Joe A. Chewiwi and Private Dan N. Salley, all of the Medical Detachment, distinguished themselves during the action.²¹

Company "A" hurled the enemy back and out of the trench. Even the wounded, such as Private First Class Edward T. Winiarski, played a role in repulsing the attack. In spite of a bullet wound in his right arm suffered earlier in the day, he fired his carbine with his left hand. Later that night Company "A" was withdrawn to another trench about 100 yards to the rear to permit friendly artillery fire to pound the area. This shelling broke up what appeared to be another counter-attack, and before daybreak, the company returned to its former position.

During the morning hours of darkness on 18 March the attached Company "G" of the 30th Infantry entered Rimschweiler against light opposition and mine-sweeping engineers swept the road from Althornbach to Rimschweiler, but during the day enemy snipers prevented use of the road. Enemy self-propelled guns fired on the engineer bull-dozers and subjected the Regimental Command Post in Althornbach to severe poundings during the day. One direct hit on the Command Post building during the afternoon caused eight casualties. Private First Class Elisee A. Dutil of Regimental Headquarters Company, a veteran formerly of Company "K", was killed. He had joined the Regiment on 28 February 1943 in North Africa. As a leader of a "bazooka" squad in Sicily, South Italy, and on the Anzio Beachhead he had performed distinguished service. Though never officially decorated for bravery many there were who could testify to his gallant conduct. Twice he had been wounded during the early campaigns of the Regiment. Private First Class Salvatore J. Amato had a leg shot off by the same shell which killed Private First Class Dutil. Private First Class Frank G. Pirozzi of the S-3 section was severely wounded.

In the first day's fighting in the Siegfried Line besides those already mentioned, the First Battalion and Anti-Tank Company each lost a fine officer when First Lieutenants Paul J. Delaney, Jr., and Ernest K. Guard were killed. Sergeant Urbano DiPasquale, Privates First Class Lewis R. DeLong, Dewey W. Dixon, Privates Harold

Karns and Corwin J. Smith, all of "Able" Company, gave their lives battling the enemy. Privates First Class Melford M. Horton, Harry R. Thorpe, Jr., Private Howard J. Higdon, all of "Charlie" Company; Private First Class William E. Rose of "Dog" Company, and Private Frank Worden, Jr., of First Battalion Headquarters Company were killed by the enemy gunners. Five Third Battalion men lost their lives, namely, Technician Fifth Grade Raymond E. Principe, Technician Fifth Grade William A. Rolke, Private First Class Bruce F. Stutchbury and Private Woodrow Campbell of "King" Company, and Private John F. Fink of "Item" Company. Three forward artillery observers of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion were lost from the fight when First Lieutenant George J. Kyte, Jr., was killed in the action and First Lieutenant Casimir J. Kedzior and Second Lieutenant Chester V. Franklin were seriously wounded.

Private First Class Albert G. Cartier of Company "A" was so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds two days later. A total of sixty men were wounded in action and evacuated.

The work of the First Battalion during the early morning darkness and throughout the day was particularly outstanding and was another great accomplishment of the battalion during this war. Its forward position as plotted on the map was like a big finger pointed into the enemy's lines. By its powerful drive it enabled the Seventh Infantry to once again "stick out like a sore thumb" on the point of the Third Infantry Division's "embarrassing bulge".

As the right boundary of the Third Infantry Division was to undergo a change on XV Corps order and Major General John W. O'Daniel issued orders for the commitment of the 30th Infantry on the left, his headquarters issued instructions for the movements.²² The overlay which accompanied the instructions, besides showing the usual number of goose eggs for objectives, also showed the front line on the Third Division's front at the end of 18 March 1945 and is the official Army document which shows the forward positions of the Seventh Infantry on that date.

The instructions from the commanding general's headquarters ordered a continuance of the attack by the 7th and 15th Regiments while the 30th was to attack at 0530 on 19 March in a zone on the left, through the Third Reconnaissance Troop and Division Battle Patrol which were detached from Seventh Infantry control as well as the "Friscan" Second Battalion. The "Frisicans" were to seize objectives "A", "B", "C", "D", then be prepared to attack Objectives 2 and 5 and assist the Seventh Infantry.

The matter of support for the riflemen became acute as the supplies ran low and the task of making passageways for the armor was exceedingly difficult. One tank became stuck in the first row of "Dragon Teeth", another tank and a bulldozer ran out of gasoline, while the enemy kept pouring in deadly fire. A task force consisting of Company "I" with a bulldozer, two retrievers and engineers, attached to both the First and Third Battalions, moved during the night of 18-19 March to effect the passage for the armor and vehicles, with rations

²⁰ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

²¹ GOs No. 175, 182, 256, 262, 264, 299 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 28 May, 15, 18 & 19 July, 15 Aug. & 25 Sept. '45. Sgt. Anderson, T/5 Sloan, Pfc's Chewiwi, Jackson & Klish, Pvt's Jewell & Salley were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²² Operations Instruction No. 30, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Brenschelbach, Germany, 18 Mar. '45.

and supply for the First Battalion. The enemy counter-attacked the task force but "Item" Company repulsed the enemy. Enemy-manned pillboxes to the right and left of the line of advance hampered the operation but at 0315 the task force reached Company "B" at the second row of "Dragon Teeth" and delivered the supplies.

In the morning an increased amount of enemy artillery was received. The supporting Air Corps carried out numerous bombing missions in front of the troops and the battle to destroy the enemy in the pill-boxes continued throughout the day.

When his platoon was halted by withering machine gun fire from Siegfried Line defenses on 19 March, Private First Class Rumaldo Medina of Company "L" armed himself with hand grenades and dashed forward alone to knock out an enemy pill-box. Hit in the chest and knocked down, he continued crawling forward through machine gun and rifle fire and dropped two



Three of 15 "Cotton Balers" killed during the Siegfried Line action of 19 March 1945 were: (1) 2 Lt. Will P. Barbour, Jr., Co. "B"; (2) 2 Lt. Jefferson W. Davis, Co. "A", and (3) 1 Lt. Robert E. McDonnell, Co. "B".

grenades through a vent in the pill box and destroyed its crew. His intrepid action enabled his platoon to resume the attack, seize an enemy-held trench, kill three and capture twelve Germans. Private First Class Rumaldo was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²³

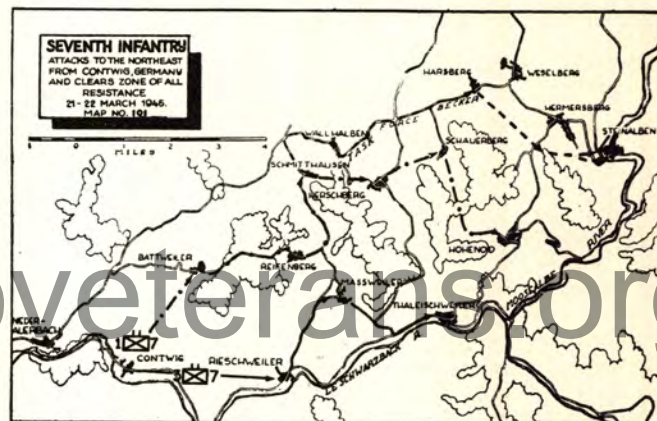
The First and Third Battalion forces fought throughout 19 March in the Siegfried Line defenses. Toward nightfall resistance began breaking. First Lieutenant Victor M. Morris, First Lieutenant William T. Wright, Second Lieutenant Frederick R. Drayton and Staff Sergeant George D. Moore, Jr., who was blinded in one eye by a mortar fragment, all of Company "C", were outstanding when their company repelled a counter-attack that day. Staff Sergeant Jesse B. Barnett of Company "B", Staff Sergeant Ralph M. Brown of First Battalion Headquarters Company, who was wounded in the action, Technician Fifth Grade Melvin H. Draben of Company "I", who was killed in the action, Staff Sergeant Robert A. Olson of Company "L" and Private First Class Kenneth L. Suman of Third Battalion Headquarters Company were a few whose actions were brave.²⁴

The zone of advance was cleared during the night of 19-20 March as the Third Battalion cleaned out six enemy pill-boxes and more supplies got through to the First Battalion. Between 50 and 60 of the seriously wounded were evacuated on half-tracks. In the early morning of the 20th the Regiment started taking prisoners. At 0820 the Blue forces had 21 prisoners of war and 10 conscripted Russians including four women. The Second Battalion mopping up behind the Third had 14 Germans in hand as prisoners. At 1050 the Siegfried Line was breached and the First and Third Battalions were advancing to the north. A total of 66 enemy including one officer had been taken prisoners, besides numerous enemy were killed. A task force consisting

of Company "E" and tank destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion contacted elements of the 30th Infantry northeast of Ixheim at 1100, then occupied Ixheim at 1305. The Red Battalion drove on to seize the southeastern section of Zweibrucken while the Third Battalion drove on to Nieder-Auerbach. The enemy was making a general withdrawal to the northeast.²⁵

The 30th Infantry on the left and the 15th on the right also advanced that day and the entire Siegfried Line in the Third Division sector had been breached. Then with the tough assignment completed, the Sixth Armored Division, unmolested, passed through the line held by the Third Infantry Division troops, to pursue the fleeing Germans. By courtesy of the regular Infantry in removing the obstacles the tanks of the Armored Infantry rolled again.

The First Battalion assembled in battered, totally destroyed Zweibrucken. The Third Battalion left Company "K" in Nieder-Auerbach then assembled the remainder of its troops in Rimschweiler at 1940, while the Second Battalion was assembled in Althornbach at 1830 on 20 March. During the early morning of 21 March a small force of riflemen were sent to the 30th Infantry sector to clean out enemy snipers who harassed the communication and supply route into Zweibrucken.



The Third Infantry Division had not been the only division of the American Seventh Army to penetrate the Siegfried Line. On the immediate left the "Thunderbirds" broke through, while farther to the left the 63rd Infantry Division, spearheaded by the 101st Cavalry Group, made a penetration. Saarbrucken, the principal city of the Saar Basin, was taken on the 20th by the 70th Infantry Division.

The American Third Army had combined with the Seventh Army to reduce the Rhine-Moselle-Saar pocket to one-third its original size. Against little resistance the 4th Armored Division reached Mainz also on the Rhine. The 80th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division fought their way into Kaiserlautern.

General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (Shaf) announced by bulletin early 21 March that the 6th Armored Division of the

²³ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

²⁴ GOs No. 177, 208, 226, 227, 235, 299 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 May, 12, 24, 25 & 29 June, 15 Aug. & 17 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Drayton was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. Morris, 1 Lt. Wright, S/Sgts. Moore, Brown & Olson, Sgt. Barnett, T/5 Draben (posthumously) & Pfc Suman were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁵ For leading the 3d Div. into Germany and its superlative work in the Siegfried Line the 7th Inf. was recommended for a Presidential Unit citation.

Seventh Army, which had passed through the Siegfried Line by courtesy of the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry Divisions, had made contact on the 20th with the 26th Infantry, or "Yankee", Division of the Third Army, about twelve miles west of Kaiserslautern. The two armies were linked up. The American First Army farther north held a twenty-five mile strip on the east bank of the Rhine.

NEW PLANS

Due to the rapid developments taking place with the enemy withdrawing to the east as rapidly as possible, leaving only delaying forces and scattered sniper resistance behind, the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions underwent a shift to the east.

For the Third Infantry Division, the 7th and 15th Infantry Divisions were to attack to the east and northeast and block on the Corps boundary line while the 30th Infantry was to follow the 6th Armored Division toward Kaiserslautern. The Cavalry's 106th Reconnaissance Squadron was to conduct screening operations.

7th INFANTRY ATTACKS TO NORTHEAST AND CLEARS ZONE OF ALL RESISTANCE 21-22 MARCH 1945

The Seventh Infantry moved its troops from Zweibrücken, Rimschweiler, Nieder-Auerbach and Althornbach to assembly areas in the vicinity of Contwig, Germany, late in the afternoon of 21 March 1945.

At 2100 the First and Third Battalions attacked to the northeast against little resistance. Then at 2350 Task Force Becker was sent to the front to seize the Steinalben bridges.

Without firing a shot the First Battalion (reinforced) cleared the six towns of Battweiler, Reifenberg, Schmittshausen, Herschberg, Schauerberg and Hoheinod, and assembled in the latter town during the morning. Over 100 prisoners of war were captured.

The Third Battalion in the right half of the Regimental zone cleared Rieschweiler and Massweiler without trouble but ran into resistance in Thaleischweiler where Companies "K" and "L" engaged enemy in a stiff fight.

At about 0500 hours on 22 March near Thaleischweiler, when his patrol was halted by a road block, Sergeant Anthony J. Balbaton, of Company "K", exposed himself to enemy automatic and sniper fire to knock out a 75mm anti-tank gun at ten yards range with rifle-launched grenades. Wounded in the cheek, he walked past the road-block through bullets fired from enemy-occupied houses. He fired his light machine gun into the windows, killed three, and captured three of the enemy. His assault shattered the German defensive position, secured an important road net and disintegrated enemy resistance in the town. Sergeant Balbaton was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²⁶

The Third Battalion captured fifty prisoners of war in the town, two anti-tank guns and one flakwagon. The battalion then blocked to the east and remained assembled in Thaleischweiler.

Task Force Becker, commanded by First Lieutenant Albert V. Becker, Jr., of Second Battalion Headquarters, consisted of one "bazooka" platoon from Anti-Tank Company, a reinforced rifle platoon from the Second Battalion, two demolition men from Company "A", 10th Engineers, and two radio operators from Cannon

Company. Mounted on vehicles the task force moved tactically with great speed at 23-50 that night through Battweiler, Schmittshausen, Wallhalben and Saalstadt to Harsberg where contact was made with the 106th Cavalry Group. From Harsberg the Task Force moved on foot on an azimuth of 131 degrees to a point southwest of Hermersberg and then changed its course on to an azimuth of 116 degrees to reach Steinalben where the bridges over the Moosealbe River were seized intact. The enemy demolitions were removed and a guard established at 0600. A brief skirmish was held with two enemy being killed and eight captured.

The Second Battalion followed the lead battalions in reserve to Massweiler. Anti-Tank, Cannon, Regimental Headquarters and Service Companies displaced forward. Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies picked up scattered enemy to swell the Regiment's total to about 200 for the operation. About 100 displaced persons of Russian, Polish, French and Italian extraction were liberated and evacuated. The Second Battalion went into Division reserve and moved to the vicinity of Weselberg.

7th INFANTRY MOTOR MARCHES TO VICINITY OF FRANKENTHAL, GERMANY, 23-25 MARCH 1945

As practically all resistance west of the Rhine had ended and the armor and cavalry units had a field day dashing here and there, the Infantry moved up to the next barrier, the Rhine River, and made preparations to assault it, so that engineers could then bridge it and the armor would then roll again.

The Seventh Infantry (reinforced) was ordered to march by motor to an assembly area east of Frankenstein. Accordingly the movement was started early 23 March by the Second Battalion, Anti-Tank Company, Company "A", 10th Engineers, and the platoon of light tanks belonging to Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, which units constituted the first serial. The initial point for the movement was established in Hermersberg and the troops passed through Schopp, and Kaiserslautern.

While the movement was underway order was received from higher headquarters to assemble in the vicinity of Carlsberg to the northeast of the original area, and near the Reichsautobahn.

It was impossible at that time to notify the first serial which had turned east from Kaiserslautern, passed through Hochspeyer and Frankenstein to the wooded area. The other three serials made up of the remainder of the Regiment, 10th Field Artillery Battalion, 202nd Field Artillery Battalion (M-1 Howitzers), Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were notified in time to move through Kaiserslautern and onto the Reichsautobahn, then they proceeded northeast to the new area near Carlsberg.

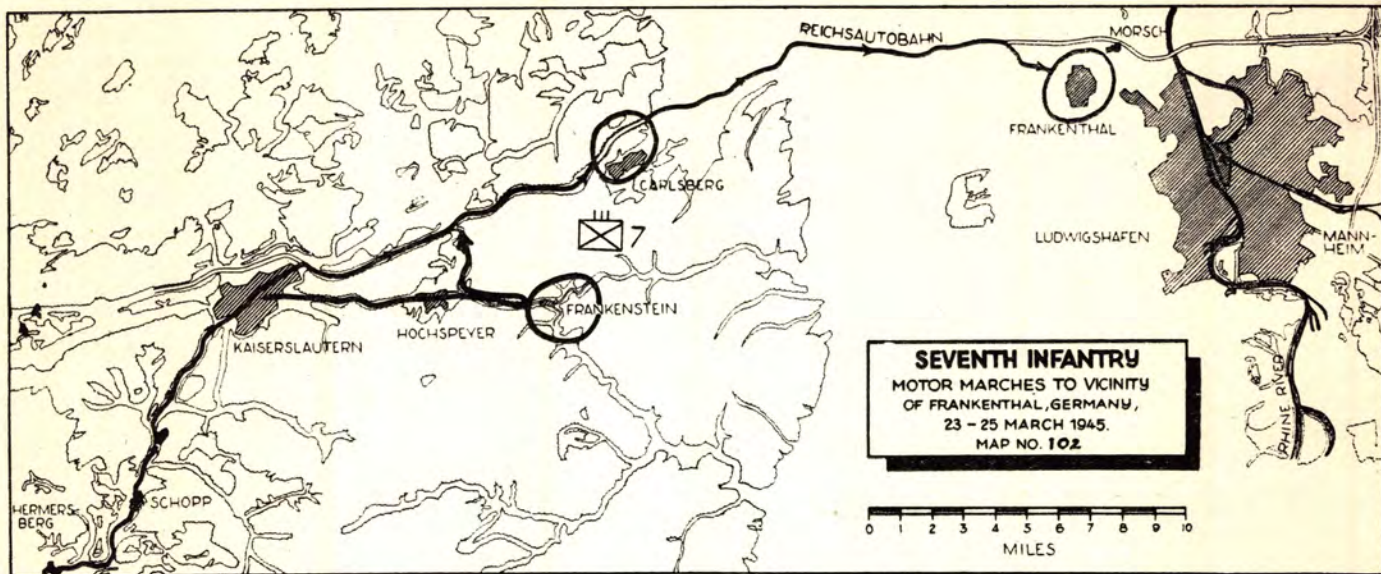
Units of the first serial were then notified of the change in area and moved a second time. When they closed in at 2030 the entire Regimental Combat Team was bivouaced around Carlsberg.

During the moves the Regimental Battle Patrol conducted screening operations between the routes of advance and the Division right boundary. Seventy-three prisoners of war were picked up.

²⁶ For authority see GO No. 192, HQ, 7th Army, 16 May '45.

The 24th was spent in attending religious services, the care and cleaning of equipment. Sixty-three more prisoners of war were gathered up. The Commanding Officer and his staff worked on plans for crossing the Rhine River.

The night of 24-25 March the Regimental Combat Team made another motor march along the Reichsautobahn to the vicinity of Frankenthal where during darkness the units assembled. The Command Post moved on to Morsch.



CHAPTER III

The Rhine River Crossing and Drive to the East

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The enemy, in the XV Corps zone and on the entire Seventh Army front, had made a disorganized withdrawal of his forces from the Siegfried Line across the Rhine River. Elements of twenty-one enemy divisions and numerous miscellaneous units had been encountered by the Corps in its advance to the Rhine and it was expected that only hastily reorganized remnants of those units would be available to oppose a crossing of the river south of Mainz. The Seventh Army pushed plans to complete destruction of the enemy in its zone, to cross the mighty Rhine and establish a bridgehead in preparation for a subsequent advance to the northeast.

The XV Corps of the Seventh Army planned to make a main effort in the direction of Molsheim-Bensheim and force a crossing of the Rhine River in a zone between a point on the north suburbs of Mannheim north to Gimsheim. The two large patches of woods, namely Lorsch Wald and Jagersburger Wald, were to be captured and the attack continued to seize the high ground of Bensheim-Reichenbach-Eberstadt-Grumstadt, prepared to extend the bridgehead or exploit to the north or northeast on Army order. The XXI Corps on the right was to continue its mission of mopping up before the Rhine. On the left, XII Corps, having already forced a successful crossing of the Rhine with strong forces was to continue action to enlarge its bridgehead and exploit.²⁷

The XV Corps consisted of the 3rd, 44th, 45th, 63rd, and 100th Infantry Divisions and the 106th Cavalry Group. It planned to force the Rhine in its zone with its two old reliable, the experienced 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions. The other three Infantry Divisions, the 44th, 63rd and 100th, were to cross behind the two assault divisions, on Corps order and then attack in

conjunction with the assault divisions. The 106th Cavalry Group was to constitute Corps reserve in the vicinity of Gimsheim and make a feint of crossing the river. The Third Infantry Division was assigned the mission of forcing a crossing between Mannheim and Worms while the 45th Infantry Division was assigned the area on the north between Worms and Gimsheim.

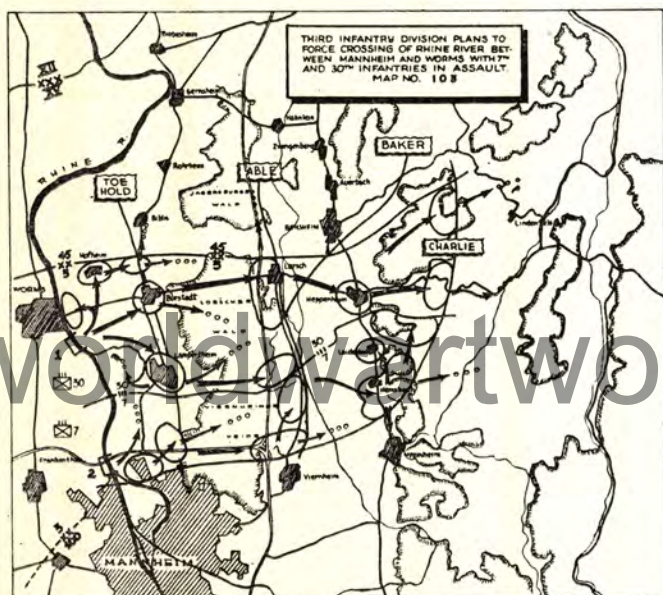
The operations of the Third Infantry Division were to be supported by the XV Corps Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Artillery. The 1109th Engineer Combat Group was to support the action with its main effort concentrated on building a treadway bridge over the Rhine in the zone of the Seventh Infantry, which was to be in assault, as usual, on the right flank. Battery "B", 353rd Search-Light Battalion, was also to support the action with "artificial moonlight" on call. The XII Tactical Air Command was to be in support. Included in the planned air support for the operation would be the blocking of approaches to the south flank of the zone of action by a strong medium bomber effort.

Assault plans of the "Rock of the Marne" Division called for the 7th and 30th Infantries to force the Rhine on the XV Corps right, in Areas No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. Following rapid coordination on the far bank they were to continue the advance with "utmost speed and violence", seize Line "TOE HOLD", capture the objectives indicated, and clear the zone to Phase Line "ABLE". The assaulting regiments were to contact each other at Contact Points No. 3 and No. 4 with all possible

²⁷ Field Order No. 3, "Operation Rhineland", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Alt-Leiningen, Germany, 24 Mar. '45.

speed. The Seventh Infantry was to maintain strong blocks and aggressive patrols on the right, or south flank, toward Mannheim, while the 30th Infantry was to maintain light blocks on the north and contact the 45th Infantry Division. On order the two regimental combat teams were to advance rapidly and seize objectives on Phase Line "CHARLIE". The line of departure for the operation was the west bank of the Rhine River.

The 15th Infantry, having assaulted the Siegfried Line with the Seventh Infantry, was for the Rhine crossing operation to constitute division reserve. The "Dragon" Regiment and attachments were to assemble in the Bobenheim area prepared to cross the Rhine River at either Area No. 1 or No. 2 and assembled in the vicinity of Lampertheim. On division order it was to be prepared to assume the mission of either assault combat team. As the vulnerable flank was to be that on the south where the Seventh Infantry was to be exposed, the 15th Infantry was ordered to be ready to assist in blocking on the south and if necessary to counter-attack. There was danger that armor might attack north out of Mannheim.



The Third Infantry Division Artillery had attached the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, the 250th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzers), the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzers) and four battalions of the 44th Infantry Division Artillery. This amount of artillery was to support the Third Division crossings by a half-hour, pre H-Hour preparation and coordinated with reinforced and counter-battery fires of the supporting XV Corps Artillery. The commanding general of the Third Infantry Division Artillery was directed to prepare and fire on call defensive fires on the division right or vulnerable south flank. A night harassing and interdiction program was to be carried out. A minimum of two liaison aircraft were to be maintained in the air during daylight hours, except during pozit periods, and were to submit hourly reports of observation. Organic, direct support battalions were to be loaded on Dukws and closed into an assembly area by H-Hour, D-Day, prepared for crossing. DD Tanks (Direct Drive or floating tanks) of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, were assigned to each assault regiment.

In final instructions for the operation the Third Division commander emphasized that:

The success of the operation depends upon speed and aggressive action. Commanders will imbue all men with a driving, offensive spirit that will overwhelm all opposition. Utmost care will be taken to prevent disclosure of crossing sites. Commanders are reminded of verbal orders of the Commanding General in reference to size and conduct of reconnaissance parties in forward areas. All combat vehicles will display cerise or orange panels east of the Rhine River. Assault units will be prepared to mark the front lines with yellow smoke or panels on order or on call from the air. The railroad line, Line "Toe-Hold", affords an excellent coordinating line as well as protection against armored attack. Assault elements will drive for this line with all possible speed following initial coordination.

In the event of hostile armored attack, intense artillery fires must be called down on the hostile armor as soon as it is discovered. These fires must be kept on the armor until it is destroyed or driven off. Bazooka teams must be alert and aggressive in repulsing enemy armor, and will strive to take the offensive against it at every opportunity. Assault Infantry will carry anti-tank mines for additional protection prior to arrival of our own armor and anti-tank guns. Assault Infantry will employ ropes and improvised slings to assist in unloading weapons on the far bank. Cargo nets furnished by the 540th Engineer Group will be used to the maximum to assist in embarking into boats and in scaling the far bank. Life preservers will be issued to all personnel prior to leaving the boat assembly areas, and dropped on the far bank as early as convenient. Assault combat teams will emplace tanks, tank destroyers, 57mm guns and flak wagons in direct fire positions along the west bank of the river, and will employ these weapons in conjunction with the artillery preparations, if called, or to fire on specific targets opposing the crossing.²⁸

A smoke plan was devised to provide screening cover and area haze in support of the Third Division operation. Units to provide the smoke were the 87th Chemical Battalion and the 69th Chemical Company (Smoke Generator). A near-shore smoke line was established by the smoke generator company within the regimental zones to furnish smoke on order of the division or assault regiments beginning at daylight, D-Day. Smoke pots were initially to be placed on the far shore smoke line and followed by M-2 generators.

The 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion was prepared to furnish 4.2 mortar smoke screens on the flanks. The Third Division Artillery was also prepared to fire smoke missions.

7th INFANTRY PLANS FOR OPERATION "RHINELAND"

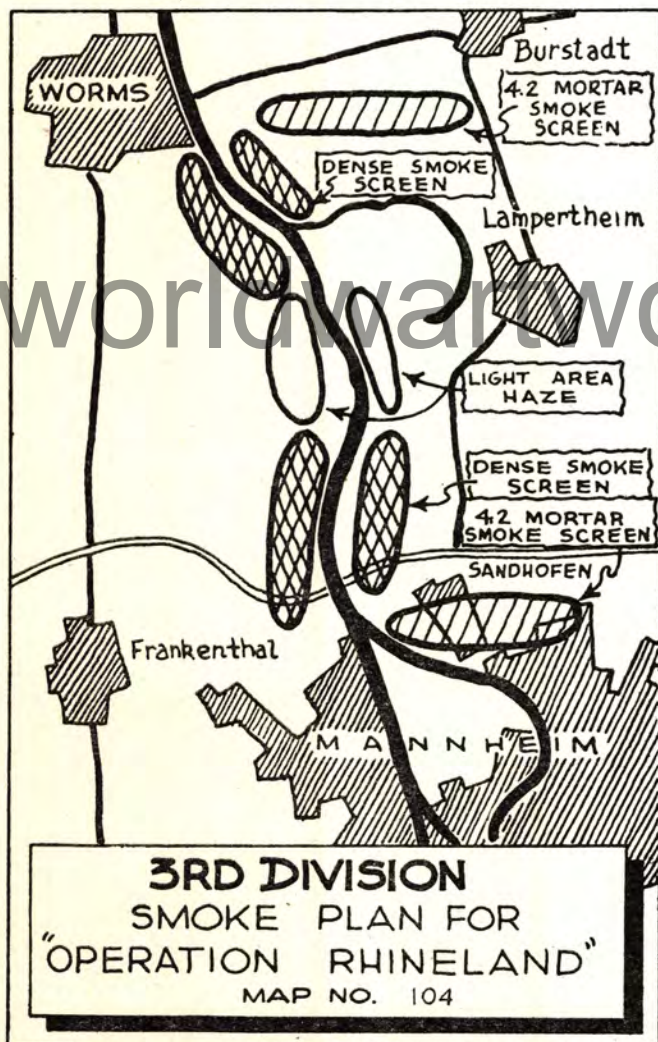
With the above orders of the commanding general, Colonel John A. Heintges and his staff formulated plans for the Seventh Infantry Regimental Combat Team to cover the operation. The old, tried and efficient supporters of the Regiment were to again support the rifle troops. They consisted of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Medical Battalion and a Detachment of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion. An extra 4.2 mortar company, Company "B", was attached with Company "A" of the 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion. A detachment of DD tanks of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, and the Third Platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, with a detachment of the 3rd Signal Company completed the list of attachments.

The move of the Regimental Combat Team during the night of 24-25 March had been the first step in concentrating the troops in the forward assembly area in Frankenthal. During the day of 25 March "DUKWS" were delivered on the basis of one to each battalion and ten to Anti-Tank Company for loading purposes. Movement in the forward area was limited to reconnais-

²⁸ Ibid.

sance and engineer parties. Plans for the night of 25-26 March were for the engineers to commence concentrating boats, cables and rafting equipment on the near shore at dusk. The First and Third Battalions, named as the assault battalions, were to close into final assembly areas not later than H-30. H-Hour, D-Day, had been established as 0230 on 26 March 1945 by higher headquarters. The Second Battalion was to close into the Third Battalion area on order of the Regimental Commander.²⁹

All the tactical vehicles, armor, and flak wagons were to close into Assembly Area No. 3, at H-Hour. Close liaison was to be maintained with the Regimental transportation officer, for the purpose of coordinating the crossings with the engineers at the river crossing site. A ferry traffic control post was set up in Area 3. The vehicles, or "DUKWS", loading from near-shore firing positions after H-Hour were directed to clear through the traffic control post before loading on rafts. The assault battalions were to start their boat teams forward at close interval, two teams at a time, so as to start launchings at H-Hour. Engineer guides were ordered to meet the boat teams at the final assembly areas and guide them to the boat site. Such were the plans of the concentration program to actually precede the assault.



Colonel Heintges ordered the First and Third Battalions, with the First on the right, to cross the Rhine River at H-Hour, D-Day, by assault craft and seize their objectives with all possible speed.

The First Battalion was assigned the mission of seizing Objectives "A", "B", "C" and "D" which

included all of Sandhofen. Upon the capture of those objectives the First Battalion was then to seize Objectives "E" and "F" and block to the southeast and east to repel any enemy attempts to penetrate the division zone.

The Third Battalion was assigned the task of seizing Objectives "G" and "I" with one company each and to hold one company in reserve at "H". With that accomplished the Third Battalion was then to attack with two companies and reduce Objectives "J", "K", "L", "P", "R", "T", No. 1, "O", "Q", "S" and "U". That action was to be accompanied by a sweeping flank maneuver of one company to Objectives "M" and "N". Upon clearing the left zone of all enemy the Third Battalion was to place the weight of its forces along the Line "ABLE" with particular attention to blocking to the northeast and east, pending a further attack to the northeast.

The Second Battalion was to cross the Rhine River on order and closely follow the advance of the First Battalion. An initial advance was to be made to the dyke, running north and south about midway between the Rhine River and Sandhofen, as the First Battalion would be in the act of capturing Sandhofen. As the First Battalion advanced toward Objectives "E" and "F" the Second Battalion was then to occupy Sandhofen. Upon the capture of "E" and "F" by the First Battalion, the Second Battalion was to attack through the First, on order from the Regimental Commander, drive rapidly forward, seize and clear Objectives "V", "W", "X", "Y", "Z", "2" and "3". That action was to be accompanied by strong blocking and patrolling action along the key avenues of enemy approach from the south.

Cannon Company was to follow its usual mission of supporting the Regiment by fire from positions on the near shore and subsequently to displace forward by "DUKWS" to the far shore on order. Anti-Tank Company was initially to have all its guns and equipment, including "bazookas", loaded on "DUKWS" and to cross to the far shore on order prepared to assist the assault elements by anti-tank blocks or tank destroyer action.

Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, was to cross its allotment of seven DD tanks on order, to render direct support to the operation.

Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, were to assemble all the armor and vehicles in the vehicle assembly area prepared to dispatch platoons to the rifle battalions upon the establishment of rafting facilities.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, initially in reserve, was to remain prepared to assist in the control of civilians, mopping up action or patrols as may be ordered.

The Detachment of 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion attached to the Regiment was to place six flak wagons in initial firing positions south of the Rhein Kanal and fire flank fires on order of the Regimental Commander. A fire plan for the flak wagons was scheduled to be fired from H-30 to H+50.

A 4.2 Chemical Mortar fire plan was also scheduled to be fired by Companies "A" and "B", 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion from H-30 to H+55 from positions on the near shore.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion was to render normal support and on order displace across the river to continue support of the attack.

²⁹ Field Order No. 2, HQ, 7th Infantry, 25 Mar. '45.

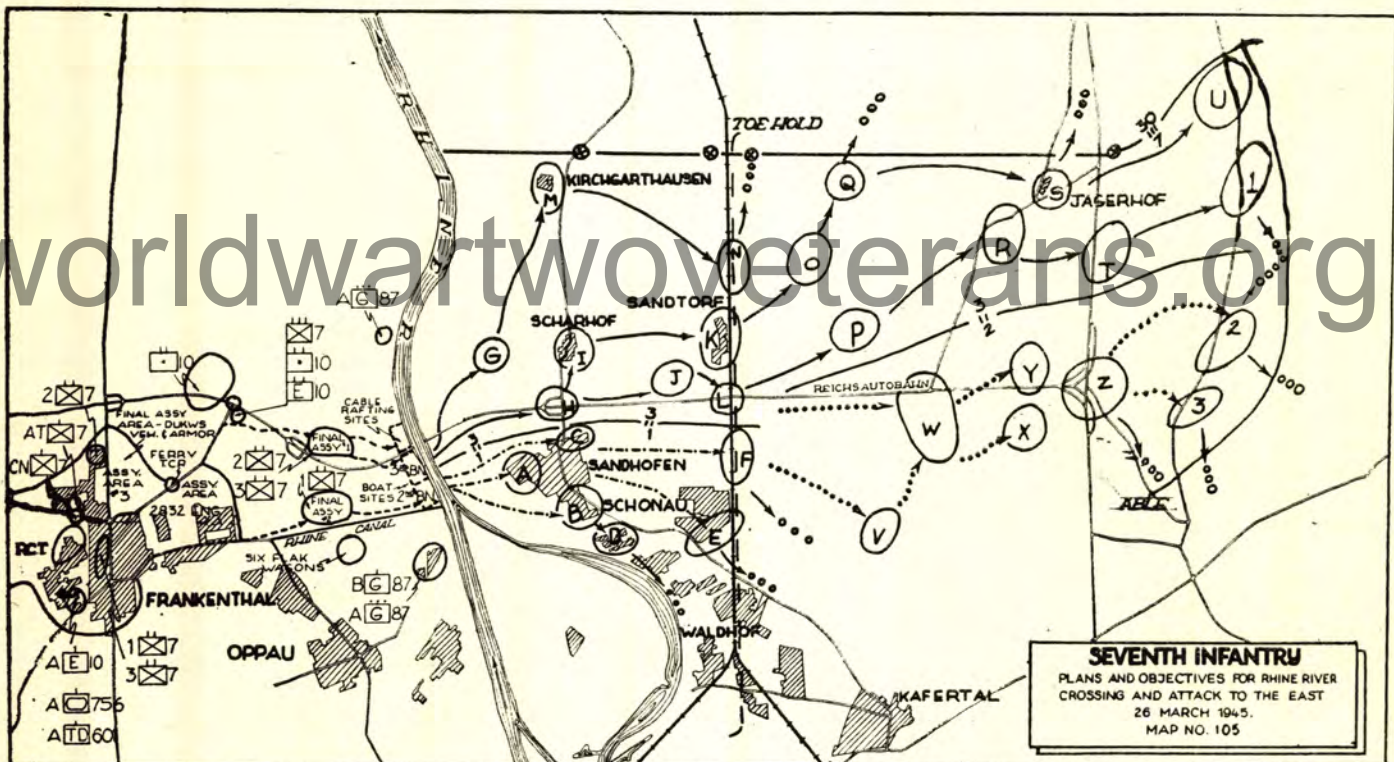
Each rifleman was ordered to carry one type "K" and one type "D" rations, four bandoliers of ammunition, four grenades (3 fragmentary and 1 white phosphorous), and eight rifle grenades (5 high explosive and 3 smoke). Canteens were to be filled and gas masks carried.

The "bazooka" teams were ordered to carry twelve rounds per team (8 high explosive and 4 smoke). The anti-tank platoons were to carry fifty anti-tank mines in the "DUKWS". Each ammunition and pioneer platoon was directed to carry fifty anti-tank mines and twenty bangalores in the "DUKWS". Each battalion was allotted one "DUKW" for initial loads of wire, batteries, extra ammunition and medical supplies. Two days' rations were to be carried on the battalion organic vehicles.

Initially, battalion aid stations were to cross as soon as possible and operate on the far shore in close communication with the battalion executive officers. The aid stations were to move forward in the zone of advance as the situation should permit. On the near shore the casualties were to be collected by Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, still commanded by the "Fedalman", Captain Hal Ferguson. When the situation should permit the collecting station would be established on the far shore.

as a billiard table." Two very important man-made structures however may be found in the area and they were to offer some cover and shelter during the operation that lay ahead. Frankenthal is connected with the Rhine River by the Rhein or Frankenthal Kanal. Along its banks are roads which could be used. The dominating feature on the flat land was the Reichsautobahn which was built to the river on either side but did not completely bridge the Rhine. From the near shore the bridge had six spans complete that reached about a fourth of the way out over the river. Under these spans were sheds and shacks that had been used by the builders. As the autobahn was built up about twenty feet above the level of the land, it was to offer some protection from enemy fire and the unfinished bridge was also to afford valuable protection. Between the unfinished bridge and the mouth of the Frankenthal Kanal, which had been designated as the boat sites for the assault battalions, a ditch or old canal, which had long been in disuse, runs parallel to the river and at that time was partly filled with water. It was to present an obstacle to the boat crews. Near the mouth of the Rhein Kanal was the remains of a pontoon bridge once used by the enemy.

At the "Cotton Baler" crossing site the Rhine has fairly steep and artificially reinforced banks. They are revetted with thick stone paving and heavy stone rubble



The Rhine River in the vicinity of the Frankenthal Kanal where the Seventh Infantry was to cross is 984 feet in width and 17 feet in depth. The height above sea level is 305 feet. The section of the river between Karlsruhe and Mainz flows in the Rhine Plain, which maintains a continuous width of from twenty to thirty miles. The plain has a low relief compared with the highlands bordering it on either side. The foothills which mark the change from the valley floor to the vaulted edge of the highlands bordering it on either side occur rather irregularly along the edge of the valley in the Palatinate and Rheinisch Hesse. In spite of its broken structure, the plain appears strikingly flat.

The land on either side of the river where the Seventh Infantry was to cross was, as the boys would say, "flat

at the foot. The current of the river was nearly twelve feet per second.

South of Sandhofen there is an island on the east of the Rhine River, made by the Rhine itself, its tributary the Neckar River and the Alt-Rhein.

It was impossible on 25 March to even attempt a diagnosis of the strength or location of enemy units opposite the Seventh Infantry. The Germans had sustained heavy losses and the defeated enemy, in confusion, had fallen back rapidly from the Siegfried Line to the east bank of the Rhine. In the XV Corps zone it was said remnants of twenty-two enemy divisions were likely to be encountered in dis-array on the eastern Rhine plain. The high command was not worrying much, as it felt, and accurately so, that the Rhine could be crossed

anywhere. The Seventh Infantry, however, was more concerned over the operation, as it had been assigned the toughest mission by the commanding general. It was to be on the exposed, vulnerable, right flank of the Third Infantry Division, XV Corps and entire American 7th Army.

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE RHINE 26 MARCH 1945

It was the third time in World War II that the Seventh Infantry had reached the Rhine River. On the first two occasions at Strasbourg and east of Colmar orders were not forthcoming for a jump across the water barrier but this time the "Cotton Balers" had received the nod and were ready to add the Rhine to the long list of creeks, streams and rivers crossed by men of the Regiment in this great conflict.

In the closing days of March 1945 the enemy knew the river was to be crossed north of Mannheim. At 2040 on the 25th two large explosions on the east side of the river were heard. One machine gun on the enemy side of the river fired spasmodically. The boat carrying parties dragged the storm and assault boats to the crossing sites. At 2220 the enemy started laying in artillery and mortar fire on the Seventh Infantry crossing sites and assembly areas. The engineers suffered nine casualties as some of the boats were hit and destroyed. Smoke was laid-in around Sandhofen and the American artillery opened up counter-battery fire.

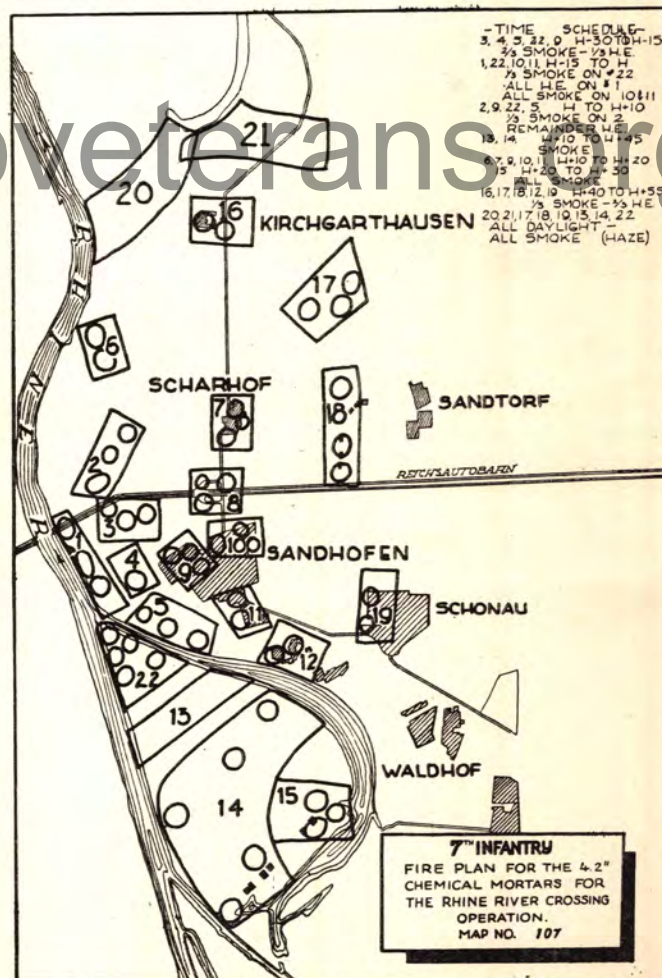
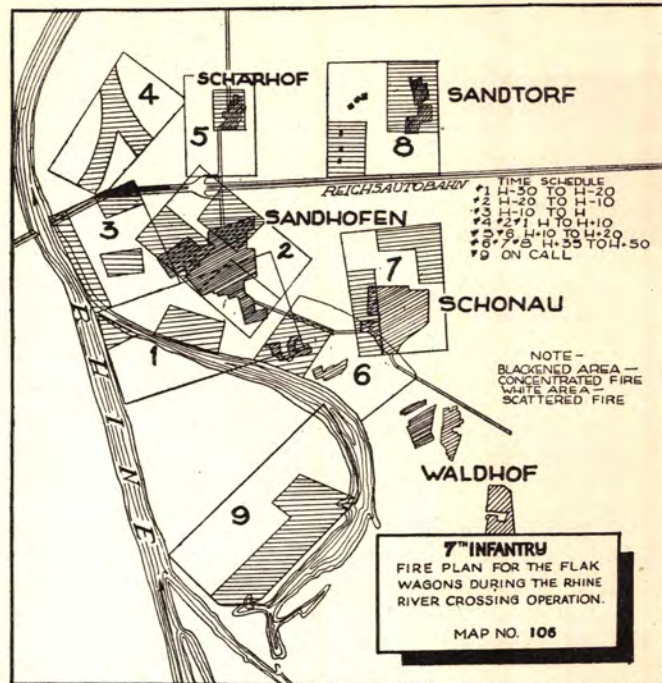
The foot troops moved out and at midnight the First Battalion troops closed into their final assembly area. The Third Battalion troops were assembled in their area at 0100. The Second Battalion passed through Morsch at 0145 and at 0223 was closed into the final assembly area.

The Third Division and XV Corps Artillery opened up with their pre-H-Hour concentrations at 0152. It was a terrific barrage that the supporting arm laid down. Other weapons joined fire. In the short period of 38 minutes to H-Hour 10,000 rounds of high explosive ammunition were fired. One would think that such a terrific barrage would silence all enemy weapons, but not so. Enemy mortars and self-propelled guns continued to fire and with deadly accuracy. The enemy hit a barn with an incendiary shell, in the vicinity of an observation post used by the Commanding Officer and set it afire. The burning barn, and flares shot into the sky by the enemy, lit up the area, silhouetted the men and boats and made them excellent targets for the enemy who poured in deadly machine gun, mortar and SP fire.

Undaunted by the enemy opposition the "Cotton Balers" of the First and Third Battalions climbed into the boats and shoved off from the western bank. All hell broke loose as the enemy increased his fire. Some of the boats were hit with the men killed and the boats made into kindling. Other boats developed motor trouble and floundered around on the river. But others succeeded during the confusion and roar of the guns and crossed with their assaulting troops to return for more human cargo. On the far bank more fire from enemy mortars and self-propelled guns was received but the troops pushed on.

Sergeant Joseph E. Brohel of Company "I", and Privates First Class John J. Burns and Charles W. Roscart of Company "K" assumed command of their respective platoon and squads after the original leaders were killed or wounded and, despite the intense enemy artillery, flakwagon, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, kept control of them during the crossing operations.³⁰

At 0340 all the assault troops of both the First and Third Battalions were across the river and closing in on their objectives. Enemy troops occupying a final protective line before Sandhofen opened up on the advancing "Cotton Balers" with fire from automatic weapons and tanks.



³⁰ GOs No. 249 & 268, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 21 July '45. Sgt. Brohel, Pfc. Burns & Roscart were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Technical Sergeant Clarence W. Copp of Company "B" had been one who had braved the concentrated enemy shell fire and led his boat team through the impact area and across the Rhine River. Then when his men were halted by machine gun fire from a distance of 150 yards, he crawled forward alone in a singlehanded assault. Despite a painful wound in his leg, he destroyed a German machine gun and its three-man crew with hand grenades. Limping and hobbling, he led his men through eight more hours of combat to knock out another enemy machine gun, storm an enemy-held house in Sandhofen and capture four German panzerfaustmen. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³¹

In the early morning of 26 March, Second Lieutenant Martin G. Kvaas and Sergeant Arthur Benjamin of Company "A", Staff Sergeant John E. Clark of Company "B" and Staff Sergeant Alfred M. Brown of Company "C" rallied scattered elements of their companies, which had survived the crossing of the Rhine, and led them through the enemy shell fire towards Sandhofen. Private First Class Maurice Meyers, a radio operator of Company "C", summoned friendly artillery fire with his radio and silenced a German tank firing on the "Cotton Balers". Sergeant Maymon E. Sigmon, by hand grenade fire, and Private First Class Clarence Firestone, by "bazooka" fire, each destroyed an enemy machine gun position and crews. Private First Class Noah H. Weaver, a machine gunner of Company "D", by continuous firing, pinned down a sizeable enemy force and enabled "Cotton Baler" riflemen to capture twenty prisoners.³²



2 Lt. Samuel L. Daniel, Co. "I", and 1 Lt. Earle E. Krampe, Co. "M", were two of the 24 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action when the 7th Infantry crossed the Rhine River.

By 0500 the First Battalion overcame all resistance before Sandhofen and entered the town to become engaged in a bitter house-to-house battle that raged all day. When he killed three Germans in a fire duel, Private Henry Fisher of Company "C" rescued three of his comrades who had been trapped in a house by a squad of enemy riflemen. Private First Class Michael J. Pindyski of Company "B" alone assaulted an enemy-held house in Sandhofen and dislodged the enemy force therein, when he killed two Germans and captured three others.³³

The Third Battalion on the left encountered less opposition and moved rapidly that morning. At 0345 as Company "L" moved without opposition on Objective "G" the remainder of the battalion was on Objective "H", the clover leaf of the Reichsautobahn. Scharhof, or Objective "I", was captured with little trouble. Company "I" raced on for Gut Kirschgartshausen, or Objective "M". When his company was halted by machine gun and small arms fire, Private First Class Eugene H. Wojtowicz of Company "I" crawled and ran towards the well-concealed enemy positions 150 yards away. Drawing fire that grazed his pack, he nevertheless routed the Germans with Browning automatic rifle fire. As the enemy attempted to renew the fight from secondary positions, Private First Class Wojtowicz signalled his squad to join him. Three of the enemy were then killed and the remainder forced to flee. As a result, his company

was able to attain its objective without suffering a casualty.³⁴

Third Battalion patrols went on to the contact points. Company "L" continued east from Objective "G" and closed on Objective "J". Fire was received from four enemy tanks and Infantry near the factories located in the woods. The Third Battalion directed all the artillery possible on the enemy.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion, which had closed into its forward assembly area and waited for orders to cross the river, had to endure the deadly enemy fire which inflicted casualties of killed and wounded. At 0600 Company "F" started the Second Battalion movement across the river with whatever boats were on hand. Of the first three to start out two were hit by enemy fire and capsized. Several of the men were killed. The boat shuttling continued amid the rain of hostile shells and it was not until 0800 that "Fox" Company was completely across the river. At 1100 the White Battalion troops were all on the east side and moved to the vicinity of the dyke before Sandhofen.

Anti-Tank Company started crossing the Rhine on the "DUKWS" at 0830 that morning and completed the operation at 1010. Two platoons went to the support of the First Battalion and one to the Third Battalion.

The seven DD (Direct Drive), or "floating" tanks, of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, had moved up under the artillery barrages before H-Hour but one was hit by enemy fire, set ablaze and destroyed with four casualties sustained. Two others developed maintenance trouble and became useless for the operation. The remaining four "floated" across the Rhine but in the attempt to scale the steep, artificial, stone bank on the east side two slid backward into the water and out of sight. The other two succeeded in scaling the bank and were the first two vehicles across the Rhine in the Seventh Infantry sector. They went to the support of the riflemen and gave a good account of themselves in the fighting that occurred.

The fighting in Sandhofen became unusually bitter with the First Battalion troops clearing it, house by house. The enemy hurled heavy concentrations from heavy artillery of the 240mm type into the town plus deadly, flat, trajectory fire from the dreaded "88s" and the high velocity anti-aircraft artillery. During the fighting in the town Second Lieutenant Martin G. Kvaas and Staff Sergeant Paul E. Osborne, both of Company "A", proved themselves to be leaders.³⁵

Members of the Medical Detachment aided the wounded and even two German "medics" sacrificed their lives to aid a "Cotton Baler". Each time Seventh Infantry "medics" attempted to reach a wounded comrade who lay in one of the streets of Sandhofen, vicious fire from two enemy machine guns drove them to cover.

³¹ For authority see GO No. 484, HQ, 7th Army, 7 Sept. '45.

³² GOs No. 212, 227, 256, 282, 289 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 & 25 June, 15 July, 1 & 5 Aug. & 5 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Kvaas & Sgt. Benjamin were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts Brown & Clark, Sgt. Sigmon, Pfc Firestone, Meyers & Weaver were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³³ GOs No. 182 & 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 & 30 May '45. Pfc Pindyski & Pvt. Fisher were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ GO No. 228, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 26 June '45. Pfc Wojtowicz was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁵ GOs No. 226 & 228, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 26 June '45. 2 Lt. Kvaas & S/Sgt. Osborne were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Finally two German "medics" plainly marked with large red crosses ran out of a doorway and made their way toward the wounded American.

"The German machine gunners allowed their medics to reach the wounded man," said Private Donald L. Wallar of the Medical Detachment. "The German medics put him on a stretcher and both stood up. Then the Nazi gunners opened fire, killing their own medics."

After the battle quieted down some, Private Wallar went out and brought back the wounded "Cotton Baler". Later a burial party took care of the dead German medical personnel.

Major Edmund B. Sinclair, Seventh Infantry Surgeon, and Private First Class Joseph P. Iorillo of the Medical Detachment administered first aid to the wounded "Cotton Balers".³⁶

Every fifteen minutes during the afternoon the enemy poured from 40 to 50 rounds of very rapid fire from big guns into the town, in efforts to systematically knock the town down on the "Cotton Baler" troops. The situation turned in favor of the Seventh Infantry troops and the First Battalion took about 100 prisoners in the town. They then pushed southeast to the Alt-Rhein.

On the Blue Battalion front the troops repulsed two platoon-sized counter-attacks. Company "I" advanced behind a smoke screen from Gut Kirschgartshausen to Sandhofen Bruch, Objective "N".

"King Company advanced from Scharhof to Objective "J" as "Love" Company drove on to Objective "L". A stray bomb dropped by the Air Corps landed on the command post of Company "L" which was located in a house and numerous casualties were caused. First Lieutenant Dale Van Hying, 10th Field Artillery Battalion forward observer, was among the seriously wounded. Over 200 enemy were taken prisoners by the Third Battalion forces.

Second Lieutenant Samuel L. Daniel of Company "I", who had rallied his boat team and led it across the Rhine and then had gallantly engaged a large German force and forced 125 enemy to surrender, was killed by enemy machine gun fire during the night of 26-27 March while attempting to set up an outpost position.³⁷

The Second Battalion moved on to Sandhofen and at 2330, after Sandhofen was cleared, attacked through the First Battalion with attached armor which had been ferried across the Rhine. Only scattered resistance was encountered. At 0740 on the 27th Companies "E" and "G" were on Objective "E" and "Fox" Company was on Objective "F".

Company "L" moved southeast to Objective "V", the Karlstern Crossroads in the woods. As prisoners of war reported a Volks Grenadier Division reorganizing in Kafertal northeast of Mannheim, air bombing missions were requested and were conducted on the town.

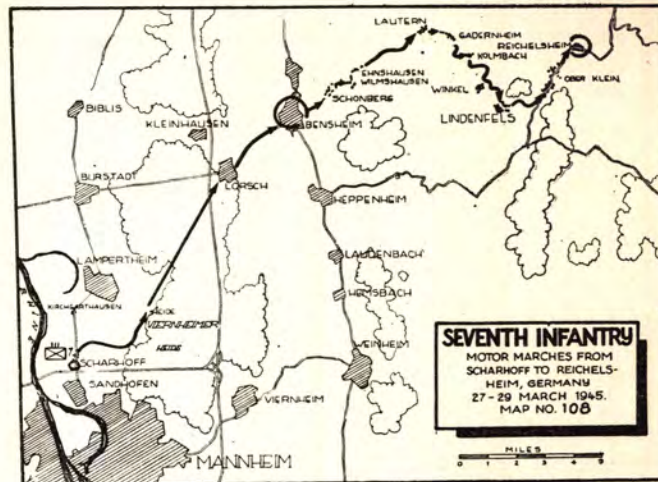
The Seventh Infantry was ordered to halt in place and during the afternoon of 27 March was relieved by the 71st Infantry of the 44th Infantry Division. For the crossing of the Rhine the Seventh Infantry had successfully accomplished its mission. An unknown number of enemy were killed and wounded, while 657 enemy were taken prisoners of war.

The operation cost the Regiment 32 killed, 10 missing in action and 136 wounded in action.

7th INFANTRY ASSEMBLES IN LORSCH AND MOTOR MARCHES TO THE EAST 27-29 MARCH 1945

Following relief by the 71st Infantry of the 44th Infantry Division the 7th Regimental Combat Team motor marched to Lorsch which is about eight miles

directly east of Worms and east of Lorscher Wald. The battalions were completely closed in at 2300 the night of 27 March. The Regimental Command Post was established in a building formerly used as a bank. Across the street was located a cigar factory which became quite a popular establishment for the "Cotton Balers" as they all desired a smoke to celebrate the successful Rhine River crossing.



On 28 March the First Battalion remained in Third Division reserve in the vicinity of Lorsch while the remainder of the Regiment, with attachments and supporting troops, moved during the late afternoon by motor, through Bensheim and several small towns to the little village of Winkel, Germany. The First Battalion was released from reserve early in the morning of the 29th and joined the Regiment in Winkel.

The motor march was continued early on the 29th to the east through Lindenfels to assembly areas in the vicinity of Reichelsheim. It was learned that First Lieutenant Harold W. Erhardt who had been wounded and taken prisoner by the enemy in Utweiler two weeks before, was in the German prisoner of war hospital in Lindenfels but to the sadness of all he had died of his wounds.

7th INFANTRY ATTACKS AND ADVANCES TO THE MAIN RIVER 29-30 MARCH 1945

With the Third Reconnaissance Troop sweeping the high ground and road net between Klein Grumpen and Unter Ostern the foot troops marched at 0900 from Reichelsheim to Unter Ostern and passed through the 15th Infantry to take up the attack once more.

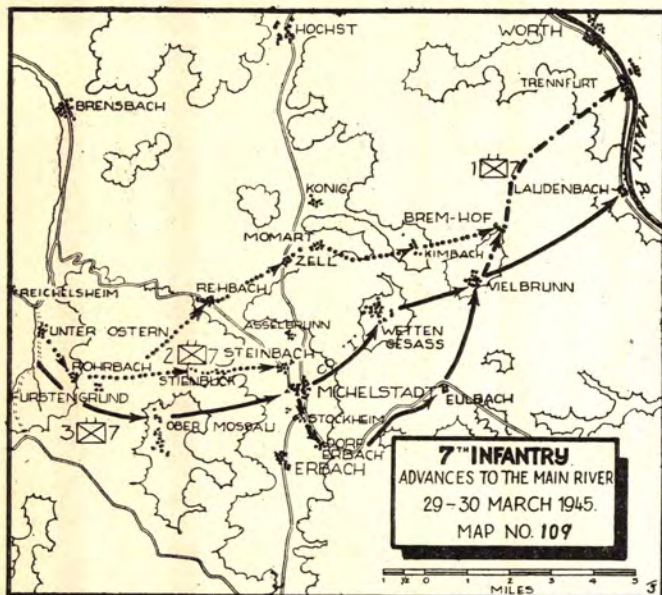
The Second and Third Battalions attacked abreast at 1020 and encountered no opposition. The battalions struck south from Unter Ostern then turned east. The Second Battalion overran the towns of Rohrbach, Ober Mossau, Steinbuck, Steinbach, Rehbach, Zeil, Momart, Kimbach and Brem Hof.

The Third Battalion in the south half of the Regimental zone also moved rapidly through Ober Mossau and overran Mickelstadt where 525 wounded enemy in hospitals were placed under guard. Company "I" moved northeast to Welten Gesuss and Vielbrunn while the remainder of the battalion followed the road south to Stockheim and Dorf-Erbach then up for Eubach.

³⁶ GOs No. 295 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Aug. & 25 Sept. '45. Maj. Sinclair & Pfc Iorillo were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁷ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 May '45. 2 Lt. Daniel was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

About midway from Dorf-Eubach to Eubach a small enemy force was encountered near a knocked out American tank. A brief fire fight occurred then eighteen enemy surrendered and the advance was resumed to Vielbrunn. Along the way an enemy ammunition dump was seized. From Vielbrunn the Third Battalion advanced northeast to Laudenbach on the Main River where a fire fight occurred during the morning of the 30th before the town was cleared.



Meanwhile the First Battalion trucked to Vielbrunn, then moved on foot to the northeast to Brem Hof and passed through the Second Battalion, which then followed. At 0900, 30 March, the First Battalion was in Trennfurt on the Main River.

Company "L" moved south from Laudenbach and established a road block at Klein Heubach.

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE MAIN RIVER AND CONTINUES THE ATTACK

At 2230 the night of 30 March the First and Second Battalions moved to Worth and crossed the Main River by foot bridges. The 30th and 15th Infantries had already crossed the river against practically no opposition and held a bridgehead on the east bank. The First and Second Battalion troops marched to assembly areas in the vicinity of Streit then at midnight moved to a line of departure east of the town and attacked through the 30th Infantry.

The First Battalion troops entered Eschau during the night and engaged enemy in a small arms fight until 0800 when the town was taken. The First Battalion had sustained thirteen casualties from enemy small arms fire and grenades but inflicted casualties on the enemy and took thirty-two of them prisoners. The troops went on and seized Sommerau.

The Second Battalion, on the right, likewise advanced and entered Monchberg. In the morning the town was cleared of resistance and the battalion continued on to the east.

Private First Class Charles J. Brennan, Jr., of Company "A", Private First Class Reno Smith of Company "B" and Private William Lafata of Company "F" were outstanding during the actions of the battalions on 31 March.³⁸

The two attacking battalions continued their advances on Easter Sunday and encountered enemy road blocks

and small forces in the towns. Some tank fire was received and snipers were numerous.

The First Battalion advanced to the northeast and at 1430 had elements cleaning out Unter Aulenbach and Wildenstein. Moving north from Unter Aulenbach, Red troops engaged enemy in a sharp small arms battle and received some fire from self-propelled guns. By-passing a road block riflemen were in Hobbach at 1700. Company "A" drove on for Wintersbach and became engaged in a machine gun and small arms battle. Company "C" followed "Able". Winning the small arms engagement, the troops pushed on during the night and encountered a strong block on the western edge of the town which was covered with automatic weapons. The town was cleared during the following morning. Two blown bridges on the outskirts of the town delayed the armor



1 Lt. Harold W. Erhardt, 2 Bn. Hq. Co., wounded in action on 15 March, died in a German prisoner of war hospital in Lindenfels, Germany, on 29 March 1945.

and vehicles from keeping up with the "doughfeet". To further hamper the operations four tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, became "stuck in the mud" on secondary roads.

The advance of the Second Battalion to the northeast was also against little real opposition initially, though the wooded terrain made travel unpleasant. At 1715, 31 March, the White troops were in the Wildensee and Hofwildensee and swung north. Early Easter morning the White Battalion troops entered Krausenbach and experienced a sharp, bitter fight with rifles and automatic weapons, before the town was cleared. Sergeant Alfred Weingarden of Company "G" was cited for actions performed in Krausenbach.³⁹

The Third Battalion meanwhile trucked to Hobbach where a road block prevented further travel by vehicle. The troops dismounted and marched on to Wintersbach where they passed through the First Battalion to continue the advance of the Regiment to the northeast. At 1330 the Blue troops had reached Rohrbrunn and were engaged in a fight.

As Second Lieutenant John H. Soules of Company "K" was leading his platoon in a flanking maneuver against a 77mm gun near Rohrbrunn he observed twelve Germans about 100 yards to his left preparing to set up two machine guns. Instantly shifting direction, Second Lieutenant Soules disregarded a burst of automatic fire that barely missed him, and led an assault on the group. All twelve of the enemy were killed before they could return fire. Twenty other Germans near the roadblock were routed. In a rapid pursuit Second Lieutenant Soule's platoon captured the entire force, plus four guns ranging from 20mm to 177mm calibre, a truck, and a communications center.⁴⁰

³⁸ GOs No. 182, 187 & 316, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 & 30 May & 1 Sept. '45. Pfc's Brennan & Smith & Pvt. Lafata were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁹ GO No. 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 June '45. Sgt. Weingarden was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁰ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. 2 Lt. Soules was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion continued on and by-passed numerous enemy who hid out in the woods and engaged in sniper action. Late in the afternoon the troops had advanced across country through dense forests to Lichtenau and Erlenfurth on the Hafenlohr stream.

Both the First and Second Battalions moved by motor during the night of 1-2 April from Wintersbach and Krausenbach to Lichtenau and Erlenfurth. At 2130 the First Battalion passed through the Third and continued the attack to the northeast during the night. At 0550, 2 April the troops had penetrated through the forests to Bischhornerhof and struggled to eliminate a block. Overcoming resistance by the block the troops drove on and attacked Rechtenbach. Heavy small arms and anti-tank fire was received. One tank supporting the attack received a direct hit from an enemy 77mm anti-tank gun. The shell struck the turret, knocked out the piece of armor, and killed two of the tankmen. At 1130 the town of Rechtenbach was cleared and the troops pushed on. At 1600 Company "C" was in the woods 2000 yards northeast of Rechtenbach and west of Lohr. The remainder of the battalion was around Rechtenbach.

The Second Battalion meanwhile had detrucked in Erlenfurth at 0300, 2 April and then attacked east for the "Spiderweb", as the crossroads looked on the map. The White Battalion advanced across country with Companies "E" and "G" abreast and "F" trailing in reserve. No serious opposition was encountered but at one place it was reported that three enemy tried the impossible and launched a counter-attack. Their attack was not too vicious or violent as they were taken prisoners rather than killed.

In the small unit actions which occurred two members of Company "E" distinguished themselves. When the fire of seven enemy soldiers inflicted three casualties on his platoon Private First Class Edward E. Berg single-handedly assaulted the enemy force. Running forward and firing his rifle from the hip he killed one German and wounded two others. When he was about twenty yards from them four other Germans surrendered with the two wounded men. On another occasion Staff Sergeant William S. Harvey ran toward a hostile machine gun position fifty yards away. As the German machine gunner turned his weapon on him, he tossed a hand grenade into the enemy position. A burst of bullets barely missed him but his well placed grenade killed the enemy gunner and wounded his assistant.⁴¹

The Second Battalion entered Rodenbach on the Main River and there fought a spirited battle against makeshift enemy forces consisting of officer candidates, air force pilots and personnel who had been thrown into the Infantry and imbued with the "die for the Fatherland" propaganda. In the end they chose not to die and 160 were taken prisoners of war. Others fled to the south. The Second Battalion forces chased the remnants of the enemy south along the Main River nearly to Erlach which was out of the Seventh Infantry zone. The troops then returned to Rodenbach where the battalion established its command post.

The rifle companies of the Second Battalion attacked north between the railroad tracks and the Main River for Wombach. Companies "E" and "G" were in the attacking wave while "F" was again in reserve. Brief but fierce fire-fights were fought, in which Private First Class Floyd V. Weimaster of Company "G" and Second Lieutenant John Ananich, Jr., were outstanding.⁴²

At 1915 Wombach was captured by the Second Battalion riflemen. In the meantime however the battalion headquarters group in Rodenbach was counter-attacked

and a call was sent for rifle elements to return to its assistance.

A force of approximately forty Germans reinforced with machine guns attacked the rear elements of the Second Battalion in Rodenbach. First Lieutenant Joseph G. Lambert, the battalion transportation officer, rallied six men and led them against a reinforced squad of Germans in position on a hill 250 yards away. One member of his group was killed, a second wounded and his own right wrist was shattered by the enemy machine gun fire,



but First Lieutenant Lambert resolutely led his remaining men into firing positions 100 yards from the enemy. Captain Joseph E. Martin of Second Battalion Headquarters Company by that time had organized 25 of the battalion headquarters personnel and led them in a counter-attack against the enemy forces. A tank of the 756th Tank Battalion and .50 calibre machine guns mounted on two jeeps augmented the fire power of the men and in a 30 minute fight casualties were inflicted on the enemy, 20 captured along with five machine guns and the remaining enemy were driven off.⁴³

CCB of the 14th Armored Division passed through the Seventh Infantry in Rechtenbach during the afternoon of 2 April in what was expected to be a wild dash to the east, but the tankers got no further than Lohr where the enemy knocked out a half dozen pieces of American Armor.

Though the Seventh Infantry, with one battalion south of Lohr, another on high ground to the northwest and the third in Rechtenbach had been in an excellent position to surround the town from all sides and close in on it, orders had been for the armored combat command to pass through and drive on the town. A coordinated attack by the Seventh Infantry rifle battalions would have brought the downfall of the place in one day but as it turned out it took the armored boys, who

⁴¹ GO No. 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '45. S/Sgt. Harvey & Pfc Berg were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴² GOs No. 187 & 282, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May & 1 Aug. '45. 2 Lt. Ananich & Pfc Weimaster were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴³ GOs No. 158 & 177, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 25 May '45. Capt. Martin & 1 Lt. Lambert were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

could not maneuver off of road, several days to seize it and then the Seventh Infantry had to go to their assistance. The First Battalion had advanced against no opposition, but over rugged wooded terrain to Steintalerhof, northwest of Lohr and cut the road there.

SECOND BATTALION CROSSES THE MAIN FOR THE SECOND TIME

Between 1800 and 1900 on 3 April the troops of the Second Battalion crossed the Main River for a second time, in the vicinity of Pflochsbach. The crossing was made in assault craft and "DUKWS". Aggressive patrols were sent to the east, north and south. A Company "E" patrol encountered a three-man enemy patrol mounted on horses and drove it off. Hausen was found to be occupied by enemy. During the night artillery was fired on the town at 0110, 0300 and 0600.

The 165th Engineers built a pontoon raft during the night and attached armor of the Second Battalion commenced crossing the river at 0615, 4 April, but the raft broke loose and delay resulted before the armor had completely crossed.

Company "E" reported Hausen and Steinfeld free of enemy soldiers at 1030, occupied the two towns and sent patrols to Rohrbach and Wiesenfeld. At 1030 Company "F", with attached armor, moved north from Pflochsbach. During the day the Second Battalion troops and attachments cleared the area within the big loop made by the Main River. Sendelbach, Steinbach, Halsbach, Wiesenfeld, Rohrbach, Massenbuch and Harzbach were cleared. Only 38 prisoners of war were taken during the day.

During the Second Battalion movements which directly benefitted the 14th Armored Division elements in Lohr the Red Battalion remained in place at Steintalerhof, prepared to close in on Lohr from the north. The tankers, angered and embarrassed by the delay to get through Lohr, refused direct assistance from the regular Infantry, who were just as happy and for once experienced the pleasure of sitting back and watching "the other fellow do it". The tankers were assisted by fire from the Seventh Infantry however, though the "Cotton Balers" never actually attacked for the town.

SECOND BATTALION CROSSES THE MAIN FOR THE THIRD TIME

At 2300, 4 April, the Division G-3 called the Seventh Infantry Command Post and announced that the 14th Armored Division was in trouble and that the 30th Infantry north of the loop in the Main River would advance to the south, seize Gemunden and clean out the valley on the north side of the river. The Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, was to remain in position on the tip of the peninsula and be prepared to support the 30th Infantry in any way possible. In forty-five minutes time the G-3 was notified that the Seventh Infantry would send an officer with an SCR 300 radio to the 30th Infantry early in the morning for liaison purposes.⁴⁴ The "Cotton Baler" Second Battalion overlooked Gemunden and was willing to render all assistance necessary.

At 0105, 5 April, the Third Division commander called by phone. He directed Colonel Heintges to have the Second Battalion cross the Main River southeast of Gemunden, then to attack the town from the east as the 30th Infantry was not to take it after all. He realized the "Cotton Baler" battalion was in the best position to take the town. The tankers were having

trouble proceeding along the north side of the river. The crossing was ordered to be made by assault craft and in the vicinity of Massenbuch.⁴⁵

Orders were sent to Lieutenant Colonel Duncan and to the engineers, who had to move equipment across the Main at Rodenbach and transport it across the peninsula to Massenbuch. That took time and it was not until noontime on 5 April that the Second Battalion troops were able to cross the river for the third time and drive on Gemunden. Due to muddy banks the armor was not able to cross with the troops. Small arms and light artillery fire was received during the advance.

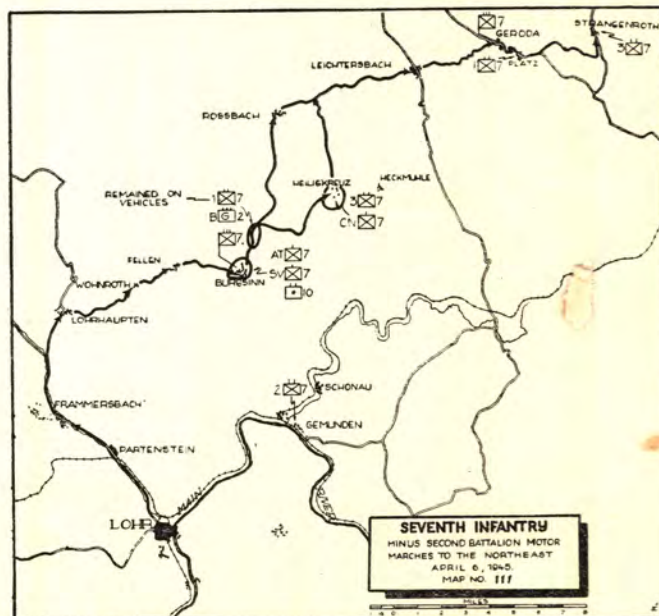
Without its armor the Second Battalion seized all of Gemunden at 1530 with over 70 prisoners taken. Sergeant Leslie H. Capps of Company "G" was outstanding during the action.⁴⁶

The 14th Armored Division troops then entered from the west. At 0630, 6 April, the Second Battalion attacked to the north and seized Schonau.

While the Second Battalion crossed the Main River for the third time and seized Gemunden the remainder of the Regiment prepared to move. At 0245, 6 April, the Regiment minus the Second Battalion commenced the motor march and passed through Lohr, Partenstein, Frammersbach and Lohrhaupten to areas in the vicinity of Burgsin and Heiligkrenz where only short stops were made before the march was continued over bad roads to Geroda. From there the Red Battalion troops marched to the vicinity of Platz while the Blue Battalion troops went on to Stangenroth.

At 2100 Company "A" moved to establish blocks. One rifle platoon entered Aschach and after a sharp small arms fight occupied the town at 0200, 7 April.

At 0700 the Red and Blue Battalions launched attacks to the east. The First Battalion troops seized Frauenroth and Stralsbach without opposition. Company "B" crossed the Saale River and occupied Bocklet. At 1030 a platoon of "Charlie" Company with armor moved north to Hohn where a fight was had. Enemy anti-tank guns knocked out one tank destroyer. Company "A" sent forces from Aschach to Grossenbach and occupied the town against very light resistance.



⁴⁴ Unit Journal, 7th Infantry, 4 April '45.

⁴⁵ Unit Journal, 7th Infantry, 5 April '45.

⁴⁶ GO No. 282, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 Aug. '45. Sgt. Capps was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Blue Battalion on the north encountered no opposition at the beginning of the attack. Premich and Stainborg were seized. Then the troops ran into a strong road block near Steinach supported by three Mark V tanks, two anti-tank guns and about two companies of automatic riflemen. A heavy fight ensued before the block was cleared at about noon-time. Technician Fifth Grade John A. Owen, a radio operator; Technician Fifth Grade William A. Wanner, a Browning automatic rifleman, and Private Harold C. Smith, a rifleman, all of Company "L", and Private First Class Charles C. Haire of Company "M" were cited for the part they played in winning the fight.⁴⁷

Patrols pushed on for Steinach where the enemy had concentrated armor. The attack was pressed as the enemy retaliated with tank, artillery and Neblerwerfer fire. The "screaming meemies" were the first received for quite some time. The fight continued through the night, then at dawn of the 8th the reinforced Blue Battalion launched a powerful attack. A heavy battle ensued that cost the enemy ten Mark V tanks knocked out by tank destroyer and "bazooka" fire. Steinach was cleared by noontime that day and patrols pushed on for Roth and Nickersfelden. Roth was occupied after a small arms battle.

While the Blue Battalion was thus heavily engaged, the First Battalion mopped up resistance in the vicinity of Bocklet and Hohn and was thrown somewhat on the defensive. At five minutes after midnight, 7-8 April, Company "B" in Bocklet received a sharp counter-attack. At 0200 Captain James B. Rich, Jr., commanding Company "B", reported his command post surrounded by enemy.

When a platoon of Germans stormed into the command post in Bocklet, Captain Rich inspired nine men with him to defend the house. Posting a defense on the

second story, he calmly walked from room to room, encouraging his men despite bullets which came up through the floor. When the enemy attempted to charge upstairs behind hand grenade fire, Captain Rich, who had stationed himself at the head of the stairway, killed the leading German with his pistol and forced the rest back. Although the Germans set fire to the house, he refused to capitulate and held out for three and a half hours until other elements drove the enemy from Bocklet.⁴⁸

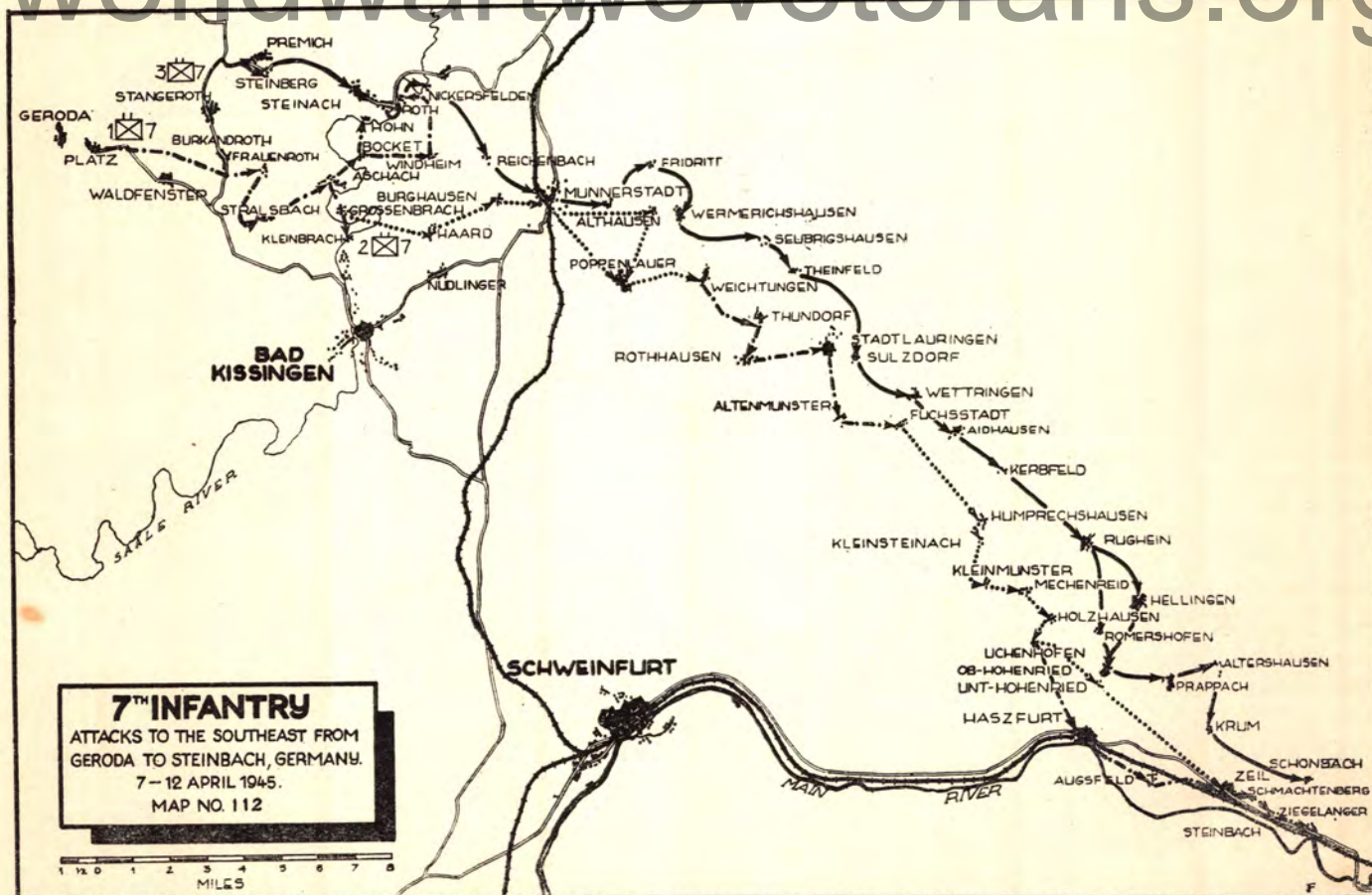
Company "A" sent a platoon to reinforce "Baker" Company and by 0430 the situation had cleared. Casualties sustained were light. One platoon of Company "C" with elements of the Battle Patrol occupied Hohn during the night against small arms fire.

SECOND BATTALION RETURNS TO REGIMENTAL CONTROL AND ATTACKS THROUGH THE FIRST

On the 7th of April the Second Battalion was released from division control in the vicinity of Grafendurf and moved by motor to Stangeroth. At 0230 on the 8th the troops moved to Aschach and at 0645 pushed through the First Battalion. The town of Haard fell to the attacking troops at 1130 after resisting with small arms. A patrol moved to the south to Nudlinger which was cleared. Contact was later established with elements of CCB of the 14th Armored Division which advanced

⁴⁷ GOs No. 226, 264, 316 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June, 19 July, 1 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. T/5 Owen, T/5 Wanner, Pfc Haire & Pvt. Smith were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁸ GO No. 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 June '45. Capt. Rich was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



from Bad Kissingen. A total of 132 enemy had been captured by the battalions.

The Second and Third Battalions continued the attack in their zones against scattered small arms and sniper fire. No prepared enemy positions were encountered.

The Third Battalion seized Reichenbach after a small arms fight then moved through Munnerstadt, Althausen, Fridritt, Wermerichshausen, Seubrigshausen, Theinfeld, Sulzdorf, Wettringen and Aidhausen where only scattered small arms fire was encountered on the morning of the 9th. During the night the rifle units had by-passed enemy stragglers hiding out in the woods. A force of by-passed enemy attacked the battalion command group in Fridritt and Wermerichshausen, captured five Third Battalion men, shot up four jeeps and knocked out a tank destroyer. A lively engagement then ensued with the situation finally clearing up in favor of the Blue Battalion. Fifty-five of the enemy, including an officer, were captured along with four horse drawn 175mm howitzers. Technical Sergeant Anthony J. Dorato had played an important part in directing the operations.⁴⁹

The Second Battalion had advanced from Haard to Burghausen, Munnerstadt, Althausen, Poppenlauer, and Weichtungen where it held up and was passed through by the First Battalion around midnight of 8-9 April.

In Munnerstadt the battalion had encountered trouble but overcame it when Staff Sergeant Anthony C. Pecar displayed great leadership. Advancing through fire, Staff Sergeant Pecar killed an enemy machine pistol operator at 15 yards range with "Tommy gun" fire. As he continued forward two other machine pistol operators, 30 yards away, opened fire on him. Firing from a kneeling position he killed the two Germans, and then forced a nearby rifleman to surrender. As he led the way deeper into the enemy position a machine gun suddenly opened fire and pinned his men down. While bullets smashed into trees inches from him, Staff Sergeant Pecar crawled forward to a point less than 40 yards from the emplacement and hurled a hand grenade. He then charged, firing from the hip, and killed the two-man crew. For his heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

On the night of 8 April three men of Company "C" were caught beneath the tank they had been riding, when it turned over on its side. Sergeant Glenn D. Brooks was killed. Private First Class Frederick J. Bassett, though badly bruised, managed to free himself. He then crawled back under the tank and rescued the third soldier.⁵⁰

The First Battalion continued the advance to the southeast in the right of the Regimental zone. Thundorf, Rothhausen, Stadtlauringen, Altenmunster and Fuchstadt were seized. Only scattered enemy resistance was encountered as the enemy was without fortified, dug-in or prepared positions anywhere in the zone and armor was absent. Private First Class Wesley Falls Down of First Battalion Headquarters Company, who was the first into Fuchstadt and engaged the enemy there, was cited for gallantry which he displayed on that day.⁵¹

The Second Battalion passed through the First Battalion in the right of the zone to Kleinsteinach. The battalion held up on the 10th, patrolled to the front and cleaned enemy out of the rear areas. Elements of the 14th Armored Division were contacted in Reichmannshausen by Second Battalion patrols and the Third Battalion established contact with the 179th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division on the left. A Blue Battalion patrol entered Rugheim and found it unoccupied. A Second Battalion patrol to Uchenhofen encountered small arms and mortar fire. Private First Class Stephen S. Warbeck,

of Company "G", was killed and another man was captured. The patrol lost its SCR 300 radio and pulled back. It was estimated that from 50 to 100 enemy were in the town.

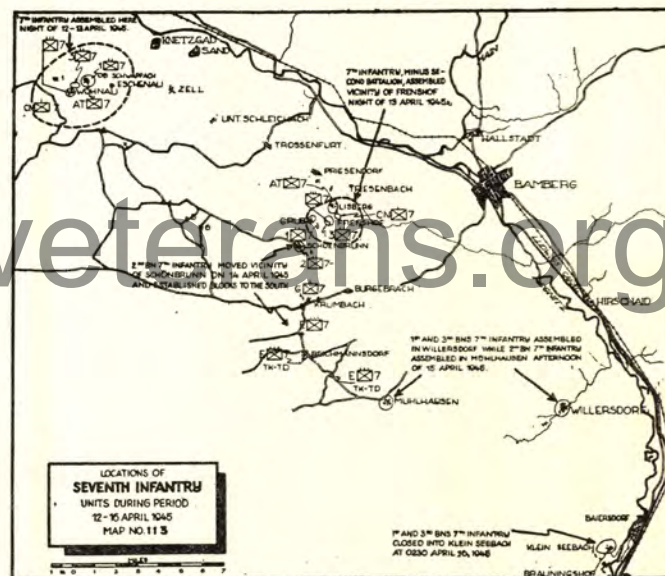
At 1530 on the 11th the Regiment took up the advance to the southeast once more. The Third Battalion continued to advance on the left while the Second was on the right.

The Second Battalion encountered only small arms fire as it seized Kleinsteinach, Kleinmunster, Mechenried, Holshausen, Unchenhofen, Ober Hohenried and Unt. Hohenried.

The Third Battalion encountered small arms and automatic weapons' fire, light artillery and mortar fire, but captured Hellingen, Romershofen and Prappach.

At 2350, 11 April, the First Battalion passed through the right of the Second Battalion and attacked Haszfurt. Only scattered small arms fire and a few rounds of mortar fire were received. A few blocks were encountered but the town was easily cleared and captured during the morning of the 12th.

The Second Battalion continued its advance towards Augsfeld, then to the high ground to the east. An unusually heavy small arms battle, for that stage of the campaign, was fought before the high ground was occupied. The battalion then moved on to Zeil which was taken after a short struggle.



At 1700, 12 April, the First Battalion passed through the Second at Zeil and seized Steinbach where it held up. The other objectives, Ebelsbach and Gleisenau, had been taken by friendly forces and there was no need for further attacks.

The Third Battalion on the left continued its advance and seized Sechesthal, Krum, a road junction in the woods, and Schonbach, where it, too, held up and contacted elements of the 45th Infantry Division.

The battalions moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of Wohnau, Ober Schwappach and Eschenau during the night of 12-13 April. Much difficulty was experienced on the bad roads, with many pieces of armor and vehicles becoming mired in the mud.

⁴⁹ GO No. 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June '45. T/Sgt. Dorato was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁰ GO No. 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Aug. '45. Pfc Bassett was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

⁵¹ GO No. 306 HQ, 3d Inf. Div. 20 Aug. '45. Pfc Falls Down was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Second Battalion relieved the 30th Infantry of all its road blocks in the area. At 1600, 13 April, Division Headquarters ordered the Regiment to hold the Second Battalion in place on the blocks and move the remainder of the combat team to new assembly areas in the vicinity of Frenshof to the southeast.

The Third Division furnished the Regiment with twenty-five trucks to reinforce the organic vehicles for the move which was started at 1800. The Regiment, less the Second Battalion, motor marched to the northeast to Knetzgau then southeast through Zell, Ober Schleichach, Trosenfurt, Priesendorf and Lisberg to Frenshof. The Second Battalion was placed under division control.

On arriving in the new area at 2100 the Blue Battalion sent out a motorized patrol to the north. The patrol went as far as the Main River and captured two enemy. A dead American officer was found in a jeep near Triesenbach.

An enemy plane flew over the Regimental area the night of 13-14 April and dropped anti-personnel bombs on the Cannon Company area. Approximately thirty casualties were sustained including Corporal John Killham killed. Several vehicles were damaged. On 14 April

the Second Battalion advanced to Schonbrunn then established blocks at Krumbach, Reichsmannsdorf and Albach.

The First Battalion remained assembled but motorized in Grub while the Third Battalion remained assembled in Frenshof. Company "K" plus one tank platoon, one tank destroyer platoon, and six assault guns were detached to division to become part of a special task force which attacked to the southeast.

During the early afternoon of 15 April the Second Battalion, still under division control, displaced to the southeast to Muhlhausen while the remainder of the Regiment, less Company "K" and attachments, moved to areas in the vicinity of Willersdorf. The troops closed into their respective areas at 2015.

Five minutes after closing into the area the Regiment was ordered to continue the motor march to Klein Seebach and prepare to attack. The First and Third Battalions continued the motor march and closed into Klein Seebach at 0230, 16 April. The foot troops of the two battalions marched to the east and crossed the Regnitz River by footbridges east of Klein Seebach and closed into wooded areas north of Brauningshof. Company "K" and attached armor rejoined its battalion at 1100.

CHAPTER IV

The Battle of Nurnberg

16-20 APRIL 1945

At 1130 on 16 April the Red and Blue Battalions attacked to the south on the east side of the Regnitz River. On the left of the Regiment the 15th Infantry attacked, while the 222nd Infantry of the 42nd Infantry Division was on the right, west of the Regnitz.

The two attacking battalions moved initially against no opposition. The Blue troops passed through Marloffstein, Spardorf and Utenreuth while the Red troops moved through Erlangen and drew very light small arms fire. The First Battalion then assembled in the vicinity of Sieglitzhof as reserve.

The Second Battalion which was relieved of its blocking mission near Muhlhausen at 1030, 16 April, had moved to rejoin the Regiment, and detrucked near Sieglitzhof at 1415. The White Battalion crossed in front of the Blue troops to attack in the left half of the Regimental zone. The Third Battalion crossed over to the right half of the zone and continued abreast of the White Battalion.

The Second Battalion seized objectives in the woods by Weissensee then moved southwest for Tennenlohe. Considerable small arms, automatic weapons and self-propelled gun fire was received as the White Battalion "Cotton Balers" fought enemy entrenched in dug-in huts. The battle continued throughout the night of 16-17 April and the battalion lost five men killed and a number wounded. One Mark IV tank and an "88" were knocked out as the White Battalion troops controlled Tennenlohe at 0700. Sergeant Ted W. Sharol of Company "F" performed with gallantry before he was killed in action.⁵²

The Blue Battalion meanwhile passed through Buckenhof and seized 175 Germans as prisoners of war. The advance was continued through Erlangen to the south. Staff Sergeant Bennett O. Walker of Company "L"

singlehandedly attacked seven enemy riflemen who had wounded two members of his platoon near Tennenlohe, killed two of the Germans and took five prisoners.⁵² The Third Battalion forces knocked out two enemy tanks and four flakwagons and captured an additional batch of 150 enemy soldiers. Heavy machine gun fire was received from the vicinity of Bruck. An artillery ammunition plant and a prisoner of war camp were seized. The troops pushed on and cleared Grundlach at 0950 on the 17th and received "88" fire from the south.

From Tennenlohe the Second Battalion sent Company "E", still under its veteran commander, Captain James F. Powell, in a rapid move south to Reutles, while Company "G" commanded by First Lieutenant Louie Van Hoy, drove through the woods to Neunhof.

Near Neunhof, Germany, when deadly machine gun and flakwagon crossfire at 250 to 300 yards range wounded eighteen men and cut them off from their forward observer, Privates First Class Christian A. Funk and George E. Miller both mortar radiomen of Company "H", directed concentrations that silenced the enemy.⁵³

The riflemen of Company "G" entered Neunhof and engaged enemy in sharp skirmishes along several of the streets. They killed three Germans and captured a total of twenty-five. As the company was consolidating its positions it received artillery and small arms fire from Kraftshof, farther to the south. Several enemy 155mm gun positions were soon spotted just north of that town

⁵² GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. Sgt. Sharol (posthumously) & S/Sgt. Walker were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵³ GO No. 212, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 June '45. Pfc's Funk & Miller were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and a heavy concentration of artillery fire was registered on them. The hostile crews quickly pulled their field pieces out of their emplacements and withdrew southwards. Company "G" then mopped up the remainder of Neunhof, taking nine more prisoners.

Company "F", meanwhile, led by First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin passed through "Easy" Company in Reutles and pushed south for Boxdorf. The company encountered machine gun and rifle fire which issued from a small patch of woods.

As Company "F" neared the edge of Boxdorf, several of its members were wounded by an hostile flakwagon south of the town. Nevertheless the "Cotton Balers" of "Fox" Company drove swiftly to the outskirts of the town and engaged approximately two platoons of enemy troops who were dug-in. Undaunted by hand grenade and rifle fire, elements of the company closed with the enemy, while the remainder infiltrated into the streets. The Germans fired machine pistols and rifles as they fell back to the extreme end of the town. While both sides were locked in fierce fighting at point-blank range, the enemy ruthlessly laid down heavy concentrations of artillery fire on the entire area. The fighting lasted for three hours, until the last of the enemy were driven from the town. During the fighting Staff Sergeant Michael C. Fanelli, Corporal Jackson McIntosh, Private First Class Bremton J. Morrison and Private George R. Neese distinguished themselves.⁵⁴



Pvt. Alvy L. Cunningham, Co. "E", was killed in action during the fighting for Nurnberg, Germany, on 18 April 1945.

Company "G" continued south from Neunhof, seized Kraftshof and closed on Buch. In the fading light of day numerous enemy troops were observed on the fringe of Buch. Halting his men First Lieutenant Van Hoy ordered his supporting tanks and tank destroyers to open fire. Shells hit directly into the enemy positions and the riflemen then advanced steadily. The Germans became disorganized. When assault elements of the company neared the town, large numbers of the enemy were so demoralized that they surrendered. The rifle platoons fanned out upon entering the town and rounded up other groups of Germans. As one platoon knifed through the town to cut off the escape route to the south, it received fire from a roadblock emplaced in the heart of Buch. While riflemen returned fire, a supporting tank directed shells at a hostile flakwagon on the far side of the roadblock, forcing the crew to abandon the weapon. Meanwhile, the remainder of the company cleared building after building and surrounding dugouts, taking approximately 150 prisoners in an hour and securing the town. "Fox" and "Easy" Companies moved up and by nightfall all fighting elements of the Second Battalion were in Buch.

Privates Arthur R. Pundt and Lyle Willick of Company "H" opened fire from a house on a small group of Germans and killed four of the enemy. They then shifted their fire to a larger enemy force massing to attack from a woods about 1400 yards away. Meanwhile American artillery pounded the wooded area driving about 50 Germans out into the open. As the enemy replied with artillery fire that hit nearby buildings the two machine

gunners raked the German troops with devastating fire and killed approximately 16 more. Their steady shooting drew the attention of a hostile tank, which sent three shells into the house, but the gunners refused to desert their dangerous post. A fifth tank shell killed Private Pundt and shot off one of Private Willick's legs.⁵⁵

Early in the afternoon of 17 April the Third Battalion, located in Grundlach and Gross, received a very heavy shelling from eight "88s", and returned the heavy fire. Tank destroyer fire knocked out two of the "88s".

Company "L" drove on and captured Steinach. At about 1740 hours while the company was still in the town, First Lieutenant George Pratt, the commanding officer, acted as fire control officer for the 10th Field Artillery Battalion. He saw four enemy flakwagons that were firing on Company "E". After several smoke rounds were adjusted on the enemy positions he then saw that the enemy actually had fourteen guns in position. He called for additional fire and soon twenty battalions of artillery poured a terrific concentration on Bislohe, Sack and Braunsbach. After a period of two hours, when the order to cease firing was given, First Lieutenant Pratt observed ten of the enemy guns knocked out but four self-propelled guns were attempting to escape. Once more the batteries fired salvos and the remaining enemy weapons were destroyed.

The artillery shoot virtually ended opposition before the Blue Battalion and the advance was taken up speedily. Company "I" pushed through Bislohe and Sack as "Love" Company pushed through Ronhof and entered Poppenreuth at 2045, the night of the 17th. In the northern part of the town twelve "88s" were surrounded and, with ammunition and sleepy crews, taken intact.

The First Battalion sent Company "B" down the road through the woods from Erlangen to Tennenlohe to clear it and mop up by-passed enemy in the woods. Then the battalion displaced forward by motor to reserve positions in the woods just north of Tennenlohe.

SECOND BATTALION PRESSES ATTACK ON NÜRNBERG, 18 APRIL 1945

From Buch the Second Battalion was in position to launch its attack on Nürnberg proper. Along the two miles of intervening road before the city limits were the three small suburban towns of Schnepfenreuth, Klein and Thon, each reportedly held in negligible strength.

Shortly after midnight of 17-18 April, Company "G" straddled the main road leading south and started moving out without its supporting armor. Although friendly units to the flanks were being temporarily contained by fierce resistance, "George" Company drove through Schnepfenreuth and Klein unopposed and headed for the suburb of Thon.

The plan of attack called for Company "G" to advance to a railroad embankment about 400 yards inside the town and hold up until the remainder of the battalion pulled abreast for a concerted push on Nürnberg.

⁵⁴ GOs No. 208, 226 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 24 June & 9 Aug. '45. S/Sgt. Fanelli was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Cpl. McIntosh, Pfc Morrison & Pvt. Neese were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁵ GOs No. 345 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Pvt. Pundt (posthumously) & Pvt. Willick were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Scarcely fifty yards from Thon, leading elements of "George" Company met heavy small arms and automatic fire coming from positions on both sides of the road. The "Cotton Balers" were so close to the enemy they could hear the Germans calling to one another in the darkness. In positions directly ahead, three machine guns on the left side of the road laid down a curtain of steel. Enemy riflemen and machine pistol men were stationed at almost every window of the houses on the outskirts of the town, and others were emplaced in dugouts around the houses. Later, estimates were that four companies of Germans were defending Thon. The volume of fire being laid down by the enemy was tremendous. Numerous flares were also used to illuminate the entire area.

With guns blazing, "Cotton Balers" of Company "G" drove relentlessly into the enemy positions, engaging in duels at point-blank range. Although men were knocked off their feet and stunned by "potato masher" grenades, they rose and closed with the enemy. While extremely heavy automatic fire temporarily checked the left flank of the company, which was struggling for the tall buildings on the fringe of the town, the right assault element pierced through the enemy's defenses, almost to the railroad embankment. But that numerically inferior force was hardly strong enough to withstand the formidable pressure exerted by the enemy. German troops were on every side of "George" Company's dispersed elements. The enemy had an integrated defense system in depth, the deeper Company "G" penetrated into it, the greater the resistance that was encountered. "George" Company was in danger of being slashed to pieces so First Lieutenant Van Hoy radioed back to the battalion commander in Klein for instructions. Unwilling for Company "G" to maintain its precarious position with both flanks exposed, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan ordered that the company withdraw as soon as possible to Klein, from which a battalion attack would be launched in early morning. First Lieutenant Van Hoy then skillfully withdrew his right flank from the center of the town and disengaged his entire company despite heavy hostile fire. No prisoners had been taken during the night fighting but at least six Germans were known to be dead.

In preparation for the dawn assault supporting armor of the Second Battalion moved up and savagely battered the buildings of Thon. That was followed by a heavy artillery concentration on the town and along the railroad. In the dim light of early dawn "George" Company advanced in attack formation across open fields towards the town. Company "E" followed, ready to throw its weight against either flank. "Fox" Company was held in reserve.

Fire by the armor and artillery, though savage and fierce, had not silenced or driven off the enemy. As the Company "G" men advanced on Thon heavy resistance developed. Terrific automatic fire checked the left flank. The right assault element punched its way into several outlying houses. Driving the fanatically stubborn Germans from one house to the next, elements of Company "G" gradually hammered a deep wedge to the right of the Thon-Nürnberg road.

A platoon of Company "E" was committed to swing around to the left of the held-up "George" Company elements on the left. Deploying in a broad field the platoon started across 800 yards of open ground, while other elements poured steady streams of fire into buildings directly to the front. The widely dispersed men of the platoon, advanced in small groups and encountered fire which issued from a group of apartment houses along the railroad. Although it sustained several casualties

the platoon finally reached the apartment buildings, but the Germans inside refused to break. The squads of the "Easy" Company platoon battled their way from room to room until, after an hour's fierce fighting, the last German was driven out of the buildings. Reorganizing swiftly, the platoon started across the intervening ground to the railroad embankment in pursuit of the enemy. Despite the fact that their own troops were in the area still fighting, the Germans laid down an artillery barrage, as the right flank of the Second Battalion shouldered its way to the embankment, which overlooked a huge lumber yard on the south side.

The center of the Second Battalion, Company "G's" left assault element, was still held up as the Company "E" platoon on the left and elements on the right had successfully advanced. The right assault element placed flanking fire on the enemy blocking Company "G's" left assault element. The 60mm mortar crews moved up behind captured buildings and lobbed shells into the enemy's midst. Additional fire was placed on the enemy lodged in the buildings and emplacements by the supporting armor which shot directly into stubborn enemy positions. The left assault element of "George" Company then stormed the buildings and engaged in floor to floor fighting that carried well into the morning. No position could be by-passed but every shed, building and room had to be checked and methodically cleared. In three hours' time fifteen of the enemy were killed as only six of them surrendered to the "Cotton Balers". The Germans, when pried from positions in buildings, took up new positions behind nearby piles of rubble and continued to fight with unbroken spirit. From the top floor of a large building, heavy machine guns of the White Battalion opened fire on enemy suicide groups fighting from nearby roof tops, and on the large lumber yard beyond the railroad tracks.

The two remaining platoons of Company "E" were committed on the right of Company "G" and in their attempts to surmount the railroad embankment encountered heavy enemy automatic fire. The detached platoon on the battalion's extreme left was called on to beat back several small sized enemy counter-attacks before crossing the tracks and penetrating to the edge of the lumber yard, in which large numbers of the enemy made a concerted stand. When the battalion's supporting armor attempted to move forward along the main road, it found the railroad underpass obstructed by a huge concrete roadblock.

Without waiting for the balance of the battalion to pull abreast, elements of Companies "E" and "G" on the right jumped off in an attack across the railroad under the fire of 60mm and 81mm mortars. Stumbling through the rubble of demolished buildings, the riflemen pressed forward despite intense sniper fire, and reached large apartment houses. At about the same time, Company "G's" left elements had overcome their stubborn resistance and surged up the side of the railroad embankment. Heavy fire was poured into the lumber yard. The Germans began to give way grudgingly.

Companies "E" and "G" found their newly won positions exceedingly difficult to hold. Enemy machine gunners and snipers, occupying a large factory building 400 yards to the front poured unbroken streams of fire through practically every window. A 20mm flakwagon and machine guns savagely raked the faces of the apartment houses. To the right front, across an open field, two other hostile machine guns focussed their fire on the buildings held by the "Cotton Balers". To neutralize the enemy fire 81mm mortars were called into play. They silenced the enemy guns in the field, then they

smoked the field and factory building. Captain Powell prepared one of the "Easy" Company platoons to swing in front of "George" Company and assault the factory. Under cover of the smoke, the platoon dashed through machine gun fire and reached the factory building. The "Cotton Balers" entered the building and in close-in fighting overpowered the enemy who began to surrender. As the riflemen combed the building, a section of heavy machine guns moved into the right wing of the factory, placed its guns in top-floor windows and fired down on a hostile flakwagon to the rear of the building. Utterly confused by the plunging fire the enemy crew abandoned the weapon and attempted to flee, but the deadly .50 calibre machine gun fire cut them down. Resistance in the factory area ended. Six of the enemy were dead and sixty held as prisoners of war.

The Second Battalion forces fought throughout the afternoon of 18 April to gain full possession of the railroad embankment and lumber yard. Approximately a company of Germans offered tough resistance in the lumberyard where they took advantage of every pile of lumber and rubble to stem the advance. In an hour and a half of fighting there, twenty-seven of the enemy were killed before the yard was completely cleared. Enemy knocked out the tank dozer which was trying to remove the road block at the under pass, with panzerfaust fire.

During the fighting on the outskirts of Nürnberg Sergeant Martin Weber of Company "G" displayed gallantry in action while leading his squad.⁵⁶

Meanwhile the Blue Battalion on the right cleared Poppenreuth, Wetzendorf, Schniegling and sent elements into the cemetery at Muggenhof on the very edge of Nürnberg proper.

FIRST BATTALION ATTACKS NÜRNBERG FROM THE NORTHWEST ON 18 APRIL 1945

The First Battalion, in Regimental reserve, displaced forward from Erlangen in successive moves on the 17th of April and finally in the morning of the 18th was assembled in Wetzendorf making preparations to go into the attack.

The First Battalion troops moved south from Wetzendorf and at 1300 launched an attack for Nürnberg. The troops advanced very slowly however due to heavy small arms, automatic and panzerfaust fire from the right flank across the Regnitz River.⁵⁷

Overcoming the resistance before the city the First Battalion troops entered Nürnberg proper and became heavily engaged. Several road blocks were encountered along with fanatical resistance from each building and the enemy had to be cleared from each room of each building, which slowed progress. First Lieutenant Aldo F. Dal Molin of Company "B" and First Lieutenant Andrew A. Marck of Company "D" gallantly led elements of their companies in the fight and distinguished themselves. Staff Sergeant Robert M. O'Kane of Company "B", who alone eliminated an enemy machine gun nest and Sergeant William J. Corbe of Company "A", who was wounded in action, were also outstanding. Technician Fifth Grade Charles H. Self and Private Ysabel Melchor, both machine gunners of Company "D", silenced many enemy positions with their deadly fire. Private James G. Shaw of Company "A" inspired his platoon by his gallant actions.⁵⁸

Tank destroyers were brought into action. About 150 members of the city's police force fought with the enemy soldiers and SS troopers to defend the Nazi shrine city but definitely did not care to continue the action to the

bitter end. They surrendered after the destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion battered the already much destroyed buildings.

The Second Battalion continued its push from Thon against fanatical resistance and entered Nürnberg proper on the 18th. Fire from small arms, automatic weapons, panzerfausts and "88's" was received from all sides.

In a room to room battle in one apartment house fifty enemy gave up. In the vicinity of Ruckert Strasse the troops discovered a storeroom of enemy machine guns and pistols which they blew up with demolitions. Desperate measures were taken by the enemy to destroy the supporting armor which moved through the streets. Panzerfausts were fired from top-story floors and roof tops at the American armor, but to the sorrow of the enemy, as the armor would wheel and practically blow them into the sky with rapid fire.

The Third Battalion on the Regiment's right also advanced into Nürnberg on the 18th and added its strength to the battle. In the bitter fighting which ensued, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, the commander of the Second Battalion, Sergeant Roland P. Callahan and Private First Class Jarvis P. Williams of Company "G", Staff Sergeant Bennet O. Walker and Sergeant James K. Sullivan both of Company "L" displayed leadership and distinguished themselves.⁵⁹

The push down Ruckert Strasse was continued by the Second Battalion and at 0400, 19 April, forward elements reached the park near Wieland and Campe Routzer Strasses and the troops ran into a block covered by machine gun fire. Following rout of the enemy and removal of the block the troops advanced at dawn. Company "E", in the vicinity of Fromman Strasse became engaged in a stiff fight with enemy who were well emplaced along Graben Bucher Strasse behind the stone walls of the old city. The walls stood from ten to fifteen feet high and were twenty feet thick.

A bitter fight was fought in the sector of Nürnberg being attacked by the Seventh Infantry on 19 April 1945. Fanatical SS troops battled the "Cotton Balers" fiercely but in the end were defeated. Staff Sergeant Albert L. Flinner and Private First Class Vincent J. Mancuso, both of Company "C", and Private Cecil E. Mosley of Company "F" were among those who distinguished themselves in the fighting of that day.⁵⁹

During the night of 19-20 April, plans were made for a big artillery shoot on the old city for the next morning. Major Hugh A. Scott, Third Division G-2, reminded the Regiment that the next day, the 20th, was Adolf Hitler's birthday. He stated that the German Werewolf organization was expected to be active, with each member pledged to kill an American soldier.

The night of 19-20 April was the second night of siege on the city. Company "E" crossed Burgschmiet Strasse in the St. Johannis district and was hit on both flanks by machine gun and small arms fire, then was counter-attacked by German air corps personnel from the vicinity of Johannis Strasse. Two platoons of Company "F" rushed to support of "Easy" Company. The enemy was beaten off.

⁵⁶ GO No. 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Aug. '45. Sgt. Weber was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁷ Spelled Regnitz on some maps and Pegnitz on others.

⁵⁸ GOs No. 226, 235, 299, 326 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 29 June, 15 Aug., 5 & 17 Sept. '45. Sgt. Corbe was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. Dal Molin, 1 Lt. Marck, S/Sgt. O'Kane, T/5 Self, Pvt. Melchor & Pvt. Shaw were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On the right of the Second Battalion the First Battalion troops also engaged in bitter fighting with the enemy, as Nürnberg reverberated with the sound of the weapons of war and smouldered in its ruins. The Commanding Officer ordered Company "I" of the Third Battalion moved to the support of the First Battalion troops. At 0545 "Item" Company was at the Johannis Kirhhof.

In the early morning fighting of 20 April when all resistance outside the walls of the inner city of Nürnberg was cleared by the Seventh Infantry in its zone, Private First Class Abundio Castro and Private Stanley E. Spooner of Company "D", Private First Class Theodore W. Haley and Private Kenneth B. Hale of Company "G" were courageous.⁵⁹

7th INFANTRY ENTERS THE OLD WALLED CITY OF NÜRNBERG, 20 APRIL 1945

At 0640, 20 April, a loud speaker system was set up in the Seventh Infantry zone and the following message was transmitted in German to the enemy within the old city of Nürnberg:

Your city is completely surrounded and the old city has been entered in several places. People in the occupied part of the city are being treated humanely. Your unconditional surrender will be accepted under the following conditions: Raise white flags over the buildings and open all entrances to the inner city. Otherwise you will be destroyed. We will not wait, so act quickly.

United States Allied Military Commander.

The enemy within the old city paid no heed to the broadcast. An M-12 assault gun of 155mm calibre, which operated with 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions during the Battle of Nürnberg had been made available to the Seventh Infantry during the night. It was sent to the First Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace withdrew the First Battalion troops from the vicinity of the walls of the old city so the assault gun could fire direct at the wall and gates. Twenty rounds of the hard hitting big stuff were fired point-blank. But the old wall stood up under the terrific pounding with huge chips flying everywhere. But the Germans on the inside guarding the Johannis gate decided enough was enough. "Cotton Balers" made entrance to the old city through two small entrances on either side of the main vehicle entrance.

Company "E" of the Second Battalion, in the most favorable position, rushed through, shortly after nine o'clock, and was followed by the Red Battalion troops. By noon the "Cotton Balers" were in the famed Adolf Hitler Platz. Soon the 15th Infantry which captured the large castle to the north and the 30th Infantry, which Regiment entered the old city from the northeast, were contacted and resistance came to an end. Officially resistance was ended in the Third Infantry Division sector north of Pegnitz at 1400 on 20 April 1945.

Nürnberg, "the most German of all cities", was in American hands. Actually the capture of the Nazi shrine city was a three division affair with the 3rd, 42nd and 45th Infantry Divisions putting on the squeeze. The main pressure in the city was exerted by the "Rock of the Marne" and "Thunderbird" Divisions, however, as the 42nd Infantry Division concentrated its efforts on the nearby, lesser city of Furth. The "Thunderbirds" had entered the city from the east and southeast as the "Cotton Balers", "Dragons" and "Frisicans", wearing the blue and white patch of the "Rock of the Marne", had entered from the northwest, north and northeast.

Nürnberg was located in the district of Franconia, Bavaria, or southwest Germany. The river Regnitz, a tributary of the Main, divided the city into two parts called the Lorenzer Seite and Sebalder Seite after two, old, historic churches. Four small islands dotted the river within the city and before the war no less than fourteen bridges spanned the waters of the Regnitz. Tourists had once flocked to the city to see the works of Holbein, Durer, Wohlgemuth and other masters in



an old Carthusian monastery which housed the National Museum of Germany. The 500,000 people who had once lived in the city were occupied in toy manufacture, and fancy ivory and woodwork.

Because of the unimpaired medieval aspect of the city and because Hitler admired Wagner who had composed many of his musical works there, Nürnberg was selected to be the shrine of the Nazi Party. In many respects it became the capital of the Third Reich even more than Berlin, München or Berchtesgaden. It became a distribution center for Nazi laws and propaganda. The numerous Nazi organizations met there. It was turned into a center for war. It was to a Nazi congress once meeting there that Hitler once said "Germany never will be conquered—either from without or within".

On 20 April 1945 American "doughboys" of the "Queen of Battles" saw nothing but destruction in Nürnberg which was a complete ruin, and smouldered from fires. The culture was gone.

⁵⁹ GOs No. 198, 208, 212, 226, 249, 256, 289, 299, 306, 326 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7, 12, 16 & 24 June, 10 & 15 July, 5, 15 & 20 Aug., 5 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Lt. Col. Duncan & Pfc Williams were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Flipper & Walker, Sgts. Callahan & Sullivan, Pfc's Castro, Haley & Mancuso, Pvts. Hale, Mosley & Spooner were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

"IRON MIKE" MAKES A SPEECH OF HIS OWN ON DER FUEHRER'S BIRTHDAY IN ADOLF HITLER PLATZ

While the three rifle regiments and their attachments had been fighting for Nürnberg members of the Commanding General's Headquarters had made preparations for a flag raising ceremony to be held in the city as soon as possible after the fighting was over. The Third Division Band was brought up from the rear echelon and held ready. It was Hitler's birthday and as there had always been a ceremony in the city on that day, each year, "Iron Mike" did not believe that the precedent should be broken. His plans were for a ceremony of far greater significance however. "Old Glory", the American "Stars and Stripes", were to be unfurled over the city.

The ceremony was originally slated for 1700 hours at the Castle which had been taken by the 15th Infantry, but when engineers went there to erect a flagpole they found the place unsuitable for the ceremony. Very little of the Castle was left. The scene of the ceremony was then shifted to the Adolf Hitler Platz which the gallant "Cotton Balers" had been first to reach that day. "Lady Luck" smiled on the Seventh Infantry once more when it was necessary to change the site for the ceremony.

Due to the situation existing, the destruction everywhere and the limited time of making the arrangements only three rifle platoons, one each from the three rifle regiments took part in the ceremony. The Third Division staff faced west and was flanked by four tanks and four tank destroyers. The rifle platoons faced east toward the Commanding General and his staff. In each corner of the platz a flakwagon was stationed. Colonel Heintges and a "Fox" Company Platoon were the representatives from the "Cotton Baler" Regiment.

At 1830 hours, where many a flaming torch had once burned in Adolf Hitler Platz in Der Fuehrer's honor, the important ceremony, which only a few were privileged to witness, was held. Collie Small, representing the Saturday Evening Post, was one of those few. His description, though a little colored, is quoted as follows:

The machine guns across the river chattered impatiently as the "doughs" from the other Infantry division worked their way along the rubble-strewn lanes twisting through the mountainous ruins of the old city. Progress had been slower over there, but in the half of the town that lay north of the river, the two regiments had met in the medieval square renamed Adolf Hitler Platz. The two-star general stood with his feet wide apart and scowled as he surveyed the debris he had conquered.

In front of the smoking cathedral, the two weary platoons stood at present arms while the general's eyes traveled down the line of smudged faces. The tanks facing each other from opposite sides of the square pointed their big guns out toward the sky like an arch of sabers at a military wedding. The general leaned forward, his hands clasped behind his back.

He rocked back and forth for a moment, then barked the first word, "Casablanca." The word crashed out of his mouth. "Palermo." The sinking sun caught the barrels of the men's rifles. "Anzio". The American flag remembered and stirred with the breeze. "Rome". The first sergeant with the two-day growth of beard thought about Rome and smiled. "The Vosges." The machine guns across the river spluttered again. "Nuremberg." The general paused and waved his hand at the ruins. Then he said it again, slowly, savoring each syllable, "Nuremberg."

He said something else—something about objectives taken and history written and gallant men and supreme sacrifices. The groundling Air Force major, who had come to Germany the easy way to assess bomb damage, and had never been shot at, shrugged his shoulders and said, "This is like something out of a bad movie." Everyone pretended not to hear him. The general finished speaking and the band swung into "Dogface Soldier", the rollicking division song that starts, "I wouldn't give a bean to be a fancy-pants Marine." Then the tanks coughed and the song was quickly lost in the roar of the big engines. The general saluted, briskly crossed the dusty

square, climbed into his jeep with the red leather seats and drove away. One by one, the tired doughs drifted out of Adolf Hitler Platz, up the hill and out through the sweet-smelling courtyard where the apple trees were in bloom and the four dead Germans lay turning to ivory.⁶⁰

On 21 April the Third Infantry Division relieved elements of the 45th Infantry Division in the southern half of the city and was responsible for all of Nürnberg. The Seventh Infantry was assigned the entire western half of the city, both north and south of the Pegnitz. That day a second military ceremony was held in the Adolf Hitler Platz with the Commanding General of the XV Corps being present. A small contingent of the Third Battalion represented the Seventh Infantry.

Through the medium of the Third Division's mimeographed "Daily News" sheet on 21 April, "Iron Mike" congratulated his troops for a job well done. His communique of that date to his fighting "Marnemen" is reprinted as follows:

OBJECTIVE TAKEN

MEN OF THE THIRD DIVISION:

Again you have taken all objectives. This time culminating in the capture of our section of this historic city and Nazi stronghold. This capture is symbolic of the downfall of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

You have fought well. We honor those of the Division who made the supreme sacrifice in our fight.

Now our job is to police the entire city of Nurnberg. We must make our might felt in our daily job of being firm and dignified in our relationships with the local German populace.

We are conquerors. We also represent a great nation. Let us conduct ourselves in such a manner as to show these people that we are great.

Fraternizing is prohibited.

Pay attention to your job.

Keep alert.

Be as neat and clean as you can be under the circumstances.

Salute promptly and smartly.

In other words, you are the Third Division. That should be enough. My congratulations on a big job well done.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

THE AMERICAN 7th ARMY COMMANDER REVIEWS 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION TROOPS IN NÜRNBERG STADIUM ON 22 APRIL 1945

On Sunday afternoon, 22 April 1945, Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, the great leader of the American 7th Army, in an impressive ceremony held in the famous Zeppelin Stadium of Nürnberg reviewed troops of his fighting Third Infantry Division and presented awards to various members for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action. Five members of the division, all from the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments, received the nation's highest valor award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.⁶¹ It was the first time in American military history that five members of one division had received the award at one ceremony.

Many additional awards were presented by Lieutenant General Patch. Colonel Heintges received the Legion of Merit Award and an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star Medal. Technical Sergeant Bert A. Rodman of Company "D" received an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Silver

⁶⁰ Small: "The Third: Tops in Honors", Saturday Evening Post, 11 Aug. 1945, p. 28.

⁶¹ Recipients were Lt. Col. Ware, 1 Lt. Tominac of the 15th Infantry and T/Sgt. Dunham, S/Sgt. Adams & Pfc Ross of the 30th Infantry.

Star Medal and Private First Class John E. Mahony, Jr., of Company "C" received a Silver Star Medal.

Lieutenant General Patch made the presentations from the rostrum where Adolf Hitler once delivered his famous harangues. On the vast greensward stood a battalion from each of the three rifle regiments. They were commanded by Brigadier General Robert N. Young, Assistant Third Division Commander. The Second Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Duncan represented the Seventh Infantry.

Behind Lieutenant General Patch stood the massive bronze twenty-foot Nazi swastika. Shortly before the ceremony it had been covered by a large American flag, and when the ceremony was over it was destroyed by a 200 pound TNT charge.

There were six huge bomb craters dotting the field, and a number of smaller shell holes pockmarked the green and concrete runways between the field and main stands. Part of the 200 flagpoles facing the main stands

were still standing, others had been lowered, but each was still topped with wreathed swastikas.

In his remarks the 7th Army Commander declared: "It is fitting that the Third Division should be standing in this stadium, birthplace of Nazism. The Third has played a momentous role in bursting the superman theory, expounded by the evil rascals of Nazism."

The Seventh Infantry continued to occupy the western half of Nürnberg until 23 April. Continuous patrols were conducted between the units, and the troops rested. Little trouble was experienced in the beaten city. However at 2030 on the 21st the First Battalion reported that one of its patrols had been fired on by snipers. The patrol then flushed out four SS troops who were caught and questioned. The Germans then attempted an escape. While running they were fired upon by the patrol and all four killed. At noontime on the 22nd the First Battalion reported an SS captain had been captured that morning and also killed when he attempted to escape.

CHAPTER V

The Battle of Augsburg

In the morning of 23 April Companies "E" and "F" and a part of Company "H" were transported by the 10th Field Artillery Battalion to the vicinity of Rothenburg and then moved to Zobingen.

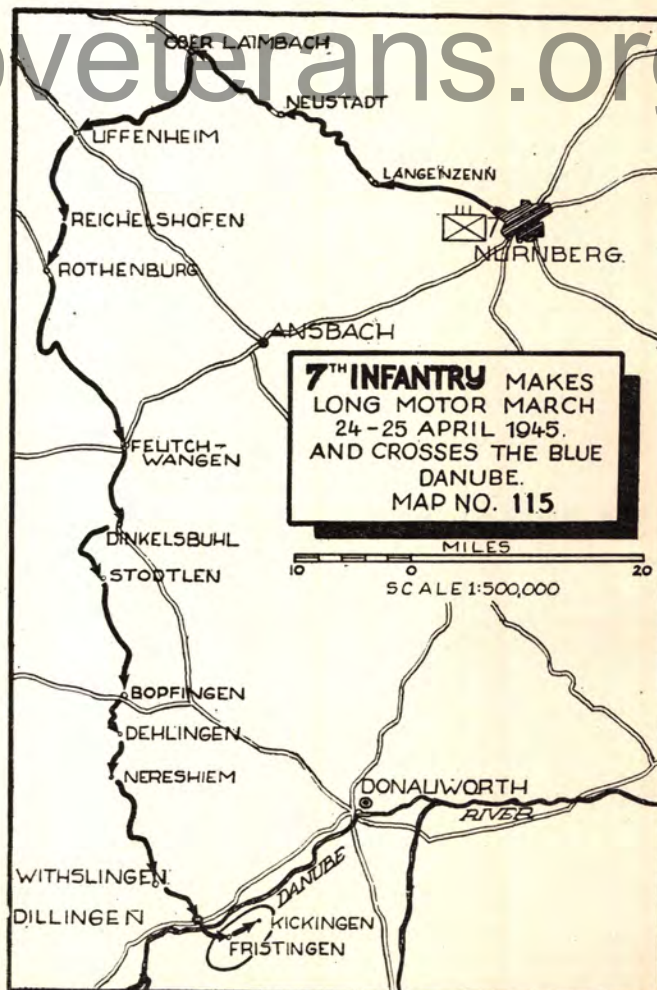
At 1300 the 319th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division commenced relief of the Seventh Infantry of occupational duties in Nürnberg. The relief was completed in three hours time and command of the sector passed to the new unit.

7th INFANTRY MAKES LONG MOTOR MARCH MARCH 24-25 APRIL 1945

At 0700, 24 April, the Seventh Infantry commenced its longest motor march of the campaign. About 160 miles were covered as the 7th Regimental Combat Team crossed the Blue Danube at Dillingen and assembled in the vicinity of Fristingen and Kicklingen during the night and next morning. Because of the numerous destroyed bridges the Regiment had been forced to make great detours.

On 25 April the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the disintegration of the German Army. The six American armies, two British, one Canadian, and one French were smashing all resistance before them. On the 19th the 3rd American Army had entered Czechoslovakia and thus split Germany in two. The 9th American Army had captured Magdeburg, Elbe River citadel, while the First American Army was in Leipzig, also on that day. Nürnberg, as already told, had been completely taken on the 20th by the American 7th Army forces. The whereabouts of the American 15th Army was not announced. As the Russians encircled Berlin and a link-up with American forces was imminent, British forces pushed into Bremen, Germany's second largest seaport. In the south Stuttgart had also

been cleared as the Allied forces drove farther south. In Italy the American 5th and British 8th were advancing.



SEVEN ALLIED ARMIES RACE FOR THE NATIONAL REDOUBT AND BERCHTESGADEN

Following its entry into Czechoslovakia, Lieutenant General Patton's American 3rd Army wheeled south and headed for München. After the fall of Nürnberg, Lieutenant General Patch's 7th American Army drove south for the Danube and the objectives south of it. On the right flank the First French Army under General d'Armee de Lattre de Tassigny had reached the Swiss border at Lake Constance and was driving east for Berchtesgaden. On the far Southern Front the American 5th Army commanded by Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., and the British 8th Army were across the Po River and driving north. From the east the 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian Armies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were driving across Austria for the Redoubt and Berchtesgaden.

A race was developing between the seven armies to see which would penetrate the Redoubt first and capture Berchtesgaden, the prize of all military objectives at that time. Each day newspapers carried articles pertaining to Berchtesgaden and the Redoubt. It had always been a subject for news writers but more than ever was the place in the public eye. The following were two articles that appeared in papers concerning the Bavarian Mountain retreat:

BERCHTESGADEN "TEST TUBE" IS NEARLY FINISHED

LONDON, April 15—(UP)—Adolf Hitler has almost completed his "laboratory test tube" in which he hopes the germ of national socialism can be preserved after the end of the war, emerging in the future as strong as ever to conquer the world.

This test tube is the Fortress of Berchtesgaden, possibly more important politically than militarily, which is described in a number of sober analytical articles in Swiss newspapers reaching London.

Hitler, it is stated, admits that the Allied armies will meet soon west of Berlin and has almost completed construction of his mountain stronghold, with Obersalzberg as its center.

FOR FANATICAL FIGHT

It will be used, the articles assert in the immediate future as a fortress for a fanatical fight. Hitler cannot imagine a democratic world and refuses to believe that an Allied victory will produce anything but quarrels among powers jostling for supremacy.

He believes that after a short period in which Allied military might keeps antagonistic forces under control there will follow a "state of tremendous chaos, a wild witches' cauldron of unrestrained appetite for power, of disappointed hopes for the masses, of social unrest and cruel civil wars," the Swiss articles said.

In this fertile breeding ground of war, Hitler believes the forces of Nazism can revive and finally succeed in dominating the world. Until this can be accomplished they will be able to remain alive in the Bavarian Fortress.

IMPASSABLE MOUNTAINS

Virtually impassable mountains have been turned into a system of pillboxes and anti-aircraft positions connected with caverns and salt mine shafts which have been enlarged to supply depots, the articles said. The Nazis also have built themselves comfortable quarters.

Refugees from Northern Germany have been denied entrance to the Region in order to keep the installations, allegedly included, completely integrated aircraft factories, synthetic oil plants. Material and food already have been collected.

To make the position of the Allies even worse when organized resistance in Germany finally crumbles, the articles said, Hitler has ordered retreating SS troops to scorch the earth of the Fatherland, thus hastening the creation of the chaos.⁶²

RAF BLASTS HITLER'S DEN

LONDON, April 25—(AP)—Adolf Hitler's mountain chalet at Berchtesgaden, SS barracks on the grounds, and his mountain refuge on top of the Kehlstein, five miles from the

chalet, were attacked between 9 and 10 a. m. today by 12,000 pound bombs unloaded by separate forces of RAF Lancasters.

TIRPITZ-TYPE BOMBS

The Lancasters attacking Hitler's hideout unloaded six-ton bombs of the type which sank the battleship Tirpitz. The bombs, which were supplemented by other heavy explosives, were timed to bore deep into the earth before detonating. Two Lancasters are missing.

There was no official suggestion that the attacks were planned to catch Hitler in his hideaway, but it was pointed out unofficially that there was always that possibility. The United Press quoted an aerial gunner as saying he saw a six-ton bomb make a terrific flash on Hitler's chalet.⁶³

(German broadcasts have reported that Hitler was in Berlin, directing the encircled capital's defense.)

While Hitler's mountain retreat was being assaulted, more than one thousand American warplanes blasted targets within twenty-five miles of Berchtesgaden.⁶⁴

Following the capture of Nürnberg when the Third Infantry Division was detached from the XV Corps and placed in 7th Army reserve to garrison the city of Nürnberg, other divisions of the 7th Army continued the drive south. The 12th Armored Division led the way and was followed by the 4th Infantry Division and others. The enemy withdrew to the south of the Danube and blew all bridges over the river but one, which was seized intact at Dillingen by the 12th Armored, or "Hellcat", Division, before the enemy could destroy it.

The Danube at Dillingen is about 200 feet wide. The bridge is a concrete two-way structure 250 yards long, including the approaches. No one had expected the bridge or any other bridge over the Danube to be taken intact. The capture of the bridge made possible an earlier attack on the Redoubt and no doubt saved the "Cotton Balers" another river crossing.

As the 12th Armored Infantry protected the bridgehead and the 4th and 63rd Infantry Divisions continued to advance toward the Danube, Lieutenant General Patch called the "Rock of the Marne" Division out of reserve and placed it in the XXI Corps, which was to attack next to the XV Corps for Augsburg and München with all possible speed. Thus the reason for the short stay in Nürnberg after its capture and the long motor march by the Seventh Infantry on 24-25 April.

In the rapid race that was developing the Seventh Infantry of the Third Infantry Division was to once more distinguish itself by being first into Augsburg, first into München, first into Salzburg, Austria, and to capture Berchtesgaden all by itself in a "military steal" that will go down in history as one of the greatest thefts of all time.

When one considers the large number of units operating against the Redoubt in late April of 1945 he must realize that the accomplishments of the Seventh Infantry were outstanding. In his 7th Army alone Lieutenant General Patch had more than nine divisions. The 3rd, 4th, 42nd, 45th, 63rd, 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, the 10th and 12th Armored Infantry Divisions and the 101st and 106th Cavalry Groups, were those known to be among his forces on the 26th. The other armies consisted of many divisions. Each division was made up of three rifle regiments besides numerous other units. Of all those separate units, "Lady Luck" was to smile on the Seventh Infantry or "Cotton Baler" Regiment once more.

⁶² "The Stars and Stripes", 16 April 1945.

⁶³ The gunner was mistaken. The 7th Infantry discovered on 4 May '45 when it captured Berchtesgaden that the hideaway was never hit by a bomb though many had struck nearby.

⁶⁴ "Stars and Stripes", 26 April '45.



Map No. 116, "East, West, South—Allies Tighten the Squeeze on Germans," from the "Stars and Stripes," 21 April 1945.

On 24 April the Third Infantry Division issued instructions for the attack on Augsburg.⁶⁵ The night of 25-26 April the 7th and 15th Infantry were to attack "rapidly and aggressively" in their zones and capture Augsburg. The Seventh on the left had first to force a crossing of the Lech River and Wertach Canal before swinging south on the city.

Colonel Heintges issued his instructions on the 25th.⁶⁶ The First and Third Battalions, under Major Gerald A. Desrosier and Captain Robert V. Horton respectively, were to open the attack with the main effort on the right, in the First Battalion zone. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's Second Battalion was initially to be in reserve but to be committed early and play the important role in the capture of Augsburg. Anti-Tank Company was ordered to be prepared to block principal approaches to the Regimental zone from the northeast and for employment as a "bazooka" company. The Detachment of Battery "B" 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, was directed to take battery positions north of the Third Battalion assembly area for indirect fire mis-

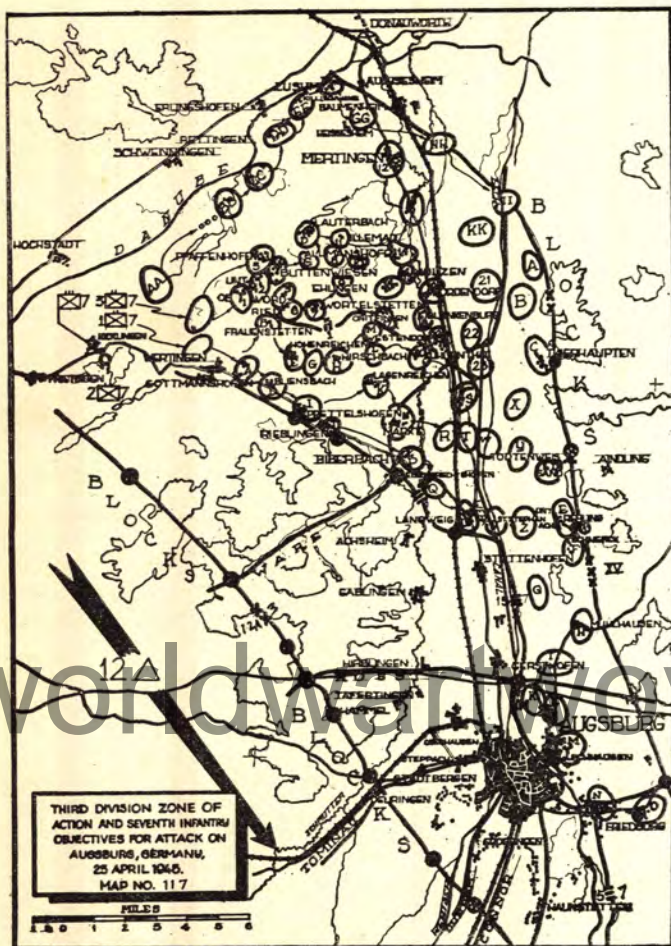
sions and be prepared to dispatch one or two flak wagons to support road blocks to be established by Anti-Tank Company. The Platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the Regiment, was ordered to push vigorous motorized patrols to the left flank of Objectives (AA), (BB), (CC), (DD), (EE), (FF), (GG) and (HH) on order of the Commanding Officer. Companies "A" of the 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were to send the normal detachments to the rifle battalions.

Special instructions of the Commanding Officer to the assault battalions were that the commanders would coordinate within their zones the advances of their elements so as to permit a two-company assault on any objective. Each battalion was to coordinate its attack so as to support, if necessary, the attack of the flank battalion.

⁶⁵ Operations Instruction No. 59, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Kirkingen, Germany, 24 April '45.

⁶⁶ Operations Instruction No. 40, HQ, 7th Infantry, 25 April '45.

Upon seizure of an objective, strong patrols were to be pushed immediately to the next objective. The First Battalion was directed to maintain physical contact with elements of the 15th Infantry on the right at contact points R-5, R-6, R-9, R-13 and R-17. Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, was directed to attach one platoon each to the assault battalions prepared for the removal of road blocks, demolitions and mines. Assault boats to be used in crossing the Lech River and Wertach Canal were to be held with the remainder of the company in readiness.



New attachments which joined the Regiment late in the day, 25 April, were Companies "A" and "B", 48th Engineer Battalion, Second Platoon of Company "C", 353rd Searchlight Battalion, and one platoon of Company "B", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion.

THE BATTLE OF AUGSBURG, 25-27 APRIL 1945

At 1800 on 25 April the troops of the assault battalions started moving to the forward assembly areas near Wertingen and Reitenhof. H-Hour was established as 2100.

Due to the tardiness of the supporting tanks the jump-off was delayed. The Red Battalion under Major Desrosier went into the attack at 2120 while the Blue Battalion commanded by Captain Horton jumped off at 2130 in the night.

Initially the First Battalion met no resistance. At 2350 it was reported that Gottmannshofen, Objective "A", was cleared and that "Baker" Company was moving to the north on Fraunstettin, Objective "B", while "Charlie" Company was moving on Bliensbach, Objec-

tive "D". At 0300, 26 April, "Baker" Company commanded by First Lieutenant Aldo F. Dal Molin, was in control of Frauenstettin with ten prisoners in hand. The company kept moving during the night and at 0705 in the morning was on Hohenreichen, Objective "E", with fifty Germans held as prisoners, while "Charlie" Company led by Captain Victor M. Morris was in Bliensbach. At 0845 Company "C" had reached Prettelshofen, Objective "I". Company "B" continued on and at 0940 had cleared Bossenried, Objective "G", then reported Hirschbach, Objective "H", cleared at 1009.

ANZIO VETERANS ARE LIBERATED

For the Blue Battalion, Companies "I" and "K" were the assault companies. Initially they met no resistance and at 2320 that night "King" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Herman Ramer reported Ob Thurheim, Objective 1, all clear, then at 2340 Unt Thurheim, Objective 2, free of enemy. At Unt Thurheim, after a short fire fight, about 150 Germans were captured, and 52 American prisoners of war were liberated. They had been captured by the enemy way back in Italy on the Anzio Beachhead and had once belonged to the 3rd, 34th and 45th Infantry Divisions. There was much rejoicing on their part when freedom came at last. In telling of it Private Frank Parco, one of the freed men, said: "When I saw those guys out of the window, my knees started to knock and I didn't know whether to jump or fly. Everybody was out in the street hugging and slapping each other, and I even kissed the first Infantryman I saw, because I had been swearing for the last fourteen months that I would do so."

At 0055 "Item" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Eli Levy, was in Pfaffenhofen, then at 0235 was in Buttenwiesen while "King" Company had advanced to Vord Ried, Objective 4. At 0600 "King" Company was reported in strength on Objective 6, Hint Ried, and was sending a patrol to Wortelstettin. The company cleared Wortelstettin by 0800 and moved for Neuweiler, Objective 9. By 1055 Company "I" had advanced through the patch of woods and cleared Lauterbach.

Meanwhile the platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, performed its mission of screening the left flank of the Regiment. At 2040 that night the platoon reported itself on Objective (DD), Rettingen, receiving small arms, panzerfaust and mortar fire. Five prisoners of war had been seized. The platoon remained on Objective (DD) until daylight when it continued the advance. At 1110 it was reported through Objective (FF).

The Regimental Battle Patrol performed the mission of maintaining contact with the reconnaissance platoon and patrolling between the assault battalions. The Second Battalion which was held in mobile reserve moved from Kicklingen to Wertingen at 0100 and bivouacked for the remainder of the night.

RED AND BLUE BATTALIONS CONTINUE THE ADVANCE

Resistance increased somewhat but progress continued to be made on 26 April. Major Desrosier committed "Able" Company which at 1325 was on Objective "J", Rieblingen, and received small arms fire from woods 1,000 yards to the south. Successful attacks by units of Company "A" led by Sergeants James D. Crowe and Melvin F. Nussbaum eliminated enemy strongpoints.⁶⁷ By 1430 Company "B" and Fertingen, Objective "L",

in hand. Company "C" captured Langenreichen at 1535 and was on Markt, meeting no opposition at 1900. Company "A" drove due east, crossed the Schmutter River and at 2110 reported itself on Objective "R", the town of Erlingen. Enemy who had been chased out of the town directed artillery fire on the "Able" Company troops there. During the advance Private First Class Howard L. Stevens of Company "D", while on forward reconnaissance, was wounded in action but secured valuable information which enabled Company "C" to overcome an obstacle.⁶⁷

For the Third Battalion, Company "I" cleared Objectives 14, 13 and 12, or the towns of Allmanshofen, Druisheim and Mertingen. Three 150mm guns on stationary mounts, which had given the troops trouble, were captured at Druisheim. "King" Company seized Objectives 11 and 10, the little towns of Illemad, Maiershof and Greggerhof. "Love" Company under the leader-



2 Lt. Ralph E. Leuze, Co. "A", was killed in action on 26 April 1945.

ship of First Lieutenant Sherman W. Pratt captured Objectives 16, 17 and 15, the towns of Ehingen, Ortlingen and Holzen. When the troops had neared Holzen the enemy blew the bridge over the Schmutter River. A total of 111 Germans were captured by the Blue Battalion forces up to noontime on the 26th. "King" Company seized a bridge intact over the Schmutter near Allmanshofen. Nordendorf, or Objective 19, was partially occupied by a platoon of Company "L" at 1735.

THIRD DIVISION CHANGES SCHEME OF MANEUVER AND BOUNDARIES

On 26 April the Third Division Headquarters opened in Wertingen at 1930. The commander issued new instructions,⁶⁸ which changed the Third Division scheme of maneuver and boundaries so that the weight of the division attack would be thrown to the west of the Lech River and Werk Canal in the direction of Augsburg. The boundary between the attacking regiments was moved farther to the west so that Augsburg was directly before the Seventh Infantry zone of attack. The 30th Infantry was ordered to come out of division reserve and be prepared to exploit the crossings over the Lech River and Werk Canal seized by the Seventh Infantry and to assume a mission east of those waterways.

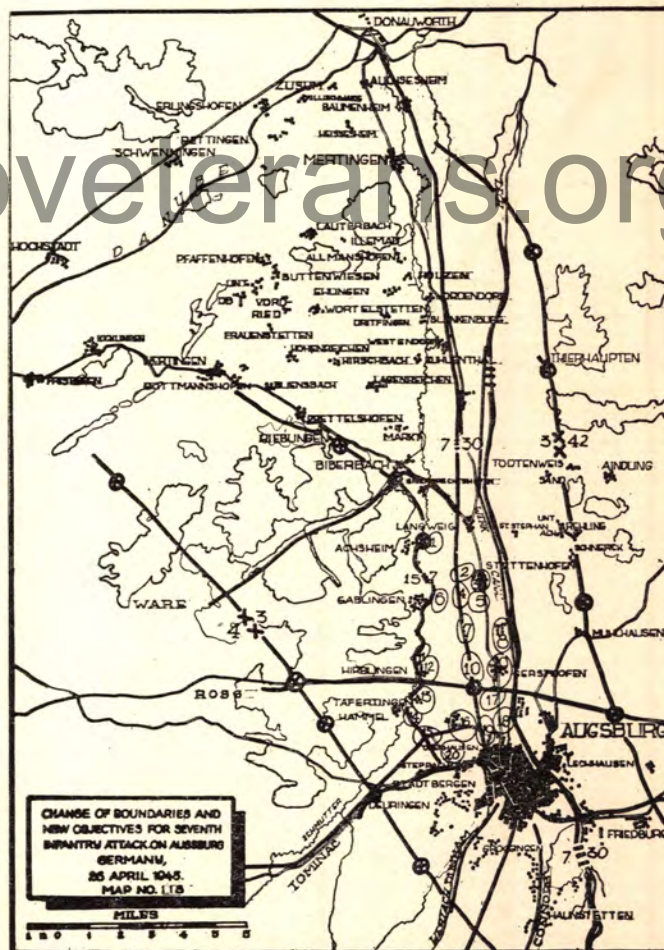
As a result of the new instructions Colonel Heintges drew new objectives on his situation map and prepared to throw the Second Battalion into the fray. The troops continued their efforts during the night of 26-27 April. "Love" Company cleared the towns of Westendorf, Ellgau, Ostendorf and Waltershofen. Seventeen prisoners of war were seized after a brief fire fight as machine gun and flakwagon fire were received from east of the Werk Canal. In the morning, five German officers and 45 enlisted men were captured near Ellgau.

The First Platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop became attached to the Regiment during the morning of 27 April and with a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol reinforced the platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, in the vicinity of Heissesheim. Those elements in conjunction with Company "I" overcame the resistance, in and around Mertingen.

SECOND BATTALION IS COMMITTED AND LEADS THE THIRD DIVISION INTO AUGSBURG

The Second Battalion which had remained in Regimental reserve at the beginning of the operation south of the Danube, seized Herbertshofen the morning of 27 April and at 0900 sent "Fox" Company in the attack for Langweid, Objective U. The remainder of the battalion followed in support.

Company "F" encountered enemy artillery fire and the lead platoon became dispersed. Second Lieutenant William E. Marlar reorganized his scattered platoon and moved it forward through sniper fire into Langweid. He directed his men in an attack which wounded two Germans, captured ten and drove the rest out of town. Later while engaged in reconnaissance, he observed twelve "88's" in position 500 yards away. Dispatching a runner to guide up friendly armor, he deployed his men to cut off the enemy personnel. Several minutes



⁶⁷ GOs No. 262, 313 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July, 27 Aug. & 5 Sept. '45. Sgts. Crowe & Nussbaum & Pfc Stevens were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁸ Operations Instruction No. 62, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Wertingen, Germany, 26 April '45.

men to cut off the enemy personnel. Several minutes after tanks arrived and opened fire, the Germans attempted to flee but the skillfully set trap forced ten of the enemy to surrender.⁶⁹ By 1130 Company "F" commanded by First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin had control of the town. Small arms and mortar fire were received from the woods to the north and east.

Acting on information obtained from an enemy soldier that he captured, Staff Sergeant Ori H. Tilseth, of Company "F", organized a six-man patrol to raid a German concentration camp. After routing eight Germans, he led his men to within 50 yards of the camp. Then, skillfully deploying his men, he surprised approximately 30 enemy guards and took them prisoners. As a result of Staff Sergeant Tilseth's leadership an estimated 200 political prisoners were released.⁷⁰

"George" Company commanded by Second Lieutenant John Ananich moved to the right of "Fox" and together the companies attacked south at 1415. Objectives 1 and 2 were cleared by 1510 as the "Cotton Balers" of "Fox" Company overran ten 105mm anti-aircraft guns by direct assault. Forty-five minutes later Stettenhofen, the Bahnhof-Gablingen and Objective 5 were cleared by Company "F". Company "G" drove on and by 1645 had cleared Objective 6. Resistance consisted mostly of sniper fire, booby traps and some light shelling from across the Lech River. Short sharp fire fights were held in the various towns.

The First Battalion moved through the right of the Regimental zone. At 2250, 27 April, "Able" Company had taken Hirblingen, Objective 12, and was fighting for Tafertingen, Objective 13, which was captured however at 2330. By 0145 Company "A" had driven on and cleared a patch of woods designated as Objective 14, as well as Neusass, Objective 15. The Red troops were close to Augsburg but they were too late, the White Battalion troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan were already in the city. In a telephonic conversation with the Commanding Officer at 0020, 28 April, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan reported one of his companies was clearing up Oberhausen, Objective 19, but another company had driven on and passed the city limits into Augsburg. Before the conversation was completed the line went out. But in ten minutes the line was in again and Lieutenant Colonel Duncan reported that all his fighting units were below the 82 grid line, or northing, and many prisoners, who had not wished to fight, were being held. Patrols were then going through Augsburg to determine the situation and to contact the Burgomeister or military commander. Company "G", he reported, was engaged in a fire fight along the railroad tracks below Oberhausen. At 0038 Colonel Heintges reported to the Commanding General: "We have elements of two companies in the big town in a block of apartment houses."

The German troops and civilians in Augsburg did not desire to put up a fight and wished to surrender as soon as possible. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan contacted the Burgomeister who expressed willingness to surrender the city and further stated the commanding general of the German military forces also wished to surrender. The German military commander was not to be found in the hours of darkness and very early morning. As it turned out he was in the southwestern portion of the city and surrendered eventually to 15th Infantry forces who advanced from the west and entered Augsburg from "the back door", so to speak, some time after the Seventh Infantry had passed through the "front entrance". But as there was no fighting in the city, and white flags of surrender flew from every window it did not matter. Whenever German troops were met they surrendered without further ado.

The Seventh Infantry once more established a first by leading the Third Division into Augsburg. The whereabouts of the leading 15th Infantry elements at the time the lead troops of the Seventh Infantry entered Augsburg may be determined from study of the official 15th Infantry reports as published in the Third Division reports of operations.⁷¹

During the operation of 25-28 April 1945 when the Seventh Infantry pushed into Augsburg, only a small unknown number of enemy were killed but 827 German soldiers including 28 officers were taken prisoners. Ten 105mm anti-aircraft and three 150mm guns were captured as well as the chemical factory at Stauweiher. This was accomplished at a cost of four killed in action and one so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds a few days later. Battle casualty reports show that only 13 were wounded in the action. Those who made the supreme sacrifice were Second Lieutenant Ralph E. Leuze and Technical Sergeant Walter M. Clarke of Company "A", Private Robert Haeni of First Battalion Headquarters, Private Peter Nuttale of Company "K" and Private First Class Harry E. Frank, Jr., of Company "E".

⁶⁹ GO No. 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Marlar was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁰ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. S/Sgt. Tilseth was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁷¹ At 0135 on 28 April a telephone call was received at the Seventh Infantry War Room from the 15th Infantry Command Post (7th Infantry Journal Notes, 28 April '45). At that time Seventh Infantry elements were in the northern section of Augsburg. The 15th Infantry desired to know if the Seventh Infantry had troops at 308805, the coordinate location of Kriegshaber. The "Dragon" Regiment desired to direct an artillery shoot on the town. At that time, then, the 15th Infantry troops were 2000 yards, more or less, from Augsburg.

The 15th Infantry elements did not enter Augsburg until at least six hours after troops of the 7th Infantry's Second Battalion, but when they did enter they found the German military commander who surrendered to them. The approximate time of the 15th Infantry entry is established by the official report of the 15th Infantry itself and is quoted as follows: "At the beginning of the period the First Battalion was in Regimental reserve, and on the afternoon of 27 April was committed on the right flank. Aystettin (Y248828) was cleared by 1645. Company "C" attacked Hainhofer (Y266808) and then Schlipshelm (Y258699). Deuringen (Y285785) was cleared and Company "A" moved to Leitershofen (Y298770) where they encountered resistance from flak and artillery fire and small arms. This resistance was overcome by 0545B and the advance continued to the Wertach River. After taking Goggingen (Y325765), the First Battalion entered and began clearing Augsburg. Co. "E", 2nd Bn, overcame resistance from artillery, self-propelled and small arms at Gablingen (Y283888) at 1700B and Co. G cleared Achsheim. The Bn assembled and moved to Steppach (Y290800) at 0700B, and followed the route of the 3rd Bn into Augsburg. At close of the period the Bn crossed the bridge at (Y371779) and was attacking toward Friedberg (Y403780). The 3d Bn continued the advance to the southeast clearing the towns of Edenbergen, Batzenhofen, Westheim and Stadtbergen by 280500. A task force from the 3d Bn passed through elements of the 7th Infantry at Kriegshaber and entered Augsburg securing bridges at Y327788 and Y336783 at 280625B". (G-3 Report No. 118, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 April '45).

From the above quoted report of the 15th Infantry it will be noted that its first elements to enter Augsburg were its 1st Bn and a task force from its 3d Bn. Its 1st Bn did not overcome its resistance in Leitershofen, a town 2000 yards southwest of the nearest city limit, until 0545 the morning of 28 April. Therefore by the fairest estimate possible it could not have entered the city until sometime after 0600. The 15th Infantry task force entered the city at about 0600 on 28 April, or a little after, as, according to the report, it was at 0625 it secured bridges over the Wertach within the western limits of the city. The 7th Infantry elements passed through in Kriegshaber were elements of the 1st Bn which were not the most forward elements of even that battalion. The 15th Infantry 2n Bn was still in Steppach at 0700 on 28 April.

The Race Into Munchen

29-30 APRIL 1945

The Third Infantry Division wasted no time in Augsburg. Instructions were issued during the day of 28 April for the 15th Infantry to relieve the Seventh in the city of Augsburg and assume garrison duties while in reserve.⁷² The 30th Infantry which had come up behind the Seventh Infantry to Gersthofen and during the early hours of darkness of 28 April had crossed the Lech River under some artillery fire, then proceeded south to seize Lechhausen by noontime and went on to Friedberg, was to be the friendly rival in the race for München or Munich. The Third Division, then in the XXI Corps, was assigned the southern portion of München. Anti-Tank Company was ordered released to the 15th Infantry to assist in occupying Augsburg. The Seventh Infantry was to assemble in the northwestern edge of Augsburg and cross over the Lech to Friedberg by bridge and pass through right elements of the 30th Infantry at 0630, 29 April.

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION PASSES TO XV CORPS, 28 APRIL 1945

Before the "7th Light Foot" actually showed its heels to Augsburg to overhaul and pass through the 30th Infantry and sprint into München first, the Third Infantry Division was relieved of attachment to XXI Corps and attached to XV Corps as of 2225B, 28 April 1945. It was to continue its advance, however, with the utmost speed and capture the southern portion of München.⁷³

Overwhelming power was to be used in the seizure of the city made famous by Hitler's "putsch" in 1923, at the Rosenheim Strasse beer hall. On the left of the "Rock of the Marne" Division the 42nd and 45th Infantry Divisions were to advance in assigned zones. The 20th Armored Infantry Division was to operate in conjunction with the 3rd, 42nd and 45th Divisions and in cooperation attack München. On the far left the 106th Cavalry Group had the mission of protecting XV Corps' left flank in the area north and northeast of München. On the right of the "Rock of the Marne" Division the 4th Infantry Division, 12th Armored Infantry Division and the 101st Cavalry Group were to advance and isolate München on the south.

PLANS OF THE 7th INFANTRY FOR DASH INTO MÜNCHEN

Colonel Heintges and his staff drew up instructions to cover the new operation. With his eye on München, the Commanding Officer carefully outlined the plan to be followed.⁷⁴

The Third Battalion reinforced was formed into a mobile task force called Task Force Horton after the commander, Captain Robert V. Horton. The Commanding Officer directed Task Force Horton to attack in the right of the Regimental zone and use the main highway to proceed with all possible speed. If necessary, the weight of the entire force was to be used to break resistance along the route as soon as possible. All known enemy positions adjacent to the route of advance were to be by-passed so that Objectives "W" and "X" could be captured preparatory to an entry into München.

Besides the Third Battalion troops and a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, elements of all the attachments comprised Task Force Horton. Order of battle for the force consisted of a Reconnaissance Spearhead, an Advance Guard and the Main Body. The Reconnaissance Spearhead of Task Force Horton consisted of a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, a platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, a platoon of light tanks from Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, and a platoon of medium tanks from Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion.

The Advance Guard consisted of Company "L" mounted on the armor of two platoons of medium tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, one platoon of destroyers of Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one tank dozer of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion.

The Main Body of Task Force Horton consisted of the remainder of the Third Battalion, Battery "B", 10th Field Artillery Battalion, three assault guns of the 756th Tank Battalion Headquarters, two flakwagons of Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, and a platoon of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion. The riflemen were to ride on the battalion's organic transportation reinforced by twelve "DUKWS" and six 1½-ton trucks of Anti-Tank Company.

Behind Task Force Horton the First Battalion was directed to advance and mop up all by-passed enemy resistance and maintain contact with the 4th Infantry Division on the right.

The left of the Regimental zone was entrusted to the Second Battalion which was reinforced by two platoons of Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, one platoon of Company "B", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and a platoon of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion. The White Battalion troops were to advance in their zone, destroy all enemy encountered, capture assigned objectives and maintain contact with the 30th Infantry on the left.

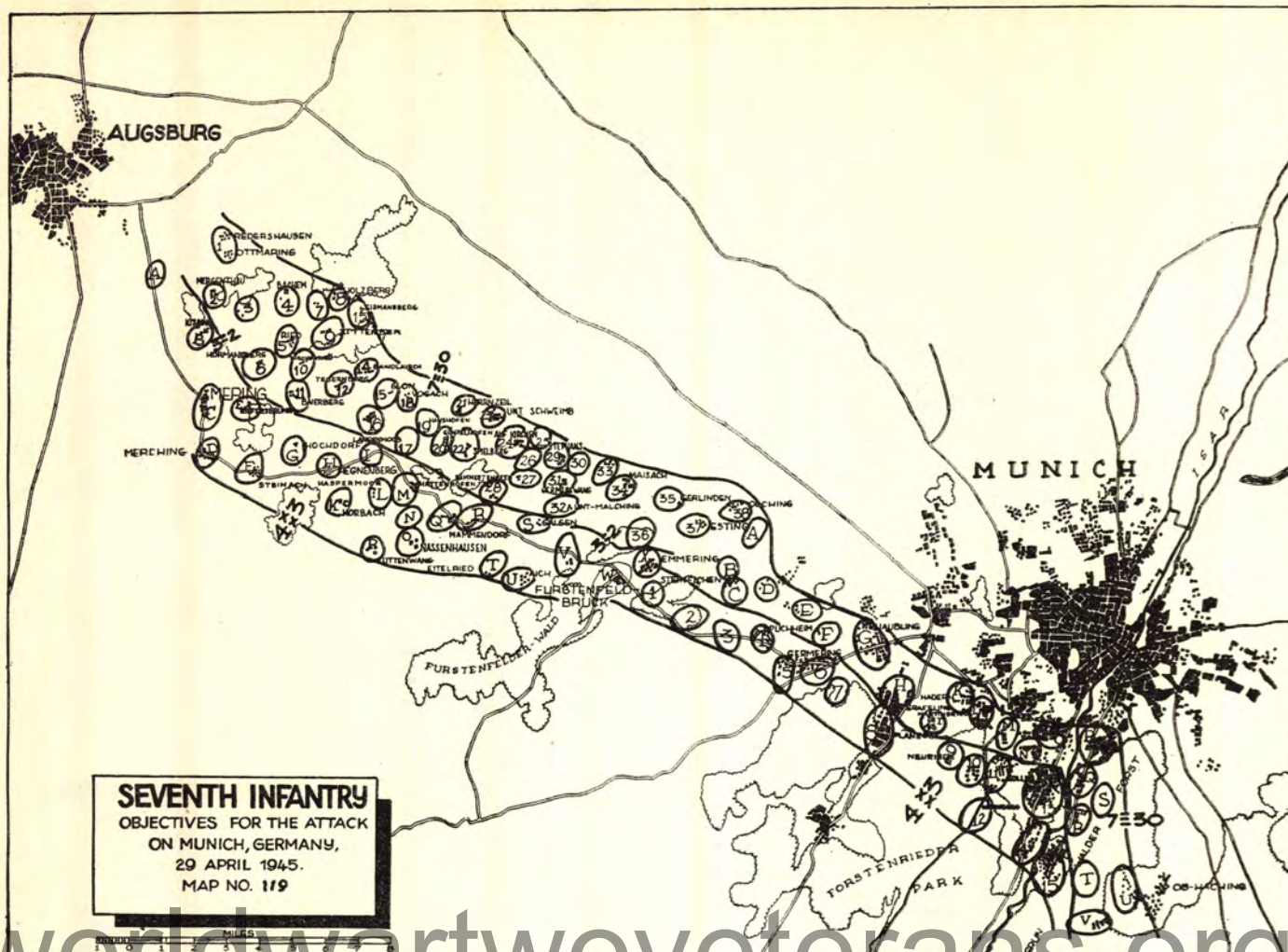
The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, minus Battery "B", was to render normal support to the Regiment during the operation while Cannon Company was ordered to follow the advance of the Second Battalion and be prepared to fire normal support missions in the Regimental zone with emphasis on the left.

The Commanding Officer issued special instructions for Task Force Horton. The armored Spearhead was to engage any hostile resistance aggressively and continue on its mission as soon as the resistance should weaken. The Advance Guard was to reinforce the Spearhead at the earliest possible moment to assist in reducing the resistance and bring about the uninterrupted advance of the Spearhead. Colonel Heintges stressed the point that

⁷² Operations Instruction No. 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Lauterbrunn, Germany, 28 April '45. "Special Instructions", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Oberhausen, Germany, 28 April '45.

⁷³ Operations Instruction No. 65, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Oberhausen, Germany, 29 April '45.

⁷⁴ Operations Instruction No. 41, HQ, 7th Infantry, 28 April '45.



it was absolutely essential that the armor be deployed on a broad front and that all weapons be utilized to clear resistance. The Spearhead and the Advance Guard were to proceed with the utmost speed. Motorized elements of the Main Body were to advance by bounds behind the Advance Guard and drop off sufficient troops to mop up by-passed resistance along the route. Prisoners of war captured by Task Force Horton were to be disarmed and left along the main axis to be picked up by the First Battalion. Only a minimum of personnel were to be left to guard prisoners of war. Task Force Horton was to maintain normal radio communication while the First and Second Battalions were to maintain both telephone and radio communication.

TASK FORCE HORTON DRIVES TO AMPER RIVER, 29 APRIL 1945

At 0630, 29 April, the Seventh Infantry pressed the attack to the southeast for München. Resistance was sporadic and light and consisted mostly of blocks, blown bridges and small arms fire.

Task Force Horton on the right ran into small skirmishes against small arms fire and in one place an anti-tank gun, but pressed through all resistance. Staying on the main road the force passed rapidly through Lindenau, Mering, Merching, Steinach, Hegnenberg, Hattenhofen and Mammendorf to Furstenfeld-Bruck on the Amper River. The river was passed over but the force was held up at 2040 by a huge crater and a blown water main under the railroad overpass just beyond the Amper River.

The First Battalion, again under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, followed Task Force Horton. In addition to clearing the towns passed through by the on-rushing task force the Red Battalion cleared Kissling, Riefersbrunn, Horbach, Haspemoor, Luttenwang, Nassenhausen, Loitershofen, Eitelsried, Galgen, Aich, and Puch, then moved into Fürstenfeld-Bruck. No opposition was encountered.



Capt. Joseph E. Martin and 1 Lt. Dante A. Conte of the Second Battalion pose for a photo in a German village during the closing days of the campaign.

The Second Battalion cleared the entire left or northern zone of the Regimental sector by itself, with the troops marching the entire distance. By noontime on the

29th the White Battalion troops had cleared Rederzhhausen, Mergenthau and Bachern. The last named place was taken after a brief fire fight and yielded prisoners of war. The troops continued the advance during the afternoon against little resistance. Hormonsberg, Ried, Zillen-berg, Eismansberg, Holzberg, Sirchenried, Baidlkirch and Tegernbach were screened of enemy troops. At Holz-berg 800 German soldiers were made prisoners of war. At 1900 Mittelstettin was mopped up with 30 German officers and 350 men added to the prisoner of war bag. The troops continued on in the night and cleared Langenmoos, Hanshofen and Gunzelhofen where an additional 60 Germans were made captive. By 0230 of 30 April the troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan had passed through Herrnzeil, Unt-Schweinbach, Spielberg, Ob Schweinbach, Aufkirchen, Geisenhofen, Rammerts- hofen and Stephansberg to Frauenberg, Germerswang and Unt-Malching, the last of its objectives. Nearly 1300 enemy soldiers had been made prisoners of war during the advance.

COMBAT TEAM 7 IS REORGANIZED

Because of the obstacle encountered by Task Force Horton and the increased danger for troops riding on armor and vehicles during the night Colonel Heintges issued orders at 2100, 29 April which changed the organization of the combat team. Task Force Horton was dissolved. The Third Battalion was ordered to dismount and proceed forward by foot while the transportation was to assemble in Fürstenfeld-Brück. In the morning troops of the Second Battalion who had pounded the roads throughout the day and night were to be given a ride. A platoon of tanks was detached from the Third Battalion.

THIRD BATTALION CONTINUES THE ADVANCE

Riflemen of the Third Battalion continued the advance on foot and at 0105 were in Puchheim encountering small arms fire. The opposition was slight as the town was reported cleared at 0120. In thirty minutes' time troops of the battalion were in Germering and had captured fourteen "88's", an American jeep and twenty prisoners of war. In a short while thirty-nine more Germans were captured by the Blue forces.

The Red Battalion moved out of Fürstenfeld-Brück at 0230, 30 April and passed through Puchheim, Unt-Pfaffenhfn. At daylight forces of both the Blue and Red Battalions were within the city limits of München, the capital of Bavaria. Blue forces officially reported themselves at Neuaubing at 0710 receiving some small arms fire. Colonel Heintges who was up front with the troops had questioned a civilian in the early dawn to determine the boundary of the city limits. He was told his troops were already in the city limits and was shown a sign which marked the entrance to the city from the southwest. Thus it was, that the "Cotton Balers" were first into München. On the left 30th Infantry troops entered later in the morning, as did 42nd and 45th Infantry Division troops from the north. Troops of all three divisions helped clear the city. The huge concentration camp of Dachau, filled with anti-Nazi prisoners, was taken by troops of the "Rainbow" Division.

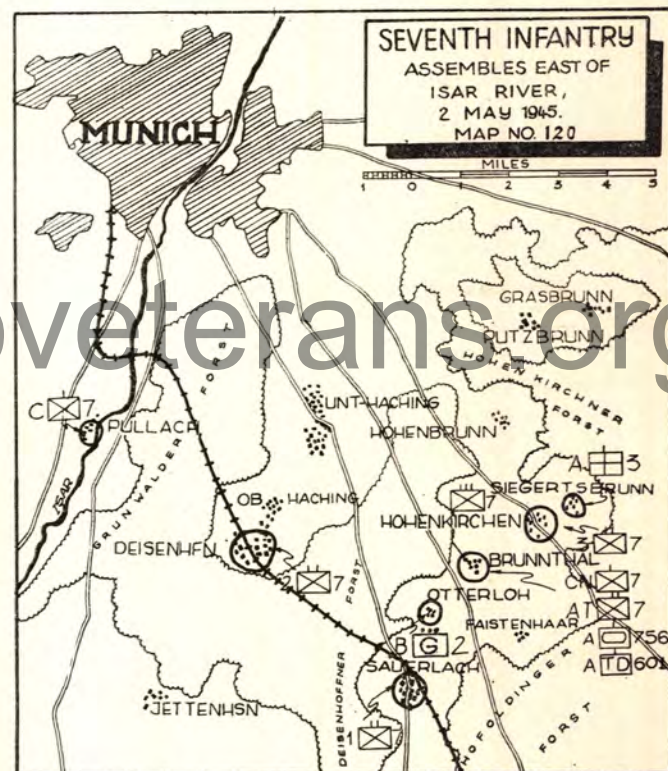
7th INFANTRY CLEARS ITS ZONE TO THE ISAR RIVER

During the day and night of 30 April troops of the First and Third Battalions cleared the Seventh Infantry zone in the southern portion of München to the Isar River. Blue troops encountered strong small arms fire

east of the Grafelfing district and had to knock out an enemy bunker manned by two machine gun crews. Two of the enemy were killed and eight captured as the nest was cleaned out. Planegg, where several of the enemy were killed and many more captured, was cleared early in the afternoon. The Blue troops pushed south to Stockt where 300 of the enemy gave up.

The Red troops had passed through the Blue Battalion and cleared Martinsried, Neuried, Furstenried and Max- hof sections, taking numerous prisoners of war and over- running twelve damaged "88's". Resistance was encoun- tered from juvenile enemy soldiers but quickly ended. Forstenried and Pullach were cleared during the night. The bridges over the Isar at Pullach were found destroyed.

At Pullach the great underground estate and adminis- tration center of Adolf Hitler's chief of staff, Martin Bormann, was seized. It was a most elaborate under- ground installation, most modernistically designed and equipped. It had been the hiding place at various times of many Nazi big-wigs, and it contained many souven- irs, but alas the "Cotton Balers" were not to be around long enough to procure many of them. However, one of Adolf Hitler's personal luxuries, a fourteen passenger



sedan, was picked up and later given to the Command- ing General as a present from the Seventh Infantry. Though there was not much time to gather trophies, the great stores of some of the finest liquers in Europe were not overlooked by any means. The Commanding Officer himself appropriated 1200 bottles of champagne for his hard working staff and battalions.

Following clearance of its zone to the Isar the Seventh Infantry was placed in division reserve.

The dash into München was accomplished at prac- tically no cost to the Regiment. For the first time during the war the Seventh Infantry completed an assignment without a single death or killing occurring. The battle casualty records show that only two men were lightly wounded in the action. The enemy suffered some killed, though the number is unknown; 2600 German soldiers including one brigadier general were made captive.

The Dash Into Salzburg, Austria and Capture of Berchtesgaden

GERMANY, 2-4 MAY 1945

On 1 May 1945 orders were issued for Third Division forces to arrest the advance, to close into assembly areas, and prepare for another mission. The 42nd Infantry and 20th Armored Infantry Divisions were also to close into areas with the same instructions. The 45th Infantry Division, which had started fighting alongside the Third in Sicily, was given the mission of garrisoning München, guarding all prisoners and interior targets of the 3rd Infantry, 42nd Infantry and 20th Armored Infantry Divisions. It ended its combat in München, but the Third, which was one of the first to get into the fight 8 November 1942, was to go on, till the end. The 106th Cavalry Group was ordered to reconnoiter the Inn River from the Reichsautobahn north to Wasserburg. The 12th Armored Infantry Division of XXI Corps on the right was to pass across the front of the XV Corps to the east on the axis of the Reichsautobahn.⁷⁵

The Seventh Infantry reinforced remained in division reserve on 1-2 May 1945. On the second day displacement was made to the east of the Isar River. The First Battalion closed into Sauerlach, the Second Battalion into Deisenhofen and the Third into Hohenkirchen. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, closed into Siegersbrunn while armored attachments assembled around the Regimental Command Post in Brunthal. A change in the attachments occurred when a platoon of Company "B", 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion, took over the supporting role of 4.2 mortars and assembled in Otterloh.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTINUE THE ADVANCE

On 2 May orders were issued for the XV Corps to continue the advance and capture Salzburg, Austria. The capture was to be made by the Third Infantry Division. On the left of the Third, the 20th Armored Infantry Division was also to advance and be followed by the 42nd Infantry Division. On the right, the 12th Armored Infantry Division was to continue its advance on the axis of the Reichsautobahn as far as Bernau near



A road sign points to the last objectives of World War II for the Seventh Infantry.

the southwest corner of Chiem See. At that point the 12th Armored Infantry Division was directed to turn south into the center of the Redoubt area.⁷⁶

Instructions of Third Infantry Division were for the 15th and 30th Infantries to complete missions of mopping up west of the Inn River while the Seventh was to seize and secure the bridges at No. 1 and No. 2 with strong reconnaissance patrols during the night of 2-3 May, then at 0400, 3 May the "Cotton Balers" were to spearhead the Third Division drive by passing through the 30th Infantry at Rosenheim with the utmost speed, along the axis of the Reichsautobahn to capture Salzburg. East of the Inn River the Regiment was to protect the division's right by employing mechanized reconnaissance and the establishment of blocks. Contact was to be maintained with the 12th Armored Infantry Division as far as line "GRANT". Following capture of Salzburg the Regiment was to be prepared to capture Berchtesgaden on Third Division order if the situation should permit.

7th INFANTRY LEADS THE 3rd DIVISION AND XV CORPS INTO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA. 2-4 MAY 1945

At 2150 on 2 May a reconnaissance force consisting of Company "L", mounted on two 2½-ton trucks, with a platoon of light tanks, two medium tanks and two tank destroyers from the attachments departed from the assembly area for Rosenheim by way of Peiss and Bad Aibling. At Rosenheim 30th Infantry elements were passed through and the force moved south to the Reichsautobahn. At 2230 the remainder of the Third Battalion, reinforced and motorized, followed the reconnaissance force.

Along the Reichsautobahn, which skirts the south shore of Chiem See, the elements advanced with great speed to Die Tiroler Aichen where Bridge No. 1 was found destroyed. Detour was made through Moosen and a crossing effected where the Sossauer Kanal joins Die Tiroler Aichen. Getting back on to the Reichsautobahn the Third Battalion forces and attachments sped on to seize Bridge No. 2 over the Traun River near Ob-Siegsdorf in the morning of 3 May. During the advance Company "K" fired on five enemy vehicles fleeing south from Frasdorf. One was set afire and its occupants killed.

Near Ob-Siegsdorf itself some of the rifle elements were ambushed by about 200 German Infantrymen occupying strong hill positions. Private First Class Everett M. Goodloe of Company "I" was killed by the enemy and a few other men were wounded. Snipers in buildings about 200 yards to the rear prevented the

⁷⁵ Operations Instruction No. 68, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Unt-Haching, Germany, 1 May '45.

⁷⁶ Operations Instruction No. 69, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Unt-Haching, Germany, 2 May '45.

machine gun squad of Company "M" to which Private Leonard J. Blaskowski belonged from delivering effective fire against the enemy Infantrymen occupying the hill positions. Private Blaskowski singlehandedly assaulted the snipers. Rushing over the intervening flat and open terrain, he cleared several houses, killed three of the enemy and captured ten. Observing that hostile fire was coming from a barn, he unhesitatingly charged that position. As he opened the door of the barn he was

fatally wounded by a sniper. His courageous actions however had enabled his squad to inflict severe losses on the enemy.⁷⁷

Company "I" went into the attack which soon became temporarily stalled when 20mm, machine gun and rifle fire was encountered. Private First Class Vincent A. Logan rushed forward in a singlehanded assault on an enemy strongpoint. Dashing 100 yards through fire, he assumed a firing position on a road embankment and, in a 15 minute duel, destroyed two 20mm guns, killed four and wounded four of the enemy. He then dashed 75 yards through fire to bring up tank support and, advancing on foot, forced the surrender of 15 Germans.

Private First Class Charles H. Zweck of Company "M" dashed over bullet-swept ground to set up his machine gun in an exposed position. Engaging the enemy he wounded and killed the members of an enemy seven-man crew of a self-propelled gun. Although German rifle fire was concentrated on him, he blew up a gasoline truck, neutralized two hostile machine guns, drove the enemy from his firing line, killed 12 and wounded 20 Germans, and caused the capture of 114 others.

Privates First Class Logan and Zweck were each awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. For his part in the same engagement Staff Sergeant Clarence Fredlund of Company "I" was awarded the Silver Star Medal.⁷⁸

The Second Battalion, motorized and reinforced by a battery of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, platoons of light tanks, medium tanks, tank destroyers and chemical mortars, and Cannon Company, moved out of the assembly areas at 0300, 3 May and followed the Third Battalion forces and, in turn, was followed by the remainder of the Regiment.

At 1300 the Second Battalion reinforced passed through the Third Battalion forces on the Reichsautobahn near Ob-Siegsdorf. The advance was continued to the Saalach River during the afternoon and evening with a little shooting along the way. The Saalach River along one stretch separates Germany from Austria. The Second Battalion reported three bridges over the river destroyed.

SECOND BATTALION CROSSES SAALACH INTO AUSTRIA TO BE FIRST INTO SALZBURG, 4 MAY 1945

Not to be held up by the river obstacle, troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion crossed the Saalach, a tributary of the Salzach, by assault craft during the night and at dawn entered Salzburg. The White Battalion troops were the first Third Division troops into Austria and the first Allied troops into Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. While the troops were in the city west of the Salzach the 106th Cavalry Group then attached to the Third Infantry Division but not in the city at that time received a radio message from German forces in the city who desired to surrender. Other than a little shooting that had been put on near the airfield of Salzburg there was no fighting in the city.

During the rapid advance to capture Salzburg over 1000 enemy had been captured and several Germans were killed. The casualties sustained by the Regiment were small in number.

⁷⁷ GO No. 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June '45. Pvt. Blaskowski was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

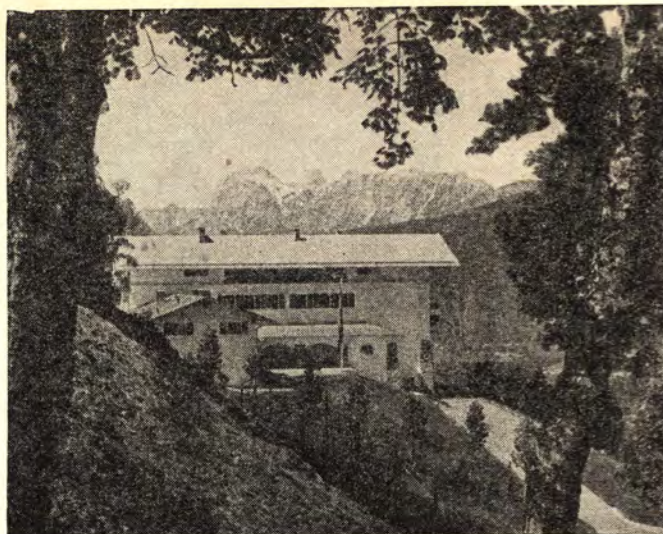
⁷⁸ For authority see GOs 600 & 626, HQ, 7th Army, Oct. '45 & GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45.



Early in the morning of 4 May 1945 reconnaissance discovered that a railroad bridge over the Saalach near Piding had a locomotive engine on it. A small wooden bridge was also discovered nearby which was undamaged and strong enough to permit passage of foot troops and jeeps.

With its Second Battalion already across the river into Austria and in possession of much of Salzburg and by a stroke of luck in possession of two bridges, the Seventh Infantry was in a most favorable position to swoop down on Berchtesgaden and capture Hitler's hideaway, Der Berghof Obersalzberg. No one realized this any sooner than the Third Division Commander. On the right the 101st Airborne Infantry Division and the Second French Armored Division, which divisions had direct orders to seize Berchtesgaden, had not yet reached the Saalach.

Early 4 May Major General O'Daniel took matters into his own hands and decided to send the Seventh United States Infantry out of the Third Infantry Divis-



Prisoners of war are lined up on the Reichsautobahn during the last days of the fighting in Europe.



ion zone of action to steal Berchtesgaden and Hitler's hideaway, Der Berghof Obersalzberg, from the American paratroopers and French armored forces, who technically were supposed to capture those places. Only Salzburg, Austria, had been definitely assigned to the Third Infantry Division but that place was already in hand. It had been expected that Salzburg would be a last enemy stronghold before Berchtesgaden and would be a hard nut to crack, like Nürnberg had been, but, as stated, hardly a shot had been fired in that city and it capitulated early.

Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division, had tried unsuccessfully to get Berchtesgaden as an objective for his division. However he decided not to let slip from his fingers the golden opportunity of adding the Bavarian mountain town, made famous by Hitler's hideaway, to the long list of towns and cities captured by the "Rock of the Marne" Division. He then ordered Colonel John A. Heintges to drive the "Cotton Baler" Regiment with all possible speed and to capture Berchtesgaden, the prize and pearl of all military objectives at that time.

Colonel Heintges, who the night before had dreamed and hoped for that very opportunity and had conceived his "Orange Plan" to put into execution should the chance occur, quickly issued his orders to push the First and Third Battalions over the bridges. The Commanding General, to assure himself of success, had ordered Colonel Heintges to place heavy guard on the two bridges



and to permit no one, or any vehicle, to pass over them except Seventh Infantry personnel and vehicles. Accordingly guards commanded by First Lieutenant Nathan W. White and Second Lieutenant Robert Miller, liaison

officers, were placed on the bridges. The Commanding General established a temporary command post for the Third Infantry Division on the far side of the Saalach River and made it known that he could be contacted if an occasion warranted it.

Skilled workers of Company "A", 10th Combat Engineers, quickly removed the locomotor and repaired the railroad bridge to permit passage of the artillery and attached armor. The First and Third Battalions meanwhile had passed all their foot troops and tactical vehicles over the small wooden bridge. First Battalion patrols soon entered Bad Reichenhall and at 0930 that place was seized with 3,000 German troops held as prisoners of war. The Third Battalion troops captured Marzoll. With those places in hand Colonel Heintges gave Lieutenant Colonel Wallace and Major Flynn the go sign for Berchtesgaden. At noon time the First and Third Battalions were on their way in a pincers move that was to bring about the capture of the famous objective within a surprisingly short time.

7th INFANTRY BATTLE PATROL LEADS ALL TROOPS INTO BERCHTESGADEN

The First Battalion was assigned the most direct route along the main highway from Bad Reichenhall but was preceded by elements of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol commanded by Second Lieutenant William

Battalion moving around from Marzoll to Grodig, St. Leonard and Schellenberg entered the town from the northeast at 1630. Der Berghof Obersalzberg was quickly found and a Nazi flag torn down from the pole nearby. Contrary to news reports Der Berghof Obersalzberg had not been hit by an air bomb but it was smoking from destruction and fires caused by the SS troops prior to entry by the Seventh Infantry. However many of the SS barracks, homes and other buildings nearby had been hit and many large bomb craters marked the area. The former home of Herman Goering and the former headquarters of the German Luftwaffe were found to be undamaged and placed under guard, as was the Adolf Hitler Hotel. The Regimental Command Post became established in the Haus Waldrast Berchtesgaden.

Meanwhile the French forces and the 101st Airborne Infantry Division had not been so fortunate in discovering bridges over the Saalach. They learned of those held by the Seventh Infantry and sought to use them but failed, until the Commanding General had the word from the "Cotton Baler" forces in Berchtesgaden that they had the place in hand. Once when the 3,000 German prisoners seized in Bad Reichenhall were being marched over the wooden bridge and on the way back to prisoner of war cages, a column of vehicles was seen moving rapidly toward the small wooden bridge. The lead vehicle, a jeep, carried the stars of a field general, who was standing up in the vehicle, with one hand on the windshield and the other waving frantically and



While Colonel Heintges and three rifle platoons of the Regiment came to "Present Arms" on 5 May 1945, S/Sgt. Bennett O. Walters, Co. "L", and Pfc Nick Urick, Co. "A", raised the national colors, "Old Glory," over the former estate of Adolf Hitler near Berchtesgaden.

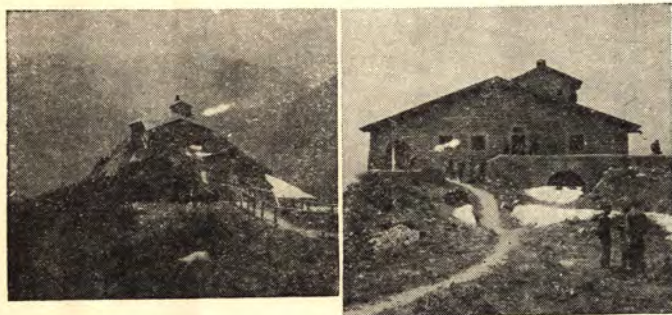
Miller, Jr. The Battle Patrols of the Seventh Infantry encountered no opposition and were the first Allied soldiers to enter Berchtesgaden at 1558 on 4 May 1945. The Red Battalion troops soon followed and the town was seized with 2000 enemy surrendering. The Third

most impatiently with a swagger stick for the prisoners of war to clear the road and make way for his column. Not desiring to get run down the German prisoners jumped aside and let the vehicles through. Obeying orders, the guard however blocked the road and stopped

the French Second Armored Division column. The French general, who was Major General LeClerc, demanded an explanation from the officer in command of the guard. When told of the existing orders he asked of the whereabouts of the Commanding General, American Third Infantry Division, and when told demanded to be taken to him. Major General O'Daniel was contacted and gave permission for the French general to pass over the bridge but all French troops were ordered held in place. The French general who was most displeased over the whole situation hurriedly passed to converse with the American general.

Major General Phillippe Hautecloque, really the Vicomte de Hautecloque, who served under the pseudonym of "General LeClerc" which had been adopted in the early part of the war to protect his wife and five children who lived in occupied France, was probably France's most outstanding field general in World War II. It was he who led Free French Forces on that long desert march of 1700 miles across the Sahara from the Chad territory of Central Africa in 1943 to help crush Axis forces in Africa. He took command of French regulars for the invasion of Southern France and led the Second French Armored Division into Paris and Strasbourg.⁷⁹ He was a man of action and usually got his way. But on 4 May 1945 he came face to face with Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the American Third Infantry Division.

Unfortunately for posterity and history the conversation between the American and French generals was not recorded, but "Iron Mike" who very early in life had learned the full meaning of the phrase "possession is nine-tenths of the law", remained adamant and refused to budge. In an earlier war a Frenchman had said: "They shall not pass." On 4, May 1945 "Iron Mike" said somewhat the same thing but in different words and referred to French troops. Not until some time after the Com-



To secure even more privacy than he enjoyed at his famous chalet, Hitler had the fabulous Alderhorst (Eagle's Nest) built farther up in the Alps, about five miles from Der Berghof, atop Kehlstein (Stone Throat), the mountain that overhangs Berchtesgaden. There Hitler went alone and occasionally entertained a special guest. An elevator shaft had been drilled through the mountain. After 4 May 1945 the elevator was out of order so "Cotton Balers" who visited the refuge had to climb the mountain. Two views of the eyrie are shown above.

manding General had learned of the capture of Berchtesgaden by the Seventh Infantry did he allow the guards released. The French troops entered the town about four hours after the first "Cotton Balers" had entered and found the Seventh Infantry in control.

Though the Seventh Infantry had captured Berchtesgaden the Commanding General had much to do with it, as it was his order that sent the "Cotton Balers" on their way and it was his foresight that prevented other elements from crossing the river until the objectives were captured. As a result of his order vehicles of the 101st

Airborne and the French were jammed on the Reichs autobahn with no place to go until he chose to let them.

In Berchtesgaden, at Hermann Goering's Staff Headquarters, General Der Fleiger (Lt. Gen.) Gustav Kastner-Kirkdorf was found dead in his bedroom adjoining his office. According to a female employee at the headquarters, who was questioned, he was a member of Adolf Hitler's Staff and had arrived at Goering's Headquarters



A view of the Austrian mountains as seen from Der Berghof Obersalzburg.

in Berchtesgaden on 2 May. He committed suicide shortly after Seventh Infantrymen entered the town, as did one other German general.

Included in the bag of prisoners caught in Berchtesgaden was Colonel Fritz Goering of the Luftwaffe, a nephew of the number two Nazi, Hermann Goering. He personally surrendered to Colonel Heintges and handed his pistols to the Commanding Officer, who personally questioned him on the whereabouts of Adolf Hitler, Hermann Goering and other Nazi officials, as it was hoped that some of them could be captured. The German Colonel stated he did not know of his uncle's whereabouts because Hitler had had Hermann Goering arrested a few days before because he had wanted to quit the war. Neither did he know anything of Hitler's whereabouts. He told Colonel Heintges that he would like to turn over to the Seventh Infantry Commander the property of Hermann and Frau Goering which was quite considerable. That which interested the "Cotton Baler" Colonel most was some 18,000 bottles of the finest liquors and two automobiles; the Field Marshal's two-seated roadster and a fourteen passenger, bullet-proof sedan.

According to the headquarters commander of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's General Staff, who was also taken prisoner in Berchtesgaden that day, the "Cotton Balers" had missed the commander in chief of all German forces on the Western Front by just several hours. The field marshal had been in Berchtesgaden and had left the town the previous night with hundreds of his troops. However at 2000B on 4 May an armistice delegation from Field Marshal Kesselring entered the Second Battalion lines in Salzburg, Austria. The delegation consisted of General of Infantry Foertsch, Commanding General of the First German Army, at the head, and

⁷⁹ After the war Gen. LeClerc led an expeditionary force to Indo-China and then was appointed Inspector General of French Forces in North Africa.

Colonel Zolling, Major Hay, Major Forker, and Major Von Orloff of the German General Staff Corps as well as Major Koelle, Captain Behrendt, Captain Castillieri, First Lieutenant Von Weber, Sonderfuehrer Schoeningh and Colonel Collosius of the Luftwaffe.

There was much rejoicing and excitement over the capture of Berchtesgaden and the troops indulged in a little celebrating. Champagne and cigars were found in abundance at Hitler's and Goering's former establishments which were searched for souvenirs.

On 5 May 1945 an important ceremony was held when the American flag was raised over Der Berghof Obersalzberg by the Seventh Infantry. At first the cere-



The two men who planned and executed the theft of Berchtesgaden from the 101st Airborne Division and 2nd French Armored Division on 4 May 1945 and who accepted responsibility for the "steal" were Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, commanding the Third Infantry Division, and his ace rifle regiment commander, Colonel John A. Heintges, commanding the famous Seventh Infantry.

mony was delayed by French interference. The French troops had entered Berchtesgaden during the early evening of 4 May and were given a section of the town to occupy. Their section controlled the roads leading to Der Berghof Obersalzberg which is on the outskirts of the town. Early on the 5th the French general, probably still smarting from the fact that his troops had been held up at the Saalach River bridges, had given orders to his command to block all entrances to the famous hideout. So when Seventh Infantrymen went to hold their flag raising ceremony on the 5th, there were unsuccessful attempts to prevent them from reaching the hideout which they had captured the day before. Just as the American flag was to be raised over the mountain hideout a French colonel appeared on the scene and attempted to prevent the ceremony because of the standing orders of his commanding general. His argument was that Der Berghof was within the occupational zone assigned to the French the night before. After much discussion it was agreed to raise the American "Stars and Stripes" and French "Tricolor," together, up the pole which once flew the Nazi flag. A French flag was procured but it was such a large one that when the raising was first

attempted it dragged on the ground. The French officer then withdrew his objections and the American flag alone was raised over the former mountain retreat.

At 1630 on 5 May 1945 the following message was received at the Command Post from the Commanding General:

Effective immediately there will be no more fighting unless fired upon or attacked.

O'Daniel, Commanding.



Lt. Col. Jack M. Duncan, commanding, and Major Clarence H. White, Jr., executive officer, of the Second Battalion, were photographed near the battalion's command post in Salzburg, Austria, on 6 May 1945.

Then at 2045 that night the following message was received:

An armistice has been agreed upon with Army Group "G". Terms to be effective 061200B May 1945.

O'Daniel, Commanding.

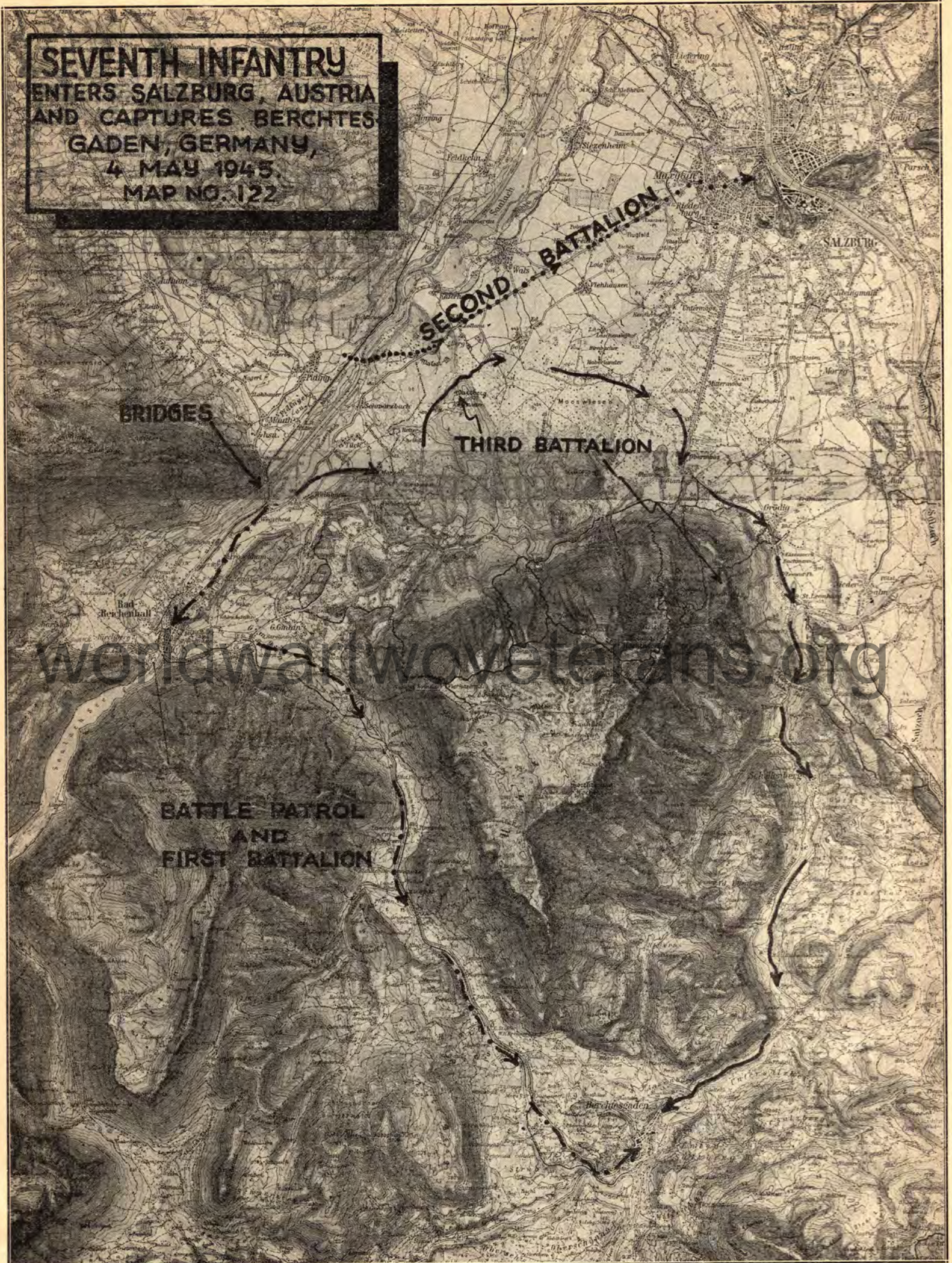
Fighting therefore against the enemy was finished for the Seventh Infantry for World War II.

On 6 May the Seventh Infantry was ordered to remove its First and Third Battalions from Berchtesgaden and to assemble the entire regiment in Salzburg, Austria. Reluctantly the troops which had captured Berchtesgaden turned the whole place over to the 506th Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and to French troops and repaired to Salzburg.

The short stay in the famous town had been quite profitable and many souvenirs formerly belonging to Nazi big wigs were hauled away to the dismay of the relieving forces. Colonel Heintges had to content himself with only one of Hermann Goering's vehicles, however. The sedan could not be started and had to be left behind.

While the Seventh Infantry assembled in Salzburg, Austria, World War II came to an end. The German armies had begun surrendering on 2 May when Army Group "C" in Northern Italy stopped fighting. The German forces in Holland, Denmark, Helgoland, the Frisian Islands and Northwest Germany followed suit on 5 May. As already told Army Group "G" in Western Austria and Bavaria surrendered on 6 May. Army Groups "A", "E" and "South", opposing the Russians, and German forces in Norway surrendered on 9 May and all fighting in Europe ceased.

**SEVENTH INFANTRY
ENTERS SALZBURG, AUSTRIA
AND CAPTURES BERCHTESGADEN,
GERMANY,
4 MAY 1945.
MAP NO. 122**



APPENDIX I

Summary

On 4 May 1945 when its troops were first to enter Salzburg, Austria, in the early morning, and in the afternoon captured Berchtesgaden, Germany, the Seventh United States Infantry ended its combat days for World War II in a blaze of glory.

It was nearly two and one-half years to the day since the landing at Fedala, French Morocco. During ten campaigns the Regiment had battled from Fedala to Berchtesgaden, and had compiled a combat record second to none in the entire American Army. It was indeed fitting that the Regiment that had captured Fedala should have captured Berchtesgaden, once the hideout of Adolf Hitler himself.

Many feats of arms and "firsts" did the "Cotton Baler" Regiment perform over its rugged combat course. Of the three rifle regiments in the Third Infantry Division it was the only one to be employed in the assault for every major operation of the "Rock of the Marne" Division, whether the operation was over water or land. That each of the commanding generals of the Third Infantry Division, Major Generals Jonathan W. Anderson, Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., and John W. O'Daniel, who commanded during the war, should hold such confidence in and so honor the "Cotton Baler" Regiment speaks for itself, and is, in the opinion of many, the greatest tribute that could have been paid the Regiment and its fighting men. The Seventh Infantry was the only regiment of the Third Infantry Division to be in the assault for each and every one of the following major operations: (1) the invasion of French Morocco; (2) the invasion of Sicily; (3) the crossing of the Volturno River; (4) the Anzio-Nettuno Landings; (5) the attack of 30 January 1944; (6) the breakthrough from the Anzio Beachhead; (7) the invasion of southern France; (8) the crossing of the Meurthe River; (9) the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign; (10) the entry into Germany; (11) the breaching of the Siegfried Line; (12) the crossing of the Rhine River; (13) the Battle of Nürnberg; (14) the Battle of Augsburg; (15) the race into München; (16) the capture of Salzburg and Berchtesgaden. The Seventh Infantry was in the assault for many other operations, which cannot, however, be classified as major operations.

The "7th Light Foot" Infantry, always "Willing and Able", never failed to capture an objective or complete an assigned mission during World War II. That was why it never missed an assault assignment for each major operation the Third Infantry Division executed. A trust well placed, a job well done.

Having been in the assault for so many operations the Seventh Infantry Regiment had the opportunity to distinguish itself. The noteworthy feats it performed and the enviable list of "firsts" the Regiment compiled include: (1) the capture of Fedala and first entry into Casablanca; (2) the rapid establishment of its beachhead in Sicily and the capture of Agrigento, Palermo, and Messina, principal cities of that island; (3) the first crossing of the Volturno River on 13 October 1943 which merited the personal commendations of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, commanding United States Fifth Army; (4) a penetration of the Barbara Line, outer defenses before Cassino; (5) the greatest penetration into enemy territory during the attack of 30-31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead and noteworthy defensive fighting thereafter; (6) the capture of Cisterna di Littoria during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead; (7) one of its battalions made the

first entry of any Allied unit into Rome on 4 June 1944; (8) a rapid establishment of its beachhead on the French Riviera, 15 August 1944; (9) the first observation of and taking under fire of the German convoys destroyed north of Montelimar, France; (10) a principal role in the capture of Besancon, France; (11) outstanding fighting in the Vosges Mountains and the capture of Le Haute Jacques, the "Crossroads of Hell"; (12) a successful crossing of the Meurthe River; (13) the first entry for Third Infantry Division into the province of Alsace and the city of Strasbourg; (14) successful assaults across La Fecht River, Canal de Colmar, and south between the Rhine River and the Rhone-Rhine Canal during the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign; (15) the first entry into Germany for the Third Infantry Division; (16) the greatest penetration into the Siegfried Line during the Third Infantry Division attack of 18 March 1945 and subsequent breaching of the line; (17) a successful crossing of the Rhine River; (18) the first entry into the Adolf Hitler Platz in the inner city of Nürnberg; (19) the first entry into Augsburg; (20) the first entry into the city limits of München; (21) the first entry into Salzburg, Austria; (22) the capture of Berchtesgaden, Germany.

TEN CAMPAIGNS

After the first sections of this volume were printed the War Department in Washington changed the time limitations of some battles and campaigns previously recognized for the United States Army for World War II and added new ones to the list.¹ Under the list the Seventh United States Infantry is credited with having participated in ten campaigns against the enemy in World War II. The ten campaigns are listed in Appendix III.

In this volume the account of the action of the Seventh Infantry for the war just ended was described under titles different from the titles of the ten official campaigns the Regiment is now credited with having participated in because some of the Seventh Infantry actions carried over into two or more of those ten campaigns. Also it was not known that the War Department was to change or add to the list. But regardless as to whether the Regiment is credited with eight or ten campaigns its action consisted of so many days. The Regiment spent more than 400 days in the actual front lines. If the days it was in reserve just behind the front lines and the few days between 4 May 1945 and the date the war is officially timed as being ended in Europe are counted the Regiment spent nearly 500 days in the front line battle areas. Few regiments or divisions spent that much time in the forward areas.

Though the French Moroccan Campaign consisted of only three full days it was crammed full of action. The Regiment made its first amphibious landing during the war, captured Fedala and played a principal role for the land forces in forcing the capitulation of Casablanca.

The Tunisian Campaign was the easiest of them all for the Seventh Infantry because the Regiment was in the battle areas only a few days towards the close of the campaign and did not fire a shot. Seventh Infantrymen consider a battle star for that campaign a gift but when one considers the generosity of the War Department in bestowing battle stars to non-combatant personnel not in the actual battle areas for campaigns he may decide that the Seventh Infantry was entitled to its second battle star for World War II. (The battle areas as determined

¹ GO No. 24, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 4 Mar. '47.

PERIODS OF ACTUAL COMBAT ENGAGED IN BY THE SEVENTH INFANTRY
AND
PERIODS OF NON-COMBAT WITHIN THE FORWARD BATTLE AREAS
DURING WORLD WAR II

Length in Days	Dates	Country	Type of Action or Mission	Opposing Troops
3	8-11 November 1942	French Morocco	Offensive	French Colonial
8	6-13 May 1943	Tunisia	II Corps Reserve	-----
13	10-22 July 1943	Sicily	Offensive	Italian and German
7	1-7 August 1943	Sicily	Division Reserve	-----
10	8-17 August 1943	Sicily	Offensive	Italian and German
14	22 September to 5 October 1943	Italy	Offensive	German
7	6-12 October 1943	Italy	Patrolling and Reconnaissance	German
35	13 October to 16 November 1943	Italy	Offensive	German
67	22 January to 28 March 1944	Italy	Offensive-Defensive	German
15	28 March to 12 April 1944	Italy	VI Corps Reserve	-----
18	13-30 April 1944	Italy	Defensive	German
22	1-22 May 1944	Italy	VI Corps Reserve	-----
13	23 May to 4 June 1944	Italy	Offensive	German
75	15 August to 14 October 1944	France	Offensive	German
21	20 October to 9 November 1944	France	Offensive	German
13	20 November to 2 December 1944	France	Offensive	German
18	3-20 December 1944	France	Defensive	German
30	21 December 1944 to 19 January 1945	France	Defensive	German
16	22 January to 7 February 1945	France	Offensive	German
11	8-18 February 1945	France	Defensive	German
37	15 March to 20 April 1945	France and Germany	Offensive	German
12	23 April to 4 May 1945	Germany and Austria	Offensive	German

Total days in the lines: 465.

by the War Department include much more territory than the Infantryman would include.) Actually the Seventh Infantry suffered two men killed and three wounded, but had earlier sent hundreds of its finest officers and men to reinforce the hard hit divisions of that campaign. Many of the "Cotton Balers" sent to reinforce the then fighting divisions were killed. Because of the training they had received while with the Regiment and because of their sacrifices it may be said that they and the Seventh Infantry contributed much to the successful conclusion of that campaign.

The Sicilian and Naples-Foggia Campaigns were similar for the Seventh Infantry in that they were primarily pursuit actions over rugged, mountainous country. In the first an amphibious assault was made and in the second a crossing of a defended river line was accomplished. The Naples-Foggia was of longer duration and was therefore more costly. For the Seventh Infantry it ended after an attack on the outer defenses before Cassino.

In this volume the actions of the Regiment from 22 January to 4 June 1944 were referred to as belonging to one campaign, the Anzio-Rome. The records show that it was the costliest one of them all for the Seventh Infantry. It consisted of an amphibious landing, an attempted breakthrough from the initial beachhead, defensive warfare on the beachhead, and finally a break-

through and drive into Rome. Though never officially cited for its fighting on the Anzio Beachhead the Seventh Infantry nevertheless was conspicuous and there displayed some of its best fighting during World War II. The roughest four-day period during that campaign, and for the whole war for the Seventh Infantry, was the period from 30 January to 2 February 1944 inclusive when 166 "Cotton Balers" were killed outright and a large number were wounded. February 16, 1944, was a particularly costly day and the period from 29 February to 4 March 1944 was a time of heavy and bitter fighting. Casualties during the breakthrough operations of 23-25 May 1944 were severe. Sharp and costly actions were fought on the way to Rome.

The operations of the Seventh Infantry during the period 15 August-20 December 1944, which occurred in France, were referred to in this volume under the title "From the Riviera to the Rhine". Time limitations of three of the official campaigns fall within that period. The actions of the Regiment from the "Riviera to the Rhine" consumed about the same amount of time as the Anzio-Rome actions but were not quite so costly. The actions were featured by the fourth amphibious assault of the war for the Regiment, pursuit of the enemy through southern France, bitter fighting in the Vosges Mountains, a major river crossing operation, and

another pursuit of the enemy to the Rhine itself.

Members of the Regiment like to refer to the campaign from 20 December 1944 to 18 February 1945 when the Third Infantry Division fought under supreme French command as the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign but such a title is not recognized by the United States War Department. The Colmar actions fall under the official Rhineland Campaign. But by whichever name you wish to call the campaign it should be recognized as a particularly bitter one during its three attack phases for the Third Infantry Division and Seventh Infantry. The "Cotton Baler" Regiment crossed La Fecht River by stealth, crossed the Canal de Colmar in another night operation, and alone opened the Third Division's attack between the Canal du Rhon au Rhin and Rhine River. Nearly all the casualties suffered during that campaign occurred during the three attack phases.

The campaign of the Regiment which started in France on 15 March 1945, carried across much of Germany, and ended in Salzburg, Austria, and Berchtesgaden, Germany, on 4 May 1945, was referred to by the writer as the German Campaign, another unofficial designation. The campaign was characterized by sharp and bitter actions of a few days duration and then rapid pursuit of a beaten enemy. The entry into Germany, breaching of the Siegfried Line, actions in Nürnberg, Augsburg, München, Salzburg, and Berchtesgaden highlighted the campaign.

FOUR MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS

During World War II the Third Infantry Division made four major amphibious assaults and two minor, behind-the-lines landings of battalion sizes. The Seventh Infantry was used for assault purposes in each of the major operations.

The first big assault was the operation against French Morocco when the "Cotton Balers" made their longest voyage to strike at the enemy. The troops embarked in Virginia waters, crossed the Atlantic and debarked off Fedala, French Morocco, to invade Africa. Of the four great overseas operations it was the most confused and poorly executed because in the dark the assault troops were landed at widely separated points by the naval coxswains. Weak and spotty resistance by French colonial troops saved the Seventh Infantry much heavier casualties. But in spite of its great dispersion the Regiment captured its initial objectives. The cost of that operation was heavy enough however. Fifteen members of the Regiment are definitely known to have lost their lives in that operation, and it is almost certain that the number was even greater because at least four "Cotton Balers" are still missing from that action.

An unusual storm delayed the Seventh Infantry assault against Sicily and enemy shore guns hampered the second amphibious landing. Direct hits were scored by the enemy guns on the command vessel of the commanding officer. Twenty-two members of the Regiment lost their lives during the assault operations against Sicily.

The assault landing south of Nettuno, Italy, was the easiest of them all for the Regiment and was virtually unopposed. Ten men nevertheless lost their lives through accidents and because of exploding mines. It was not the landing but what came after it that made the Anzio-Rome Campaign the costliest of them all for the Seventh Infantry.

Contrary to what most people think the invasion of southern France was the costliest one of the four amphibious assaults made by the Seventh Infantry dur-

ing World War II. Fifty-eight members of the Regiment were killed in that operation, which as far as has been determined by the writer, was the greatest number of personnel the Regiment lost killed in a single day during the entire war. Three of the small landing craft struck underwater mines and were destroyed. The underwater mines caused most of the deaths but exploding land mines, machine gun and small arms fire were the direct causes of some of the deaths. The assault against southern France was the only one which the "Cotton Balers" made in daylight. The first three were all made in the dark before dawn.

ASSAULTS AGAINST DEFENDED RIVER LINES

Many rivers and canals were crossed during World War II by the Seventh Infantry, several by major assault operations. The Wadi Mella in French Morocco, the Furiano, Rosmarino and Di Zappulo in Sicily, the Volturno River and Canale Mussolini in Italy, the Durance, Doubs, La Moselle, Meurthe, Le Petite Rhin, La Fecht, L'll Rivers, and the Canal de Colmar in France, the Rhine, Main and blue Danube in Germany, and the Saalach, which forms the boundary between Germany and Austria, were just a few of the many streams, canals and rivers which the "Cotton Balers" crossed during the second great conflict.

The crossing of the Volturno when forty-one members of the Regiment were killed in action, the crossing of the Meurthe when thirty-one "Cotton Balers" were killed, the crossing of La Fecht River by stealth, which led to bitter fighting the next day, the crossing of the Canal de Colmar, and the crossing of the Rhine, when twenty-four Seventh Infantrymen were killed, were river and canal crossing operations which demanded great preparations and were very successful. The troops crossed La Moselle by seizing two bridges before the enemy could destroy them. The Main River was crossed three times. The crossing of the Saalach, just a few days before the termination of the war, was very spectacular and enabled the "Cotton Balers" to capture Berchtesgaden.

SEVENTH INFANTRY FOUGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS

Besides crossing oceans, seas, and rivers, the Seventh Infantry was called on to fight in the mountains and forests. The rugged hills of Sicily, the Appenines of Italy, and the heavily wooded Vosges Mountains of France saw some bitter fighting. The Regiment ended the war in the Bavarian Mountains of Germany and Austria. Probably the two individual peaks which are mentioned most by the "Cotton Balers" as scenes of bitter fighting in World War II are Hill di Marco, the "Million Dollar Ridge" in Sicily, and Mount la Difensa in Italy. Many men lost their lives fighting for those piles of rock.

MANY CITIES WERE ENTERED BY THE "COTTON BALERS"

In World War II the Seventh Infantry added the names of many cities to the list which includes New Orleans and Mexico City. Some of those were Casablanca, Agrigento, Palermo, Messina, Rome, Besancon, Strasbourg, Nürnberg, Augsburg, München, and Salzburg. Bitter fighting took place at the gates of Casablanca and inside Besancon, Strasbourg, and Nürnberg.

BIG LAND OPERATIONS AND BIG BATTLES FOR SMALL PLACES

The Seventh Infantry took part in many big attacks over land. The "breakthrough" from the Anzio Beachhead and the breaching of the Westwall or Siegfried Line were outstanding ones. Cisterna di Littoria was the hardest nut of all for the Third Infantry Division to crack and it was captured by the Seventh Infantry during the "breakthrough" operations.

Many of the toughest and bitterest battles were fought during the war for small and seemingly insignificant places. Cisterna and Liberi in southern Italy, Ponte Rotto and the Windmill on the Anzio Beachhead, and the crossroads of Le Haute Jacques with its three houses located in the Vosges Mountains were a few such places which demanded a heavy toll before being wrenched from the enemy's grasp.

COST OF THE WAR TO THE 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION AND 7th UNITED STATES INFANTRY

At a press conference on 31 May 1945 Acting Secretary of War Patterson reported the casualties suffered by various Infantry divisions in their campaigns against Germany and her European allies. As the war in Europe had finished early that month the figures he gave were only preliminary ones based on reports through 30 April. The final figures probably do not show a change in the position of the Third Infantry Division. His report of 31 May 1945 is here quoted:²

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
3rd Infantry Division	6,240	24,793	3,191	34,224
45th Infantry Division	3,747	19,413	4,403	27,553
36th Infantry Division	3,974	19,052	4,317	27,343
9th Infantry Division	3,834	17,424	1,466	22,724
4th Infantry Division	3,808	16,951	791	21,550

The reader will note that the five divisions listed above as having sustained the most casualties of all the divisions which participated in the campaigns of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Opera-

tions were regular Infantry divisions. There was not a special organization like airborne, paratroop, armored or mountain Infantry divisions included. Nor was there a glamor division included in the list. The first four divisions listed all fought in Africa, Sicily, or Italy, or a combination of those places before fighting in France and Germany. The 3rd Infantry Division was the only one to fight in all those places. The 9th Division fought in Africa and Sicily but then pulled out and went to England to wait for the Normandy invasion. The 45th started its fighting in Sicily and the 36th started its battles in Italy. The 4th Division was the only one of the first five listed that did not fight in the African and Mediterranean campaigns. However it made the Normandy invasion as an assault division and for the number of days the division was in the lines it probably suffered as large a percentage of casualties as did the 3rd Division.

While the Third Infantry Division led all divisions of the several armies in regard to casualties, the Seventh United States Infantry led all units of the division in the same field. The main reason for that was that the Seventh Infantry was used in assault for all major operations of the division when the most casualties were suffered. The other two regiments of the division, the 15th and 30th, had large casualty figures but they do not equal those suffered by the 7th Infantry.³ At least 2130 deaths were suffered by Seventh Infantry personnel. That figure is not final. It may grow larger as information regarding men missing in action becomes known. More than 10,000 casualties were suffered by the Seventh Infantry during World War II, which is a stupendous figure when one considers the normal strength of an Infantry regiment during this last war was 3,040 officers and men. Only a few divisions suffered more than 10,000 casualties. It is not known whether there was a regiment which suffered more casualties than did the Seventh Infantry but it is doubted.

² Bulletin, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, Wash., D. C., Vol. 2, No. 5, May '45.

³ Battle casualties of the 30th Infantry were 1876 killed, 644 missing, 5788 wounded or a total of 8308. Prohme, "Hist. of the 30th Inf. Regt., World War II", Inf. Journal Press, '47, p. 387.

WORLD WAR II CASUALTY TABLE FOR THE SEVENTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY

Campaigns ¹	KIA ²	DOW ³	DOI ⁴	MIA ⁵	SWA ⁶	LWA ⁷	POW ⁸	SIA ⁹	LIA ¹⁰	Totals
French Moroccan (8-11 Nov. 1942)	46	3	0	4	79	66	0	0	0	198
Tunisian (6-13 May 1943)	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Sicilian (10 July-17 Aug. 1943)	120	29	2	28	338	156	11	8	0	692
Southern Italy (22 Sept.-17 Nov. 1943)	248	29	1	33	151	521	41	2	67	1,093
Anzio-Rome (22 Jan.-4 June 1944)	657	65	6	205	687	1,247	258	19	178	3,322
From the Riviera to the Rhine (15 Aug.-20 Dec. 1944)	470	42	7	143	535	1,342	87	4	98	2,728
Colmar Pocket (21 Dec. 1944-18 Feb. 1945)	173	25	1	38	165	483	23	4	49	961
German (15 Mar.-4 May 1945)	167	12	5	17	173	589	222	1	38	1,224
Between campaigns or after termination of war in Europe	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Totals	1,883	205	43	468	2,128	4,407	642	38	430	10,244

¹ Dates indicate the first and last days that the 7th Infantry participated in the respective campaigns. ² Killed in action. ³ Died of wounds. ⁴ Died of injuries. ⁵ Missing in action. ⁶ Seriously wounded in action. ⁷ Lightly wounded in action. ⁸ Prisoners of war. ⁹ Seriously injured in action. ¹⁰ Lightly injured in action.

Of the units comprising the Seventh Infantry the rifle companies were hardest hit because of their forward positions. The heavy weapons companies were next in line for most casualties sustained and were followed by the command groups. The safest place to be in the Regiment was in Service Company.

Over three-fourths of the deaths suffered by Seventh Infantrymen during the war were suffered by Privates and Privates First Class. Of the officers who died over 80% were Second and First Lieutenants.

A study of the table showing the running tally of deaths to Seventh Infantry personnel will also tell the days when the Regiment was most heavily engaged.

An attempt was made to compile a table which would show the casualties for Regimental Combat Team 7 but due to the rapid breakup of the team after 4 May 1945, the redeployment of the personnel, and the demobilization of many of the units, that was not possible. The necessary figures could not be secured from the War Department in time to be included in this volume.

The Seventh Infantry is greatly indebted to the supporting and attached combat and service units which rendered heroic and untiring efforts to support and serve the Regiment during World War II combat. The many accomplishments of the Regiment could not have been attained without the loyal and efficient support of those units.

Nine officers and 52 enlisted men of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, and 25 enlisted men of Company "A", 10th Engineers, are definitely known to have sacrificed their lives during the war just ended. Their names are listed with the glorious dead. Many men from those units were wounded but the numbers are not known. Heavier casualties in killed and wounded were suffered by Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the Detachment, 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, and the various chemical mortar units which supported the Regiment, but the numbers and names are not known.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY UNITS¹

Units	Men	Officers	Total
Rifle Companies			
Company "A"	183	15	198
Company "B"	138	6	144
Company "C"	177	10	187
Company "E"	210	5	215
Company "F"	173	6	179
Company "G"	160	5	165
Company "I"	147	7	154
Company "K"	176	11	187
Company "L"	167	9	176
Heavy Weapons Companies			
Company "D"	94	4	98
Company "H"	68	4	72
Company "M"	84	9	93
Headquarters Groups			
First Battalion	57	7	64
Second Battalion	39	2	41
Third Battalion	37	2	39
Regimental ²	29	7	36
Other Units			
Medical Detachment	51	0	51
Anti-Tank Company	15	4	19
Cannon Company	8	2	10
Service Company	3	0	3
Totals	2016	115	2131

¹ Includes those known to have been killed or died of wounds received in action and died of injuries but does not include those who were listed as missing in action and after a year were declared dead by the War Department. Also table does not include all who may have died of wounds received because when men were wounded and evacuated they were officially transferred from the Regiment. In cases where seriously wounded personnel died quite some time after being evacuated no records of their deaths were received by the 7th Infantry.

² Regimental Headquarters Group includes the Regimental Field and Staff, the Regimental Battle Patrol and Regimental Headquarters Company.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY GRADE OR RANK

Grades	Totals
Privates	894
Privates First Class	747
Technicians Fifth Grade	32
Corporals	59
Technicians Fourth Grade	8
Sergeants	145
Staff Sergeants	100
Technical Sergeants	21
Master Sergeants	1
First Sergeants	9
Second Lieutenants	48
First Lieutenants	49
Captains	16
Lieutenant Colonels	2
Totals	2131

RUNNING TALLY OF DEATHS TO SEVENTH INFANTRY PERSONNEL DURING WORLD WAR II

FRENCH MOROCCAN CAMPAIGN		
Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
8 Nov. '42	15	African Invasion
9 Nov. '42	2	African Invasion
10 Nov. '42	26	Attack on Casablanca
11 Nov. '42	3	Attack on Casablanca
12 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
14 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
23 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
29 Dec. '42	1	Died of wounds
30 Dec. '42	1	Died of wounds
25 Feb. '43	1	Died of injuries
18 April '43	2	Died of injuries

TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN		
Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
12 May '43	1	Reserve
13 May '43	1	Reserve
30 May '43	1	Died of injuries
27 June '43	1	Died of injuries

SICILIAN CAMPAIGN		
Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
10 July '43	22	Invasion
13 July '43	2	Pursuit action
16 July '43	7	Pursuit action
20 July '43	1	Pursuit action
21 July '43	1	Pursuit action
3 Aug. '43	1	Pursuit action
8 Aug. '43	4	Pursuit action
9 Aug. '43	31	Fight for Hill di Marco
10 Aug. '43	39	Fight for Hill di Marco
11 Aug. '43	23	Fight for Hill di Marco
12 Aug. '43	4	Pursuit action
13 Aug. '43	3	Pursuit action
15 Aug. '43	8	Pursuit action
16 Aug. '43	3	Pursuit action
17 Aug. '43	2	Pursuit action
19 Aug. '43	1	Pursuit action
3 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action

NAPLES FOGGIA OR SOUTHERN ITALY CAMPAIGN		
Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
22 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action
24 Sept. '43	8	Pursuit action
26 Sept. '43	3	Pursuit action
27 Sept. '43	2	Pursuit action

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death	Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
28 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action	18 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
29 Sept. '43	3	Pursuit action	21 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
30 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action	22 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
2 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	23 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
3 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	24 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
5 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	25 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
7 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	26 Mar. '44	2	Defensive warfare
8 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	13 April '44	2	Defensive warfare
10 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	14 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
12 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	17 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
13 Oct. '43	41	Volturno Crossing	18 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
14 Oct. '43	7	Pursuit action	19 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
15 Oct. '43	14	Enemy counterattacks	20 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
16 Oct. '43	47	Enemy counterattacks	21 April '44	5	Defensive warfare
17 Oct. '43	5	Pursuit action	22 April '44	3	Defensive warfare
18 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	23 April '44	4	Defensive warfare
19 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	24 April '44	7	Defensive warfare
20 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	25 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
21 Oct. '43	6	Pursuit action	26 April '44	2	Defensive warfare
22 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	28 April '44	3	Defensive warfare
23 Oct. '43	7	Pursuit action	5 May '44	1	Defensive warfare
24 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	12 May '44	1	Defensive warfare
26 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	22 May '44	2	Defensive warfare
27 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	23 May '44	54	Breakthrough operations
28 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	24 May '44	38	Breakthrough operations
29 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	25 May '44	24	Breakthrough operations
1 Nov. '43	5	Pursuit action	26 May '44	6	Push to Rome
2 Nov. '43	2	Pursuit action	27 May '44	10	Push to Rome
3 Nov. '43	10	Attack on Barbara Line	28 May '44	18	Push to Rome
4 Nov. '43	11	Attack on Barbara Line	29 May '44	6	Push to Rome
5 Nov. '43	12	Attack on Barbara Line	30 May '44	6	Push to Rome
6 Nov. '43	18	Attack on Barbara Line	31 May '44	18	Push to Rome
7 Nov. '43	3	Attack on Barbara Line	1 June '44	24	Push to Rome
8 Nov. '43	6	Attack on Barbara Line	2 June '44	7	Push to Rome
9 Nov. '43	6	Attack on Barbara Line	3 June '44	18	Push to Rome
11 Nov. '43	12	Attack on Barbara Line	4 June '44	6	Push to Rome
13 Nov. '43	2	Attack on Barbara Line	5 June '44	2	Died of wounds
14 Nov. '43	1	Attack on Barbara Line	7 June '44	2	Died of wounds
16 Nov. '43	7	Attack on Barbara Line	17 June '44	1	Died of wounds
1 Dec. '43	1	Died of wounds	19 June '44	1	Died of wounds
25 Dec. '43	1	Died of wounds	21 June '44	1	Died of wounds

ANZIO-ROME CAMPAIGN

22 Jan. '44	10	Nettuno Landing
23 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
26 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
27 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
28 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
30 Jan. '44	42	Attack for Cisterna di Littoria
31 Jan. '44	53	Major German counterattack
1 Feb. '44	16	Major German counterattack
2 Feb. '44	54	Major German counterattack
3 Feb. '44	8	Defensive warfare
4 Feb. '44	3	Defensive warfare
5 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
6 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
7 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
8 Feb. '44	5	Defensive warfare
10 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
11 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
13 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
14 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
16 Feb. '44	28	Major German counterattack
17 Feb. '44	5	Defensive warfare
18 Feb. '44	3	Defensive warfare
19 Feb. '44	9	Defensive warfare
20 Feb. '44	6	Defensive warfare
21 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
22 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
23 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
24 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
25 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
26 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
29 Feb. '44	34	Major German counterattack
1 Mar. '44	24	Major German counterattack
2 Mar. '44	11	Major German counterattack
3 Mar. '44	20	Major German counterattack
4 Mar. '44	27	Major German counterattack
5 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
6 Mar. '44	9	Defensive warfare
7 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
8 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
9 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
11 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
12 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
13 Mar. '44	5	Defensive warfare
14 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
16 Mar. '44	2	Defensive warfare

FROM THE RIVIERA TO THE RHINE

15 Aug. '44	58	Invasion
16 Aug. '44	5	Pursuit action
17 Aug. '44	3	Pursuit action
18 Aug. '44	5	Pursuit action
19 Aug. '44	1	Pursuit action
21 Aug. '44	2	Pursuit action
22 Aug. '44	1	Pursuit action
23 Aug. '44	3	Pursuit action
28 Aug. '44	4	Pursuit action
29 Aug. '44	7	Pursuit action
2 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
4 Sept. '44	2	Pursuit action
5 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
6 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
7 Sept. '44	6	Pursuit action
9 Sept. '44	5	Pursuit action
10 Sept. '44	5	Pursuit action
11 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
12 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
13 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
14 Sept. '44	11	Pursuit action
15 Sept. '44	20	Fight for Vy-les-Lure
16 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
18 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
20 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
21 Sept. '44	6	Pursuit action
22 Sept. '44	8	Pursuit action
24 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
25 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
26 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
27 Sept. '44	10	Fight for Rupt-sur-Moselle and
28 Sept. '44	3	Ferdupt
29 Sept. '44	7	Fight for Rupt-sur-Moselle and
30 Sept. '44	13	Ferdupt
1 Oct. '44	7	Pursuit action
3 Oct. '44	1	Pursuit action
4 Oct. '44	3	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
5 Oct. '44	9	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
6 Oct. '44	15	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
7 Oct. '44	11	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
8 Oct. '44	6	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
9 Oct. '44	3	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
10 Oct. '44	2	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
11 Oct. '44	1	Fight for Vagny and Sapois
13 Oct. '44	1	Defensive warfare

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
14 Oct. '44	2	Defensive warfare
15 Oct. '44	1	Defensive warfare
20 Oct. '44	7	Pursuit action
21 Oct. '44	10	Pursuit action
22 Oct. '44	14	Pursuit action
23 Oct. '44	2	Pursuit action
24 Oct. '44	2	Pursuit action
25 Oct. '44	11	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
26 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
27 Oct. '44	5	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
28 Oct. '44	5	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
29 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
30 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley
31 Oct. '44	11	Attack on Le Haute Jacques
1 Nov. '44	6	Attack on Le Haute Jacques
2 Nov. '44	6	Attack on Le Haute Jacques
3 Nov. '44	20	Attack on Le Haute Jacques
4 Nov. '44	16	Attack on Le Haute Jacques
5 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action
6 Nov. '44	3	Pursuit action
7 Nov. '44	2	Pursuit action
8 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action
9 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action
10 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare
11 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare
13 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare
20 Nov. '44	31	Meurthe Crossing
21 Nov. '44	8	Pursuit action
22 Nov. '44	9	Pursuit action
23 Nov. '44	8	Pursuit action
24 Nov. '44	4	Pursuit action
29 Nov. '44	2	Pursuit action
30 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action
1 Dec. '44	9	Apartment House Battle
2 Dec. '44	1	Apartment House Battle
8 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine
9 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine
11 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine
20 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine

COLMAR POCKET CAMPAIGN

24 Dec. '44	1	Defensive warfare
26 Dec. '44	1	Defensive warfare
28 Dec. '44	3	Defensive warfare
31 Dec. '44	2	Defensive warfare
1 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
2 Jan. '45	3	Defensive warfare
4 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
5 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
6 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
8 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
9 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
14 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
15 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
16 Jan. '45	7	Raid in Force
17 Jan. '45	3	Defensive warfare
18 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
20 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
22 Jan. '45	5	La Fecht Crossing
23 Jan. '45	26	First Attack
24 Jan. '45	10	First Attack
25 Jan. '45	23	First Attack
26 Jan. '45	6	First Attack
27 Jan. '45	5	First Attack
29 Jan. '45	5	Crossing of Canal de Colmar
30 Jan. '45	20	Second Attack
31 Jan. '45	8	Second Attack
1 Feb. '45	4	Second Attack
3 Feb. '45	27	Third Attack
4 Feb. '45	4	Third Attack
5 Feb. '45	14	Third Attack
6 Feb. '45	4	Third Attack
9 Feb. '45	1	Watch on the Rhine
17 Feb. '45	2	Watch on the Rhine
18 Feb. '45	1	Watch on the Rhine

GERMAN CAMPAIGN

12 Mar. '45	2	Drowning accident
14 Mar. '45	2	Entry into Germany
15 Mar. '45	35	Entry into Germany
16 Mar. '45	7	Pursuit action
17 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
18 Mar. '45	19	Siegfried Line Attack
19 Mar. '45	15	Siegfried Line Attack
20 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
21 Mar. '45	3	Pursuit action
24 Mar. '45	1	Pursuit action

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
26 Mar. '45	24	Rhine Crossing
27 Mar. '45	6	Pursuit action
28 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
29 Mar. '45	1	Pursuit action
31 Mar. '45	7	Pursuit action
2 April '45	4	Pursuit action
5 April '45	4	Pursuit action
6 April '45	2	Pursuit action
8 April '45	6	Pursuit action
9 April '45	4	Pursuit action
10 April '45	2	Pursuit action
11 April '45	2	Pursuit action
12 April '45	1	Pursuit action
14 April '45	1	Pursuit action
15 April '45	1	Pursuit action
16 April '45	6	Battle of Nurnberg
17 April '45	2	Battle of Nurnberg
18 April '45	6	Battle of Nurnberg
19 April '45	4	Battle of Nurnberg
20 April '45	2	Battle of Nurnberg
21 April '45	1	Guarding mission
22 April '45	1	Guarding mission
26 April '45	2	Pursuit action
27 April '45	2	Pursuit action
29 April '45	1	Pursuit action
3 May '45	2	Pursuit action
4 May '45	1	Capture of Salzburg and Berchtesgaden
12 May '45	1	Died of injuries
4 June '45	1	Died of injuries
13 June '45	1	Died of wounds
14 July '45	2	Died of injuries
30 July '45	2	Died of injuries
7 Aug. '45	1	Died of injuries
17 Sept. '45	1	Died of injuries
Total	2131	

SEVENTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY WAS AN ALL-AMERICAN REGIMENT

In times past the Seventh Infantry has been thought of as a "southern regiment" because of its nickname of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Also it has been thought of as a "western regiment" because during the period between the two world wars it was stationed for the most part in the western parts of the country. The Regiment has been in continuous Federal service since 1808 and served in the same service from 1798 to 1800. It has always been All-American and especially was that so during the great war just ended. Men from every State of the Union and the District of Columbia served with the Regiment in World War II and some from each state and the district lost their lives.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY STATES OF THE UNION FROM WHICH THEY CAME

States	Totals
New York	243
Pennsylvania	210
Ohio	135
Illinois	132
Massachusetts	106
Michigan	92
New Jersey	86
California	74
Kentucky	71
Indiana	61
North Carolina	59
Tennessee	52
Texas	50
Virginia	49
Wisconsin	48
Alabama	44
West Virginia	42
Minnesota	38
Missouri	36
Maryland	34
Washington	34
Georgia	32

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death	Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
Connecticut	31		Montana	12	
Arkansas	26		South Dakota	12	
Florida	23		District of Columbia	10	
South Carolina	23		Louisiana	10	
Kansas	21		Idaho	8	
Oklahoma	21		Utah	8	
Iowa	20		New Mexico	7	
Nebraska	20		Vermont	6	
Oregon	19		Arizona	5	
Maine	18		Delaware	5	
Colorado	17		Nevada	5	
North Dakota	16		Wyoming	3	
Mississippi	15		Address Unknown	15	
Rhode Island	14				
New Hampshire	13				
			Totals	2131	



A few of the officers and men who served with the Regiment during World War II are shown above. Top row, left to right: Maj. Carroll A. Plaquet; S-4, 2d Bn., 18 Nov. 1940 to 15 Nov. 1941; C. O. Sv. Co., 15 Nov. 1941 to June 1942; S-1, 7th Inf., 3 to 8 Aug. 1942; Ex. O., 3d Bn., 8 Aug. 1942 to 4 Mar. 1943; C. O. 3d Bn., 4 Mar. to 31 May 1943; Ex. O., 3d Bn., 1 Sept. to 23 Oct. 1943. 1 Lt. (later Capt.) Irving R. Wyeth; Pl. Ldr., Co. "A", 30 July to 1 Sept. 1942; Pl. Ldr., Co. "D", 1 Sept. to 21 Dec. 1942; S-2, 1st Bn., 21 Dec. 1942 to 26 Aug. 1943; C. O. Co. "C", 26 Aug. to 26 Dec. 1943 when hospitalized; C. O. Co. "B", 10 to 14 Mar. 1944 when W. I. A.; Ass't S-3, 7th Inf., 21 June to 1 Aug. 1944; S-3, 7th Inf., 1 Aug. to 15 Sept. 1944. Lt. Col. James E. Breth, Regt'l Ex. O., 7 to 11 Jan. 1944. Lt. Col. Victor E. Sinclair, Regt'l Ex. O., 17 June to 2 Sept. 1944. Bottom row, left to right: 1 Lt. Nathan N. White, Liaison O., Regt'l F. & S. T/5 Don Cheperka, S-3 Sect., & Map Maker. Pfc. John F. Fitterer, Co. "I" and Map Maker. Pfc. Raymond J. Thornburg, Co. "B".

IN MEMORIAM

Glorious Dead of the Seventh United States Infantry for World War II

KILLED IN ACTION

French Moroccan and Tunisian Campaign

8 NOVEMBER 1942

BORGMANN, John W., Pfc., 35118717, Med. Det., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 CHAN, John J., Pvt., 39084884, Co. "K", Sacramento, California.
 CLAXTON, John H., Pvt., 35011078, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
 FALTER, Clement M., 1st Lt., 0-439177, Chaplain, Delphas, Ohio.
 FLEGE, Emil W., Pfc., 35118693, Med. Det., Reading, Ohio.
 GETTYS, Wilburn G., Pvt., 14073995, Co. "M", Concord, North Carolina.
 GONA, Richard, Pfc., 35010621, Co. "F", Cleveland, Ohio.
 JACKSON, Oral B., Sgt., 19011404, Co. "A", Jerome, Idaho.
 LEAHY, Patrick E., Pfc., 6577942, Co. "M", San Francisco, California.
 MARSHALL, William H., Pvt., 35201878, Co. "A", Dewood, West Virginia.
 McWILLIAMS, Burnham E., Pfc., 35101351, Co. "M", Louisville, Kentucky.
 SANDUSKY, Joseph G., Pvt., 7032906, Co. "M", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 STEPHENS, John R., Pfc., 37176287, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Orange, Texas.
 TILLEY, William M., 2nd Lt., 0-1287789, Co. "C", Garner, Texas.
 TROY, Thomas M., Pvt., 38117001, Med. Det., Garner, Texas.

9 NOVEMBER 1942

LEACH, Paul E., Cpl., 6957109, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kansas City, Kansas.
 WILSON, Roy W., Pfc., 38118577, Co. "C", Sardinia, Ohio.

10 NOVEMBER 1942

BOOK, Eugene O., Pvt., 17003768, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 BRAY, William H., Pfc., 18031830, Co. "L", Tahleah, Oklahoma.
 BRUNO, Alfred T., Pfc., 35010733, Co. "E", East Palestine, Ohio.
 BUCKHOLT, Laverne M., Pvt., 37191571, Regtl. Hqrs. Co.
 CASTEEL, John C., Capt., 0-305675, Co. "F", Princeton, Missouri.
 CHEEVER, Joseph E., 1st Lt., 0-1293346, Co. "E", Provo, Utah.
 EDMARK, Percy G., Pfc., 37030236, Co. "E", Hibbing, Minnesota.
 FELICKO, John, Cpl., 35010805, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
 GALL, Harry, Pvt., 19016472, Co. "L", Tacoma, Washington.
 GONZALEZ, Pedro, Cpl., 6216202, Co. "E", Abilene, Texas.
 JACKSON, Henry T., Pfc., 19010264, Co. "E", Salt Lake City, Utah.
 KLEMM, Robert O., Pvt., 36509569, Co. "E", Bay City, Indiana.
 KURDELL, Joseph G., Cpl., 6920462, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 LUTTRELL, Walter C., Pfc., 35101263, Co. "L", Hustonsville, Kentucky.
 MARININ, Michael R., Pfc., 7031328, Co. "F", Crystal Falls, Michigan.
 MENTER, John R., Pvt., 19018453, Co. "B", Glendive, Montana.
 NADEL, Arnold, Pvt., 39161203, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
 NIELSEN, Robert K., Pfc., 19014713, Co. "E", Nappa, Idaho.
 ORR, Leonard W., Pfc., 19014073, Co. "E", Crawford, Nebraska.
 PENNISI, Joseph S., Pvt., 32353152, Co. "F", Newburgh, New York.
 RITTENHOUSE, Stanley, Pfc., 35118797, Co. "L", Bainbridge, Ohio.
 ROBERTS, Laverne F., Pvt., 36302297, Co. "M", Alden, Illinois.
 SCHMER, Wayne D., Sgt., 6954176, Co. "F", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
 TREDWAY, Herman L., Cpl., 35153438, Co. "G", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 VESTAL, Edwin J., Pfc., 18017627, Co. "E", Randall, Kansas.
 WETZEL, Orville D., Pfc., 37014222, Co. "E", Tribune, Kansas.

11 NOVEMBER 1942

CONSTABLE, Robert L., Pfc., 35153454, Co. "E", Hartford City, Indiana.
 KINNEAR, Robert M. O., Sgt., 17001638, Co. "C", WHITE, Alvin C., Sgt., Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Vale, Oregon.

12 NOVEMBER 1942

BAILEY, Theodore, Pvt., 35010683, Co. "E", Alliance, Ohio.

14 NOVEMBER 1942

CORTEZ, Louis, Pfc., 18017625, Co. "G", Flagstaff, Arizona.

23 NOVEMBER 1942

HINKLEY, Woodrow D., Pvt., 19012628, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Eureka, California.

12 MAY 1943

MOORE, Marion E., Pvt., 19046087, Co. "B", Los Angeles, California.

13 MAY 1943

BARTLETT, Andrew F., Pfc., 34125897, Co. "E", Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Sicilian Campaign

10 JULY 1943

AVALLONE, Anthony V., Pvt., 32347600, Co. "C", New York, New York.
 BOYD, James A., Capt., 0-392508, Co. "E", Huron, South Dakota.
 BARATSOS, Harry A., Pvt., 36048761, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 CULLOP, Roy W., Pvt., 36049567, Co. "D", East Saint Louis, Illinois.
 DE WINTER, Frank J., Pfc., 36185049, Co. "C", Norway, Michigan.
 FRENCH, James H., Sgt., 19016467, Co. "C", Tacoma, Washington.
 HARMON, J. V., Cpl., 35118674, Co. "C", Lockland, Ohio.
 HARRIS, Woodward, Pvt., 34288473, Co. "G", Norfolk, Virginia.
 HELT, Paul A., Pfc., 13090375, Co. "C", Lynkens, Pennsylvania.
 JOHNSON, William, Jr., Pfc., 7032821, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 KEHLER, Harry G., Pvt., 12086180, Co. "C", Egg Harbor City, New Jersey.
 KEY, Jack D., Pvt., 34520249, Co. "C", Moneville, Tennessee.
 KINIRY, Edward J., Pvt., 31109355, Co. "C", Northwale, North Carolina.
 LYONS, Ballard J., Pfc., 6559568, Co. "C", Woodway, Virginia.
 McNAMARA, Timothy J., Pvt., 12181216, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 MITCHELL, Elmo, Pfc., 19012425, Co. "C", Atkins, Oklahoma.
 SCHATZ, Louis, Pvt., 32621665, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 SHANNON, Glen L., Pvt., 6560740, Co. "G", North Hollywood, California.
 SLAVICK, Joseph A., Pvt., 33356985, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hazelton, Pennsylvania.
 SOTO, Hector M., Pvt., 12087933, Co. "D", New York, New York.
 TAYLOR, Bruce K., Pvt., 33243633, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Nork Haven, Pennsylvania.
 WALTERS, Paul M., Pfc., 35330525, Co. "C", Lakeville, Indiana.

13 JULY 1943

AUWARTER, Henry D., Pvt., 37443597, Co. "C", Fort Madison, Iowa.
 BROWN, James A., S/Sgt., 35153621, Co. "D", Rolling Prairie, Indiana.

16 JULY 1943

ALDER, Arthur H., T/5, 33202127, Med. Det., Baltimore, Maryland.
 BAILLARGEON, Maurice, Pvt., 32371095, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Waterford, New York.
 BATEMAN, Edward A., Pfc., 33202692, Co. "A", Swanton, Maryland.
 FORBES, Sanford M., Sgt., 7033596, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 PERRY, Vernon C., T/5, 37036040, Co. "C", Sac City, Iowa.
 WAGNER, Herman E., Capt., 0-17300, Co. "C", Seattle, Washington.
 WILLIAMS, John O., Lt.-Col., 0-17300, RF and S., San Antonio, Texas.

20 JULY 1943

BARNES, Lloyd C., S/Sgt., 6570082, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Portland, Oregon.

8 AUGUST 1943

HOFFMEISTER, Walter R., Pvt., 32622970, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
 McLAIN, Pearl, Pvt., 38321449, Co. "G", Ramona, Oklahoma.
 ROBBINS, Alvin J., Pvt., 39688081, Co. "F", Richmond, California.
 SCHUSTER, Joseph Jr., Pfc., 12048874, Co. "F", Trenton, New Jersey.

9 AUGUST 1943

AUSTRICK, Albert B., Pvt., 33317666, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 BOSAK, Michael, Cpl., 35010964, Co. "G", Mingo Junction, Ohio.
 BUNTING, Herbert J., Pfc., 35201931, Co. "A", Batesville, Ohio.
 CAMP, George, Pfc., 35010944, Co. "G", Alliance, Ohio.
 CULP, Adam, Pfc., 35118803, Co. "L", Sciotoville, Ohio.
 DUBIAK, Norman A., Pfc., 35010858, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.
 DUNKELBERGER, Daniel L., 1st Lt., 0-1294634, Co. "L", Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.
 FISHER, Allan R., Pfc., 17013430, Co. "H", Ola, Arkansas.
 FOWLER, Herman G., Sgt., 6934448, Co. "L", Ward, Arkansas.
 GRECO, Thomas J., Pvt., 33269747, Co. "I", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 GREENWOOD, John F., Pfc., 16005411, Co. "A", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 GREIDER, Harold L., Pvt., 35346226, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Piercesin, Indiana.
 HAINES, Bogan, Pfc., 34175315, Co. "L", Laurinburg, North Carolina.
 HESSER, Norman C., Pvt., 33256280, Co. "G", Mattowana, Pennsylvania.
 HLINKA, Joseph, Pvt., 13152525, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 KEELER, Marcus E., Pfc., 19016409, Co. "A", Port Orchard, Washington.
 KRUEGER, Paul A., Pfc., 37180675, Co. "I", St. Louis, Missouri.
 LONG, Theodore W., Pvt., 33344519, Co. "L", Lewisville, Pennsylvania.
 MALZ, Edward H., Pvt., 35532464, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Euclid, Ohio.
 MILLER, Louis H., Pfc., 35118667, Co. "I", Cincinnati, Ohio.
 NEIDLINGER, George R., Sgt., 35011101, Co. "L", Akron, Ohio.
 NEWMAN, Robert C., Pvt., 35504856, Co. "I", Pellville, Kentucky.
 PORTER, Russell H., Pfc., 35201964, Co. "I", South Shore, Kentucky.
 STEWART, Wayne S., Pvt., 34490770, Co. "F", Bristol, Tennessee.
 SUREAN, Lyle N., Pfc., 19071529, Co. "F", Havre, Montana.
 SWANK, Robert E., Pvt., 37236429, Co. "L", Ottawa, Kansas.
 THOMPSON, Robert R., Pfc., 35118650, Co. "K", Areamum, Ohio.
 TROUSIL, John, Pvt., 36280351, Co. "F", Kewanee, Wisconsin.
 VOLLMAR, Chester G., Pvt., 37127951, Co. "B", Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
 WAZNY, Casimir P., Pvt., 36354952, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
 WEST, Coolidge T., Pvt., 34437195, Co. "G", Lenoir, North Carolina.

10 AUGUST 1943

BAGGS, Robert W., Pfc., 32538834, Co. "K", Queens Village, New York.
 BRAY, Herman E., Pvt., 35460330, Co. "A", Crummes, Kentucky.
 CLEVINGER, Benjamin W., Jr., Sgt., 6579028, Co. "H", Portland, Oregon.
 CLYBURN, Luther J., Pfc., 35346429, Co. "A", Ligonier, Indiana.
 CORSARO, James, Pvt., 35518891, Co. "A", Cleveland, Ohio.
 CRAWFORD, Vincent G., Pvt., 17006056, Co. "F", Bismarck, North Dakota.
 D'ARDIA, Fred R., Pfc., 12165610, Co. "B", Paterson, New Jersey.
 DAVIS, Eugene A., Pvt., 6934902, Co. "B", Kansas City, Missouri.
 DUFFY, Daniel T., Cpl., 35010397, Co. "B", Cleveland, Ohio.

FELTNER, Herman, Pfc., 35471196, Co. "B", Busy, Kentucky.
 FOOTE, Glenn S., S/Sgt., 6575615, Co. "C", Princeton, Minnesota.
 FREEMAN, Daniel E., Pvt., 17010901, Co. "B", Dighton, Kansas.
 GEHMAN, Webster, Pfc., 33233288, Co. "B", Bowersville, Pennsylvania.
 GREENWOOD, Percy J., Pfc., 36127875, Co. "C", Bay City, Michigan.
 GUNKEL, Raymond B., Pvt., 35668599, Co. "E", Melbourne, Kentucky.
 HALLETT, Linn W., Jr., Pvt., 33356997, Co. "F", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 HAMMON, Frank E., Pfc., 16146718, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
 HEYLMUN, Leroy J., Pvt., 35741733, Co. "B", Piedmont, West Virginia.
 HOLMES, Richard B., Pvt., 13153213, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HUMPHREY, Roy W., Pvt., 15102940, Co. "G", Miami, Florida.
 JONES, Roy E., Pfc., 35668202, Co. "K", Norwood, Ohio.
 KATZ, Herman, Pvt., 32307194, Med. Det., Newark, New York.
 LANDRUS, Raymond J., Pvt., 20700565, Co. "L", St. Cloud, Minnesota.
 LARSON, Hans L., S/Sgt., 17006107, Sv. Co., Watford City, North Dakota.
 MARONE, Michael J., Pfc., 17001145, Co. "D", Owatonna, Minnesota.
 MILLS, Earl W., Sgt., 17012664, Co. "C", Clear Lake, South Dakota.
 MORTON, James R., Sgt., 35010928, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Medina, Ohio.
 MURPHY, Paul C., 1st Lt., 0-1295254, Co. "I", Fairmont, Minnesota.
 OLVIS, Harvey E., S/Sgt., 35118783, Co. "K", Dayton, Ohio.
 PATTERSON, Orville J., Pfc., 35518801, Co. "M", Cleveland, Ohio.
 PIERCE, Frank C., Pvt., 15117737, Co. "K", Dayton, Ohio.
 PUTNAM, John E., 1st Lt., 0-419404, Co. "M", Seattle, Washington.
 RICHMOND, Burl G., Pvt., 35637131, Co. "B", Pluto, West Virginia.
 SHORT, Harlan, Pfc., 35101242, Co. "L", Vernon, Indiana.
 SHOWERS, Leroy B., Pfc., 33233247, Co. "A", Stevens, Pennsylvania.
 TERRY, Wirt B., Pfc., 38116639, Co. "B", Savoy, Texas.
 TODESCO, Pasquale A., Pvt., 31135255, Co. "B", Boston, Massachusetts.
 WENDT, Herman A., Pvt., 6579519, Med. Det., Fargo, North Dakota.
 WYATT, Henry J., Jr., Pfc., 6956057, Co. "M", Franklin, Arizona.

11 AUGUST 1943

BARAN, Thomas S., Pfc., 33246528, Co. "B", Black Lick, Pennsylvania.
 BOONE, Carl W., S/Sgt., 18016505, Co. "K", Lubbock, Texas.
 COX, Kenneth R., T/4, 6825259, Co. "B", Omaha, Nebraska.
 DINGUS, Henry M., Pfc., 34571432, Co. "E", Broxton, Georgia.
 FOURNIER, Leon W., Pfc., 31078388, Co. "I", Lowell, Massachusetts.
 HAUTALA, Arne J., Pfc., 31133820, Co. "F", Rockport, Massachusetts.
 HODGE, Frank L., Pvt., 34437800, Co. "F", Rutherford, North Carolina.
 LOVELL, William R., Pvt., 35637114, Co. "B", Spanishburg, West Virginia.
 LYON, James A., Pfc., 16072239, Co. "I", Peoria, Illinois.
 MALONE, Leo J., Pvt., 37207035, Co. "H", Oakley, Kansas.
 MEDNICK, Milton, Pfc., 12085965, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Edgemore, Long Island, New York.
 MINTER, Earnest C., Pvt., 37368416, Co. "M", Bates City, Missouri.
 MOORE, Frank C., Pvt., 34396458, Co. "D", Grant, Alabama.
 MURDOCK, David N., 1st Lt., 0-1287749, Co. "I", Temple, Arizona.
 NELSON, Arnold G., Cpl., 37036892, Co. "B", Beresford, South Dakota.
 PEARSON, Ernest E., 1st Sgt., 6349233, Co. "B", North Port, Alabama.
 POFF, Henry E., Pvt., 36445820, Med. Det., Bradford, Illinois.
 RICHMOND, Carson D., Pvt., 35636975, Co. "B", Brighton, West Virginia.
 SASSO, Frank, Pfc., 33232658, Co. "E", Reading, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, John W., Pvt., 12172132, Co. "E", Rome, New York.
 ST. CYR, George, Pvt., 31186644, Co. "I", Greenfield, Massachusetts.
 WATTS, Franklin L., Pvt., 34316114, Co. "I", Nakina, North Carolina.
 WELINGHAM, Alan H., Cpl., 39009909, Co. "B", Oakland, California.

12 AUGUST 1943

MEININGER, Walter W., 2nd Lt., 0-1294701, Co. "B", Louisville, Kentucky.
 MORGAN, James C., Sgt., 17011783, Co. "H", Tacoma, Washington.
 SIMON, Harold J., Pvt., 35566670, Co. "C", Detroit, Michigan.
 WIMSETT, Forrest L., Pfc., 19049321, Co. "I", Georgetown, Illinois.

13 AUGUST 1943

BURRGESS, William A., Pfc., 36049420, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 JORDAN, Roy W., Pfc., 33215479, Co. "K", Roanok, Virginia.
 SABELIC, Mike, Pvt., 33396933, Co. "B", Midland, Pennsylvania.

15 AUGUST 1943

CARICO, Hugh V., Capt., 0-337748, Co. "C", Jackson, Minnesota.
 GAMPERL, Frank, Cpl., 35010409, Co. "C", Cleveland, Ohio.
 HAYWARD, William A., Pvt., 35404998, Co. "C", Springfield, Ohio.
 KILBURN, James R., 1st Lt., 0-463441, Co. "C", Rawlins, Wyoming.
 SMITH, Charles A., Jr., Pvt., 33490067, Co. "C", Palmerton, Pennsylvania.
 STINE, Daniel A., Pvt., 36424587, Co. "C", Ypsilanti, Michigan.
 TONER, Raymond K., Pvt., 33256286, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lewiston, Pennsylvania.
 WILLIAMSON, Charles R., Pfc., 33346102, Co. "C", Bath, Pennsylvania.

16 AUGUST 1943

DYE, Paul H., Jr., Pvt., 14136709, Co. "F", North Augusta, South Carolina.
 OLIVER, Clyde H., Pfc., 18135979, Co. "E", Hampton, Arkansas.
 WILLIAMS, Marvin D., T/5, 6954193, Co. "F", Frederick, Oklahoma.

17 AUGUST 1943

CUPKA, John L., Cpl., 37092223, Co. "C", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

19 AUGUST 1943

DUDZIK, John, Jr., Pfc., 35010765, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.

Naples-Foggia or Southern Italy Campaign

22 SEPTEMBER 1943

BORER, Fred J., Cpl., 35010892, Co. "F", Lorain, Ohio.

24 SEPTEMBER 1943

DEYLE, Forrest B., Pfc., 12095979, Co. "M", Iliion, New York.
 DOOLEY, Frank J., T/4, 17004175, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Omaha, Nebraska.
 FISHER, Charles P., Pfc., 35118977, Co. "K", Nicholasville, Kentucky.
 KEEFER, Norman R., Pfc., 33233007, Co. "E", Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.
 MILLER, Paul J., Sgt., 35118784, Co. "M", Spring Valley, Ohio.
 RODGERS, William H., T/5, 35017163, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bellevue, Ohio.
 SMITH, Nevin K., Pfc., 33243544, Co. "E", Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.
 VILCOT, Jules P., T/5, 16039966, Co. "M", Pana, Illinois.

26 SEPTEMBER 1943

CHRAPEK, Walter T., Cpl., 31126239, Co. "F", Springfield, Massachusetts.
 GEE, Albert, Pvt., 34357054, Co. "F", Cordele, Georgia.
 SCROGHINES, Raymond E., Pfc., 35696886, Co. "C", Scipio, Indiana.

27 SEPTEMBER 1943

McCOY, Thornton D., Pvt., 37283917, Co. "E", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 RAKOWSKI, Frank H., Pfc., 35201904, Co. "A", Wierton, West Virginia.

28 SEPTEMBER 1943

WEAKLEY, Luther R., Pvt., 33455048, Co. "A", Washington, District of Columbia.

29 SEPTEMBER 1943

DOWLING, Edwin S., Jr., Pfc., 19044301, Co. "A", Draper, South Dakota.
 ELLIOTT, William F., Pvt., 6951676, Co. "I", Paris, Texas.
 HART, Loron S., Pvt., 36127861, Co. "C", Bay City, Michigan.

30 SEPTEMBER 1943

BREAZIER, Louis W., Pvt., 37207425, Co. "L", Lincoln, Kansas.

2 OCTOBER 1943

MADRICK, Frank J., Pfc., 20233766, Co. "G", Newburgh, New York.

3 OCTOBER 1943

SAKOIUS, George C., Pfc., 33358822, Co. "G", West Pittston, Pennsylvania.

5 OCTOBER 1943

CRAWFORD, Melvin L., T/5, 19014077, Sv. Co., Shevlin, Oregon.

7 OCTOBER 1943

EDWARDS, Charles W., Jr., Capt., 0-406915, Cn. Co., Seattle, Washington.
 THORNTON, Samuel W., Pfc., 39306934, Cn. Co., Klamath Falls, Oregon.

8 OCTOBER 1943

BANKS, John R., 2nd Lt., 0-1308909, Regtl. Hqrs. Co. Newark, New Jersey.
 WRAY, Bert H., 1st Lt., 0-1288341, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 YOUNG, Vernon W., 2nd Lt., 0-1302085, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Plainville, Massachusetts.

10 OCTOBER 1943

GRIEBSTEIN, Alfred, Jr., Pfc., 31132044, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hamilton, Massachusetts.
 MARTIN, Willis G., Pfc., 33246306, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

12 OCTOBER 1943

GRIFFIN, Anthony N., Pvt., 38382382, Co. "E", Golden Meadow, Louisiana.

13 OCTOBER 1943

BELL, Carl M., Cpl., 36128333, Co. "D", Wyandotte, Michigan.
 BIRD, Charles R., Pvt., 35497198, Co. "I", Willsburg, Kentucky.
 BOWYER, Cloyd A., Cpl., 35153489, Co. "D", Longansport, Indiana.
 BROUILLARD, Alcide J., Pvt., 31183742, Co. "D", Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
 BULL, Harry E., Pvt., 33204377, Med. Det., Baltimore, Maryland.
 BURNS, James G., Pfc., 17001311, Co. "H", Leavenworth, Kansas.
 DETTY, Arthur C., T/5, 35271786, Co. "L", Jackson, Ohio.
 FARRELL, John P., Pfc., 36034013, AT Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 FOLEY, William C., Cpl., 36035539, AT Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 KOZAR, George A., Pfc., 13086332, Co. "D", Wilmerding, Pennsylvania.
 LATEGANO, Vincent W., Pvt., 32615581, Co. "L", New York, New York.
 LEDESMA, Domingo S., Pfc., 38032125, Co. "L", San Antonio, Texas.
 LEMASTER, Junior, Pvt., 35436266, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Manila, Kentucky.
 MANNINO, Angelo, Pvt., 32784067, Co. "C", Bronx, New York.
 McALOON, Eugene G., Pvt., 31245549, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.
 McDONALD, Joe V., Pvt., 34449123, Co. "I", Griffin, Georgia.
 McNEELY, Jeff, 2nd Lt., 0-1300352, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Idalou, Texas.
 MOODY, Ted R., 2nd Lt., 0-1303757, AT Co., Talladega, Alabama.
 MURPHY, John E., Pvt., 31267632, Co. "C", Berlin, New Hampshire.
 NEWALL, Alfred R., Jr., Pfc., 31109504, AT Co., Rochester, New Hampshire.
 OLAETA, Laurence, Pfc., 39028084, Co. "D", Lovelock, Nevada.
 PARRISH, Clarence S., 1st Lt., 0-1296893, Co. "I", Montgomery, Alabama.
 PEDERSON, Henry R., Pfc., 36249965, Co. "L", Seymour, Wisconsin.
 REED, Russell F., Cpl., 36246722, Co. "L", Marshfield, Wisconsin.
 RUGGIERO, Rafael A., Pvt., 31287215, Co. "A", Springfield, Massachusetts.
 SANTEE, Eugene G., Pfc., 17006041, Co. "F", Cannon Ball, North Dakota.
 SCHERER, Arthur H., Pvt., 7031302, Co. "D", Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.
 SCHLECKTE, Edwin J., Pvt., 36434428, Co. "E", Worden, Illinois.
 SHOLLEY, Glenn L., Pfc., 35011046, Co. "L", Akron, Ohio.
 SPECTOR, Bernard, Pvt., 34546438, Co. "I", Miami, Florida.
 ST. GERMAIN, Francis F., Pvt., 31186543, Co. "K", Oxford, Massachusetts.
 SUMNER, Guy W., Cpl., 39381131, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Yakima, Washington.
 TATUM, Jack M., 2nd Lt., 0-1296934, Co. "C", Sheridan, Illinois.
 THOMPSON, Melville L., Pvt., 35369395, Co. "I", UHRICH, Clarence A., 1st Sgt., 6861713, Co. "I", Los Angeles, California.
 VOGT, Glennon J., Sgt., 19028774, Co. "D", Monett, California.
 WILKINS, Johnnie W., Sgt., 6373302, Co. "L", Memphis, Tennessee.
 WILLIAMS, Charlie, Pvt., 14070851, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lexington, Mississippi.
 WOODSON, Waldo, Sgt., 35034062, Co. "L", Columbus, Ohio.
 YETTER, Howard I., Pfc., 33256251, Co. "G", Burnham, Pennsylvania.
 ZIELINSKI, Frank H., Sgt., 6564966, Co. "D", Gary, Indiana.

14 OCTOBER 1943

FRUBACK, Anthony, Sgt., 6877927, Co. "F", New York, New York.
 GEBHART, Nicholas H., Sgt., 17012677, Co. "E", Watertown, South Dakota.
 JUAREZ, Frank M., Pfc., 19012451, Co. "D", Stockton, California.
 MILLER, Raymond J., Pfc., 37098919, Med. Det., Devils Lake, North Dakota.
 PRISTAS, Joseph, Pfc., 33370221, Co. "M", Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
 VUKMIROVICK, Nick, Pvt., 36731989, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
 WILKERSON, Robert A., Pvt., 34396659, Co. "G", Ward, Alabama.

15 OCTOBER 1943

CURRY, William J., Cpl., 36506734, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.
 DREIBELBIES, Robert A., S/Sgt., 6945051, Co. "B", Allentown, Pennsylvania.

FLEMING, Jerald B., Pvt., 14107933, Co. "I", Ozark, Alabama.
HESS, Mike, Sgt., 6580510, Co. "G", Aberdeen, Washington.
HUFNAGEL, Thomas J., Pvt., 33312992, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
JENKINS, Grady L., Pvt., 34440129, Co. "K", Tignall, Georgia.
LAUDERDALE, Calvin M., Pvt., 35369320, Co. "K", Hammon, Indiana.
LEVIN, Ralph L., 2nd Lt., 0-1307715, Co. "I", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
MOHLER, Glover C., Pvt., 33446300, Med. Det., Shenandoah, Virginia.
O'DONNELL, John E., Pfc., 33319560, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
SCHULMAN, Philip, Pvt., 32809060, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.
SIPE, Warren H., Pfc., 33243469, Co. "E", Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.
STONE, John T., Pvt., 34329163, Co. "K", Tullahoma, Tennessee.
SWANSON, Elston A., Cpl., 37206315, Co. "I", Kansas City, Missouri.

16 OCTOBER 1943

ADERHOLD, Calvin D., Pfc., 34397681, Co. "K", Jacksonville, Alabama.
ALLEN, Alonzo, Pvt., 32667639, Co. "H", South Glens Falls, New York.
ANDERSON, Chester A., Pvt., 37206472, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Bolokow, Missouri.
CARDENAS, Raymond H., Pvt., 39265177, Co. "I", Montouia, California.
CARDWELL, Preston, Pvt., 35489933, Co. "A", Morgantown, Kentucky.
CARLSON, Cecil H., Cpl., 37114642, Co. "K", Coland, Nebraska.
CURR, Charles H., Pfc., 19010473, Co. "H", Chester, Idaho.
CURRY, Glendie M., Sgt., 352102070, Co. "K", Germania, West Virginia.
DEMCHOCK, Theodore T., Pvt., 32586137, Co. "H", Rochester, New York.
DILLARD, Barney P., Cpl., 6299575, Co. "M", Houston, Texas.
DURDON, Stephen, Pvt., 33382193, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
ELDRIDGE, Walter C., Pfc., 14097531, Co. "K", Benton, Massachusetts.
FRENCH, Charles E., Pfc., 39542760, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
GARRETT, Ira B., Pvt., 38133606, Co. "M", McCaulley, Texas.
GERHARDT, Elmer E. K., Pvt., 37128443, Co. "H", Lincoln, Nebraska.
HAMLIN, Everett, Pfc., 35201970, Co. "K", Pikeville, Kentucky.
HAMMONS, Clifford D., Sgt., 19051576, Co. "E", Trinidad, Colorado.
HARBISON, Frank, Pfc., 32541005, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
HILL, John W., Pvt., 15316148, Co. "E", Charleston, West Virginia.
HUGHES, Marshal V., Pfc., 34397678, Co. "K", Jacksonville, Alabama.
IZZO, Carmine J., Pvt., 32792023, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
JANDEL, Joseph F., Sgt., 17012669, Co. "E", Zell, South Dakota.
KICKLIGHTER, Hartridge W., Pvt., 34686723, Co. "I", Glennville, Georgia.
LAUTENSCHLAGER, Russell D., Jr., Pfc., 35588054, Co. "K", Orrville, Ohio.
LEMPKE, Orlan P., Cpl., 37121080, Co. "H", Griswold, Iowa.
MARVNYCZ, George, Pvt., 36280192, Co. "I", Butternut, Wisconsin.
MARMARELO, Angelo, Cpl., 32308007, Co. "H", Jersey City, New Jersey.
McNALLY, Thomas J., Pvt., 36709132, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
MASON, Harry S., Pfc., 33345798, Co. "H", Danville, Pennsylvania.
MORES, Stephen E., Pvt., 35253874, Med. Det., Whiting, Indiana.
MURPHY, William G., Pvt., 33441983, Co. "C", Dillwyn, Virginia.
NORLAND, Archie, Sgt., 6863050, Co. "E", Ironwood, Michigan.
PARTICKI, John, Pfc., 19044285, Co. "L", Hawkins, Wisconsin.
PIERCE, Wilbur R., Pvt., 34397777, Co. "D", Georgiana, Alabama.
PORTER, John M., Pvt., 6578740, Med. Det., Stroud, Oklahoma.
REINERTSEN, Paul A., Sgt., 39010045, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Hayward, California.
SANCHEZ, Regino B., Pfc., 38158719, Co. "M", Conception, Texas.
SCARPINATO, Joseph, Pfc., 32375740, Co. "C", Lockport, New York.
SCHINDEL, Fred J., Pvt., 36632422, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
SEA, Sidney C., Pfc., 35664478, Co. "E", Sinai, Kentucky.
SELL, Gerhardt W., Pvt., 36246431, Co. "H", Greenwood, Wisconsin.
SHANK, Earl L., Pvt., 35605772, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
SIMMONS, Marcus A., Sgt., 6547287, Co. "C", Grande Ronde, Oregon.
SLOAN, William J., Pvt., 39184525, Co. "K", Yakima, Washington.
TAYLOR, Arbury R., Pfc., 35201188, Co. "H", Alderson, West Virginia.
THOMPSON, Glenn O., Cpl., 39167440, Co. "K", San Pedro, California.

YTURRI, John, Sgt., 39085094, Co. "B", Barstow, California.

17 OCTOBER 1943

HASELWOOD, Leroy A., Capt., 0-354715, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Gardner, Kansas.
HOLLIDAY, Charles T., Pfc., 32554805, Co. "K", Newark, New Jersey.
LORENSON, Wilbert F., Pvt., 35345520, Co. "B", Port Clinton, Ohio.
McPHERSON, Roland N., Pvt., 32838762, Co. "B", Guilford, New Jersey.
ULMER, Nevin R., Pfc., 33311614, Co. "H", Malvery, Pennsylvania.

18 OCTOBER 1943

DUART, James F., Pvt., 31303302, Co. "D", South Dighton, Massachusetts.
MERRILL, Clement F., Pfc., 32350950, Co. "L", Warwick, New York.
WROE, Edmund, Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1301580, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Clinton, Kentucky.

19 OCTOBER 1943

CARNEAL, Ernest H., Pvt., 13075524, Co. "I", Alexandria, Virginia.

20 OCTOBER 1943

ALLFORD, Roy H., Pvt., 33348858, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Pittstin, Pennsylvania.
RIORDAN, Eugene T., 2nd Lt., 0-1311359, Co. "L",

21 OCTOBER 1943

HOLAWAY, Jesse C., Sgt., 37349866, Co. "F", Montrose, Colorado.
KING, Charles L., Pfc., 38117572, Co. "M", Boyd, Texas.
LAFERTY, Floyd, Pvt., 35448543, Co. "E", Allen, Kentucky.
RED, Alvin W., Sgt., 6956211, Co. "G", Wheeler, Texas.
SMITH, Wallace E., Pfc., 14097563, Co. "G", Guntown, Mississippi.
WORTHINGTON, Elbert T., Pfc., 35202019, Co. "I", Riverton, Kentucky.

22 OCTOBER 1943

ETZOLD, James J., Sgt., 17012369, Co. "F", Independence, Kansas.
KOSCO, John P., Pfc., 35010514, Co. "M", Barberton, Ohio.
WARD, Maysill E., Pvt., 37243977, Co. "A", Kansas City, Missouri.

23 OCTOBER 1943

BENTLEY, Ray, Pvt., 36183472, Co. "A", Beulah, Michigan.
BUWEN, Frank D., Pvt., 32528453, Co. "M", Freeport, New York.
FORTIN, Delmar R., Pfc., 37285398, Co. "M", Edgeley, North Dakota.
HILL, Baxter L., Pvt., 35723457, Co. "I", Providence, Kentucky.
JOHNSON, Harry J., Cpl., 37043990, Co. "L", Sea City, Iowa.
RUSSELL, Alexander H., 1st Lt., 0-279673, Co. "L", Jacksonville, Illinois.
THOMPSON, Weldon G., Pfc., 37453287, Co. "D", Superior, Wyoming.

24 OCTOBER 1943

HUBER, Lothar F., Pvt., 32789737, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
NEVILLE, Ben W., 2nd Lt., 0-1310623, Co. "K", Dallas, Texas.
WARRINGTON, Stanley R., Pfc., 36569478, Co. "C", Saginaw, Michigan.
WERZBICKI, Walter F., Pfc., 36128419, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.

26 OCTOBER 1943

CANCELA, Justo, Pvt., 32863643, Co. "K", Bronx, New York.
McGRATH, Joseph E., Pvt., 31308606, Co. "K", Brockton, Massachusetts.
SENATORE, Frank, Pvt., 12087714, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
ZALKA, Louis J., Pfc., 36128413, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.

27 OCTOBER 1943

HEAD, Earl, Jr., Sgt., 35010754, Co. "F", Cleveland, Ohio.
MAZZA, Vincent A., Pvt., 35518845, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

28 OCTOBER 1943

BROPHY, Arthur C., Jr., Pvt., 31295934, Co. "B", Malden, Massachusetts.
CHINE, Joseph, Pvt., 35394530, Co. "B", Orrville, Ohio.
MILLER, Walter M., Pvt., 31186469, Co. "I", Webster, Massachusetts.
WINTER, Virgil W., Cpl., 19048477, Co. "B", Bakersfield, California.

29 OCTOBER 1943

KNUCKLES, James L., Sgt., 35153417, Regtl. Hqs. Co., Alexander, Indiana.

1 NOVEMBER 1943

ALLEN, Elvin C., Pvt., 38342815, Co. "L", Ropesville, Texas.
BAYNUM, Leroy W., Pvt., 35668562, Co. "L", California, Kentucky.

POLENSKY, Frank, Pvt., 37284003, Co. "C", Belfield, North Dakota.
ROSSOMONDO, Angelo, Pvt., 33467125, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
WATERS, Robert A., Sgt., 6574811, Co. "C", North Bend, Oregon.

2 NOVEMBER 1943

BOWEN, Thomas D., Jr., Pvt., 32869728, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
ROTH, Randal C., Pvt., 35052885, Co. "I", Warren, Ohio.

3 NOVEMBER 1943

BROWN, Alexander A., Pvt., 36586836, Co. "L", Detroit, Michigan.
BUCK, Clovis C., Pvt., 33535753, Co. "E", Roanoke, Virginia.
CHARZYNSKI, Ray F., Pvt., 35517059, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
LAHNA, Leo E., Pvt., 35416659, Co. "L", Coshoc-ton, Ohio.
NICHOLSON, George E., Pfc., 15104840, Co. "E", Indianapolis, Indiana.
STUARD, Warren G., Pfc., 35664616, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Georgetown, Kentucky.
URBAN, William C., Pvt., 32485206, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Kenton, Delaware.
WALKER, Raymond T., Pvt., 36569752, Co. "K", Detroit, Michigan.
WUBBINS, Vernon L., Pvt., 6567052, Med. Det., Yakima, Washington.
ZALEWSKI, Constantine J., Pvt., 32842295, Co. "E", North Tonawanda, New York.

4 NOVEMBER 1943

ARCHABAL, John R., Pvt., 39327582, Co. "K", Ely, Nevada.
BLACKENBURG, William J., Jr., Pfc., 33342457, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
FRANK, Delmar A., Pvt., 36812013, Co. "K", Burnett, Wisconsin.
GLEAVES, James G., Pvt., 34525816, Co. "L", Nashville, Tennessee.
PIE, Justin A., 2nd Lt., 0-440899, Co. "L", Smithville, New Jersey.
REGISTER, William J., Pvt., 34764932, Co. "L", Atlanta, Georgia.
ROBERTELLI, Pasquale A., Pvt., 32614765, Med. Det., New York, New York.
SILOVICH, Joseph M., Pvt., 35045690, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.
TAORMINA, Vincent J., Pvt., 32784046, Co. "K", New York, New York.
URSO, Charles J., Pfc., 32341317, Co. "L", New York, New York.
WILLIAMS, James B., Pvt., 34491310, Co. "E", Limestone, Tennessee.

5 NOVEMBER 1943

ALBERT, Thomas A., Pvt., 32860943, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Lindenhurst, New York.
AMATUCCI, Severino, Pvt., 32869339, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
BENNETT, Jerome W., Pvt., 33551141, Co. "C", Seaford, Delaware.
CORSEN, Joseph G., Pvt., 33590489, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
FAIRCHILD, James W., Cpl., 35118697, Co. "C", North Bend, Ohio.
MORGAN, Coy L., Capt., 0-1287743, Co. "E", Prescott, Arizona.
OSBORN, Delbert, Pfc., 16151339, Co. "C", Caro, Michigan.
OUTLAW, Stewart C., Pvt., 34368030, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Charlotte, North Carolina.
PALLADINETTI, Pasquale L., Pvt., 33592160, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
PHILLIPS, William, Pvt., 32539503, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Bronx, New York.
RHODES, Roy, Pfc., 37396870, Co. "G", Fredericktown, Maine.
ROBBLEE, Peter L., Pvt., 31035700, Co. "E", Dorchester, Massachusetts.

6 NOVEMBER 1943

ACKLEY, Kenneth R., Pvt., 36569596, Co. "E", Hemlock, Michigan.
ARCHER, Davis M., Cpl., 34105855, Co. "H", Dayton, Alabama.
BIAGA, Stanley J., Cpl., 32066549, Co. "G", Union Beach, New Jersey.
BULLER, Vernon H., Sgt., 19046022, Co. "G", Halstead, Kansas.
CARLIN, John A., Pvt., 33370367, Co. "G", Coal-dale, Pennsylvania.
DI PIETRA, Mariano J., Pvt., 39285935, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
IRVIN, Roy D., Pvt., 36738312, Co. "E", Dale, Illinois.
MANZO, Canuto M., Pvt., 39554642, Co. "G", Man-rovvia, California.
MAZZARIELLO, Paul E., Pvt., 32756434, Co. "H", Camden, New Jersey.
MERRITT, Edwin L., Pvt., 34571364, Co. "E", Moultrie, Georgia.
PIERSON, J. C., Pvt., 38228401, Co. "G", O'Brien, Texas.
REDDING, Clarence D., Pvt., 32735229, Co. "G", Rochester, New York.
SHAY, Everett A., Pfc., 12172142, Co. "E", Water-eliet, New York.
STEINBERG, Albert J., Pvt., 32861715, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
STROUPE, Edwin J., Cpl., 35003790, Co. "E", Worth-ington, Ohio.

TINNELL, Clarence, Pvt., 34285805, Co. "G", Knoxville, Tennessee.
WALSH, Carl N., Pvt., 32778908, Co. "G", Franklin, New Jersey.
WATSON, Donald P., Pvt., 36453944, Co. "G", Kalamazoo, Michigan.

7 NOVEMBER 1943

McDOLE, Riley J., Jr., Pvt., 32769265, Co. "K", Newton, New Jersey.
VARGA, Steve J., Sgt., 35010695, Co. "F", Massillon, Ohio.
WILLIAMS, Harry L., Pvt., 34397655, Co. "G", Jacksonville, Alabama.

8 NOVEMBER 1943

BRENNAN, William L., Pvt., 32678078, Co. "A", Syracuse, New York.
FETTO, August F., Pvt., 16010549, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
HOBBS, Francis C., Pvt., 36480227, Co. "F", East St. Louis, Illinois.
JOHNSON, Robert T., Sgt., 17010716, Co. "K", Paragould, Arkansas.
KNUDSON, Herbert S., Pvt., 32869107, Co. "F", Brooklyn, New York.
MEEKS, Martin L., Pvt., 34722619, Co. "F", Coalmont, Tennessee.

9 NOVEMBER 1943

ANDERSON, Robert L., Pfc., 6948008, Co. "H", North East, Pennsylvania.
DOBIECKI, Matthew T., Pfc., 36304166, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
DUDLEY, Noble P., Pvt., 36731677, Co. "F", La Porte, Indiana.
MARTINEZ, Basil J., Pfc., 19049586, Co. "F", Nopomo, California.
MAYER, Stanley E., Pfc., 39014944, Co. "F", North Fork, California.
VAUGHN, Alfred D., Pvt., 34645700, Co. "E", Pacolet, South Carolina.

11 NOVEMBER 1943

CALE, James E., Cpl., 17015545, Co. "F", Newport, Arkansas.
DOLAK, John M., Pvt., 32771085, Co. "E", Alpha, New Jersey.
ELKINS, Eddie, Cpl., 6970146, Co. "D", Alabama City, Alabama.
ELMES, John D., Sgt., 35118760, Co. "H", West Eckton, Ohio.
GAINES, Delbert, Pvt., 35466897, Co. "F", Forfleet, Kentucky.
GREGORY, Lewis S., 2nd Lt., 0-2055477, Co. "B", Union, South Carolina.
HAZELWOOD, Leonard A., Pfc., 33126657, Co. "E", Stuart, Virginia.
NETT, Ralph H., Pvt., 37207632, Co. "H", Mount Hope, Kansas.
NEWBURY, Russell W., 1st Lt., 0-1284192, Co. "H", Pasadena, California.
QUEENSBERRY, Henry C., Pvt., 33528065, Co. "E", Sylvatus, Virginia.
ROMAN, Michael, Pvt., 33573885, Co. "D", Cleveland, Ohio.
WARD, Melvin L., Pvt., 34438632, Co. "G", Alfreds, North Carolina.

13 NOVEMBER 1943

KONDART, Teddy S., Pfc., 35010914, Co. "G", Campbell, Ohio.
McCRAE, Edwin, Pfc., 39304644, Co. "H", Yachats, Oregon.

14 NOVEMBER 1943

NEAL, Donald, Cpl., 37349759, Co. "M", Dolares, Colorado.

16 NOVEMBER 1943

ANDERSON, Thomas J., Pvt., 36640518, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
ARAMBULA, John M., Pvt., 38402165, Co. "L", Enid, Oklahoma.
GEBING, Howard V., 2nd Lt., 0-1285741, Co. "I", Brewster, New York.
HARRIS, Lonnie M., Pfc., 34438654, Co. "C", Mount Airy, North Carolina.
JOSEPH, Lee, S/Sgt., 35011042, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
MITCHELL, John C., Sgt., 18108476, Co. "I", Tulsa, Oklahoma.
TOMES, Gilbert D., Pvt., 34396430, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Gunterville, Alabama.

25 DECEMBER 1943

FISHER, Robert L., Pfc., 33256173, Co. "C", Amaranth, Pennsylvania.

Anzio-Rome Campaign

22 JANUARY 1944

ADAM, Armand, Pvt., 31307426, Co. "C", Lawrence, Massachusetts.
BENSON, Calvin S., Pfc., 31321115, Co. "K", Portland, Maryland.
BROWNBACK, James R., S/Sgt., 19018596, Co. "K", Butte, Montana.
COOLEY, Fred W., Pvt., 36820891, Co. "B", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
GERHART, John M., Jr., Pvt., 35655877, Co. "C", Richmond, Virginia.
LINDSEY, Max D., Pvt., 37245270, Co. "K", Halfway, Missouri.

NELSEN, Leroy N., Pfc., 37289813, Co. "C", Albert Lea, Minnesota.
ROONEY, Walter F., Pfc., 31306625, Co. "B", Brighton, Massachusetts.
STEFANINI, Peter P., Pfc., 31309764, Co. "C", Framingham, Massachusetts.
YUSKO, Andrew J., Pvt., 31329409, Co. "B", Bridgeport, Connecticut.

23 JANUARY 1944

SCHRYVER, Albert K., Pfc., 32863981, Co. "C", College Place, New York.

26 JANUARY 1944

MAURAN, Howard J., Pfc., 32852693, Co. "M", West Point, New York.

27 JANUARY 1944

ANDERSON, Gordon A., Sgt., 38140123, Co. "M", Waskom, Texas.

28 JANUARY 1944

REECE, Charles E., Pvt., 34729123, Co. "L", Walling, Tennessee.

30 JANUARY 1944

BARONE, Joseph J., Pvt., 36586461, Co. "C", Detroit, Michigan.
BERUMEN, Tony F., S/Sgt., 37463476, Co. "F", Gibbon, Nebraska.
CAMPBELL, Edward G., Pfc., 36127953, Co. "C", Clio, Michigan.
CHINCHILLA, John J., Pvt., 33679455, Co. "F", Ambridge, Pennsylvania.
COWLING, James W., T/Sgt., 6955286, Co. "C", Anna, Texas.
DAVIDSON, Russell G., Pvt., 35554375, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Amherst, Ohio.
DUDDLESTON, William J., Pvt., 36313920, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
EHRHART, Charles E., Pvt., 31259202, Co. "F", Wickford, Rhode Island.
FALCO, Anthony J., Pvt., 31335918, Co. "C", Bridgeport, Connecticut.
FARRIS, Henry T., Jr., Pvt., 14150710, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Augusta, Georgia.
FRANKWICH, Joseph M., T/5, 32647659, Med. Det., Brooklyn, New York.
GRAMA, John G., Pvt., 36753525, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
GUNSALLUS, Russell C., Pvt., 33759674, Co. "C", Tyrone, Pennsylvania.
HAINES, John E., Pvt., 33507668, Co. "C", Coatesville, Pennsylvania.
HALL, Francis G., Pfc., 33564218, Co. "F", Tunnelton, West Virginia.
HEATER, Wallace W., T/Sgt., 6575237, Co. "C", Sherwood, Oregon.
HOFFMAN, Albert G., Pvt., 32857295, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Utica, New York.
HUGHES, Herbert H., Pvt., 33634203, Co. "H", Nelly Ford, Virginia.
KRAUSE, Frederick L., Pvt., 36822824, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Janville, Wisconsin.
LYNCH, Steve M., Pvt., 35055891, Co. "L", Lakewood, Ohio.
MAYBERRY, Kenney C., Sgt., 17086910, Co. "H", Denver, Colorado.
MELGARD, William J., 2nd Lt., 0-1309089, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
MOLNAR, Frank, Pfc., 33623174, Co. "F", Allentown, Pennsylvania.
NICOLETTI, Paul, Pvt., 32871192, Co. "C", New York, New York.
O'HANLON, Arthur F., Pfc., 33595393, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
ORTIZ, Vevo, S/Sgt., 6954168, Co. "F", Gardner, New Mexico.
POINTS, Otto L., Pfc., 37004302, Co. "C", Crane, Missouri.

31 JANUARY 1944

POST, Harlan, Pvt., 37443142, Co. "C", Albia, Iowa.
RANCOURT, Augustin C., Pfc., 31321982, Co. "C", Lewiston, Maine.
SAMPLES, James V., Sgt., 35690274, Co. "C", Hatton, Kentucky.
SCARFO, Vincent, Pvt., 32613828, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
SPENCE, John T., Pfc., 35638615, Co. "F", Soldier, Kentucky.
TOSKOS, Sotiris, Pvt., 32701683, Med. Det., New York, New York.
VIOLA, James V., Pfc., 31327645, Co. "C", West Hartford, Connecticut.
WALSH, Charles R., Pfc., 33563227, Co. "C", Cresaptown, Maryland.
WARD, Christopher C., Pfc., 34666533, Co. "F", Whiteville, North Carolina.
WASHINESKI, John L., Pvt., 33603569, Co. "F", Bellaire, Long Island, New York.
WEAKLEY, Alvin W., 2nd Lt., 0-1318239, Co. "F", Hershey, Nebraska.
WEAVER, Robert L., Pvt., 33760983, Co. "L", Lewis? ton, Pennsylvania.
WEBB, William P., Pfc., 38444291, Co. "F", Farmersville, Texas.
ZABARSKY, Herbert, Pfc., 32877381, Med. Det., Bronx, New York.
ZUPO, William L., Pfc., 39410888, Co. "L", Vallejo, California.

BANSEMER, Theodore C., T/Sgt., 39160048, Co. "A", Holstead, Kansas.
BARBARA, Striphen T., T/5, 32820458, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.
BENDIGO, Elmer J., 1st Lt., 0-402871, Co. "A", Leakville, North Carolina.
BLACK, Paul D., Pvt., 35217778, Co. "D", Byesville, Ohio.
BOISJOLI, Rolland O., Pfc., 31338942, Co. "L", Winooski, Vermont.
BROWN, Curtis V., Pvt., 35704527, Co. "E", Windsor, Kentucky.
BUMBARGER, William J., Pvt., 33576198, Co. "A", Clearfield, Pennsylvania.
BUSBY, Edward V., 1st Lt., 0-1294429, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Washington, District of Columbia.
CALLAGY, Ambrose J., Pfc., 32658277, Co. "F", New York, New York.
CHAPMAN, Lionel E., Pvt., 385393332, Co. "F", Houston, Texas.
COHEN, Samuel R., Pvt., 36745278, Co. "E", Chicago, Illinois.
CONTRERAS, William R., Sgt., 39161143, Co. "A", Costamesa, California.
DANKO, Steve P., Pfc., 32776806, Co. "D", Woodridge, New Jersey.
DAVIDSON, George H., Pvt., 31341577, Co. "D", Oakville, Connecticut.
DOBEK, Frank P., Pvt., 33277086, Co. "K", Merrittstown, Pennsylvania.
DRURY, Charles M., Pfc., 14171833, Co. "K", Greensboro, Alabama.
DZIAK, Walter, S/Sgt., 36049065, Co. "D", Villa Park, Illinois.
EGY, Orville D., S/Sgt., 37014159, Co. "B", Heston, Kansas.
FARINA, Eugene J., Pvt., 32308450, Co. "A", Elmhurst, New York.
FIX, John W., Pvt., 35139238, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Indianapolis, Indiana.
FREEMAN, Bernard M., Pvt., 36661309, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
GILMAN, Herbert R., 2nd Lt., 0-510222, Co. "M", Burley, Idaho.
GORDON, Clifford G., 1st Lt., 0-1298533, Co. "K", Worcester, Massachusetts.
HUGHES, Harlin P., Sgt., 34800127, Co. "A", Clayton, Alabama.
MACKINEN, Reino R., Pvt., 37557545, Co. "E", Branwood, Wisconsin.
MATRISS, Frederick J., Pvt., 32910578, Co. "K", East Rutherford, New Jersey.
MAYO, John A., 1st Sgt., 6955354, Co. "B", Whitesburg, Texas.
NEUWIRTH, Julius, Pvt., 32653829, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
OLSON, Truman O., Sgt., 36246624, Co. "B", Cambridge, Wisconsin.
PLANTIER, Eugene G., Pfc., 31268672, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hudson Hills, New Hampshire.
REINIG, Walter H., Sgt., 37035972, Co. "E", Omaha, Nebraska.
REYNOLDS, Earle G., Sgt., 695266, Co. "B", Antlers, Oklahoma.
REYNOLDS, John E., Pfc., 32769256, Co. "D", Summit, New Jersey.
ROBERTS, Gordon W., Pfc., 36656255, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
SANTONACITA, Lewis, Pvt., 32910722, Co. "L", Carlton Hill, New Jersey.
SPIDLE, Jack D., Pfc., 34707509, Co. "E", Leeds, Alabama.
STIERMAN, John E., Pvt., 37602076, Co. "D", St. Louis, Missouri.
STOESSEL, Carl A., Cpl., 39605647, Co. "D", Rapelje, Montana.
TESTER, Charles L., Pvt., 33536217, Med. Det., Grundy, Virginia.
USCHMANN, Raymond E., Pfc., 36649572, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
VALENTIN, Emilio, De J., Pfc., 32897542, Co. "K", New York, New York.
VALENTINO, Nicholas F., S/Sgt., 32358203, Co. "M", Graniteville, New York.
VAN ECK, William R., Pfc., 32776777, Co. "E", Kearney, New Jersey.
WAGONER, John V., Pfc., 35668496, Co. "F", California, Kentucky.
WALLIN, John H., Pfc., 19012028, Co. "D", Oakland, California.
WEBB, Richard F., Pvt., 15089205, Med. Det., Charleston, West Virginia.
WEILACHER, Emden L., Pvt., 33434486, Co. "K", Hallton, Pennsylvania.
WILLIAMS, Raymond H., Pvt., 35655852, Co. "E", Rowe, West Virginia.
WONG, Sing, Pfc., 39164091, Co. "D", Los Angeles, California.

1 FEBRUARY 1944

CHERNITZKY, Seymour, Pfc., 12113935, Co. "F", Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York.
CREWS, Hilman V., S/Sgt., 36049470, Co. "D", Golden Gate, Illinois.
D'ANGELO, Melvin Pfc., 33477042, Co. "F", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DOMINGO, Joseph A., Jr., S/Sgt., 39015007, Co. "G", Oakley, California.
FRANKS, Albert W., 1st Sgt., 17001124, Co. "D", Knox, North Dakota.
GOODWIN, Lawrence E., Pfc., 31330166, Co. "D", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
HARDWICK, Willis J., Pfc., 36481960, Co. "G", White Hall, Illinois.
HUDOCK, Peter, Pfc., 33623956, Co. "K", Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.
OLSEN, Norbert L., S/Sgt., 17006006, Co. "G", Garrison, North Dakota.

RAKE, Edward J., Pvt., 36614843, Med. Det., Chicago, Illinois.
RAMIREZ, Jesse M., Sgt., 39264624, Co. "F", Azusa, California.
ROMERO, Fred I., Pfc., 37349807, Co. "H", Monte Vista, California.
SAVAGE, Raymond E., Pvt., 31319227, Co. "G", Auburn, Missouri.
SZUKALSKI, Teddy J., Pfc., 32842416, Co. "D", Lackawanna, New York.
URBANOWSKI, Stanislaus J., Pvt., 32881206, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
YUTZY, Kenneth J., Sgt., 35010469, Co. "D", Canton, Ohio.

2 FEBRUARY 1944

BEATRICE, John J., Pvt., 31359905, Co. "A", East Boston, Massachusetts.
REAUDET, Marcel R., Pvt., 31268633, Co. "B", Manchester, New Hampshire.
BORZEWSKI, Edward M., Pvt., 32751084, Co. "B", Trenton, New Jersey.
BOULANGER, Adrien A., Pvt., 31268655, Co. "B", Quincy, Massachusetts.
BUGAILA, Edward J., Pvt., 36664992, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
CABALA, Francis, Pfc., 36585430, Co. "F", Midland, Michigan.
CARSTENS, George H., 1st Lt., 0-1295828, Co. "F", Mobile, Alabama.
CEBEREK, Stanley A., Pvt., 31342589, Co. "B", Torrington, Connecticut.
CHEEK, Paul H., Pfc., 33532332, Co. "B", Jonesville, Virginia.
COLLINS, Wallace D., Pvt., 34649992, Co. "E", Columbia, South Carolina.
CURRAN, Louis F., Jr., Pvt., 31356974, Co. "B", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
DAVIS, Jean, T/Sgt., 6574589, Co. "E", Broken Bow, Nebraska.
DAVIS, Richard H., Pvt., 36649848, Co. "B", Savanna, Illinois.
DE LONGE, John H., Pfc., 17017529, Co. "G", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
DITSWORTH, La Verne E., Pfc., 36749079, Co. "B", Freeport, Illinois.
EAZOR, John, Pvt., 33674864, Co. "A", Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.
FIELDS, Sherwood N., Pvt., 34775921, Co. "F", Belmont, North Carolina.
FISHER, Lloyd M., Pfc., 35173565, Co. "B", Massillon, Ohio.
FORNI, Louis C., Pfc., 32648416, Med. Det., Ozone Park, New York.
GABRYNOWICZ, Richard C., Pvt., 31328870, Co. "A", New Britain, Connecticut.
GARVEY, Kenneth J., Pvt., 32867836, Co. "H", New York, New York.
GILMORE, John C., Pvt., 36478128, Co. "A", Granite City, Illinois.
GODSEY, Clarence, Pfc., 35668454, Co. "E", Stearns, Kentucky.
GRABAREK, Frank J., Sgt., 35345376, Co. "E", South Bend, Indiana.
HAMILTON, Paul V., Pvt., 33623270, Co. "D", South Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.
HARLOW, Arthur F., Pvt., 31308450, Co. "H", Cambridge, Massachusetts.
HARRELL, Paul F., Pfc., 34663716, Co. "A", Clinton, North Carolina.
HOLZER, Charles A., Sgt., 38063778, Co. "A", Stillwater, Oklahoma.
JAMISON, Charles L., Pvt., 33510918, Co. "F", Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
JENNINGS, Calvin C., Pvt., 34607213, Co. "E", Charlotte, North Carolina.
LINVILLE, Paul P., Sgt., 36736119, Co. "K", Conchas Dam, New Mexico.
McKEEL, Walter D., Pfc., 33524875, Co. "B", Norfolk, Virginia.
McVAY, George V., Pvt., 13153031, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
MIAZGA, Joseph, S/Sgt., 35153491, Co. "F", Cory, Indiana.

MILLER, John L., Pvt., 32657716, Co. "K", Lindenhurst, New York.
MORIN, Clifford J., Pvt., 32898019, Med. Det., Elmhurst, Long Island, New York.
NICHOLS, Edgar A., Pvt., 32830389, Co. "E", Salamanca, New York.
POWERS, Milford F., Pfc., 16151536, Co. "B", Webberville, Michigan.
RISALVATO, Joseph C., Pvt., 32357307, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
SCHWAB, William, T/Sgt., 6499687, Co. "A", Santa Rosa, California.
SHORT, Glenn E., S/Sgt., 6253232, Co. "C", Keystone, Nebraska.
SNYDER, Carl J., Pvt., 33616832, Co. "A", Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania.
TATE, Raymond E., Pvt., 34710120, Co. "A", Nashville, Tennessee.
TAYLOR, Charles A., Pvt., 34821692, Co. "A", Bainbridge, Georgia.
TEICHER, Max, Pvt., 32883146, Med. Det., Bronx, New York.
THOMAS, Philip L., Pvt., 31287679, Co. "B", Palmer, Massachusetts.
VEILLEUX, Fernand L., Pvt., 31267977, Co. "F", Manchester, New Hampshire.
VOGT, Lawrence A., Pfc., 37368468, Co. "B", Sweet Springs, Missouri.
WILSON, Robert T., Jr., S/Sgt., 35010447, Co. "B", Charleston, West Virginia.
WOOD, William D., Pvt., 34708983, Co. "E", Athens, Alabama.
YINGLING, David M., Pfc., 33574708, Co. "B", Altoona, Pennsylvania.

ZDIMAL, Albert W., Pvt., 32738337, Co. "A", Binghampton, New York.
ZINDA, Jake E., Pfc., 35584402, Co. "A", Hammond, Indiana.
ZUBAL, Leroy J., Pvt., 36482642, Co. "F", Mount Olive, Illinois.

3 FEBRUARY 1944

GENATEMPO, Patrick J., Pfc., 32880702, Co. "F", New York, New York.
HACK, Charles C., Pfc., 19012178, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Fort Bragg, California.
HARVILL, Edward E., Sgt., 17010594, Co. "G", Watson, Arkansas.
HJUETLAND, Orlando L., Sgt., 37158550, Co. "A", Willis, Kentucky.
KOVAC, Paul J., Pfc., 33777060, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
LINDSTROM, Floyd K., Pfc., 37349634, Co. "H", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
MATTHEW, Wilfred L., Pfc., 31257247, Co. "H", Lowell, Massachusetts.
RYNKA, Gerard E., Pvt., 36811589, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

4 FEBRUARY 1944

CARR, James, Pvt., 32795485, Co. "M", New York, New York.
MILTON, Clyde O., T/Sgt., 39601540, Cn. Co., Townsend, Montana.
VALKOVICH, Joseph C., Jr., Pvt., 32795382, Co. "F", New York, New York.

5 FEBRUARY 1944

BAKER, Robert D., Pvt., 35093743, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Richmond, Indiana.
HARNICAR, Joseph R., Pvt., 31341661, Co. "E", Torrington, Connecticut.
HOY, Patrick E., T/Sgt., 37092221, Co. "L", Denver, Colorado.
NEARY, Jerome A., Pfc., 36817833, Co. "M", Antigo, Wisconsin.

6 FEBRUARY 1944

BROWN, Carson E., Pvt., 33444402, Med. Det., Petersburg, Virginia.
YANUZZI, Nicholas, Pvt., 32897162, Co. "K", New York, New York.

7 FEBRUARY 1944

BASTIAN, Daniel R., Pvt., 33501263, Co. "A", Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
BORNWASSER, Charles P., Pfc., 35701077, Co. "B", Louisville, Kentucky.
DRURY, Vernon A., Pfc., 36811595, Co. "K", Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
ONEY, Teddy R., Pvt., 35869099, Co. "I", Ashland, Kentucky.

8 FEBRUARY 1944

ALVERSON, Clyde H., Jr., Pvt., 36743425, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
DUTCHAK, Joseph E., Pvt., 31329575, Co. "M", Bridgeport, Connecticut.
JUDE, Charlie, S/Sgt., 35201969, Co. "K", Pilgrim, Kentucky.
PARTH, Donald R., Pvt., 36569510, Co. "F", Centerline, Michigan.
TOMAKA, Henry J., Pvt., 32834467, Co. "A", Lackawanna, New York.

10 FEBRUARY 1944

HIGDON, James R., Pfc., 33721144, Co. "G",

11 FEBRUARY 1944

GIOTTA, Anthony G., Pvt., 35054148, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

13 FEBRUARY 1944

AVILLA, Salvador S., Pfc., 37127958, Co. "A", Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

14 FEBRUARY 1944

BARKER, Perry W., Pvt., 33218001, Co. "A", Damascus, Virginia.
BAST, Alvin E., Pvt., 36454854, Co. "A", St. Johns, Michigan.

16 FEBRUARY 1944

BUSHBY, William E., 2nd Lt., 0-1312877, Co. "E", Yuba City, California.
COOPER, Lloyd S., Pvt., 31384479, Co. "C", Warwick Neck, Rhode Island.
CRAPO, Andrew, Pfc., 31120742, Co. "C", Fall River, Massachusetts.
CURL, Ralph W., Jr., T/4, 36149960, Co. "C", Black River, Michigan.
DEC, Walter A., Sgt., 36587134, Co. "E", Detroit, Michigan.
EVERETT, George F., Pvt., 36479442, Co. "C", Altan, Illinois.
FORBES, Henry G., Pvt., 32824076, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
GIBBS, Harold L., Pvt., 34609049, Co. "C", Leicester, North Carolina.
GREGGERSON, Robert G., Pvt., 31384518, Co. "E", Lymanville, Rhode Island.
HATHAWAY, Ernest V., Pfc., 31025360, Co. "C", Pepperell, Massachusetts.
HEBERT, Clifford, O., Pvt., 31287984, Co. "E", Southbridge, Massachusetts.
HOLCOMB, Sandford G., Pvt., 34822907, Co. "C", Clayton, Georgia.
HUGGINS, Norman S., Pvt., 33652621, Co. "E", Danville, Virginia.

KARSCHNIA, Walter G., Pvt., 37170342, Co. "E", Saint Paul, Minnesota.
LANGFELD, Leonard R., Pvt., 32923324, Co. "E", South River, New Jersey.
LAVALLEE, Albert C., Pvt., 31007141, Co. "E", Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.
LAWHON, Jesse E., Pvt., 34735743, Co. "C", London, Tennessee.
LAZAR, Morris, Pvt., 32780244, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
LIENERTH, Julius A., Pvt., 36569711, Co. "E", Frankenmuth, Michigan.
LIVOLSI, Tony, Pvt., 32925454, Co. "C", Montclair, New Jersey.
MILLER, Edward J., Sgt., 39200698, Co. "E", Drywood, Washington.
MISHKIN, Harry, Pvt., 32332016, Co. "E", New York, New York.
PUGH, Eugene, Pvt., 35656606, Co. "E", Nigh, Kentucky.
SKIVER, Dellielle, Pfc., 36463371, Co. "E", Traverse City, Michigan.
SMITH, Arnold, Pvt., 35202002, Co. "C", Turtle Creek, West Virginia.
SMITH, Paul E., Pfc., 36746837, Co. "E", Gary, Indiana.
TAYLOR, Leroy V., Pvt., 36740051, Co. "E",
THOMAS, Lester D., Pvt., 35751822, Co. "H", Sandyville, West Virginia.

17 FEBRUARY 1944

BECKER, Richard A., Pvt., 37343597, Co. "E", Denver, Colorado.
HIMEL, Ramon E., Cpl., 34279065, Co. "F", Glen Allen, Mississippi.
KANDEL, Sam, Pvt., 12087987, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
LEES, John M., S/Sgt., 32112967, Co. "F", Ozone Park, New York.
SHUEY, Thomas G., Pvt., 13093905, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

18 FEBRUARY 1944

GRADY, Joseph M., Sgt., 32384712, Co. "F", Woodbridge, New Jersey.
HUCK, Lawrence G., Pvt., 36819158, Co. "E", Roeine, Wisconsin.
LOCKLEAR, Winfred, Pvt., 34674861, Co. "C", Lumberton, North Carolina.

19 FEBRUARY 1944

BOREL, Paul G., Pfc., 32823908, Co. "G", New York, New York.
CYR, Normand M., Pvt., 31200784, Co. "F", St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
DAUM, Balthazar L., Pvt., 32868190, Co. "H", Queens Village, New York.
JARVIS, Walter J., Pvt., 38404016, Co. "F", Elmer, Oklahoma.
LEONE, Cesidio, Pfc., 31031669, Co. "E", Quincy, Massachusetts.
MONTALVO, Martin, Pvt., 32724874, Co. "F", New York, New York.
MURPHY, John G., 2nd Lt., 0-352577, Co. "C", Burlington, Vermont.
NEIDERMEYER, Richard J., Pfc., 33149106, Co. "F", Litzitz, Pennsylvania.
VITALE, Prisco A., Pvt., 33685575, Co. "E", New Castle, Pennsylvania.

20 FEBRUARY 1944

BIADASZ, Alfred L., Pvt., 36579872, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.
BRIGGS, Howard R., Pvt., 35658110, Co. "E", Lemark, West Virginia.
GREEN, Wesley L., Pfc., 37610214, Co. "H", Willow Springs, Missouri.
JONES, Jasper H., Pvt., 18154127, AT Co., Corpus Christi, Texas.
KARBOSKY, Stanley T., T/4, 32163350, Co. "F", New York, New York.
MORALES, Joe, S/Sgt., 19045326, Co. "M", Las Vegas, Nevada.

21 FEBRUARY 1944

CONLON, Donald D., Jr., Pfc., 33440999, Co. "E", Connellsville, Pennsylvania.
McGLUCKIE, Earl C., Pvt., 34774439, Co. "E", Webster, North Carolina.
MILLER, Kenneth E., Pvt., 36661200, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
PERODEAU, Vincent J., Pvt., 20110546, Co. "F", Worcester, Massachusetts.

22 FEBRUARY 1944

McSHANE, Francis, Pfc., 20110577, Co. "F", Northboro, Massachusetts.
MOORHEAD, Richard A., Pvt., 36743602, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Sterling, Illinois.

23 FEBRUARY 1944

WHITE, Roger K., 2nd Lt., 0-1309457, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
WHETTON, Frank J., Pvt., 34705498, Co. "A", Adamsville, Alabama.

24 FEBRUARY 1944

EARLE, Hobart, Cpl. 32771156, Co. "I", Verona, New Jersey.
HORN, Charles F., Pvt., 34731093, Co. "L", Cookeville, Tennessee.

25 FEBRUARY 1944

STRATTON, Jesse, S/Sgt., 15046368, Co. "E", Neafus, Kentucky.
WARREN, Cleveland A., 2nd Lt., 0-1295304, Co. "A", Tullahoma, Tennessee.

26 FEBRUARY 1944

ASIMUS, Earl E., Pfc., 35800536, Co. "L", Cheviot, Ohio.

29 FEBRUARY 1944

ARNETT, Archie W., Sgt., 35201927, Co. "C", Piney, West Virginia.
 BALKOVEC, Nicholas L., Pfc., 33403850, Co. "G", Braddock, Pennsylvania.
 BROOKS, Harold R., Jr., Pvt., 36586282, Co. "F", Detroit, Michigan.
 CHANDLER, Walter R., S/Sgt., 20604442, Co. "L", Danville, Illinois.
 COOPER, James E., Pfc., 34578914, Co. "G", Smithville, Georgia.
 DILLMAN, Roger M., Pvt., 36478482, Co. "K", Champaign, Illinois.
 DUBRIEL, Wilfred A., Pfc., 31109381, Co. "E", Claremont, New Hampshire.
 ECCLES, Charles J., Pfc., 31135111, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Fall River, Massachusetts.
 FLANIGAN, James R., Pfc., 36813105, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Winneconne, Wisconsin.
 GENS, August W., Jr., Pvt., 36283618, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 HAGEMEYER, Ralph O., S/Sgt., 35153031, Co. "F", Stendal, Indiana.
 HENRY, William C., Pvt., 33441014, Co. "E", Indianhead, Pennsylvania.
 HILBERT, Waldo B., Pvt., 33636783, Co. "E", Mount Crawford, Virginia.
 LANE, Carl, S/Sgt., 34087223, Co. "H", Americus, Georgia.
 LA PIERRE, Clarence J., Pvt., 31101187, Co. "K", Portland, Maine.
 LESLIE, B. F., Pfc., 34659255, Co. "C", Lyman, South Carolina.
 LEWIS, James R., Pfc., 33132276, Co. "L", Luttrellville, Virginia.
 MALICKI, Chester S., Pvt., 36590832, Co. "H", Wyandotte, Michigan.
 McDANIEL, John C., 2nd Lt., 0-1313273, Co. "G", Gary, Indiana.
 MORTON, Howard E., Pfc., 34709120, Co. "G", Steele, Alabama.
 NEUMANN, Earl R., Pfc., 33668719, Co. "G", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 NOLAN, William M., Pvt., 36483342, Co. "I", Oakland, Illinois.
 OBUSH, Martin, Pfc., 33256195, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lucernemines, Pennsylvania.
 PERKINS, John D., Jr., Pfc., 35291663, Co. "K", Newark, Ohio.
 PULVER, Bernard L., 2nd Lt., 0-1309162, Co. "B", Port Angeles, Washington.
 RAYMOND, Normand E., Pfc., 31265067, Co. "H", Suncook, New Hampshire.
 RITTER, Raymond W., Pvt., 35536525, Co. "F", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 ROSS, Carl, Pvt., 35800870, Co. "L", Chevrolet, Kentucky.
 RUBY, Howard M., Pvt., 39199748, Co. "H", Seattle, Washington.
 SEKUSKY, Harold E., Pfc., 33604058, Co. "M", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, Boyd, Pfc., 34396460, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Guntersville, Alabama.
 SONDELSKI, Zig J., Sgt., 36815124, Co. "E", Doney, Wisconsin.
 SPLAIN, Francis T., Jr., Pfc., 32852793, Co. "M", Beacon, New York.
 STEPHENSON, Dalton O., Pvt., 14157120, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Willow Springs, North Carolina.

1 MARCH 1944

ANGLEY, Carl J., Pvt., 32855471, Co. "I", Troy, New York.
 BARKO, Andy S., Pfc., 36483281, Co. "K", Granite City, Illinois.
 BAYNE, James E., Pvt., 36458253, Co. "A", Greensboro, North Carolina.
 BELLAND, Robert M., Pfc., 37268640, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Wauburn, Minnesota.
 BINEGAR, Robert E., Pfc., 35274048, Co. "K", Washington, Ohio.
 BLACK, Dean P., Sgt., 35118769, Co. "C", Dayton, Ohio.
 BLISS, Milo V., Pfc., 36590624, Co. "K", Plymouth, Michigan.
 BLIZZARD, Elwood S., Pvt., 33606188, Co. "A", Noxon, Pennsylvania.
 DANDOS, Pete, Pfc., 35631717, Co. "A", Martins Ferry, Ohio.
 DURKEE, Charles R., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1319609, Co. "C", West Palm Beach, Florida.
 FLAVIN, Lawrence W., Pfc., 34024160, Co. "M", East Boston, Massachusetts.
 GAMELIN, Arthur J., Pvt., 31384181, Co. "E", Bristol, Rhode Island.
 GOLDNER, Herman A., Pfc., 36463402, Co. "K", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 HARTMAN, Robert R., Pvt., 13138476, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
 HASKEW, Sam T., Pvt., 34735399, Co. "K", Comfort, Tennessee.
 HAYES, Henry C., Pvt., 34776339, Co. "C", Boomer, North Carolina.
 JACOB, Robert J., Sgt., 35789091, Co. "M", Hamilton, Ohio.
 LEXSINGER, Earl W., Pvt., 34329606, Co. "K", Nashville, Tennessee.
 McCARTER, D. C., Pvt., 34651928, Co. "M", Spartanburg, South Carolina.
 MORRISON, Carl K., Pfc., 33535603, Co. "G", Martinville, Virginia.
 POIDMORE, Frank J., Pfc., 35273565, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.

PROIA, Albert, Pfc., 32894167, Co. "C", Middletown, New York.
 SIGMON, Lewis E., Pvt., 15056666, Co. "C", Rock, West Virginia.
 STANKOCH, Jerome L., Pfc., 36809764, Co. "K", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2 MARCH 1944

ASCOLESE, Dominick S., Pfc., 31123940, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bridgeport, Connecticut.
 BEELER, Thomas O., Pvt., 34736227, Co. "E", Washburn, Tennessee.
 CHANIS, John P., Pfc., 32772849, Co. "F", Notely, New Jersey.
 EWING, James F., Pvt., 13133049, Co. "M", Arnold, Pennsylvania.
 GREENWALD, Robert L., Pfc., 35218373, Co. "E", Newark, Ohio.
 KELL, Harold E., Pvt., 35410367, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., London, Ohio.
 KLINE, James M., Pvt., 33140436, Co. "K", Amsterdam, New York.
 MACZKA, Marion J., S/Sgt., 6920495, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
 NORWOOD, Harold W., Pvt., 36462866, Co. "E", Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 PRICE, James W., Pvt., 33561840, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Vienna, West Virginia.
 WELDON, Lloyd M., Pvt., 38385341, Co. "L", Belcher, Louisiana.

3 MARCH 1944

ATHAS, William P., Capt., 0-1288348, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.
 CAMPBELL, William F., Pvt., 32796386, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.
 CUMMINS, Albert B., Pvt., 35113970, Co. "L", McHenry, Kentucky.
 CUNNINGHAM, Edward H., Pvt., 34736108, Co. "B", Greenback, Tennessee.
 DASHNER, Merton D., Pvt., 32745331, Co. "F", Gouverneur, New York.
 DEAN, Harlan E., Pfc., 35508123, Co. "B", Lobelia, West Virginia.
 DENNIS, Neal W., Pvt., 34594158, Co. "B", Randleman, North Carolina.
 DOHERTY, Joseph A., Cpl., 13106273, Co. "M", Manchester, Connecticut.
 GARCIA, Emilio E., Pvt., 34024939, Co. "G", Tampa, Florida.
 GLOSNER, James V., Pvt., 39465786, Med. Det., Opportunity, Washington.
 KITSON, Earl E., Jr., Pfc., 36563087, Co. "I", Royal Oak, Michigan.
 LAWLER, Harry J., S/Sgt., 35668507, Co. "L", Newport, Kentucky.
 LEVAN, Donald R., Pfc., 33619391, Co. "I", Allentown, Pennsylvania.
 MAILHOT, Roland J., Pvt., 31319907, Co. "L", Sanford, Maine.
 MANUEL, Francis, Pfc., 31005443, Co. "F", Framingham, Massachusetts.
 NIELSEN, Ross D., S/Sgt., 39027982, Co. "I", River-ton, Utah.
 PETTOGRASSIA, Fred J., Pvt., 32855417, Co. "I", Albany, New York.
 REMETTA, Edward, Pfc., 33088315, Co. "I", Wilburton, Pennsylvania.
 SEE, Barnett J., Sgt., 37398578, Co. "M", Montgomery City, Missouri.
 SILVEIRA, Joseph G., Pfc., 19000385, Co. "E", San Lorenzo, California.

4 MARCH 1944

ACHORN, Elmer A., Pvt., 31220658, Co. "E", Waldoboro, Maine.
 AMENDOLA, Julio F., Pfc., 33693210, Co. "A", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 AUSTIN, Ernest E., Pfc., 33640184, Co. "A", Saxe, Virginia.
 BAUMAN, William R., Pvt., 33139876, Co. "A", Alpena, Michigan.
 BAUMANN, Louis, T/5, 12079249, Co. "A", Waterloo, Iowa.
 BERKSHIRE, Arthur B., S/Sgt., 35256993, Co. "C", North Vernon, Indiana.
 BRIDGES, Maurice W., Pfc., 34024567, Co. "A", Miami, Florida.
 BRIN, Nathan H., Pvt., 31354055, Co. "E", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
 BROOKS, Eldridge H., Pvt., 35604026, Co. "A", Ellet, Ohio.
 BROWER, Herman E., Pfc., 35357929, Co. "A", Twelve Miles, Indiana.
 BYERS, Omer S., 1st Sgt., 35281662, Co. "L", Clyde, Ohio.
 CHISMER, Edward T., Pvt., 33463080, Co. "G", Kingston, Pennsylvania.
 COLBATH, Chester G., Pvt., 31263619, Co. "A", Lowell, Massachusetts.
 DEMETRE, Alexandre S., Pvt., 31025523, Co. "L", Uxbridge, Massachusetts.
 D'SANZI, Oreste J., Pvt., 33269611, Co. "A", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 FRESE, Wallace E., Pvt., 32954905, Co. "E", Yardville, New Jersey.
 GAINOR, Summers H., Jr., Pvt., 33731752, Co. "E", Baltimore, Maryland.
 HARTWIG, Wilbur R., Pvt., 36201787, Co. "B", Blair, Wisconsin.
 KREPEL, Alphonso A., Pfc., 32930957, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lockawanna, New York.
 LEONARD, James E., Pvt., 31360143, Co. "A", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
 MAHER, James A., Pvt., 32905107, Co. "A", Yonkers, New York.
 MERRITT, Russell H., Pvt., 34822911, Co. "A", Cairo, Georgia.

MOUNTS, Mason W., Pvt., 35657756, Co. "G", Charleston, West Virginia.
 RIGSBEE, Archie, Pvt., 34466791, Co. "I", Lumberton, North Carolina.
 ROHLING, Gilbert L., Sgt., 37168158, Co. "L", Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 VAN SCOYOC, Charles W., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1294568, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., North Seattle, Washington.
 VIRAMONTES, John G., Sgt., 39170502, Co. "B", Redlands, California.

5 MARCH 1944

BAKER, Kenneth W., Pfc., 35201926, Co. "A", Ridgeley, West Virginia.
 BERTRAM, Elmo, Pvt., 34730853, Co. "L", Jamestown, Tennessee.
 CANTWELL, Clarence C., Pvt., 34736229, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bean Station, Tennessee.
 HOLTZMAN, Robert F., S/Sgt., 6843523, Co. "I", Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
 MURRAY, Donald J., Pfc., 33600143, Co. "M", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

6 MARCH 1944

CARRUBA, Harry J., Pvt., 31335395, Co. "L", Ansonia, Connecticut.
 CHADD, John A., Pvt., 37603683, Co. "B", Morley, Missouri.
 GROFF, David L., Pvt., 33639727, Co. "B", Sterling, Virginia.
 HAHN, Joseph D., Pvt., 33640177, Co. "C", Richmond, Virginia.
 HERNDON, Willis E., Pvt., 33564202, Co. "F", Axton, Virginia.
 JUBINVILLE, Gerard J., Pfc., 31007489, Co. "C", Holyoke, Massachusetts.
 KANNALLY, John H., Pvt., 31358915, Co. "A", Brighton, Massachusetts.
 NEWMAN, Wayne L., Pvt., 39375810, Co. "K", Bremerton, Washington.
 RUSSELL, Geran W., S/Sgt., 35101267, Co. "E", Webb's, Kentucky.

7 MARCH 1944

DAVEY, John J., Pvt., 32852779, Co. "L", Hopewell Junction, New York.
 HAGEN, Curtis G., Pfc., 37276496, Med. Det., Aneta, North Dakota.
 KRUMROY, Melbert D., Pvt., 36463368, Co. "L", Stronach, Michigan.
 TISCHLER, Albert J., Pvt., 32878055, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.

8 MARCH 1944

RUTLEDGE, Robert G., Pvt., 31160387, Co. "E", Wakefield Middlesex, Massachusetts.

9 MARCH 1944

MARLETT, Wilburn, Pvt., 38405272, Co. "F", Mountain View, Oklahoma.
 TORI, John A., Pfc., 19016129, Co. "K", Aberdeen, Washington.
 ZACHRICH, Nelson R., Pvt., 35554228, Co. "B", New Bavaria, Ohio.

11 MARCH 1944

CONNELL, Jesse W., Pvt., 34023808, Co. "G", Bushnell, Florida.
 KOSINSKI, Bernard S., Pvt., 36735584, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 MOONEY, George E., Pfc., 33403728, Co. "A", Washington, Pennsylvania.

12 MARCH 1944

BURKE, Woodrow, Pfc., 34802152, Co. "B", Barnsdall, Oklahoma.
 CARROLL, Silas, Jr., Pvt., 38469003, Co. "B", Los Angeles, California.
 DOMINGUEZ, Antonio B., Pvt., 39285606, Co. "H", Los Angeles, California.
 GIFUN, Donald E., Pvt., 31369202, Co. "L", Boston, Massachusetts.
 HERNDON, Robert, Pvt., 35802936, Co. "A", Carrollton, Kentucky.
 MALOCHLEB, Stanley J., Pvt., 36603963, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.

13 MARCH 1944

EVANS, Harold Y., Pfc., 35752389, Co. "H", Webster Springs, West Virginia.
 GRAVES, Robert J., Pfc., 36583099, Co. "A", Flint, Michigan.
 SKOWRONSKI, Louis F., Pvt., 32881321, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 TROJAK, Joseph W., Pvt., 36807269, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Phillips, Wisconsin.
 WHITE, Chauncey L., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1317740, Co. "A", Salt Lake City, Utah.

14 MARCH 1944

ALLEN, William E., Pfc., 33113673, Co. "A", Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

16 MARCH 1944

BILSKI, Joseph J., Pvt., 32357606, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Ozon Park, New York.
 MASON, Russell G., Pfc., 20110766, Co. "B", Millbury, Massachusetts.

18 MARCH 1944

BOLEN, Charles J., Pvt., 33651524, Co. "A", Bluefield, Virginia.
 LUSSY, Robert H., Pvt., 42006147, Co. "F", Whorton, New Jersey.
 SEARS, Edwin C., Cpl., 31032437, Co. "H", Belmont, Massachusetts.

21 MARCH 1944
COLLETT, George F., Pfc., 33604433, Co. "A",
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

22 MARCH 1944
DOOLEY, Donald C., Pfc., 31331218, Co. "L", Derby,
Connecticut.

23 MARCH 1944
GRANGER, Percival H., Jr., Pvt., 33791125, Co. "L",
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
KENTER, John W., Pvt., 33619439, Co. "D", North
Wales, Pennsylvania.
O'DONNELL, William J., Pvt., 39279322, Co. "K",
Inglewood, California.
ST. LAURENT, Lawrence V., Pvt., 20112616, Co.
"I", Winchendon, Massachusetts.

24 MARCH 1944
MACEYKO, Albert V., Pvt., 33440977, Co. "L",
Connellsville, Pennsylvania.
MAHER, Edward L., 1st Lt., 0-1306869, Co. "K",
Newton, Pennsylvania.
MILLER, William H., Pvt., 35579727, Co. "H", Indi-
anapolis, Indiana.
MOORE, Richard D., Pfc., 33410541, Co. "F", Frank-
lin, Pennsylvania.
STOUFFER, Ralph S., Pvt., 33502873, Co. "H", Ship-
penburg, Pennsylvania.
STRECKER, Leonard J., Sgt., 37210296, 2nd Bn.
Hqrs. Co., Falls City, Nebraska.

25 MARCH 1944
ALEXAKOS, James G., 1st Sgt., 31078049, Co. "A",
Lowell, Massachusetts.
BARE, Paul W., Pvt., 35871181, Co. "L", Pedro,
Ohio.
BELL, James I., Pfc., 20419573, Co. "I", Day,
Florida.
JANARO, Carmine R., Pvt., 32867707, Co. "I", New
York, New York.

26 MARCH 1944
BONNER, Daniel J., Pvt., 33621625, Co. "K", Coal-
dale, Pennsylvania.
KLAUSMAN, Walter A., 1st Lt., 0-350964, Co. "K",
Syracuse, New York.

14 APRIL 1944
BROWN, Clement H., Cpl., 33636344, Co. "I", Hume,
Virginia.

17 APRIL 1944
CARROW, Louis G., Pvt., 33731306, Co. "A", Balti-
more, Maryland.

18 APRIL 1944
MATSAS, Donald, Pfc., 31308237, Co. "I", Somer-
ville, Massachusetts.

19 APRIL 1944
BERDOU, Henry D., Pfc., 38375733, Co. "A", New
Orleans, Louisiana.

20 APRIL 1944
HESS, James R., Pvt., 39198155, Co. "F", Belling-
ham, Washington.

21 APRIL 1944
BOWMAN, Charles, Pfc., 35789400, Co. "K", Boone-
ville, Kentucky.
COREY, Elliott L., Pfc., 35725147, Co. "L", Evans-
ville, Indiana.
DE LA RONDE, Frederick R., Pvt., 36683061, Co.
"K", Chicago, Illinois.
DES VERGNES, Thomas, Pfc., 31253916, Co. "K",
Buffalo, New York.
TITUS, Everett G. N., Jr., Pvt., 32999584, Co. "K",
Brooklyn, New York.

22 APRIL 1944
ATENCIO, Armando S., Pvt., 37343085, Co. "L",
Monte Vista, Colorado.
LIVERGOOD, Donald C., Pfc., 33149634, Co. "B",
Leontes Mills, Pennsylvania.
ROGERS, Burl, Pfc., 34337451, Co. "B", Anniston,
Alabama.

23 APRIL 1944
FRANK, Junior, Sgt., 19045999, Co. "I", Moapa,
Nevada.
LONG, Harley W., Pvt., 35870344, Co. "B", Columbus,
Indiana.
REGAN, William S., Pvt., 33747235, Co. "G", Wash-
ington, District of Columbia.
SLAPE, Raymond W., Pvt., 32956782, Co. "G", Deep-
water, New Jersey.

24 APRIL 1944
BASSETT, Harvey H., S/Sgt., 36128714, Co. "M",
Wyandotte, Michigan.
CLAYTON, Calvin C., Pfc., 34594222, Co. "G", Box
Boru, North Carolina.
CONNER, Ralph E., Pfc., 35330499, Co. "L", Chu-
rbusco, Indiana.
DAY, Morris G., Pfc., 34637597, Co. "K", Rosetta,
Mississippi.
HANDLEY, Charles W., T/5, 36196205, Co. "L",
South Haven, Michigan.
HEBERT, Norman A., Pvt., 31373598, Co. "G",
Rochester, New Hampshire.
PENNINGTON, Billy P., Pvt., 34890423, Co. "K",
Gastonia, North Carolina.

25 APRIL 1944
STEWART, Samuel E., Pfc., 34024453, Co. "B",
Hollywood, Florida.

26 APRIL 1944
ANDERSON, Nathan E., Pvt., 37292269, 1st Bn. Hqrs.
Co., Bemidji, Minnesota.
LEICY, Harold L., Pfc., 35632915, Co. "K", Mans-
field, Ohio.

28 APRIL 1944
FABRY, Charles A., Pvt., 35609778, Co. "L", Akron,
Ohio.
SCHMITT, Anthony P., Pvt., 37339828, Co. "B",
Monument, Kansas.
STUMP, Charles W., Jr., Pvt., 35690890, Co. "B",
De Pauw, Indiana.

22 MAY 1944
BARSAMIAN, Souren, Pvt., 31360243, Co. "L", Som-
erville, Massachusetts.
FLANAGAN, J. C., Pvt., 34630235, Co. "I", Vance,
Mississippi.

23 MAY 1944
AIELLO, Frank T., Pvt., 42008621, Co. "E", North-
bergen, New Jersey.
AMORE, George L., Pvt., 36413421, Co. "K", Mare-
nisco, Michigan.
BAUGHARD, Willie E., Pvt., 34884998, Co. "M",
Mosheim, Pennsylvania.
BISHOP, Stanley V., Sgt., 33436428, Co. "L", Spring-
boro, Pennsylvania.
BLALOCK, Coy., Pfc., 34594251, Co. "I", Timber
Lake, North Carolina.
BLEVINS, William F., Sgt., 35650795, Co. "L",
Ashland, Kentucky.
BROUTHERS, Addison F., Pfc., 32862975, Co. "L",
Jackson Heights, New York.
BURAN, Steve L., Pfc., 33676590, Co. "M", Neville
Island, Pennsylvania.
CAPRIO, Dante A., Pfc., 42008489, Co. "F", Newark,
New Jersey.
CARDILLO, Guy, Pfc., 31031684, Co. "E", Roslin-
dale, Massachusetts.
CARR, George F., Pfc., 32939503, Co. "F", Water-
town, New York.
COOL, Truman A., S/Sgt., 20210595, Co. "F",
Evans Mills, New York.
CREVISTON, Marvin W., Pfc., 36810621, Co. "F",
Wilton, Wisconsin.
DAVIS, William J., 2nd Lt., 0-1289401, Co. "G",
Freedom, Pennsylvania.
DUDLEY, Stanley J., Pvt., 31084952, Co. "A", Wor-
cester, Massachusetts.
DURKEE, Louis H., 1st Lt., 0-1285026, Co. "M",
Rochester, New York.
EBERHARDT, Donald W., Sgt., 36744049, Co. "I",
Chicago, Illinois.
EIDSON, James W., Pfc., 34449282, Co. "G", Union
City, Georgia.
FIERO, Oscar H., Jr., Pvt., 32942741, Co. "F",
Chatham, New York.

FISH, Joseph H., Pvt., 31371666, Co. "K", West
Medway, Massachusetts.
FREANO, Joseph W., Sgt., 35011080, Co. "M",
Bristol, Tennessee.
HENRY, James, Pvt., 42011566, Co. "M", Clifton,
New Jersey.
HITT, Horace L., S/Sgt., 34396662, Co. "F", York,
Alabama.
HUTTO, Eldridge J., Pfc., 34651444, Co. "M", Ker-
shan, South Carolina.
JOHNSON, Elnes J., Pvt., 32999593, Co. "G", New
York, New York.
KELSCH, William R., Pfc., 36678222, Co. "L", Nap-
erville, Illinois.
KIMBLE, Marion A., Cpl., 37157737, Cn. Co., Alma,
Kansas.
KOVACEVICH, Francis, Pfc., 36355006, Co. "M",
Chicago, Illinois.
LAMBERT, James R., Pvt., 34770834, Co. "H", Bry-
son City, North Carolina.
LA PORTA, Charles J., Pfc., 32205151, Co. "L",
Williamstown, New Jersey.
LE GRAND, Leonard M., Pvt., 37125950, Med. Det.,
Sioux City, Iowa.

LOWE, Francis L., Pfc., 31318284, Co. "H", Winter-
port, Maine.
MATHIAS, Ervin M., Pvt., 34842347, Co. "G", West
Columbia, South Carolina.
McCRACKEN, James H., 1st Lt., 0-443182, Co. "K",
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.
McDERMOTT, Raymond J., Pvt., 13200221, AT Co.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
MELIA, Anthony R., Pvt., 32942728, Co. "F", Water-
vliet, Albany, New York.

MILBOURNE, Ronald E., Pvt., 33382009, Co. "E",
Crisfield, Maryland.
MONRRREAL, Margarito, Pvt., 38459235, Co. "F",
Devike, Texas.
MONTES, Raymond G., Pfc., 37703591, Co. "A",
Longmont, Colorado.
PEPPIATT, Gordon A., Sgt., 32859703, Co. "M",
Glensdale, New York.
PLESS, Joseph W., Pfc., 38474907, Co. "M", Troup,
Texas.
PLYLER, Edward L., Pvt., 33764667, Co. "L",
Heathville, Pennsylvania.
REYNOLDS, Blair V., Pvt., 34890125, Co. "H",
Lincolnton, North Carolina.
RISTICH, Michael P., Pvt., 15019183, Co. "M",
Youngstown, Ohio.
ROBINSON, Darol M., Pfc., 31350918, AT Co., Perry,
Maine.
ROHAN, Samuel G., Pfc., 35608990, Co. "H", Youngs-
town, Ohio.
ROSLOOF, James H., Sgt., 12159203, Co. "K", Lake-
view, New York.

SHAMIRIAN, Shamir, Pvt., 31371865, Co. "K", Bos-
ton, Massachusetts.
SMITH, Stanley E., Pfc., 37345982, Co. "M", Colo-
rado Springs, Colorado.

SPALLINA, Joseph E., Pvt., 36688220, 3rd Bn. Hqrs.
Co., Chicago, Illinois.
STILLWELL, Clarence E., Sgt., 38504979, Co. "I",
Dewitt, Arkansas.
TURNERY, Orville, Pfc., 33671053, Co. "E", South
Connellsville, Pennsylvania.
WALLACE, Glenn M., Pvt., 33508017, Co. "L",
Wrightsville, Pennsylvania.
WERBIE, Thomas J., Pfc., 36202506, Co. "L", Ken-
osha, Wisconsin.

24 MAY 1944
AALDERKS, John A., Sgt., 37268089, Co. "G", Ren-
ville, Minnesota.
AUSTIN, Marvin T., Pvt., 35728895, Co. "C", Rum-
sey, Kentucky.
BLANDENBURGO, Sal, Pvt., 32879629, Co. "L",
Brooklyn, New York.
BRADSHAW, Marion W., Pfc., 20421011, Co. "D",
Wacissa, Florida.
BRYAN, Charles R., Pvt., 35765424, Co. "C",
Ludlow, Kentucky.
BURKE, Charles O., T/Sgt., 35637209, Co. "L", Job,
West Virginia.
BURNS, Ray E., Pfc., 33510909, Co. "B", Harrisburg,
Pennsylvania.
BUSCH, Richard R., Pfc., 42023454, Co. "C", Victor
Ontario, New York.
COHEN, David, Pvt., 42035841, Co. "D", New York,
New York.
COUGHLIN, Earl G., Pfc., 36457376, Co. "C", Mar-
quette, Michigan.
DE GREGORY, Henry R., Pfc., 33666890, Co. "E",
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
DELPRÉ, Leonard, Pvt., 33573252, Co. "G", Indiana,
Pennsylvania.
DEUTSCHMAN, Alfred J., Sgt., 32013578, Co. "D",
Long Island City, New York.
FADEL, Saleh M., Pvt., 32697140, Co. "C", Brooklyn,
New York.

GLEICH, Frederick J., Pfc., 36649718, Co. "I", Chi-
cago, Illinois.
GONZALEZ, Dimas S., Pvt., 39124537, Co. "C",
Decoto, California.
GRAHAM, Philip S., Pvt., 11132796, Co. "B", Som-
erville, Massachusetts.
GREENMAN, Robert E., Pvt., 42033961, Co. "I",
Brooklyn, New York.
HAMPTON, Oren R., Pvt., 33737583, Co. "D",
Washington, District of Columbia.
HARTILL, Fred E., Pvt., 32913130, Co. "G", Rich-
mond Hill, New York.
HASTINGS, Claude H., Pvt., 14161030, Co. "G",
Jackson, Tennessee.
HAYNES, Robert E., S/Sgt., 31286150, Co. "C", East
Long Meadow, Massachusetts.

HUNT, Bryan G., Pfc., 14116562, Co. "A", Hot
Springs, Arkansas.
JORDAN, Thomas L., Jr., Pvt., 34792645, Co. "B",
West Palm Beach, Florida.
KENNEDY, Charles M., Pfc., 34884578, Co. "K",
Columbia, Tennessee.
NEGLESS, La Verne L., Sgt., 37251921, Co. "G",
Holstein, Iowa.

POTTER, William P., Pfc., 37541855, Co. "E", White
Earth, Minnesota.
PRESTON, Bascom E., Pvt., 35772726, Med. Det.,
Mila, Kentucky.
RICH, Ordway K., Pvt., 37540239, Co. "L", St.
Joseph, Missouri.
SMITH, Lawrence O., Pfc., 6664649, Co. "E", Indi-
anapolis, Indiana.
SNEAD, Ernest H., S/Sgt., 33455365, Co. "C", Wash-
ington, District of Columbia.
SUTPHIN, James E., Pvt., 35650233, 3rd Bn. Hqrs.
Co., Wyco, West Virginia.
TAYLOR, Albert, Pfc., 34739818, Co. "C", Rockwood,
Tennessee.

THOMAS, John E., S/Sgt., 15045476, Co. "L", Fos-
toria, Ohio.
TIEDEMAN, George R., Pvt., 32999684, Co. "I",
Bronx, New York.
WILLIAMS, Warren B., S/Sgt., 19018636, Co. "I",
Boyd, Montana.
ZINDA, Oliver J., Pvt., 36257287, Co. "C", Mil-
waukee, Wisconsin.
ZWIERS, Walter J., Pvt., 36004181, Co. "G", Chicago,
Illinois.

25 MAY 1944
ADAMAITIS, Frank J., Pvt., 31337988, Co. "C",
Union City, Connecticut.
ADKINS, Earl, Jr., Pvt., 35767371, Co. "B", New
Boston, Ohio.
BALL, William J., Pvt., 33602740, AT Co., Benton,
Pennsylvania.
BEAN, Ray T., Pfc., 36350094, Co. "K", Chicago,
Illinois.
BOND, Kermit A., Pfc., 32856016, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co.,
Massena, New York.
BROOKS, Dillon D., Pfc., 34024630, Co. "G", South
Miami, Florida.
CANNIFF, Ralph I., Pfc., 32865404, Co. "I", Pleas-
antville, New York.
CORNELIUS, Howard F., Jr., Pfc., 33139846, Co.
"M", Fannettsburg, Pennsylvania.
D'ELIA, Pasquale, Pfc., 36867219, Co. "G", Dear-
born, Michigan.
FELDMAN, Harry, Sgt., 33781689, Co. "E", Phila-
delphia, Pennsylvania.
GROENEVELD, James A., Pvt., 36661458, Co. "D",
Phoenix, Illinois.
HINDMAN, William C., Pvt., 33409144, Co. "D",
Callensburg, Pennsylvania.
HOOVER, Richard H., Pfc., 34891550, Co. "B", Char-
lotte, North Carolina.
HOUGHTON, William R., Sgt., 36463529, Co. "I",
Mattawan, Michigan.

IADAROLA, Leo A., Sgt., 31086125, Co. "E", Milford, Massachusetts.
JARES, Calvin L., Pfc., 39212147, Co. "K", Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.
JOHNSON, Maurice H., S/Sgt., 32026010, Co. "E", Elmira, New York.
LARY, Henry P., S/Sgt., 20630974, Co. "K", Detroit, Michigan.
MARTZ, Charles E., Pvt., 37538755, Co. "I", Kansas City, Missouri.
MEGOWN, John N., Jr., Pfc., 19018555, Co. "A", St. Joseph, Missouri.
RIVERA, Edward A., S/Sgt., 39161202, Co. "F", Los Angeles, California.
ROCCHICCIOLI, Ralph, 1st Lt., 0-1296427, Co. "K", Richmond, Virginia.
SANNICONDRO, Rudolph A., Pvt., 32999697, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
WILLIS, John E., Pvt., 12012037, Co. "I", Paulsboro, New Jersey.

26 MAY 1944

ALFIER, Nicholas, T/Sgt., 32279419, Co. "H", Phillipsburg, New Jersey.
GIFFIN, Edgar R., 2nd Lt., 0-1301982, Co. "F", Guilford, Missouri.
KOONCE, James E., Pvt., 34709179, Co. "I", Hazel Green, Alabama.
LOPEZ, Joe, Pvt., 39696238, Co. "I", Merced, California.
SCATES, Edward R., S/Sgt., 34044811, Co. "B", Lexington, Tennessee.
SCIABARRA, Carlo, Pvt., 32419672, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.

27 MAY 1944

CHASE, Robert M., Pvt., 14064183, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co. CLARK, Clifford L., Sgt., 37068666, Co. "F", Eureka Springs, Arkansas.
D'ALESSIO, Antonio, Pvt., 31387373, Co. "L", Providence, Rhode Island.
DANIHLIK, Steve, Pvt., 36830246, Co. "A", South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
FAGENBAUM, Joseph S., Pfc., 36128268, Co. "H", Detroit, Michigan.
KELSEY, Adolph E., Pvt., 31405243, Co. "C", Waterbury, Connecticut.
RICE, Timothy, Pfc., 33629221, Co. "K", Marshall, North Carolina.
ROWLAND, William H., Pfc., 33149652, Co. "F", Niagara Falls, New York.
SZABO, Anthony, Pfc., 33563514, Co. "A", Prince Georges, Maryland.
WRIGHT, Robert S., Pvt., 13120313, Co. "F", Metuchen, New Jersey.

28 MAY 1944

BOWMAN, James, Pvt., 33775159, Co. "A", Cheney, Pennsylvania.
BUSH, James H., Pvt., 33209780, Co. "B", Kansas City, Kansas.
CHASING CROW, Vernon P., Sgt., 17005575, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Miami, Florida.
CONDON, Robert W., Pvt., 31345526, Co. "A", Simsbury, Connecticut.
COSHAREK, Nicholas, Pvt., 33149659, Co. "A", Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
DAVIS, James, Pvt., 15354890, Med. Det., Coshen, Indiana.
DENEHY, George A., Pvt., 32765308, Co. "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.
ERICKSON, Rudolph M., S/Sgt., 39303453, Co. "A", Quincy, Oregon.
EWING, Robert E., Pvt., 35225202, Co. "K", Grand Island, Nebraska.
HEINTZ, Louis K., Pfc., 38382581, Co. "A", Waco, Texas.
JAY, Clinton H., Pvt., 35235124, Co. "K", Youngstown, Ohio.
MAGARO, Peter N., Pfc., 36679116, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
McCARVELL, Herbert D., Pvt., 11085949, Co. "B", Winooski, Vermont.
MOYER, Glenn A., Pfc., 33606596, Co. "A", Berwick, Pennsylvania.
OSIPOFF, Michael, Pvt., 36871817, Co. "A", Dearborn, Michigan.
ROUX, Adrien J. P., Pvt., 31321309, Co. "B", Sabbathus, Maine.
STERNFELD, Bernard, Pvt., 32790962, Co. "A", Bronx, New York.
TANCIN, George, Pvt., 33602219, Co. "I", Upper Lehigh, Pennsylvania.

29 MAY 1944

BERARDI, Nello L., Pvt., 35556856, Co. "B", Sandusky, Ohio.
CASWELL, Henry J., Pvt., 36763354, Co. "K", Collinsville, Illinois.
DROBNIWSKI, Chester G., Pfc., 36296704, Co. "H", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
GODA, David, Pvt., 33743581, Co. "K", Washington, District of Columbia.
McKNIGHT, Wendel L., S/Sgt., 16014078, Co. "D", Charlotte, Michigan.
MURPHY, Ernest G., Pfc., 34763507, Co. "D", Lavonia, Georgia.

30 MAY 1944

DANZER, Harry, Pvt., 32539865, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
ORTIZ, Joseph, Pvt., 36661574, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
PENA, Ysidro T/4, 38032209, AT Co., Floresville, Texas.
RIENKS, Louis M., Pfc., 36463475, Co. "G", Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SZCZEPANSKI, Charles J. Sgt., 36196321, Co. "B", Vermontville, Michigan.
TESTA, Charles F., Pfc., 32664467, Co. "G", Utica, New York.

31 MAY 1944

ADAMS, John R., Pvt., 37721801, Co. "L", Essington, Pennsylvania.
ANDRESS, Floyd J., Sgt., 35346392, Co. "I", Geneva, Indiana.
BISPHAM, Edward J., Pvt., 35913416, Co. "D", Cleveland, Ohio.
BOROWSKI, Walter J., S/Sgt., 36601715, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
CHAMBERS, John M., Pvt., 34852300, Co. "K", Timberlake, North Carolina.
DARLACK, Stanley G., Pvt., 33897870, Co. "K", Baltimore, Maryland.
GOODWIN, Clarence P., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1319734, Co. "L", Gonzales Texas.
HEISLER, Arthur W., Pvt., 39620610, Co. "L", Billings, Montana.
HOUDE, Raymond A., Pvt., 31389866, Co. "L", Gardner, Massachusetts.
JARRETT, Benjamin F., Jr., Pfc., 34881149, Co. "K", Memphis, Tennessee.
LEWIS, Harold T., Pfc., 11015072, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lancaster, New Hampshire.
MANDEL, David, Pvt., 32886455, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
PEOPLES, Donald J., Pvt., 32366880, Co. "K", Trenton, New Jersey.
SCHUMACHER, John L., Pvt., 33749492, Co. "L", Washington, District of Columbia.
SILVIA, John H., Pvt., 31370595, Co. "K", Brockton, Massachusetts.
STEFIN, Vincent W., Pvt., 39921059, Co. "I", Salt Lake City, Utah.
THORNBURG, Kenneth K., Pvt., 39468316, Co. "I", Babbitt, Nevada.
VERNON, Phillip H., Pvt., 34893595, Co. "I", Winston Salem, North Carolina.

1 JUNE 1944

ALTHOUSE, Robert E., Pvt., 33833644, Co. "A", Lebanon, Pennsylvania.
COFFMAN, Paul R., Pvt., 33655857, Co. "A", Saint Charles, Virginia.
COOK, Charles R. Pfc., 36582453, Co. "A", Essexville, Michigan.
DAVIDOVITZ, Alfred, Pvt., 35314780, Co. "K", Cleveland, Ohio.
DWYER, Joseph E., Pfc., 31292559, Co. "D", Providence, Rhode Island.
GREEN, Samuel T. Jr., Pfc., 33218655, Co. "M", Tip Top, Virginia.
HAYES, Otis E., Jr., Pvt., 33898066, Co. "L", Owings Mills, Maryland.
HOUGH, George M., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-311788, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
HUNDRUP, Anton W., S/Sgt., 37328359, Co. "A", Dayton, Ohio.
LEVY, Harry E., Capt., 0-1292548, Co. "H", Haleshorpe, Maryland.
LINTHICUM, Franklin A., Pvt., 33897976, Co. "F", Baltimore, Maryland.
MASCINGOLO, Albert W., Pvt., 35282321, Co. "L", Niles, Ohio.
McCOY, James L., Pvt., 33656607, Co. "A", Covington, Virginia.
NAIL, Leo A., Pvt., 35174426, Co. "A", Youngstown, Ohio.
NEVAL, Thomas C., T/5, 42006323, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Forts, New Jersey.
NIX, Robert W., III, 1st Lt., 0-387880, Co. "A", Waterford, Virginia.
RENO, Sterling, Sgt., 34335473, Co. "K", New Castle, Alabama.
SALVETA, Leo, Pvt., 36587618, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.
SMITH, Wilbur L., Pvt., 34793135, Co. "F", Winter Park, Florida.
TILDEN, William T., Pvt., 34679212, Co. "A", High Point, North Carolina.
UNDERHILL, Frederick M., Jr., Pfc., 31337961, Co. "H", Danbury, Connecticut.
VASTOLA, Sam M., Pvt., 42025086, Co. "A", Buffalo, New York.
VICIC, Frank J., Pvt., 33573035, Co. "A", Lloydell, Pennsylvania.
WOZNEAK, Joseph G., Pvt., 33683166, Co. "D", Warren, Pennsylvania.

2 JUNE 1944

DYKE, Lawrence, Pvt., 33678303, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
LANGE, Arthur H., Pvt., 39921122, Co. "F", Rockwell City, Iowa.
LUEBKE, Arden D., Pfc., 36832865, Co. "F", Beloit, Wisconsin.
MANUES, Roy L., Pvt., 37617474, Co. "F", Pevely, Missouri.
MARTEL, Ferdinand J., Pfc., 17006108, Co. "A", Medina, North Dakota.
ROMANO, Frank J., Pfc., 13153243, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
ROUSH, Jacob R., Jr., Pfc., 35708241, Co. "E", Terre Haute, Indiana.

3 JUNE 1944

ABERNATHY, Thomas C., Pvt., 34891470, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Boger City, North Carolina.
BANKS, Stacy O., Pvt., 33656696, Co. "C", Lyndhurst, Virginia.
BOYER, Earl W., Pfc., 35201849, Co. "A", Mason City, West Virginia.
DAY, Ernest E., Sgt., 37550182, Co. "C", Carrington, North Dakota.

DEEGAN, Thomas J., Jr., Pvt., 31305530, Co. "K", Boston, Massachusetts.
DOERNER, Wayne, Pfc., 36763156, Co. "K", Granite City, Illinois.
GRASTY, Charles F., Pfc., 33646485, Co. "K", Orange, Virginia.
LARGE, Charles W., Pvt., 33735974, Co. "D", Lenoir City, Tennessee.
RANEY, John S., 1st Lt., 0-1300217, Co. "M", Brooklyn, New York.
SCULLEY, Thomas H., 2nd Lt., 0-1324194, Co. "K", Long Island, New York.
SWETT, Roy A., Pvt., 35933627, Co. "I", Atlanta, Georgia.
TOFFEY, John J., III, Lt. Col., 0-335348, RF8S, Columbus, Ohio.
VALENTINO, Joseph J., Pvt., 32862639, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
WALE, Albert J., Pvt., 39140759, Co. "K", San Francisco, California.
WALKER, William C., Pvt., 39711328, Co. "K", Bell, California.
WILLIAMS, Francis B., Pvt., 33658362, Co. "K", Strasburg, Virginia.
WINTERS, Robert V., Pfc., 32855605, Co. "K", Randall, New York.
ZISNER, Irving, Pvt., 32999544, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.

4 JUNE 1944

KORPAK, Alex., Pvt., 32848072, Co. "L", Syracuse, New York.
MEENAN, Joseph R., Pvt., 31387368, Co. "I", Providence, Rhode Island.
NAKTENIS, George M., Pvt., 31378756, Co. "L", Hartford, Connecticut.
SAUNDERS, Robert P., Pvt., 42035347, Co. "G", Hudson Falls, New York.
SPENCER, Edward S., S/Sgt., 34730971, Co. "L", Lovellville, Tennessee.
WEISS, Seymour, Pvt., 32997446, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.

5 JUNE 1944

SARGEANT, Marvin, Pvt., 34813828, Co. "D", Notasulga, Alabama.
SCOTHORN, George M., Pvt., 37566716, Co. "A", Watertown, South Dakota.

7 JUNE 1944

NOBLE, Montie P., S/Sgt., 6666850, Co. "A", Anco, Kentucky.

19 JUNE 1944

MOEDE, Owen F., Pvt., 37576031, Co. "I", Forrest Lake, Minnesota.

21 JUNE 1944

McCOY, Andrew C., Pvt., 34735213, Co. "A", Frankfort, Tennessee.

Campaign of Southern France

15 AUGUST 1944

ADDIS, Gerald J., S/Sgt., 35153522, Co. "G", Albion, Indiana.
ARSENAULT, George C., Sgt., 31398687, Co. "A", Rumford, Maine.
BARTELSON, John L., Pvt., 31385400, Co. "H", Providence, Rhode Island.
BILLS, Charles R., Pfc., 38513153, Co. "G", Olney, Texas.
BOLLEN, Chester H., Pvt., 33670271, Co. "D", Westview, Pennsylvania.
BURKE, Melon J., Pvt., 18062227, Med. Det., Orange, Texas.
CASPER, Selwyn S., Pfc., 37268744, Co. "F", Tracy, Minnesota.
CONAWAY, Mino T., Pvt., 33833516, Co. "K", Norristown, Pennsylvania.
COOK, Robert O., Sgt., 37399195, Co. "F", Hallsville, Missouri.
COOPERBERG, Harold, Pfc., 6584709, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
COUGHLIN, Francis X., Pvt., 13200381, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
CRAMPTON, Merle O., Pfc., 33562048, Co. "G", Fairplay, Maryland.
CREAGH, John J., 2nd Lt., 0-1317971, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
CUCCINIELLO, William S., S/Sgt., 31305626, Co. "K", Chelsea, Massachusetts.
DAVENPORT, Harry I., Pfc., 20112414, Co. "G", Dudley, Massachusetts.
DAVIS, Sammie, Pvt., 34810327, Co. "D", Springville, Alabama.
DI MATTEO, Joseph M., Pfc., 33600188, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DURANDO, Thomas J., Pvt., 32805917, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
EAST, Harry F., Pvt., 35897116, Co. "G", Michigan City, Indiana.
EIDSON, Wyman, Pvt., 34686454, Co. "G", Augusta, Georgia.
FINOCCHIARO, Fred H., Cpl., 33139369, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
FITZGERALD, Francis J., Pfc., 42013264, Co. "A", Union City, New Jersey.
FLETKE, Gilbert E., Sgt., 36121410, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
FRIEDLANDER, Herman H., Pvt., 38286638, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Dallas, Texas.
FRY, Cecil O., Pvt., 39136975, Co. "F", Watsonville, California.
HALE, James L., S/Sgt., 35668320, Co. "E", Bimble, Kentucky.

HAZEN, James W., Jr., Pfc., 38126940, Co. "K", Ponca City, Oklahoma.
 HERBERT, Joseph J., Pvt., 38258467, Co. "D", Guey Dam, Louisiana.
 HOWARD, Murt M., Pfc., 33291294, Co. "G", Duquesne, Pennsylvania.
 KAFKA, William J., Pfc., 36662490, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
 KERSEY, Robert L., Pvt., 39419308, Co. "F", Dyess, Arkansas.
 KING, George, Pfc., 32166977, Co. "D", Bayonne, New Jersey.
 KOSIBA, Joseph, Pfc., 36856688, Co. "F", Detroit, Michigan.
 MARENGO, Clarence L., Sgt., 19018731, Co. "F", Arlee, Montana.
 MILLER, Orrin J., Pfc., 35870197, Co. "B", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 MORLEY, Maynard R., Pfc., 36570015, Co. "G", Detroit, Michigan.
 NIEDZWIECKI, Chester J., Pfc., 36810453, Co. "F", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 NORLING, Sven R., Pfc., 37283676, Co. "H", McIntosh, Minnesota.
 ORGANIS, John S., Pfc., 32877944, Co. "G", McAdoo, Pennsylvania.
 PACION, Frank A., Pfc., 36875185, Co. "G", Dearborn, Michigan.
 PARKER, Ivan H., Pvt., 39336524, Co. "E", Eugene, Oregon.
 ROSS, Ernest N., Pfc., 20111605, Co. "G", Old Orchard, Oregon.
 SCHULTZ, Harold A., 1st Lt., 0-1315974, Co. "D", Naspeth, New York.
 SEILF, Paul F., Pvt., 42024845, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
 SHELTON, Simon P., S/Sgt., 6925690, Co. "F", Flag Pond, Tennessee.
 SHAFER, Robert H., S/Sgt., 33678996, Co. "F", Elderton, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, Robert E., Pfc., 19014213, Co. "G", Portland, Oregon.
 SORBER, George W., Pvt., 32235114, Co. "B", Harrison, New Jersey.
 STAWIARSKI, Stanley, Pfc., 36164255, Co. "A", Detroit, Michigan.
 ST. HILAIRE, Adrien J., Pvt., 31320407, Co. "G", Lewiston, Maine.
 STREETER, William H., Pfc., 37357378, Co. "B", Cheyenne, Wyoming.
 SWAYNE, Robert J., Sr., Sgt., 33656649, Co. "G", Galax, Virginia.
 TAKACS, John J., Jr., Pvt., 35915675, Co. "G", Kellington, Ohio.
 TAURIANIN, Robert E., Pvt., 36451333, Co. "G", Hurontown, Michigan.
 THIELBAR, Edward T., Jr., Pvt., 36686570, Co. "G", Elgin, Illinois.
 TOINEETA, Jeremiah, Pfc., 34599187, Co. "F", Cherokee, North Carolina.
 WALL, John B., Pvt., 31306196, Co. "B", Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 WILLIAMS, Robert J., Sgt., 32877114, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.

16 AUGUST 1944

BEEVER, John D., Pvt., 36481547, Co. "C", Peking, Illinois.
 CASSIDY, Edwin H., Pfc., 31196154, Co. "G", Etowah, Tennessee.
 CHILENSKY, John, 2nd Lt., 0-1321154, Co. "A", Colliers, West Virginia.
 GERMANY, Roy B., Pfc., 34624431, Co. "C", Centreville, Mississippi.
 WEBSTER, Charles H., Pvt., 31245250, Med. Det., Wakefield, Rhode Island.

17 AUGUST 1944

HEGLUND, Dale L., Pvt., 39336002, Co. "G", Columbia, Oregon.
 HORYT, Edward S., Pfc., 42012303, Co. "E", Elizabeth, New Jersey.
 SPARK, Albert J., Sgt., 37035953, Co. "H", Logan, Iowa.

18 AUGUST 1944

BERCHIOLLY, Thomas F., S/Sgt., 7031867, Co. "L", Macon, Georgia.
 CARSON, Joseph C., Pfc., 34147942, Co. "E", Memphis, Tennessee.
 DE FILIPPO, Anthony J., Pvt., 32944002, Co. "L", Ballston Spa, New York.
 SELF, Loise J., Pfc., 34726986, Co. "A", Flintville, Tennessee.
 SIME, Richard C., 2nd Lt., 0-1313401, Co. "L", Aberdeen, South Dakota.

19 AUGUST 1944

SAYLOR, Leonard H., Pvt., 33735891, Co. "G", Rasburg, Maryland.

21 AUGUST 1944

BONOYER, Francis T., S/Sgt., 31025499, Co. "C", Northbridge, Massachusetts.
 NICHOLS, Robert R., Pfc., 35609106, Co. "C", Hope-dale, Ohio.

22 AUGUST 1944

McGHAN, Paul V., 1st Lt., 0-1317098, Co. "K", Saratoga Springs, New York.

23 AUGUST 1944

BURRIS, Othie, Pvt., 35622783, Co. "A", Alger, Ohio.
 GOETZ, Carl A., Pvt., 32756131, Co. "G", Mays Landing, New Jersey.

28 AUGUST 1944

CUNNINGHAM, Joe R., Jr., Pfc., 34736302, Co. "B", Graysville, Tennessee.
 FARMER, Leslie H., Pvt., 35101309, Co. "K", Lewisburg, Kentucky.
 HAGAN, Stephen J., Pvt., 31372165, Co. "K", Salem, Massachusetts.
 SWEIGARD, Harold H., Pvt., 17011447, Co. "K", Stanton, Nebraska.

29 AUGUST 1944

DIEHL, William H., Pfc., 35870266, Co. "K", Canton, Ohio.
 FERNALD, Harold L., Jr., T/Sgt., 11039985, Co. "K", Nottingham, New Hampshire.
 FOTTENBURY, Otis O., 2nd Lt., 0-2055045, Co. "M", Arkington Heights, Ohio.
 MUNGAY, William, Pfc., 42050654, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 SMITH, James E., Pfc., 34827727, Co. "I", Thomas-ton, Georgia.
 STANSBERRY, Ray, Pfc., 35671525, Co. "K", Brook-side, Kentucky.
 STEINER, John H., S/Sgt., 35010988, Co. "K", New Philadelphia, Ohio.

2 SEPTEMBER 1944

FALKOWSKI, John S., Pfc., 32468539, Co. "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.

4 SEPTEMBER 1944

KROVCHUCK, William E., Pvt., 17017625, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 WARR, Robert L., Sgt., 34645109, Co. "F", Camden, South Carolina.

5 SEPTEMBER 1944

MERRIHEW, Harry L., Jr., Pfc., 32942820, Co. "F", Plattsburg, New York.
 MULLER, James E., Pvt., 32863019, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jackson Heights, New York.
 SMITH, James V., Sgt., 36446959, Co. "F", Peoria, Illinois.

6 SEPTEMBER 1944

HERRERA, John A., Pfc., 37342763, Co. "G", Denver, Colorado.
 KESTERSON, Doyle D., Pfc., 38511648, Co. "E", Dierks, Arkansas.
 KLATTE, Ralph C., Pvt., 35808118, Co. "C", Terre Haute, Indiana.
 MEYER, Charles F., Pfc., 32642713, Co. "E", White Stone, Long Island, New York.
 TAYLOR, Shuba W., Pfc., 33515013, Co. "L", Wash-ington, District of Columbia.
 TRUPIANO, Dominick J., Pfc., 38495315, Co. "L", Marrero, Louisiana.
 URBA, Walter, Pfc., 42010378, Co. "G", Kearny, New Jersey.

7 SEPTEMBER 1944

CRAWFORD, Woodrow W., Pfc., 32327052, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 FUCHS, Herbert B., Pvt., 42035880, Co. "M", Brook-lyn, New York.
 GREEN, Robert A., Pvt., 33640171, Co. "B", Sand-ston, Virginia.
 MONTGOMERY, John F., Jr., Pfc., 12101216, Co. "B", Livingston, New Jersey.
 TOLBERT, Raymond W., Pvt., 33898059, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
 WALBERT, George W., Pvt., 33832047, Co. "B", Easton, Pennsylvania.

9 SEPTEMBER 1944

DAVIS, Lucius S., Jr., Capt., 0-381599, Co. "M", Seattle, Washington.
 DRAPER, James H., Cpl., 36678085, Co. "M", Ohio, Illinois.
 HAYES, Frank, Pfc., 35101321, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Henderson, Kentucky.
 MONASTERIO, Fidel, Pfc., 39683311, Co. "M", Mount Home, Idaho.
 TAMBURINE, Albert J., Pvt., 33683168, Co. "M", Warren, Pennsylvania.

10 SEPTEMBER 1944

GREENE, Julian F., S/Sgt., 14142174, Co. "M", Warwick, Georgia.
 HARRIS, John W., Pfc., 33642983, Co. "G", Norfolk, Virginia.
 MALLOY, George, Pvt., 32777092, Co. "L", Newark, New Jersey.
 PATTERSON, Elwyn D., Pfc., 35224861, Co. "L", Logan, Ohio.
 VERMEULEN, Edward F., Pfc., 36453887, Co. "G", Kalamazoo, Michigan.

11 SEPTEMBER 1944

ALEXANDER, John F., Pfc., 39011010, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Richmond, California.
 ALLEY, Willis D., Pfc., 6947333, Co. "M", Balti-more, Maryland.
 GRIFFIN, Virgil R., T/5, 36459455, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Battle Creek, Michigan.
 HANNON, Ernest E., Pfc., 31051221, Co. "K", Provi-dence, Rhode Island.

12 SEPTEMBER 1944

BEVINS, Edward J., Sgt., 31009111, Co. "L", Hart-ford, Connecticut.

13 SEPTEMBER 1944

CASTONGUAY, Raymond J., S/Sgt., 31378806, Co. "K", Hartford, Connecticut.
 KATZ, Sidney, T/5, 32820255, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.
 McCLELLAN, Harold J., Sgt., 34256684, Co. "A", Charlotte, North Carolina.
 POTISUK, Stephen, Sgt., 35607984, Co. "L", Kent, Ohio.
 SANDERS, Henry, Pfc., 39537850, Co. "K", Compton, California.
 SHULL, Elmer J., Pfc., 34884793, Co. "K", Elizabeth, Tennessee.

14 SEPTEMBER 1944

ADLER, Harold, Pfc., 32539690, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Bronx, New York.
 ANCANAGE, Joseph S., 2nd Lt., 0-1319909, Cn. Co., Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 EVANS, Rufus, Jr., Pfc., 34808814, Co. "C", Brewton, Alabama.
 GOODWIN, James A., Sgt., 36649957, Co. "A", Herrin, Illinois.
 LOWE, James D., Pvt., 34893216, Co. "A", Spring-field, North Carolina.
 NALBONE, Angelo C., Pvt., 32957274, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Trenton, New Jersey.
 OLSEN, Stanley K., Pvt., 36870857, Co. "B", Detroit, Michigan.
 STREHLE, Frank, 2nd Lt., 0-1287780, Co. "A", New Orleans, Louisiana.
 STUMP, Robert W., Pfc., 35668212, Co. "C", Nor-wood, Ohio.
 TROTTER, Morris L., Pfc., 34187574, Co. "K", Cun-ningham, Tennessee.
 VAILLANCOURT, Ernest J., Pfc., 31261860, Cn. Co., Northbridge, Massachusetts.

The Campaign of the Rhineland

15 SEPTEMBER 1944

BLACKWOOD, Arthur J., 2nd Lt., 0-2055944, Co. "H", Donnybrook, North Dakota.
 BURKHARDT, Richard L., 1st Lt., 0-439204, Co. "D", Xenia, Ohio.
 CANALE, William T., Pfc., 34738331, Co. "L", Memphis, Tennessee.
 D'ANGELO, Thomas, Sgt., 32880883, Co. "D", New York, New York.
 DEBO, Ralph V., Pfc., 35273920, Co. "M", Canton, Ohio.
 DEEMER, Howard K., Pvt., 33674988, Co. "L", Zelenople, Pennsylvania.
 DUBY, Bernard L., Pvt., 20631945, Co. "M", Saginaw, Michigan.
 GOLDSMITH, James H., Pvt., 33897968, Co. "L", Prince George, Maryland.
 HALL, Noah B., Pfc., 34571293, Co. "L", Adel, Georgia.
 HANSON, Thomas E., Pfc., 39683352, Co. "M", Salt Lake City, Utah.
 KUHNS, Harry T., Jr., S/Sgt., 53240415, Co. "A", Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
 MORRIS, Sherman, Pvt., 35728716, Co. "D", Wick-liffe, Kentucky.
 PERKINS, Thomas J., Pfc., 36811183, Co. "I", Superior, Wisconsin.
 SARDO, Pasquale, Pfc., 31259645, Co. "M", Fitch-burg, Massachusetts.
 SCOTT, George W., Pfc., 34880182, Co. "I", McMIn-ville, Tennessee.
 SHAPIRO, Bernard M., Pvt., 32995258, Co. "I", Brooklyn, New York.
 THOMPSON, Kenneth J., S/Sgt., 19012297, Co. "D", Alampo, California.
 THOMPSON, William B., Pfc., 34625185, Co. "C", Aberdeen, Mississippi.
 VALERI, Ernest, Sgt., 32999605, Co. "I", White Plains, New York.
 YANISH, William G., S/Sgt., 33109588, Co. "I", Sheffield, Pennsylvania.

16 SEPTEMBER 1944

CATALANO, Angelo J., S/Sgt., 31040314, Co. "C", Willimantic, Connecticut.
 DIOGUARDI, Joseph C., Sgt., 36031259, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 HIRZEL, Howard H., Jr., Pfc., 32959378, Co. "L", Baltimore, Maryland.
 NELSON, John D., Pfc., 33384450, Co. "D", Cris-field, Maryland.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944

FELKEL, Absalom C., Pfc., 34651526, Co. "D", Ello-ree, South Carolina.

20 SEPTEMBER 1944

LEONARD, Ocko F., Pvt., 34114070, Co. "I", Lexing-ton, North Carolina.
 McELVEEN, Joseph M., 1st Lt., 0-1298894, Co. "D", Charlotte, North Carolina.
 SCHUTT, Melvin J., Jr., Pfc., 31341731, Co. "E", South Egremont, Massachusetts.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944

BOGER, Arthur O., Pvt., 33833651, Co. "A", Leban-ion, Pennsylvania.
 BUSCHEL, Leonard, 1st Lt., 0-1302948, Co. "L", New York, New York.
 CAMPBELL, Tyler, Capt., 0-1309513, Co. "A", Tow-son, Maryland.
 OLIVE, Edward J., Pfc., 37554803, Co. "A", Carlton, Minnesota.
 PRIDEMORE, Albert T., Pfc., 34491946, Co. "A", Knoxville, Tennessee.

22 SEPTEMBER 1944
 EGGLEFIELD, William R., Sgt., 32942379, Co. "A", Elizabethtown, New York.
 FINE, William, Pvt., 13177900, Co. "K", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 GILBERT, James J., Pvt., 32997892, Co. "I", Brooklyn, New York.
 MILLER, Walter E., Pvt., 33441004, Co. "A", Acme, Pennsylvania.
 NEVILLE, Thomas J., Pfc., 32666323, Co. "D", Troy, New York.
 TARLETON, Francis G., Pvt., 34852171, Co. "I", Wadesboro, North Carolina.
 WHITE, Gilmer W., Pvt., 34891493, Co. "I", Germantown, North Carolina.
 YAVANISKI, John J., Pvt., 32852640, Co. "D", Hoosick Falls, New York.

24 SEPTEMBER 1944
 COGAR, Fred, Pfc., 35202017, Co. "K", White Pine, West Virginia.
 HARNETT, Thomas M., S/Sgt., 32230016, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
 JONES, Leonard A., T/Sgt., 33443644, Co. "K", Roseville, Virginia.
 THORNBURGH, Joseph W., Pfc., 38052053, Co. "F", Crosby, Texas.

25 SEPTEMBER 1944
 BLAHA, Richard J., Pfc., 36744010, Co. "C", Berwyn, Illinois.
 CASE, Arthur D., S/Sgt., 19014941, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Wetzley, California.
 CHRISTIAN, Clarence A., Pvt., 37704977, Co. "I", Denver, Colorado.
 DENNING, Adrian I., Jr., T/Sgt., 33044628, Co. "E", Washington, District of Columbia.
 EARP, Otis C., Pfc., 36810585, Co. "H", La Crosse, Wisconsin.
 GARDNER, Calvin R., Pfc., 33434139, Co. "H", Weepville, Pennsylvania.
 MILLS, Thomas K., S/Sgt., 36739081, Co. "M", Whitestone, South Carolina.

26 SEPTEMBER 1944
 JOHNSON, Melvin M., Pvt., 36667711, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 REYES, Richard J., Pvt., 38462227, Co. "I", San Antonio, Texas.
 RYSER, Cornelius J., S/Sgt., 36369095, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.

27 SEPTEMBER 1944
 COCHENOUR, Howard G., Pfc., 33689338, Co. "A", McKees Rock, Pennsylvania.
 DI DONATO, William J., Pfc., 33792454, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HACKER, John L., Pvt., 35501979, Co. "A", Hamilton, Ohio.
 HAUGHT, James M., Pfc., 33671852, Co. "A", New Kensington, Pennsylvania.
 JONKMAN, Boniface, Pfc., 32779339, Co. "H", Paterson, New Jersey.
 KITTREDGE, Marvin J., Pvt., 31392096, Co. "A", Worcester, Massachusetts.
 MANGIGIAN, Minas G., Pfc., 39023368, Co. "A", Los Angeles, California.
 SCHAFFER, Thomas A., Pfc., 35919516, Co. "A", Cleveland, Ohio.
 WALTERS, Arthur A., Pvt., 36713728, Co. "A", Eau Claire, Michigan.
 WYNN, Harvey E., Cpl., 17003540, Co. "I", Saint Paul, Minnesota.

28 SEPTEMBER 1944
 HENSON, Delma, Pfc., 38437350, Co. "E", McGregor, Texas.
 POMPEI, Daniel R., Sgt., 33618465, Co. "E", Perkasie, Pennsylvania.
 SOJA, Edward F., Pfc., 33511669, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

29 SEPTEMBER 1944
 ADAMIAN, Vahey A. J., Pvt., 31308506, Co. "C", Arlington, Massachusetts.
 CUMMINGS, James T., Pfc., 37108861, AT Co., Prescott, Arkansas.
 GALFRE, Vincent A., Pfc., 31134283, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Middleboro, Massachusetts.
 GIDCUMB, Alfred W., Pvt., 36687359, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Harrisburg, Illinois.
 LOVETT, Joseph G., Pvt., 31408849, Co. "F", Waterbury, Connecticut.
 TARTAGLIA, Frank, Pfc., 32776834, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kearny, New Jersey.
 WHITNEY, Donald R., Pfc., 37666201, AT Co., Dundee, Iowa.

30 SEPTEMBER 1944
 ARROWSMITH, Stanley D., 1st Sgt., 34210075, Co. "I", Winasboro, South Carolina.
 AUGUSTYN, Anthony S., Sgt., 12133547, Co. "L", Trenton, New Jersey.
 BOZEMAN, William T., Pfc., 34399996, Co. "A", Trenton, New Jersey.
 DEAN, Harold M., Pfc., 20421023, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Quincy, Florida.
 KAGLE, Raymond P., Pvt., 13038899, Co. "A", Mollenauer, Pennsylvania.
 MARLATT, Chester L., Pfc., 35234743, Co. "B", New Comberstown, Ohio.
 NICHOLSON, William C., Pvt., 34876642, Co. "L", Richton, Mississippi.
 PRIMMAR, Donald B., Pvt., 19012384, Co. "B", Richmond, California.
 ROTHERMUND, Earl R., Sgt., 33418204, Co. "F", Muse, Pennsylvania.

SCHERGER, Thomas M., Pfc., 20504069, Co. "A", Defiance, Ohio.
 SPENCE, Elmer R., Pvt., 33342520, Co. "M", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 TRON, Paul J., 1st Lt., 0-1312364, Co. "A", Marion, Ohio.
 WILKINS, Chester O., Pvt., 42081901, Co. "L", Frankford, Delaware.

1 OCTOBER 1944
 CRAWFORD, W. H., Pvt., 20420609, Co. "I", Winter Garden, Florida.
 GOULETTE, Cheshawgan H., Capt., 0-323851, AT Co., Phoenix, Arizona.
 HANNAH, Walter W., Pvt., 33898989, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
 LINDBERG, Charles T., Pvt., 37722681, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
 LOPEMAN, Herbert T., Pvt., 35297739, Co. "I", Bellevue, Ohio.
 MILLER, Wayne E., Pfc., 35606179, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.
 SIEGEL, Martin, Pfc., 42043143, Co. "F", New York, New York.

3 OCTOBER 1944
 GIANARIS, Louis N., Pvt., 33700056, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

4 OCTOBER 1944
 DE SANTI, Michael, Pfc., 32371845, Co. "G", Albany, New York.
 GITTLEN, Joseph J., Pvt., 33076398, Co. "D", Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
 KADRA, William J., Cpl., 31134158, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.

5 OCTOBER 1944
 BEARD, Davis M., Pvt., 34876233, Co. "E", Tuplo, Mississippi.
 DAILEY, Donald L., Pvt., 6580609, Co. "C", O'Neill, Nebraska.
 EGLITZ, Arthur R., Pfc., 32793141, Co. "C", New York, New York.
 LAMPKIN, Ernest A., Pfc., 33640229, Co. "C", Charles City, Virginia.
 LEWIS, Clair E., Jr., Pfc., 33433952, Co. "E", Titusville, Pennsylvania.
 LINKER, Paul E., Pfc., 34591119, Co. "G", Concord, North Carolina.
 MATHIS, Reese C., Pfc., 34634602, Co. "H", Collins, Mississippi.
 PETERS, Harry A., Pvt., 36901610, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 THOMPSON, Lloyd E., Pvt., 39184521, Med. Det., Vakiama, Washington.

6 OCTOBER 1944
 BARICH, John A., S/Sgt., 36695728, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 BERARDI, Frank J., Pfc., 32641568, Co. "C", New York, New York.
 COHEN, Ralph E., Pvt., 42037216, Co. "H", Bronx, New York.
 LEIGH, Farris E., Pfc., 35702998, Co. "L", Eubank, Kentucky.
 MERKOW, David A., Pvt., 31340754, Co. "L", Cairo, Georgia.
 MILLER, Dean A., Pfc., 31178866, Co. "L", Whitefield, New Hampshire.
 MOLYNEAUX, John M., Pvt., 35589258, Med. Det., Akron, Ohio.
 PAWLAK, Raymond J., Pvt., 36883806, Co. "L", Wayne, Michigan.
 POTEETE, Elmer F., Pvt., 34920925, Co. "K", Franklin, Tennessee.
 SHORT, Willard A., Pvt., 34679150, Co. "L", Greensboro, North Carolina.
 SLOCKBOWER, Edward W., Pfc., 32918661, Co. "L", Hamburg, New Jersey.
 TOMPKINS, Robert J., Pfc., 36414555, Co. "I", Lansing, Michigan.
 WALDIE, Alexander S., Pfc., 31309859, Co. "L", Andover, Massachusetts.
 WALLACE, John, Pfc., 39020957, Co. "I", Stratford, Oklahoma.
 ZAPPILE, Charles C., Pvt., 33808693, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

7 OCTOBER 1944
 BARTKOWIAK, Benedict M., Pfc., 35273754, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.
 FAIRCLOTH, James W., Pfc., 34801963, Co. "G", Pritchard, Alabama.
 FLYNN, Francis P., Pfc., 32939440, Co. "F", Auburn, New York.
 HUSTON, Paul K., Pfc., 35593853, Co. "E", New Waterford, Ohio.
 MARTINEZ, Patrocino, Sgt., 39561652, Co. "L", Ocean Park, California.
 MATOSKY, Stanley A., Pfc., 31415187, Co. "A", Northfield, Massachusetts.
 MORESCHI, William, Jr., Pfc., 31033816, Co. "G", Everett, Massachusetts.
 PATTON, ROBERT D., Jr., Pvt., 19188485, Co. "C", Sacramento, California.
 PIPA, Louis, Pfc., 32887658, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.
 TAYLOR, Marwood S., 1st Lt., 0-1313323, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 WHITE, Robert A., S/Sgt., 19119659, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Payette, Idaho.

8 OCTOBER 1944
 DILL, George R., Jr., T/Sgt., 34396664, Co. "C", Yante, Alabama.

Commerce, Georgia.
 ROBERTS, Buford J., Pfc., 34591957, Co. "K", Kangarrison, Thomas S., Pfc., 34830711, Co. "C", napolis, North Carolina.
 SPENCER, Leslie V., Pfc., 19019297, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Midway, Kentucky.
 SYKES, Charlie W., Pfc., 34464646, Co. "A", Roper, North Carolina.
 WILLIAMS, Ralph H., Sgt., 34671340, Co. "H".

9 OCTOBER 1944
 GUNTER, Lawrence W., Pvt., 34897823, Co. "L", Bostic, North Carolina.
 HALEK, Edward F., Pvt., 33385039, Co. "D", Baltimore, Maryland.
 REIGHTER, William A., Pvt., 33705330, Co. "L", Jeannette, Pennsylvania.

10 OCTOBER 1944
 McTEER, Cecil H., Sr., Pvt., 34848276, Co. "A", White Hall, South Carolina.

11 OCTOBER 1944
 CURTIN, Clarence C., T/5, 6860624, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Grand Island, Nebraska.

13 OCTOBER 1944
 WOLVEN, Llewellyn R., Pvt., 32947587, Co. "C", Kingston, New York.

14 OCTOBER 1944
 LEWIS, Robert E., S/Sgt., 36446020, Co. "I", Wagoner, Illinois.

15 OCTOBER 1944
 BROWN, Truman L., Sgt., 17013453, AT Co., Russellville, Arkansas.

20 OCTOBER 1944
 AUSBURNE, Robert L., Pvt., 33651779, Co. "A", Galex, Virginia.
 GALLAGHER, Bernard J., Pfc., 13080650, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 KLINE, Leon W., Jr., Pvt., 32447293, Med. Det., Milford, New Jersey.
 LIFSCHITZ, Samuel, Pfc., 42037242, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
 NELSON, Chris H., Pvt., 37477352, Co. "A", Knox, Nebraska.
 SNECKENBERGER, Robert J., Sgt., 33435652, Co. "G", New Castle, Pennsylvania.
 WILSON, Robert, Pfc., 34916682, Co. "E", Dadeville, Alabama.

21 OCTOBER 1944
 BOWMAN, Glenn M., Pfc., 39922748, Co. "E", Sterling, Idaho.
 BURNES, Edward J., Pfc., 31048877, Co. "B", Clinton, Connecticut.
 FORESTAL, Bernard J., Pvt., 36841014, Co. "E", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 FULBRIGHT, Golden J., Pvt., 38598044, Co. "L", Waldenburg, Arkansas.
 HERBIN, Harry J., Pfc., 36546965, Co. "E", Saginaw, Michigan.
 HOLCOMB, Wesley L., Pvt., 33903694, Co. "I", Joppa, Maryland.
 McLENDON, Clarence D., Pfc., 34812522, Co. "E", Jasper, Alabama.
 MEDINA, Alfred M., Pvt., 38165451, Co. "C", Monero, New Mexico.
 ROMANO, Anthony J., Pvt., 32947924, Co. "I", Rome, New York.
 WILKINSON, Earl, Pfc., 34871123, Co. "G", New Orleans, Louisiana.

22 OCTOBER 1944
 ALBRITTON, Joe C., 1st Lt., 0-1030332, Co. "B", Farmerville, Louisiana.
 BIRD, George, Pvt., 33706230, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 BRENGEL, James F., Pfc., 32996765, Co. "M", Seaciff, New York.
 CARR, Andrew J., Pfc., 34140878, Co. "D", McDonald, Tennessee.
 EDWARDS, John, Pvt., 33435836, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Newcastle, Pennsylvania.
 FOX, Charles E., Pfc., 34883883, Co. "D", Bylington, Tennessee.
 LEVIN, Percy, Pvt., 42022520, Co. "K", Niagara Falls, Niagara, New York.
 MARTIN, Marvin H., Pfc., 33649054, Co. "D", Martinsville, Virginia.
 MASON, John F., Pfc., 31342965, Co. "D", Meriden, Connecticut.
 NELLINGER, Ernest, Pfc., 35097464, Co. "A", Bloomington, Indiana.
 OVERHOLT, James L., Pvt., 35924569, Co. "I", Barberton, Ohio.
 REMICK, William C., Pfc., 31226804, Co. "K", Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 SHIEPKO, Anthony T., Pfc., 32621973, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 YOUNG, Donald L., S/Sgt., 36457373, Co. "K", Marquette, Michigan.

23 OCTOBER 1944
 FREDELL, William L., Pvt., 33432893, Co. "E", Kane, Pennsylvania.
 MUTHER, Donald, Pvt., 31428505, Co. "I", Newton, Massachusetts.

24 OCTOBER 1944
 CHAMPAGNE, Leon J., Pvt., 31428645, Co. "I", Springfield, Massachusetts.
 REWERS, Joseph F., Pfc., 33064635, Co. "L", Baltimore, Maryland.

25 OCTOBER 1944

ATKINS, Charles L., Pvt., 42033916, Co. "I", Queens, New York.
 FERINA, Patrick F., Pfc., 42013117, Co. "I", Hoboken, New Jersey.
 GALLO, Nicholas R., Pfc., 32910900, Co. "I", Trenton, New Jersey.
 HUSING, John C., 1st Lt., 0-376627, AT Co., Lynbrook, New Jersey.
 LINDLEY, James A., Pfc., 35706284, Co. "F", Paoli, Indiana.
 MITCHELL, Vana F., Pvt., 35775339, Co. "A", Rhodell, West Virginia.
 ORTIZ, Michael J., Pfc., 39265749, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Huntington Park, California.
 RODKEY, George L., T/5, 33073566, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Osterburg, Pennsylvania.
 SCHLAANSTINE, Frederick R., S/Sgt., 33797473, Co. "I", Kennet Square, Pennsylvania.
 WHITEKNACT, George N., Pvt., 36694942, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 YUENGERT, George R., Pfc., 35918440, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.

26 OCTOBER 1944

BARTLETT, Edward O., Pvt., 36590835, Co. "B", Wyandotte, Michigan.
 CRAWFORD, George W., T/Sgt., 36197849, Co. "F", Hillsdale, Michigan.
 DE MEGLIO, Jerry A., Pfc., 32822470, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 EHRLICH, Howard N., Pfc., 12041603, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 GILREATH, James A., Pvt., 35924806, Co. "B", Dent, Ohio.
 KALMANOWITZ, Morris, S/Sgt., 32655070, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
 SHEEHAN, John J., Pvt., 42033573, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 STRUBER, Isaac, Sgt., 32046182, Co. "L", Kingston, New York.

27 OCTOBER 1944

BIER, Arthur A., Pvt., 12014145, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
 DETWILER, Richard E., Pvt., 32959181, Co. "F", Riverside, New Jersey.
 LUCAS, Ecklor C., T/5, 37064386, Co. "B", Gentry, Arkansas.
 SAMUELS, John H., Pvt., 35261794, Co. "C", Eaton, Ohio.
 WILSON, Bassy M., Pfc., 34893585, Co. "I", Canton, North Carolina.

28 OCTOBER 1944

GALLARDO, Macario J., Pvt., 38578217, Co. "L", El Paso, Texas.
 GOSS, Floyd E., Pvt., 35899938, Co. "B", Richmond, Indiana.
 JUDGE, SAMUEL, Pvt., 31427391, Co. "A", Brockton, Massachusetts.
 KAY, Walker H., S/Sgt., 7006437, Co. "I", Hartwell, Georgia.
 TETREAULT, Albert J., 2nd Lt., 0-2155232, BP, Meriden, Connecticut.

29 OCTOBER 1944

CESSNA, Dale E., Sgt., 36738447, Co. "G", Sumner, Illinois.
 FRALEY, Lloyd J., Pvt., 39173990, Co. "L", Jackson, Kentucky.
 GILBERTSON, Richard A., Pfc., 39709939, Co. "G", Ventura, California.
 GOLLADAY, Floyd W., Pfc., 39213481, Co. "G", Petaluma, California.
 HYDE, Edward L., Pfc., 36784414, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
 McCLURG, Albert, Pvt., 31149194, Med. Det., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.
 MULLER, Roy G., Pvt., 33140049, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 RUGEN, Harold P., Pfc., 42032557, Co. "I", Springfield, New York.

30 OCTOBER 1944

BAMBURAK, Joseph W., Pfc., 36041765, Co. "I", Chicago, Illinois.
 CARDILLO, Carmelo, Pvt., 32649851, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 LUNETTA, Salvatore J., Pfc., 31005514, Co. "E", Fitchburg, Massachusetts.
 MABUCE, Eddie L., Pfc., 36480765, Co. "H", Chester, Illinois.
 MARIMONE, John, Pfc., 35765337, Co. "E", Newton Falls, Ohio.
 McFARLAND, Beryl E., Sgt., 35235099, Co. "E", Akron, Ohio.
 SELTENRIGHT, John R., Pfc., 35091009, Co. "E", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 WHITLEY, Adam, Pvt., 35774177, Co. "L", Hendricks, Kentucky.

31 OCTOBER 1944

BISHOP, Joseph L., Pvt., 31381037, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Danielson, Connecticut.
 DRUYOS, James, Pvt., 33640234, Co. "B", Bowers Hill, Virginia.
 GRANDO, George A., Sgt., 39212214, Co. "L", Vader, Washington.
 HOEY, Frederick E., Pfc., 32205240, Co. "L", Delanco, New Jersey.
 LARSRUD, Orrin L., Pvt., 37587109, Co. "E", Prosper, Minnesota.
 McDERMOTT, Edward J., Sgt., 13007550, Co. "L", Edwardsville, Pennsylvania.
 MILLER, Frank C., Pfc., 36737105, 2nd Bn. Hqrs.

Co., Lombard, Illinois.
 O'BRIEN, Stephen B., Pfc., 36682299, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
 PEARO, Richard J., Pvt., 32939467, Co. "E", Syracuse, New York.
 PRYOR, Muriel G., Pfc., 34446090, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rossville, Georgia.
 WEINGARDEN, John R., Sgt., 32855386, Co. "A", Albany, New York.

1 NOVEMBER 1944

ANDREWS, Arthur C., Pfc., 31426848, Co. "E", Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.
 CALDERELLA, Anthony V., Pvt., 32811406, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rockville Center, New York.
 COOK, Roy E., Capt., 0-1285553, Co. "C", Bakersfield, California.
 EDWARDS, Nelson C., S/Sgt., 33535527, Co. "E", Danville, Virginia.
 GUTHRIE, Willie D., Pvt., 34796524, Co. "C", Jacksonville, Florida.
 SIMPSON, Leonard P., Pfc., 33555632, Co. "C", Free-land, Maryland.

2 NOVEMBER 1944

BAKSANSKAS, Victor, Pfc., 33403017, Co. "A", Mongahela, Pennsylvania.
 BONNER, Andrew L., Jr., Pfc., 34085376, Co. "A", Toxey, Alabama.
 GALLAGHER, Robert B., Pvt., 39215507, Co. "L", Butte, Montana.
 HAGAN, James R., Pfc., 42021595, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
 LEITHAUSER, Arthur, Pvt., 42103631, Co. "L", Nutley, New Jersey.
 MAY, Woodrow, Pfc., 35772181, Co. "L", Edgerton, West Virginia.

3 NOVEMBER 1944

ADAMS, Paul E., Pfc., 33571151, Co. "G", Boswell, Pennsylvania.
 ANSON, Charles K., Jr., Cpl., 32917049, Co. "A", Plainfield, New Jersey.
 BABBS, Charles E., Pvt., 35878504, Co. "A", Buffalo, New York.
 BABER, John M., Pvt., 35776923, Co. "C", Charleston, New Jersey.
 ELDRIDGE, Robert J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1310422, Co. "A", Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 FLICK, Russell W., S/Sgt., 35650428, Co. "A", Oak Hill, West Virginia.
 GILL, Michael P., Pfc., 39113064, Co. "B", San Francisco, California.
 GLADE, Keith E., Pvt., 37681710, Co. "B", Fontanelle, Iowa.
 GUTHRIE, Willie D., Pvt., 34796524, Co. "C", South Jacksonville, Florida.
 HATAWAY, Willie B., Pvt., 34926921, Co. "F", Clinton, Mississippi.
 JENNINGS, Ralph W., Pvt., 39247579, Co. "I", Bakersfield, California.
 JOHNSON, William O., Pvt., 35807744, Co. "A", East Bernstadt, Kentucky.
 KESSLER, Jerome D., Pfc., 33734273, Co. "D", Baltimore, Maryland.
 KLASSEN, Harold R., Pfc., 39716757, Co. "I", Shafter, California.
 LORD, Lionel B., Pvt., 37020385, Med. Det., Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 MADDIGAN, James P., Pfc., 33670559, Co. "D", West Homestead, Pennsylvania.
 MARTINEZ, Felipe C., Pfc., 38459041, Co. "F", Gonzales, Texas.
 MOORE, Kenneth O., Pvt., 35737874, Co. "I", Portsmouth, Ohio.
 PELTON, Robert C., Pfc., 31428716, Co. "I", Needham, Massachusetts.
 VERNON, Glenn O., Pfc., 37483550, Co. "C", Council Bluffs, Iowa.

4 NOVEMBER 1944

BEEEMER, Robert J., S/Sgt., 32569790, Co. "G", Newton, New Jersey.
 BELLETINE, Tony, Pfc., 32877342, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 BOATWRIGHT, Johnnie W., Jr., Pfc., 34794746, Co. "G", Tampa, Florida.
 BOKEDON, George, Jr., Pfc., 33692015, Co. "E", Braddock, Pennsylvania.
 FIDLER, Eugene F., Pvt., 36827063, Co. "G", Sturgeon, Wisconsin.
 HAMM, Clayton E., Pvt., 31352602, Co. "G", Millinocket, Maine.
 JONES, Wilson A., Pvt., 34925558, Co. "E", Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 KATZ, Daniel, Pfc., 32994987, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
 KING, Alvin F., Pfc., 34496200, Co. "E", Toone, Tennessee.
 McCORMICK, Robert D., S/Sgt., 35032463, Co. "E", Huntsville, Ohio.
 MITCHELL, Miles M., Pvt., 34922508, Co. "I", Jonesboro, Tennessee.
 PAWLAK, Edward J., Pvt., 36107308, Co. "A", Richmond, Michigan.
 POLLACK, Samuel, Pvt., 42032266, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
 SANTILLO, Joseph J., Pfc., 42018855, Co. "K", Elizabeth, New Jersey.
 WHITELEY, William C., Jr., Cpl., 34654736, Co. "B", Durham, North Carolina.
 WOOLUMS, Robert W., Pvt., 35228491, Co. "G", Columbus, Ohio.

5 NOVEMBER 1944

LAVOIE, Roland J., Pvt., 31447337, Co. "D", Providence, Rhode Island.

6 NOVEMBER 1944

GRANT, Daniel J., Pfc., 13153171, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HOLTON, William C., Jr., Sgt., 33595384, Co. "I", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 PALMER, Mack L., Pfc., 34530318, Co. "A", Dinsmore, Florida.

7 NOVEMBER 1944

CLARK, Winnie W., Pvt., 34988848, Co. "C", Mize, Mississippi.
 DEESE, Lee L., Pvt., 34974073, Co. "C", Merile, Alabama.

8 NOVEMBER 1944

AARON, Juland A., Pfc., 35893000, Co. "I", Aaron, Kentucky.

9 NOVEMBER 1944

ANDREWS, Arthur C., Pfc., 31426848, Co. "E", Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

10 NOVEMBER 1944

SMOCK, Burdet W., S/Sgt., 37040021, Cn. Co., Garber, Iowa.

11 NOVEMBER 1944

COLLINS, Gordon A., Sgt., 31321476, Co. "D", Farmington, Maine.

13 NOVEMBER 1944

REED, Cecil R., Pvt., 34884673, Co. "I", Woodbury, Tennessee.

20 NOVEMBER 1944

BARYS, Stanley P., S/Sgt., 31261831, Co. "M", Worcester, Massachusetts.
 BIBINSKI, Anthony J., Pfc., 32215507, Co. "G", Camden, New Jersey.
 BLAIR, Leonard O., Sgt., 35702186, Co. "K", Louisville, Kentucky.
 CARROLL, James E., T/5, 34883835, Med. Det., Lynn, Massachusetts.
 CHAMBERLAIN, Willard, Pfc., 35897951, Co. "G", Rochester, Indiana.
 COLEMAN, Forrest H., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-282409, Co. "M", Laurens, South Carolina.
 CRAWFORD, Richard E., S/Sgt., 6959092, Co. "C", Timpson, Texas.
 CREAMY, Stewart W., Sgt., 33441925, Co. "C", Charlottesville, Virginia.
 DERR, Howard H., Pfc., 39382987, Med. Det., Odessa, Washington.
 EVANOSKY, Getty, Pfc., 33461897, Co. "C", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 FENSTERMACHER, Irvin O., Pvt., 33873926, Co. "L", Shamolin, Pennsylvania.
 FOX, Alex, Pvt., 39621733, Co. "L", Billings, Montana.
 FEGICZ, Nicholas A., Pfc., 33423323, Co. "K", Cannonburg, Pennsylvania.
 HARNEY, Donald A., Pfc., 36973316, Co. "G", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 HONEYBELL, James H., Pfc., 32939484, Co. "F", Watertown, New York.
 JACKSON, Arthur W., Pfc., 34854522, Co. "F", Wilmington, North Carolina.
 LEMMERT, Ernest E., Pfc., 37459223, Co. "G", Seneca, Nebraska.
 MATTINGLY, Sylvester A., S/Sgt., 35101283, Co. "G", Owensboro, Kentucky.
 MILLER, Albert L., Jr., Sgt., 35538404, Co. "L", Cleveland, Ohio.
 MUCHMORE, Raymond P., 2nd Lt., 0-1055922, Co. "D", Redwood City, California.
 NATIONS, Elmer D., T/5, 38506721, Med. Det., Hope, Arkansas.
 NUTTER, Jack C., Pfc., 35847679, Co. "E", Goketon, West Virginia.
 PHILLIPS, Murray S., Jr., Pvt., 35298371, Co. "H", Logan, Ohio.
 RASMUSSEN, Donald W., Pvt., 39343173, Co. "H", Portland, Oregon.
 REINERTSON, Stanley T., Pvt., 37585412, Co. "D", Tacoma, Washington.
 SCHUBERT, Otto J., Pfc., 33139657, Co. "M", Pennington, New Jersey.
 SNIDER, Wilburn S., Pvt., 39723176, Co. "F", Bakersfield, California.
 SOMMA, Albert C., Pfc., 32338404, Co. "B", South Ozone Park, New York.
 STILES, Leslie E., 1st Lt., 0-411896, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chestnut Hill, Connecticut.
 VANBERG, Alvin B., Pfc., 36288967, Co. "L", Ellsworth, Wisconsin.
 WILSON, Thomas S., Pvt., 31370399, Co. "M", Charlestown, Massachusetts.

21 NOVEMBER 1944

ADELSTEIN, Harold S., Pvt., 36453744, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., South Haven, Michigan.
 BARDONI, Julius J., Pvt., 16010557, Co. "B", Wyandotte, Michigan.
 CLARK, Charles W., Pvt., 35241952, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 GARZIA, Armand A., Pfc., 32939462, Co. "F", Syracuse, New York.
 KRESSAL, Donald H. C., Pfc., 35319873, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
 LOGUE, James F., Cpl., 33591021, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., New York, New York.
 OLDHAM, Alderson G., Pfc., 36649107, Co. "A", Shobonier, Illinois.
 ROBERTSON, Lemuel C., Sr., Pfc., 34931250, Co. "I", Kershaw, South Carolina.

22 NOVEMBER 1944

DEVINE, John H., Pfc., 20214665, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 GREENE, John J., 1st Lt., 0-1306268, Co. "L", New York, New York.
 HERTZEN, Harold G., Pfc., 32537861, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 JOHNS, Marvin J., Pfc., 36837834, Co. "C", Stanley, Wisconsin.
 KERSKI, Walter J., Pfc., 31337973, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Naugatuck, Connecticut.
 LIMPP, Albert J., Pfc., 39215552, Co. "A", Ratsil, Washington.
 MONKIEWICZ, Raymond J., Pfc., 33792506, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, Gilbert L., Pfc., 39215855, Co. "E", Seattle, Washington.
 VIPPERMAN, James L., Pvt., 34678098, Co. "E", Mebane, North Carolina.

23 NOVEMBER 1944

HESSEY, Benjamin F., Pvt., 33753017, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Washington, District of Columbia.
 KEY, Ralph, S/Sgt., 34805336, Co. "I", Carbon Hill, Alabama.
 OCHS, Roy W., Pfc., 36767667, Co. "I", Okawville, Illinois.
 RIGNEY, Antheil M., T/5, 35093277, Co. "I", New Castle, Indiana.
 SOLEY, William L., Pvt., 37639249, Co. "L", Saint Louis, Missouri.
 STEFEK, Emil, Jr., Pfc., 33804139, Co. "K", Croyden, Pennsylvania.
 STEWART, Connie B., S/Sgt., 35796803, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Lexington, Kentucky.
 WALKER, Herbert L., Pfc., 34581497, Co. "I", Langdale, Alabama.

24 NOVEMBER 1944

BLAKE, Tommie S., Pvt., 38671153, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rockdale, Texas.
 HERRING, Francis M., 1st Sgt., 20418561, Co. "A", Climax, Georgia.
 MERLINO, Samuel, Pfc., 32559261, Co. "A", Newark, New Jersey.
 TRACY, Lawrence J., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1318488, Co. "A", Anderson, Indiana.

29 NOVEMBER 1944

BUTTS, Willis E., Pfc., 38520214, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jackson, Mississippi.
 VAN CLEAVE, John T., Pfc., 6912610, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.

30 NOVEMBER 1944

LEE, Alvin J., Pvt., 37592644, Co. "E", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1 DECEMBER 1944

CARLSON, Dale, Pvt., 39922545, Co. "E", Charleston, Utah.
 CRUZ, Rodolfo G., Pvt., 35736707, Co. "E", Adrian, Michigan.
 FOUSSARD, Gaston J., Pvt., 37591205, Co. "E", St. John, North Dakota.
 HUFF, Jack B., Pvt., 37363048, Co. "E", Jennings, Kansas.
 JOHNSON, Calvert, Pfc., 33885447, Co. "G", St. Lynchburg, Virginia.
 KELLY, John J., Sgt., 39140751, Co. "F", San Francisco, California.
 LEE, Ellis N., Pfc., 34892018, Co. "F", Kannapolis, North Carolina.
 LOMBARDO, Clifford E., Pvt., 42102365, Co. "F", Livingston, New Jersey.
 YOUNG, Carl W., Pfc., 38599619, Co. "C", Quitman, Arkansas.

2 DECEMBER 1944

CHERNEY, Robert H., 1st Lt., 0-447522, Co. "E", Oswego, Oregon.

9 DECEMBER 1944

BOYER, Walter L., Pfc., 3387316, Co. "E", Shomokin, Pennsylvania.

11 DECEMBER 1944

FISHUN, Andrew, Pfc., 31338094, Co. "F", Seymour, Connecticut.

20 DECEMBER 1944

The "Colmar Pocket" Campaign

24 DECEMBER 1944

THURMOND, John E., Sr., S/Sgt., 38536909, Co. "B", Dallas, Texas.

26 DECEMBER 1944

O'LEARY, Edward G., Pvt., 39582962, Co. "L", Los Angeles, California.

28 DECEMBER 1944

ADAMS, Patrick H., 2nd Lt., 0-1299976, Co. "I", Richmond, Virginia.
 HITE, John E., Pvt., 33702976, AT Co., Munthall, Pennsylvania.
 OBERNDORF, Leo G., Capt., 0-307995, Co. "A", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

31 DECEMBER 1944

KARLUK, Alex M., 1st Lt., 0-1288236, Co. "M", Scranton, Pennsylvania.
 REID, Frank A., Pvt., 32277805, Co. "M", Patterson, New Jersey.

1 JANUARY 1945

PUGLIA, Carlo, Pfc., 31308395, Co. "I", Somerville, Massachusetts.

2 JANUARY 1945

GIBSON, Carl V., Pvt., 35778564, Co. "B", Bluefield, Massachusetts.
 JONES, Robert F., Pfc., 39474017, Co. "B", Klaber, Washington.
 RIGG, Bennis E., S/Sgt., 35808664, Co. "L", Evansville, Indiana.

4 JANUARY 1945

MARTINI, Reno A., Pfc., 36763229, Co. "B", Staunton, Illinois.

5 JANUARY 1945

KIMMER, Talmadge J., Pfc., 34893590, Co. "I", Goo-lee-see, North Carolina.
 PROFFIT, Ewan W., Pfc., 36975855, Co. "B", Dearborn, Michigan.

6 JANUARY 1945

JABLONOWSKI, Casimar, Pfc., 35920277, Co. "I", Brooklyn Village, Ohio.
 TAMBURELLI, Anthony S., Pfc., 37639229, Co. "I", St. Louis, Missouri.

8 JANUARY 1945

GOODWIN, Varold H., Pfc., 37683263, Co. "F", Floris, Iowa.
 PARKER, Herbert D., Pfc., 34801868, Co. "F", Pyriton, Alabama.

9 JANUARY 1945

STILES, Arthur R., Pfc., 32843176, Cn. Co., Buffalo, New York.

14 JANUARY 1945

DENKO, Emil E., Pvt., 33810892, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 PARTIN, George W., S/Sgt., 35802860, Co. "A", Jellico, Tennessee.

15 JANUARY 1945

WOLAVER, David A., Pfc., 36463151, Co. "H", Ann Arbor, Michigan.

16 JANUARY 1945

BROWN, Richard S., 2nd Lt., 0-2055280, BP, Westminster, Maryland.
 FINCH, Ned, T/Sgt., 39467001, Co. "L".
 FORTUNA, William B., Pfc., 42100672, Co. "L", Sumerville, New Jersey.
 HARTMAN, William C., Sgt., 38393943, Co. "I", Forgan, Oklahoma.
 McCOY, Walter F., S/Sgt., 32307157, Co. "I", Newark, New Jersey.
 RAINS, Onis L., Sgt., 35719493, Co. "L", Rosine, Kentucky.
 UNGAR, Joseph, Pfc., 12019615, Co. "L", New York, New York.

17 JANUARY 1945

DEATHERAGE, Virgil V., Cpl., 38018869, Co. "C", Norman, Oklahoma.
 KERN, Jerome J., Pfc., 36593120, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
 PINTO, Joseph, Pfc., 32958508, Co. "I", Camden, New Jersey.

18 JANUARY 1945

GROSS, Joseph J., 2nd Lt., 0-1314775, Co. "K", Kearny, New Jersey.

22 JANUARY 1945

BELLAVIGNA, John, Pfc., 32880670, Co. "M", New York, New York.
 JANOFSKY, Isaac, Pfc., 33746527, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
 JEANES, Reuben J. W., T/4, 17013464, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Nashville, Arkansas.
 SHANNON, William A., Pfc., 33415429, Co. "K", New Florence, Pennsylvania.
 WHITE, William O., S/Sgt., 33182768, Co. "K", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

23 JANUARY 1945

ALBUS, Richard F., Pfc., 38606495, Co. "E", Munday, Texas.
 BING, Bradford L., Pfc., 38545507, Co. "G", Oakwood, Texas.
 CATTS, William L., Pfc., 42080769, Co. "E", Wilmington, Delaware.
 COLWELL, Robert B., Pvt., 38697287, Co. "A", Purcell, Oklahoma.
 DI MURA, Phillip, Pfc., 32944119, Co. "E", Albany, New York.
 FLYNN, Frank J., Pfc., 32892613, Med. Det., New York, New York.
 FRAME, John, Pfc., 32076682, Co. "C", Newark, Delaware.
 GILLILAND, Henry O., Pfc., 34918798, Co. "D", Bexar, Alabama.
 GURSKI, Joseph A., Pfc., 33666895, Co. "G", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 HAYS, Beverly G., Capt., 0-410206, Co. "C", Visalia, California.
 HEINRICH, Gilbert J., Pfc., 16005333, Med. Det., Kenosha, Wisconsin.
 KREFT, Lester F., Pfc., 37683982, Co. "K", Lytton, Iowa.
 LA BARE, Donald H., Pfc., 31392379, Co. "G", Warren, Massachusetts.

LONG, Austin M., Pfc., 34922306, Co. "G", Tazewell, Tennessee.
 MARCOTTE, Arthur R., Pfc., 31320823, Co. "G", Biddeford, Maine.
 MITCHELL, Donald B., Pfc., 31465126, Co. "G", South Portland, Maine.
 MOEGLIN, William M., 2nd Lt., 0-1325451, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 MONTOYA, Alex, Pfc., 37362889, Co. "K", Monte Vista, Colorado.
 MOONEY, Wayne D., Pfc., 37593612, Co. "G", Montevideo, Minnesota.
 NELSEN, Eric, Pvt., 36715761, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 RORER, David P., Jr., Pfc., 33661984, Co. "G", Lynchburg, Virginia.
 SOLVER, Richard A., Pvt., 39215095, Co. "A", Edmonds, Washington.
 THOMAS, Clifton C., Pfc., 20731151, Co. "B", Kennet, Missouri.
 THOMPSON, John W., Pfc., 32777475, Co. "I", Clifton, New Jersey.
 WAGENER, Jewel E., Pfc., 35574029, Co. "G", Indianapolis, Indiana.
 WIEDE, Walter G., Sgt., 31005390, Co. "G", Allerton, Massachusetts.

24 JANUARY 1945

BRINKEY, Harry J., Pfc., 36555368, Co. "E", Hazel Park, Michigan.
 GARVEY, William J., Pfc., 32910739, Co. "D", New Bedford, Massachusetts.
 HALL, Sterling B. G., Pfc., 33836802, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Allentown, Pennsylvania.
 HAYES, Clayton J., Pvt., 39716885, Co. "K", Wilmington, California.
 KREIN, Ludwig O., Pfc., 37487019, Co. "I", Hot Springs, South Dakota.
 McBRIDE, John T., T/5, 36462641, Co. "E", Battle Creek, Michigan.
 SCHULTZ, Ernest C., Sgt., 38809557, Co. "E", Butternut, Wisconsin.
 SCHWEITZER, Harold A., Pfc., 42024856, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
 SILBERSTEIN, Norman, Pfc., 32171869, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 ZAWACKI, Joseph J., Pvt., 36905135, Co. "I", Oglesby, Illinois.

25 JANUARY 1945

ADKINS, Clyde J., Pfc., 34509426, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kingsport, Tennessee.
 ALLISON, George G., T/Sgt., 39412810, Co. "E", Stockton, California.
 BREON, Parse H., Pvt., 33761973, Co. "C", Loganton, Pennsylvania.
 CAMP, Byron G., Jr., Pfc., 31349691, Co. "G", Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
 DIAZ, Benny C., Pfc., 38351077, Co. "E", Galup, New Mexico.
 DI FILIPPO, Carmen, Pfc., 36682995, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 FARWELL, Irving A., Pfc., 31465121, Co. "E", Portland, Maine.
 FLEMING, Charles W., Pvt., 33873254, Co. "G", Columbia, Pennsylvania.
 FORKEY, John H., S/Sgt., 31253565, Co. "F", East Arlington, Vermont.
 FULTON, Robert R., Pfc., 39714929, Co. "L", Long Beach, California.
 HEALY, Milton H., Pfc., 31370976, Co. "K", Fall River, Massachusetts.
 HILAND, Vincent E., Pfc., 42117575, Co. "E", Peekskill, New York.
 HURD, Donald W., Pfc., 32779983, Co. "E", Ganerville, New York.
 IRONS, Alvin J., Pfc., 38663317, Co. "F", Washita, Arkansas.
 KEARNEY, Aloysius E., T/5, 33606056, Co. "L", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 KILEN, William L., Pfc., 35899419, Co. "E", Goshen, Indiana.
 KUTTIN, Anton, Jr., Pfc., 36902398, Co. "G", New Douglas, Illinois.
 LUDLAM, Stephen C., Pfc., 42081753, Co. "E", Stone Harbor, New Jersey.
 MEDLIN, William A., Pfc., 38512634, Co. "F", Star City, Arkansas.
 SMITHERMAN, Robert W., 1st Lt., 0-1317348, Co. "G", Calera, Alabama.
 TEAGUE, Emmett R., Pfc., 38664118, Co. "E", Dierks, Arkansas.
 THOMAS, Doyle H., Pfc., 34830364, Co. "K", Eastanollee, Georgia.
 TURPIN, Theodore E., Pvt., 35812311, Co. "F", Linton, Indiana.

26 JANUARY 1945

DE BENEY, Richard, Pvt., 36755618, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 HOWARD, Wayne, Pfc., 39723237, Co. "I", Bakersfield, California.
 KEENER, William H., S/Sgt., 34776282, Co. "C", Iron Station, North Carolina.
 KING, Ray J., Pfc., 39254805, Med. Det., Los Angeles, California.
 PETROPOLIS, Stanley, 2nd Lt., 0-528696, BP, East Chicago, Indiana.
 SHULL, Homer P., Pfc., 34849255, Co. "I", West Columbia, South Carolina.

27 JANUARY 1945

FEELY, Carl W., Pfc., 36482532, Co. "G", Pekin, Illinois.
 HOLICK, John, Pfc., 31406638, Co. "M", Kingsville, Texas.
 MOYNIHAN, Francis D., Pfc., 39127796, Med. Det., San Francisco, California.

SVALINA, John M., Pvt., 36909696, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
WILLIAMS, William V., Pvt., 36909504, Co. "A", Piper City, Illinois.

29 JANUARY 1945

HUSSON, John E., Pfc., 42017492, Co. "I", Garwood, New Jersey.
MITCHUM, Clarence, Pfc., 34849112, Co. "L", Sumter, South Carolina.
NELSON, Donald E., Pvt., 36909726, Co. "L", Tampico, Illinois.
SCHOENFELD, Melvin E., S/Sgt., 35010383, Cn. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
YERARDI, Salvatore C., Pfc., 20101437, Co. "K", West Newton, Massachusetts.

30 JANUARY 1945

BAKER, George J., Pvt., 37744406, Co. "C", Kansas City, Missouri.
BALE, Joseph L., Pfc., 6398737, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
CASTELLAW, Aaron S., T/Sgt., 6398737, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jones, Tennessee.
CLARK, George W., Pfc., 35809352, Co. "G", Detroit, Michigan.
CONLEY, Ed, Pvt., 35660262, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Logan, West Virginia.
FANNING, Thomas F., Pfc., 32786952, Co. "L", Bronx, New York.
GIFFORD, Alwyn R., Pvt., 31428560, Co. "H", New Bedford, Massachusetts.
HENBEST, Henry G., Pvt., 37646027, Co. "F", Joplin, Missouri.
KING, William C., Pfc., 32283918, Co. "G", Olean, New York.
LAZAR, Philip, Pvt., 36910099, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
LEININGER, Milton M., Pvt., 35906904, Co. "F", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
MIELE, John J., Pfc., 42059315, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
MORRISON, Archie J., Pvt., 36472527, Co. "C", Uby, Michigan.
PARIMUHA, John, Pfc., 33410534, Co. "F", Sharon, Pennsylvania.
PERRY, Carl E., Pfc., 37621613, Co. "G", Poplar Bluff, Missouri.
PONTICELLI, Glen P., Pvt., 39422374, Co. "F", Sacramento, California.
SALMON, Thomas J., Pvt., 36910035, Co. "F", Spring Valley, Illinois.
STRANGE, Robert E., Pvt., 39423611, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Oakland, California.
WEAVER, Robert E., Sgt., 36711850, Co. "B", Levington, Illinois.
ZULLO, Michael A., Pvt., 36909906, Co. "A", Kankakee, Illinois.

31 JANUARY 1945

BOUMAN, Paul D., S/Sgt., 35577930, Co. "E", Huntington, Indiana.
CLARK, Charles L., Pfc., 39214752, Co. "E", Tacoma, Washington.
DRONEY, John, Pfc., 34976545, Co. "E", Sanford, Florida.
HESKITT, Floyd L., Jr., Sgt., 35057772, Co. "E", Elyria, Ohio.
LIMMER, Robert A., Sgt., 33556594, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Baltimore, Maryland.
LYNCH, Nicholas A., 1st Sgt., 6875812, Co. "F", Jamaica, New York.
MASCALI, Frank, Pfc., 32820651, Co. "F", New York, New York.
POMPONIO, Mario, Pvt., 42097185, Co. "E", Fairport, New York.

1 FEBRUARY 1945

GUTIERREZ, Jose, Pfc., 38286905, Co. "H", Saginaw, Michigan.
JACKSON, Bill E., Pvt., 35767789, Co. "A", Pineville, West Virginia.
MUHAR, Andrew J., Pfc., 36835150, Co. "K", West Allis, Wisconsin.
NELSEN, Fred P., Pvt., 36909915, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.

3 FEBRUARY 1945

BRODERICK, Raymond J., Pfc., 33478713, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DAVIS, Raymond M., Jr., Pfc., 34830462, Co. "L", Loganville, Georgia.
DI BARTOLOMEO, Sebastian R., Pfc., 31428608, Co. "F", Haverhill, Massachusetts.
DILLEY, Orville L., 1st Lt., 0-1299861, Co. "L", Kilgore, Texas.
FLETCHER, Adrian S., Pvt., 36902399, Co. "C", Topeka, Illinois.
GROSS, Peter, Pfc., 32913805, Co. "K", Jersey City, New Jersey.
HANNA, Beauford L., Pfc., 36624494, Co. "K", Kinmundy, Illinois.
HEDEN, Harold G., Pfc., 39116614, Co. "M", San Francisco, California.
HOWARD, Jobie V., Pvt., 35081581, Co. "G", Berry, Kentucky.
KIMBLE, Everett J., Pfc., 120151110, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hamburg, New Jersey.
KIZIRIAN, Archie T., Pvt., 39423989, Co. "K", Oakland, California.
KIWIATKOWSKI, Dominic D., Pvt., 35849005, Co. "G", Toledo, Ohio.
LOCKWOOD, Paul R., Pvt., 36909880, Co. "K", Kankakee, Illinois.
McDONALD, Vernon W., Pfc., 34795783, Co. "K", Lake Alfred, Florida.

MILLER, Hughes E., Cpl., 34088884, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Dawsonville, Georgia.
MITCHELL, Donald M., Pvt., 34504946, Co. "L", Knoxville, Tennessee.
MOORE, Ralph W., Pfc., 36171562, Co. "M", Spruce, Michigan.
MYLEK, Frank J., Pfc., 35229466, Co. "K", Toledo, Ohio.
NANCE, Robert D., Pfc., 37477679, Co. "K", Fairbury, Nebraska.
PINARD, Raymond F., Pfc., 31267976, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co.
POTTS, Gilbert E., Pfc., 31125946, Co. "E", East Northfield, Massachusetts.
QUINLAN, James R., Pvt., 31308498, Co. "M", Arlington, Massachusetts.
SPENCER, Albert L., Pvt., 36784645, Co. "H", Williamsville, Illinois.
TAUCHEN, Robert T., Pvt., 36909947, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
VANDERHOOF, Victor S., Jr., Pvt., 36909824, Co. "K", Joliet, Illinois.
WISE, Radis A., Pvt., 35906882, Co. "K", Garrett, Indiana.
WILDRICK, Andrew A., Pfc., 33614542, Co. "K", Sayre, Pennsylvania.

4 FEBRUARY 1945

ISRAEL, Mark J., Pvt., 3771071, Co. "F", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
PAIGE, Clarence W., Pvt., 34931895, Co. "B", Honea Path, South Carolina.
STREET, Ralph C., 2nd Lt., 0-1291193, Co. "H", New Orleans, Louisiana.
WALKER, Charlie R., Pfc., 34890384, Co. "B", Mill Spring, North Carolina.

5 FEBRUARY 1945

ARNOLD, Bryan L., Pvt., 33835673, Co. "E", Hellestown, Pennsylvania.
CASTROVINCE, Thomas, Pvt., 36956622, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
CORBIN, Frank A., Jr., Pfc., 38578164, Co. "A", El Paso, Texas.
FACHET, Adolph F., Sgt., 13124185, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
FRIDAY, Charles J., Jr., Pfc., 33792341, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
KAISER, Glendon H., Pfc., 32640435, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Forrest Hills, New York.
LA BAUN, Edwin W., Pvt., 36909602, Co. "E", Chicago, Illinois.
MELELLA, Carmine L., Pvt., 42067287, Co. "D", Yonkers, New York.
MIER, Robert C., S/Sgt., 36171586, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hillman, Minnesota.
MILLER, Claude M., Pvt., 39346095, Co. "F", Gateway, Oregon.
PETERS, George M., Pvt., 33813508, Co. "C", Narberth, Pennsylvania.
ROWLAND, Edward R., Pfc., 35739691, Co. "I", South Irvine, Kentucky.
WILLIAMS, Floyd E., Jr., Pfc., 31317598, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., North Bancroft, Maine.
WITKOWSKI, Frank A., Pfc., 33897882, Co. "K", Baltimore, Maryland.

6 FEBRUARY 1945

GOTTSCHALK, Arthur H., Pfc., 35063350, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
HOLLINSWORTH, Don C., Pvt., 37711247, Co. "I", Ogallala, Nebraska.
MORRETT, James A., Pvt., 36161807, Co. "B", Benton Harbor, Michigan.
TAYLOR, John C., Sgt., 35875040, Co. "B", Maysville, Kentucky.

9 FEBRUARY 1945

KONOPKA, Joseph S., Pfc., 31350457, Co. "B", Three Rivers, Massachusetts.

17 FEBRUARY 1945

STEVENSON, Robert T., Jr., Pfc., 37728839, Co. "E", Avondale, Missouri.
VALDEZ, Jose F., Pfc., Co. "B", Governador, New Mexico.

18 FEBRUARY 1945

PUSEY, Walter W., Pvt., 33906928, Co. "L", Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

The German Campaign

14 MARCH 1945

NEELS, Milton L., Pvt., 42097210, Co. "H", Walworth, New York.
SNIDARICH, John F., Pvt., 37771867, Co. "A", Eveleth, Minnesota.

15 MARCH 1945

BABINEAUX, Curley, Pfc., 38260231, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Carencro, Louisiana.
BEADER, Gordon C., Pvt., 42122806, Co. "E", Endicott, New York.
BERG, Leonard, S/Sgt., 36297348, Co. "F", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
CLARK, Edward D., Pvt., 39934111, Co. "F", Great Falls, Montana.
CHAVES, William M., Jr., Sgt., 31428188, Co. "D", Fall River, Massachusetts.
CREGAN, John T., Pvt., 37749079, Co. "F", DAVIS, Cleborn S., Pvt., 34837961, Co. "F", Buford, Georgia.
DE SISTO, Mario, Pvt., 39480050, Co. "F", Seattle, Washington.

DRUCKER, Simon, Pfc., 32882827, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Astoria, New York.
DUNCAN, Kenneth L., Pvt., 36910618, Co. "F", Viola, Illinois.
ECKHOUT, Leonard P., Pvt., 36909275, Co. "K", East Moline, Illinois.
EVANICH, Andy, Pfc., 33440893, Co. "E", Monessen, Pennsylvania.
FARANDA, John A., Pvt., 42179237, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.
FORISTER, William G., Pvt., 38571105, Co. "E", Seminole, Oklahoma.
GIBSON, Paul D., Pvt., 35816601, Co. "F", Hebbardsville, Kentucky.
HEIDENFELDER, John J., Jr., Pvt., 17034136, Med. Det., St. Louis, Missouri.
HEIGOLD, Gene G., Pvt., 37627187, Co. "L", Saint Louis, Missouri.
KLEIBOEKER, Hubert H. A., Pfc., 37748996, Co. "F", Wentworth, Missouri.
KLEIN, Bernard, Pfc., 32249842, Co. "B", Bronx, New York.
KOLODZIEJ, Edward M., Pfc., 32773084, Co. "F", Wallington, New Jersey.
MEKRUIT, John, Pfc., 33300612, Co. "F", Butler, Pennsylvania.
NEAL, William T., Pfc., 34497419, Co. "F", Neptune, Tennessee.
PEDERSON, Selmer L., Pvt., 37599123, Co. "E", Gonvick, Minnesota.
PETRY, Edgar, S/Sgt., 35795601, Co. "K", Sexton, Kentucky.
RANKIN, Robert W., 1st Lt., 0-1030927, Co. "F", Hindsdale, Illinois.
REYNOLDS, Robert H., Sgt., 6259505, Co. "E", Dallas, Texas.
ROSE, Arthur C., M/Sgt., 37018094, Co. "F", St. Paul, Minnesota.
SALLEE, George C., Pvt., 38451678, Co. "F", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
SCHEPKOWSKI, Theodore V., S/Sgt., 34897922, Co. "K", Brevard, North Carolina.
SCOTT, Fred A., Pvt., 39196712, Co. "K", Port Angeles, Washington.
SMITH, Norvel C., Sgt., 35835167, Co. "G", Eddyville, Kentucky.
STEIN, Joseph N., Pfc., 36684087, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
SULLIVAN, Warren J., Pfc., 6914746, Co. "K", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
SWANSON, Earl E., Capt., 0-2055276, Co. "F", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
TIFFANY, Willard H., Pfc., 6878802, Co. "B", Oswego, New York.

16 MARCH 1945

AZZATA, Frank, Pvt., 32650901, Co. "C", New York, New York.
BARTILUCCI, James J., Sgt., 32880519, Co. "C", Long Island, New York.
CAMPBELL, Charles B., Pfc., 34896191, Co. "C", Greenville, South Carolina.
DREHER, Thomas H., Pfc., 34844641, Co. "K", West Columbia, South Carolina.
FULLER, Julius, Pfc., 34898822, Co. "C", Hamlet, North Carolina.
GRAHAM, Roland H., Pfc., 31401732, Co. "C", Bridgton, Maine.
MOON, Chiles W., Pvt., 38475118, Co. "L", Pittsburg, Texas.

17 MARCH 1945

MANNO, George J., Pfc., 36686654, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
MARERO, Gerardo, Pfc., 32641721, Co. "I", New York, New York.

18 MARCH 1945

CAMPBELL, Woodrow, Pvt., 18166788, Co. "K", Emmet, Arkansas.
DELANEY, Paul J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1319931, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DELONG, Lewis R., Pfc., 36952756, Co. "A", Flint, Michigan.
DI PASQUALE, Urbano, Sgt., 33371423, Co. "A", Reading, Pennsylvania.
DIXON, Dewey W., Pfc., 34892037, Co. "A", Marion, North Carolina.
DUTIL, Elisee A., Pfc., 31116655, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Lewiston, Maine.
FINK, John F., Pvt., 35832689, Co. "I", Akron, Ohio.
GOWER, Clyde A., Pfc., 33587441, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
GUARD, Ernest K., 1st Lt., 0-1304898, AT Co., Orlando, Florida.
HIGDON, Howard J., Pvt., 35816415, Co. "C", Clarkston, Kentucky.
HORTON, Melford M., Pfc., 39934400, Co. "C", Crosby, North Dakota.
KARNS, Harold, Pvt., 35087912, Co. "A", Eaton, Ohio.
PRINCIPE, Raymond E., T/5, 36813343, Co. "K", Kenosha, Wisconsin.
ROLKE, William A., T/5, 35461154, Co. "K", Amelia, Ohio.
ROSE, William E., Pfc., 39143628, Co. "D", Docota, California.
SMITH, Corwin J., Pvt., 37749254, Co. "A", Gove, Kansas.
STUTCHBURY, Bruce F., Pfc., 32734494, Co. "K", Rochester, New York.
THORPE, Harry R., Jr., Pfc., 33805383, Co. "C", Lansdown, Pennsylvania.
WORDEN, Frank J., Pvt., 38582721, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Seminole, Texas.

19 MARCH 1945

BARBOUR, Will P., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-200689, Co. "B", Four Oaks, North Carolina.
 BEST, Lowell E., T/5, 36736532, Co. "I", Albion, Illinois.
 CHEWIWE, Jose A., Pfc., 38010059, Med. Det., Isleta, New Mexico.
 DAVIS, Jefferson W., 2nd Lt., 0-540090, Co. "A", Chilligethe, Missouri.
 DRABEN, Melvin H., T/5, 36670745, Co. "I", Joliet, Illinois.
 KELLER, Henry J., Pfc., 35789865, Co. "A", Paris, Kentucky.
 McDONNELL, Robert E., 1st Lt., 0-1826290, Co. "B", Fort Dodge, Iowa.
 McGEE, Emery J., Sgt., 18129713, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Goodland, Oklahoma.
 MOCKEVICIUS, Edward A., Pfc., 31464433, Co. "I", Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 NESTLER, Fred, Jr., Pfc., 36909864, Co. "B", Spring Valley, Illinois.
 PRESTON, Charles E., Pfc., 11040377, Co. "B", Derry, New Hampshire.
 ROSA, Nicholas J., Pfc., 32863274, Co. "A", Corona, New York.
 WHITEHEAD, V. O., Pvt., 34928526, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Tylertown, Mississippi.
 WHITTINGTON, Albert E., Pvt., 39479966, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Ranier, Washington.
 WOOLWINE, Carl H., Pfc., 33658406, Co. "A", Christiansburg, Virginia.

20 MARCH 1945

ACKER, Frank, T/Sgt., 33436436, Co. "G", Hagerstown, Pennsylvania.
 CARTIER, Albert G., Pfc., 31428679, Co. "A", Wrentham, Massachusetts.

21 MARCH 1945

BAKER, Donald J., Sr., Pfc., 34931065, Co. "A", Cheraw, South Carolina.
 BENEDICT, Clifford J., Pvt., 6573121, Co. "B", Pasadena, California.
 ORLESKI, Stanley, S/Sgt., 33611344, Co. "B", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

26 MARCH 1945

BROWN, Ralph E., Pfc., 33701206, Co. "M", New Freeport, Pennsylvania.
 BURNS, Owen V., Pfc., 37193559, Co. "C", Charles City, Iowa.
 COFFIN, Cecil B., Pvt., 39343178, Co. "D", Eagle Point, Oregon.
 DANIEL, Samuel L., 2nd Lt., 0-2010646, Co. "I", Cullman, Alabama.
 DOWNEY, Thomas E., Jr., Sgt., 36784593, Co. "D", Lerna, Illinois.
 DROBNIK, Frank S., Sgt., 35921678, Co. "C", Cleveland, Ohio.
 FLOURNOY, Edward O., Pfc., 38481892, Co. "K", Pickton, Texas.
 FRENCH, William H., Pvt., 31434607, Co. "T", Plainville, Massachusetts.
 GOODNITE, Glenn N., Pvt., 35778518, Co. "I", Hartford, West Virginia.
 GRAY, Alvin V., T/Sgt., 20530746, Co. "F", Independence, Indiana.
 HEWITT, Thomas L., Pfc., 34916180, Co. "K", Birmingham, Alabama.
 HOOVER, Everett L., Pfc., 37734846, Co. "K", Walnut, Iowa.
 HURLEY, Floyd W., Pfc., 36909184, Co. "K", Pekin, Illinois.
 KRAMPE, Earl E., 1st Lt., 0-1042341, Co. "M", Brazil, Indiana.
 MEADVILLE, Charles E., Pvt., 33893456, Co. "F", Mollenawer, Pennsylvania.
 MILKOWSKI, Stanley P., Pvt., 42165544, Co. "F", Hudson Falls, New York.
 MURRAY, William J., Pvt., 42096434, Co. "F", Niagara Falls, New York.
 NAPPI, Anthony, T/5, 32339845, Co. "C", New York, New York.
 NELSEN, James D., Pvt., 36845546, Co. "F", Racine, Wisconsin.
 ROSEMA, Theodore A., Pvt., 13029637, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 RUDQUIST, George E., Pfc., 37597335, Co. "K", Hamil, Minnesota.
 SIMON, Cornelius M., Pvt., 42083710, Co. "F", Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey.
 SKIDMORE, George W., Pvt., 37710019, Co. "A", Grand Junction, Colorado.
 SPEARING, Everett J., Sgt., 31018389, Co. "A", New York, New York.

27 MARCH 1945

COONS, Walter S., Pvt., 6871087, Co. "A", Buffalo, New York.
 EGGEMEYER, Clyde L., Pfc., 36446157, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Chester, Illinois.
 EVENSON, Orville J., Pvt., 37577630, Co. "B", St. Paul, Minnesota.
 HURLBUT, Edmund A., T/Sgt., 31114652, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., St. Albans, Vermont.
 KENDALL, Edwin A., Pfc., 37595122, Co. "K", Mitchell, South Dakota.
 TRESSLER, Donald V., Cpl., 33759567, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Meyers Dale, Pennsylvania.

28 MARCH 1945

FIPPS, Bailey, Pfc., 34010563, Co. "A", Loris, South Carolina.
 TOLLEFSON, Arthur G., Pfc., 37771980, Co. "B", Fosston, Minnesota.

29 MARCH 1945

ERHARDT, Harold W., 1st Lt., 0-406243, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Burlington, New Jersey.

31 MARCH 1945

CHILDERS, Francis M., Pfc., 37610460, Co. "E", St. Louis, Missouri.
 CRAWFORD, John B., Pfc., 44066666, Co. "B", Harlem, Georgia.
 GREGORY, Hugh N., Sgt., 44025183, Co. "C", Alkensk, South Carolina.
 PARKER, Preston M., Sgt., 34547003, Co. "B", St. Petersburg, Florida.
 RAMSEY, Bill, Pvt., 4404088, Co. "B", Crosby Tennessee.
 SMITH, Charles E., Pfc., 33878488, Co. "F", Potose, Missouri.
 ZAWADA, Stanley J., Pvt., 36910693, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.

2 APRIL 1945

CHANEY, Charles, Pvt., 32776816, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Woodbridge, New Jersey.
 HICKEY, Avon H., Pvt., 44032858, Co. "G", Farrant, Alabama.
 HUNT, Wilbur F., Pvt., 31414134, Co. "E", Colebrook, New Hampshire.
 LANE, Richard J., Pvt., 31389486, Co. "F", Lowell Massachusetts.

5 APRIL 1945

DEEKE, Norman H., Sgt., 35902990, Regtl. Hqrs. Co. JOHNSON, Denton D., Pvt., 33838048, Co. "E", Birdsboro, Pennsylvania.
 SPADONI, Reynold L. J., Pfc., 31427715, Co. "G", Hyde Park, Massachusetts.
 THOMAS, E. L., Pfc., 34705979, Co. "E", Lacey Springs, Alabama.

6 APRIL 1945

GROGG, Claude R., Pvt., 33893535, Co. "G", Rochester, Pennsylvania.
 STEVENS, Bennie A., Pfc., 36909491, Co. "G", Piper City, Illinois.

8 APRIL 1945

BROBST, Charles W., Cpl., 33236473, Co. "L", Sunbury, Pennsylvania.
 BROOKS, Glenn D., Sgt., 35235397, Co. "C", Akron, Ohio.
 BROWN, Armand V., Pvt., 37711493, Co. "L", Bogue, Kansas.
 DE TURK, Ernest S., T/5, 33232599, AT Co., Reading, Pennsylvania.
 LANIANO, Carmin J., Pfc., 32778374, Co. "B", Boonton, New Jersey.
 SIMPSON, Leonard F., Pfc., 33284791, Med. Det., Manorville, Pennsylvania.

9 APRIL 1945

KLEIN, Edward A., Pvt., 42057111, Co. "K", New York, New York.
 MERRILL, Walter, Pvt., 42114487, Co. "K", Schenectady, New York.
 NIEMI, Wilbert M., Pvt., 36845477, Co. "K", Brantwood, Wisconsin.
 PRITCHETT, George H., Pvt., 36784711, Co. "K", Park Rapids, Minnesota.

10 APRIL 1945

THOMPSON, Charles E., Pvt., 31423468, Co. "I", Hyde Park, Massachusetts.
 WARBECK, Stephen S., Pfc., 31285030, Co. "G", Greenfield, Massachusetts.

11 APRIL 1945

STEWART, Robert L., Jr., Pvt., 33592959, Co. "K", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 WISE, Samuel G., Pfc., 36978508, Co. "K", Ray, Indiana.

12 APRIL 1945

COPEN, Carl L., S/Sgt., 35756306, Co. "K", Elizabeth, West Virginia.

14 APRIL 1945

KILLHAM, John, Cpl., 37087576, Cn. Co., Sidney, Nebraska.

15 APRIL 1945

SMITH, Clifford B., T/5, 35768023, Co. "D", Scarborough, West Virginia.

16 APRIL 1945

JOHNSON, Harold D., Pvt., 37775582, Co. "E", Eagle Lake, Minnesota.
 MITCHELL, Robert A., Pvt., 42097221, Co. "E", Canadaigua, New York.
 ROGERS, Eugene J., Pfc., 31167388, Med. Det., Winstead, Kentucky.
 SHAROL, Teddy W., Sgt., 33893534, Co. "F", New Castle, Pennsylvania.
 STEFFAN, Elmer E., Pfc., 39928869, Co. "L", Philipsburg, Montana.

17 APRIL 1945

PUNDT, Arthur R., Pvt., 42188203, Co. "H", Glenridge, New Jersey.
 VOORHEES, Darryl V., Pvt., 35906916, Co. "L", South Bend, Indiana.

18 APRIL 1945

BASCO, Stephen J., Cpl., 32842929, Co. "C", Tonawanda, New York.
 CANONICA, Edmund M., Pvt., 42188603, Co. "E", Jersey City, New Jersey.
 CUNNINGHAM, Alvy L., Pvt., 44047592, Co. "E", Escataupa, Mississippi.
 SMITH, Richard E., Pvt., 31414764, Co. "E", Williamantic, Connecticut.
 TOMASKI, Stanley, Pvt., 32669697, Co. "L", Checktowago, New York.
 VENEZIA, Michael C., Sgt., 32498705, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.

19 APRIL 1945

DRAUSZEWSKI, Henry, Pvt., 6147029, Co. "G", Derby, Connecticut.
 PERRY, Richard C., Pvt., 32981941, Co. "D", New York, New York.
 SAXTON, Earl, Pvt., 36905678, Co. "A", Peoria, Illinois.
 UTLEY, John D., Pfc., 35803195, Co. "F", Harveston, Kentucky.

20 APRIL 1945

GAMBLE, William C., Pvt., 42099695, Co. "E", Hilton, New York.

21 APRIL 1945

TAYLOR, Harold, T/5, 35118621, Co. "C", West Union, Ohio.

26 APRIL 1945

HAENI, Robert, Pvt., 36818088, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 LEUZE, Ralph E., 2nd Lt., 0-1332614, Co. "A", Evans Mills, New York.

27 APRIL 1945

CLARKE, Walter N., T/Sgt., 35654942, Co. "A", Mullens, West Virginia.
 NUTTALL, Peter, Pvt., 42190363, Co. "K", Lenola, New Jersey.

3 MAY 1945

BLASKOWSKI, Leonard J., Pvt., 33943037, Co. "M", Nanticoke, Michigan.
 GOODLOE, Everett M., Pfc., 38530461, Co. "I", Red Oak, Texas.

4 MAY 1945

FRANK, Harry E., Jr., Pfc., 32954751, Co. "E", Paulsboro, New Jersey.

13 JUNE 1945

LEWALLEN, William L., T/4, 17046144, Med. Det., Zion, Missouri.

DIED OF INJURIES

THE MEN LISTED BELOW MET DEATH THROUGH ILLNESS, EXPOSURE, DROWNING ACCIDENTS DURING AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING, VEHICLE WRECKS, BURNS OR GUN SHOT WOUNDS FROM ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS. ALL WERE IN LINE OF DUTY.

29 DECEMBER 1942

STANFORD, Llewellyn, Pvt., 19032061, Co. "C".

30 DECEMBER 1942

MARTIN, Larmar A., Pvt., 36128161, Co. "I", Perry, Michigan.

25 FEBRUARY 1943

GARNER, James H., Pvt., 35618422, Co. "D", Cleveland, Ohio.

18 APRIL 1943

LAYNE, Malcolm B., Pvt., 35637266, Co. "A", Langely, Kentucky.

SMITH, Thomas J., Pvt., 13081111, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

30 MAY 1943

PRETKIEWICZ, August J., Pvt., 7030060, Co. "A", Muskegon, Michigan.

27 JUNE 1943

SETZKORN, Irvin R., Cpl., 37014221, Med. Det., Dodge City, Kansas.

21 JULY 1943

FOSTER, Charles R., Cpl., 35101171, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

3 AUGUST 1943

GARCIA, Jose M., Pvt., 38169427, Co. "F", Ledoux, New Mexico.

17 AUGUST 1943

BOOTH, Everett J., Pvt., 35436297, Co. "K", Beckley, West Virginia.

3 SEPTEMBER 1943

RAMACKAR, Harold F., Pvt., 33423560, Co. "K", Joffre, Pennsylvania.

19 OCTOBER 1943

SCHUSTER, John W., Pfc., 35118585, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

1 DECEMBER 1943
COOK, Dexter M., Pfc., 35655001, Co. "H", Keyrock, West Virginia.

5 MARCH 1944
COSIO, Gustave M., Pvt., 32962678, Co. "G", New York, New York.

13 APRIL 1944
HORAN, Joseph P., Pfc., 12090952, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., New York, New York.
MEADOR, Elmer O., Pfc., 35637119, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Odd, West Virginia.

5 MAY 1944
CAINE, Sheldon, Pvt., 32898334, Sv. Co., Brooklyn, New York.

12 MAY 1944
McLAUGHLIN, Alvin C., Pfc., 38290667, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Black Oak, Arkansas.

7 JUNE 1944
ROBERTS, Isaac D., Pvt., 34493438, Co. "A", Dunlap, Tennessee.

17 JUNE 1944
DARE, Samuel E., T/5, 35153523, Co. "G", Walkerton, Indiana.

23 AUGUST 1944
KAPLAN, Benjamin, Pvt., 32979685, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.

13 SEPTEMBER 1944
Hall, Zehnor, T/4, 6936322, Co. "G", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944
NIELSON, Vernon H., Pvt., 17006024, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Seattle, Washington.

10 OCTOBER 1944
WESENBURG, Daniel W., Pvt., 36818007, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

14 OCTOBER 1944
JOHNSON, Lawrence, Pvt., 35771601, Co. "M", Crow, West Virginia.

8 DECEMBER 1944
WARUS, Otto M., Cpl., 37276370, Med. Det., Carlson, North Dakota.

20 DECEMBER 1944
EVANS, Robert E., 1st Lt., 0-433033, Co. "A", Marfa, Texas.

20 JANUARY 1945
BOWMAN, Stanley H., Jr., Pvt., 33612079, Co. "A", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

12 MARCH 1945
DUNHAM, Donald F., Pfc., 32947262, Co. "A", Troy, New Jersey.
GERHARDT, Michael M., Jr., Pvt., 36910098, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.

24 MARCH 1945
RAMNICK, Raymond, T/5, 32417857, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.

16 APRIL 1945
SMITH, Harold L., Pfc., 19014594, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., McMinnville, Oregon.

20 APRIL 1945
CONGLETON, Frank, Jr., Pvt., 44014290, AT Co., Aulander, North Carolina.

22 APRIL 1945
McMANUS, Warren R., Pfc., 19015457, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Doris, California.

29 APRIL 1945
MERRITT, Carl A., Pvt., 38602206, Co. "L", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

12 MAY 1945
VIRGIL, Gillierito, Pfc., 37347610, Co. "E", Fort Garland, Colorado.

4 JUNE 1945
GOODSON, Elbert R., Pfc., 34397854, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Birmingham, Alabama.

14 JULY 1945
FUNK, Christian, Pfc., 31380524, Co. "H", New London, Connecticut.
YURISICH, Harold M., Pfc., 39216615, Co. "I", Tacoma, Washington.

30 JULY 1945
MUSAK, Floyd P., Pvt., 36627554, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
SALT KILL, Lewis C., Pfc., 37606979, Co. "D", Calena, Missouri.

7 AUGUST 1945
EDWARDS, Leslie, Cpl., 32839226, AT Co., Livingston, Manor, New York.

17 SEPTEMBER 1945
VAN DEMARK, Kenneth R., Pfc., 33779245, Co. "H", Chester, Pennsylvania.

FORMER "COTTON BALERS" KILLED IN ACTION WHILE SERVING WITH OTHER UNITS

6 MAY 1943
RICHEY, James Alexander, Lt., 0-305939, while serving with Co. "M", 168th Infantry, 34th Inf. Div. in the Beja-Mateur sector, Tunisia. From Yakima, Washington.

29 MAY 1943
CLOUD, Eugene Harrington, Major, while serving as American Aide-de-Camp to the English General K. A. N. Anderson in Tunisia. From San Antonio, Texas.

17 JULY 1944
VAN BUSKIRK, Hal, Pfc., 19046047, while serving with 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., 175th Inf., 29th Inf. Div. near St. Lo, France. From Los Angeles, California.

18 OCTOBER 1944
TAYLOR, Harry J., S/Sgt., 6573491, while serving with Co. "B", 321st Inf., 81st Inf. Div., on Peleliu Island in the Pacific. Posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. From Los Angeles, California.

13 DECEMBER 1944
PIERCE, Clarence, while serving with Co. "C", 157th Inf., 45th Inf. Div., in France. From Humnoke, Arkansas.

worldwvartwoveterans.org LIST OF MEN AND OFFICERS OF THE TENTH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION KILLED IN ACTION WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

3 AUGUST 1943
OBLAD, Briant O., Capt., 0-315465, Sv. B'try, Salt Lake City, Utah.

4 AUGUST 1943
JOHNSON, Elver S., T/5, 37039865, Hqrs. B'try, Lost Creek, West Virginia.
WEISIGER, William B., 2nd Lt., 0-1168130, B'try "C", Memphis, Tennessee.

5 AUGUST 1943
PORTH, Harold J., Pvt., 37019807, B'try "A", Litchfield, Minnesota.

6 AUGUST 1943
CASSIDY, James D., Pfc., 35441156, Hqrs. B'try, Williamstown, West Virginia.
CORBEILLE, Maxsum E., Pvt., 6113537, Hqrs. B'try, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
FAY, John A., Pfc., 19072203, Hqrs. B'try, Decatur, Illinois.
HARKER, Harvey A., Pvt., 18084308, Hqrs. B'try, Hulbert, Oklahoma.
HELM, Williams L., T/5, 36093972, Hqrs. B'try, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.
LEGAKO, Roman, T/Sgt., 6264113, Hqrs. B'try, Wellston, Oklahoma.
SNYDER, Glenn H., T/5, 39078570, Hqrs. B'try, Stockton, California.

8 AUGUST 1943
BREUNINGER, Fred, Sgt., 6579905, B'try "C", San Diego, California.

9 AUGUST 1943
OWENS, Merlin LeRoy, Pvt., 39676878, B'try "A", Burley, Idaho.

26 SEPTEMBER 1943
QUINN, Aubrey, Pfc., 39084454, Hqrs. B'try, Likely, California.

8 NOVEMBER 1943
FUREY, Charles R., T/5, 32612056, B'try "B", New York, New York.

11 NOVEMBER 1943
SMITH, James T., Jr., S/Sgt., 33189690, Hqrs. B'try, Alexandrick, West Virginia.

22 JANUARY 1944
FINNEY, Jack L., T/5, 39382825, B'try "C", Everett, Washington.

30 JANUARY 1944
HOOVER, Virgil F., Pfc., 37015718, B'try "A", Huntington Park, California.

31 JANUARY 1944
STRGOS, James P., Sgt., 6947072, Hqrs. B'try, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

7 FEBRUARY 1944
RITLAND, Lester G., Pvt., 37040187, B'try "B", Huxley, Iowa.

9 FEBRUARY 1944
CLARK, Richard J., Capt., 0-412657, B'try "B", Salinas, California.

19 FEBRUARY 1944
REIMERS, Frederick, 2nd Lt., 0-1179183, B'try "B", Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

29 FEBRUARY 1944
AIOSA, Anthony M., Pvt., 3236059, Hqrs. B'try, Orange, New Jersey.
FRANK, Raymond R., Pvt., 36665913, Sv. B'try, Chicago, Illinois.
JENSEN, Richard E., Sgt., 37019844, B'try "C", Clements, Minnesota.

1 MARCH 1944
KOSTRIBA, Valentine, T/4, 37019930, B'try "B", Holdingford, Minnesota.

LYON, Ralph F., Pvt., 6264095, B'try "B", Bayard, Nebraska.
NOVAK, Herman E., Pfc., 36242398, B'try "C", Hancock, Wisconsin.

PINIANSKI, Paul, Jr., Pvt., 33355860, B'try "C", Dickson, Pennsylvania.
SCHEUCH, Henry F., 2nd Lt., 0-1179260, B'try "B", Ellsworth, Kansas.

2 MARCH 1944
WITTKOPP, Arthur, Pfc., 38062568, B'try "B", El Reno, Oklahoma.

4 MARCH 1944
ERWIN, James R., Pvt., 34288549, B'try "C", Limestone, Tennessee.
GRÖTZINGER, Henry C., Pfc., 6883415, B'try "C", Renovo, Pennsylvania.
JOHNSON, Morris T., Pvt., 6933384, Hqrs. B'try, Robbinsdale, Minnesota.
McINTOSH, Park, Pfc., 15054123, B'try "C", Newport, Kentucky.
McKENNEY, Raymond J., Pvt., 39005861, B'try "C", San Francisco, California.
MUSULIN, Tony, Pvt., 35158719, B'try "C", Indianapolis, Indiana.
REID, John W., Pfc., 39601596, B'try "C", Miles City, Montana.

6 MARCH 1944
SCHULTZ, Emmett E., T/4, 37019860, Sv. B'try, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

10 MARCH 1944
PROVOST, Thomas F., Pvt., 32916004, B'try "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.

27 MARCH 1944
SORNOSO, Sylvester J., Pvt., 39295931, B'try "B", Los Angeles, California.

26 MAY 1944
HORNER, Donald M., T/4, 6563973, B'try "A", West Park Bremerton, California.
JONES, Jenkin R., 1st Lt., 0-1170439, B'try "B", Warren, Ohio.
MORMANIS, Kris D., Cpl., 3901583, B'try "B", Los Angeles, California.

MOORE, Earl H., Sgt., 19019375, Hqrs. B'try, Grass Range, Montana.
SORENSEN, Ralph C., Capt., 0-401030, B'try "C", Salt Lake City, Utah.

27 MAY 1944

LUIZZI, Donato, 2nd Lt., 0-1183116, B'try "C", Boston, Massachusetts.

3 JUNE 1944

JESEVICH, Peter, Pfc., 36396696, B'try "C", Cicero, Illinois.

17 AUGUST 1944

WIESEN, Donald, T/5, 20713144, Hqrs. B'try, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

23 AUGUST 1944

ROSSELL, Berton L., T/4, 37019767, Hqrs. B'try, Oatwater, Minnesota.

5 SEPTEMBER 1944

GERARD, Carmine J., Pvt., 32915354, B'try "B", Newark, New Jersey.
ROSCIA, Vincent, Pvt., 12065604, B'try "B", Brooklyn, New York.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944

RAY, Lloyd B., Pvt., 33723819, Hqrs. B'try, Riverdale, Maryland.

31 OCTOBER 1944

PULKKINEN, Oiva L., Pfc., 19066249, Hqrs. B'try, Los Angeles, California.

15 NOVEMBER 1944

GRIGGS, Caston E., Pvt., 3644805, Hqrs. B'try, Hartville, South Carolina.

19 JANUARY 1945

MARTIN, William R., T/5, 13155961, B'try "B", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

25 JANUARY 1945

RUBY, Donald A., Pvt., 37559540, Hqrs. B'try, Miller, South Dakota.

30 JANUARY 1945

VODLICK, John, Jr., Cpl., 35011083, B'try "C", Barbertown, Ohio.

3 FEBRUARY 1945

HINES, Raymond S., Pvt., 15059885, B'try "C", Frankfort, Indiana.
PEDEN, Forrest E., T/5, 37503529, B'try "C", Wathena, Kansas.

18 MARCH 1945

KYTE, George J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-460433, Hqrs. B'try, West Hartford, Connecticut.

LIST OF MEN OF COMPANY "A", TENTH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION KILLED IN ACTION WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

8 NOVEMBER 1942

MERDALO, George J., Pvt., 39390466, Dutch Flat, California.

14 MAY 1943

REDMOND, Thomas J., T/5, 36201894, Arpin, Wisconsin.

16 JULY 1943

DE STEFANO, Edward J., 33059623, Ashley, Pennsylvania.
FILLMORE, Robert J., Pvt., 37006535, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.
GUSKI, Stance, Cpl., 36201828, Washburn, Wisconsin.
HELLAR, Lawrence A., Sgt., 39084983, Chelan, Washington.
MASSEY, Walter F., 37012331, Dewitt, Arkansas.

28 AUGUST 1943

HODGE, John N., Pvt., 33137696, Collingdale, Pennsylvania.

3 NOVEMBER 1943

STAMP, Ernie E., S/Sgt., 6939408, Clinton, Iowa.

27 FEBRUARY 1944

TOWSLEE, Donald J., Pfc., 36201850, Superior, Wisconsin.

1 MARCH 1944

CELLMER, Emil J., Pvt., 36004384, Chicago, Illinois.
WORKMAN, Carl J., Pvt., 35655263, Kimball, West Virginia.

11 MARCH 1944

ODEGARD, Gustave, Pfc., 6940041, Milnor, North Dakota.

8 JUNE 1944

CARECCHIO, George J., Pvt., 32172463, New York, New York.
WERNER, Albert J., Sgt., 39300005, Baker, Oregon.

4 JULY 1944

BLAND, George L., Sgt., 19019183, Boulder, Montana.

10 JULY 1944

CARLSON, Richard, Pvt., 31262944, Ware, Hardwick, Massachusetts.

13 JULY 1944

DUDEK, Joseph, Pvt., 13102391, Baltimore, Maryland.

14 JULY 1944

TRASATTI, Guido D., Pvt., 33784201, Chester, Pennsylvania.

16 JULY 1944

GABRIEL, Paul E., Pvt., 37702630, Fort Collins, Colorado.
STANDISH, Fred C., Cpl., 39850956, Lowell, Arizona.

10 OCTOBER 1944

McCALL, Bernice O., Pvt., 34890356, Highlands, North Carolina.

25 JANUARY 1945

EMBROGNO, Joseph A., Pfc., 35069378, Cleveland, Ohio.

8 APRIL 1945

MUIR, Robert E., Pfc., 33441453, Evans City, Pennsylvania.

21 APRIL 1945

ORDONEZ, Rafael, Pfc., 3855571, Harlingen, Texas.



St. Avold, France
PHOTO BY VINT



Anzio Beachhead, Italy, where 729 "Cotton Balers" Rest in Peace.
PHOTO BY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE SILK, COPYRIGHT TIME, INC.



Epinal, France
PHOTO BY VINT

VIEWS OF A FEW AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES IN EUROPE WHERE "COTTON BALERS" ARE BURIED

APPENDIX III

Campaign Credits, Citations, and Awards

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE-EASTERN THEATER OF OPERATIONS



A. TEN CAMPAIGNS

The Seventh Infantry participated in ten campaigns¹ in this theater of operations. They are listed below with the boundaries of the combat zones and the time limitations for each campaign as determined by the War Department.² Also the periods of time that the Seventh Infantry was within the combat zones for the respective campaigns are given.³

1. ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO

- Combat zone.—Algeria, French Morocco, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—8 to 11 November 1942.
- The Seventh Infantry was active in French Morocco during the entire period.

2. TUNISIA

- Combat zone.—Tunisia and Algeria east of a north-south line through Constantine (inclusive), and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—12 November 1942 (air), 17 November (ground), to 13 May 1943.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone as a reserve unit from 6 to 13 May 1943.

3. SICILY

- Combat zone.—Sicily and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—14 May 1943 (air), 9 July 1943 (ground), to 17 August 1943.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

4. NAPLES-FOGGIA

- Combat zone.—Italy (exclusive of Sicily and Sardinia), Corsica, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—18 August 1943 (air), 9 September 1943 (ground), to 21 January 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone from 19 September 1943 to 21 January 1944.

5. ANZIO

- Combat zone.—Mussolini Canal-Sessano, Cisterna, Campoleone, Carroceto, Moletta River, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—22 January to 24 May 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

6. ROME-ARNO

- Combat zone.—Italy (exclusive of Sicily and Sardinia), Corsica, and adjacent waters, to 15 August 1944; thereafter, that portion of the Italian mainland and adjacent waters north of 42° north latitude, except that the area of the Anzio combat zone is excluded from 22 January to 24 May 1944.
- Time limitation.—22 January to 9 September 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the period 25 May to 14 August 1944 (inclusive).

7. SOUTHERN FRANCE

- Combat zone.—Those portions of France (exclusive of Corsica) occupied by forces assigned to the North African Theater of Operations, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—15 August to 14 September 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

8. RHINELAND

- Combat zone.—Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, and France east of the line: Franco-Belgian frontier to 4° east longitude, thence south along that meridian to the Mediterranean coast, except that the area of the Ardennes-Alsace combat zone is excluded from 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.
- Time limitation.—15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the periods 15 September to 15 December 1944, and 21 December 1944 to 21 March 1945.

9. ARDENNES-ALSACE

- Combat zone.—Euskirchen, Eupen (inclusive), Liege (exclusive), east bank of the Meuse River to its intersection with the Franco-Belgian border, thence south and east along this border to the western border of Luxembourg, thence to Metz (inclusive), east bank of the Moselle River to Epinal (inclusive), Strasbourg (inclusive).
- Time limitation.—16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the period 16 to 20 December 1944.

10. CENTRAL EUROPE

- Combat zone.—The areas occupied by troops assigned to the European Theater of Operations, east of a line 10 miles west of the Rhine River between Switzerland and the Waal River until 28 March 1945, and thereafter east of the east bank of the Rhine.
- Time limitation.—22 March to 11 May 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

B. BRONZE ASSAULT ARROWHEAD

The Seventh Infantry was in the assault wave during four major amphibious operations against Africa, Sicily, Italy and France during the war just ended. Personnel of the Regiment who participated in one or more of those operations are authorized the Bronze Assault Arrowhead which is worn to the right of the campaign or battle stars on the campaign ribbons.

C. THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION AWARDS

The Third Infantry Division was awarded the Distinguished Unit or Presidential Unit Citation for action performed during the period 22 January to 6 February 1945, and the French Fourragere for its

¹ However the Seventh Infantry has been awarded only four campaign streamers for its World War II action. Illustrations of them are shown in the preface. War Department policies in regard to these awards seems to be quite inconsistent. Why shouldn't a unit receive a campaign streamer for each campaign in which it participated to correspond to the battle or campaign stars with which it is credited?

² GO No. 24, War Department, Wash., D. C., 4 March 1947.

³ Periods of time within the combat zones must not be confused with time spent on the actual front lines. It was possible to be within the combat zones and not hear a shot fired. The combat zones of the front line Infantry were within those larger zones as determined by the War Department.

two awards of the Croix de Guerre with Palm for its victorious fighting "from the beaches of the Mediterranean to the banks of the Rhine."

Personnel of the Seventh Infantry who served with the Regiment during the said periods are authorized both the Distinguished Unit Badge and the French Fourragere.

As a unit of the Third Infantry Division the Seventh Infantry received a streamer in color of the Distinguished Unit Award.

D. DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS⁴

The following units of the Seventh Infantry were cited in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:⁵

COMPANY "L"

For action at Vy-les-Lure, France, on 15-16 September 1944.

COMPANY "F"

For action near Ferdrupt, France, from 25 to 28 September 1944.

COMPANY "E"

For action during the fighting for Le Haute Jacques, France, during the period 31 October-4 November 1944.

FIRST BATTALION

For action during the period 20-24 November 1944 when Nayemont and Bourg-Bruche, France, were captured.

E. MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE AND FIRST STAR.

SERVICE COMPANY, SEVENTH INFANTRY

Was awarded the Plaque for outstanding and courageous performance of duty during the period 1 January-30 June 1944 in Italy, and was awarded

the First Star to the Plaque for performances in preparation for and during the campaigns in France for the period from 1 July-31 December 1944.

F. AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL "COTTON BALERS"⁶

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

On 12 July 1862 the Congress of the United States first authorized the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor when the following resolution was passed:

⁴ At the time of printing, the Seventh Infantry, as a unit, had not been cited for any of its actions in World War II, though recommendations for citations had been made to higher headquarters. Neither had the other regiments which fought as units of the Third Infantry Division been cited as complete units. The writer believes, however, that each of the three regiments, the 7th, 15th and 30th, are deserving of such an award.

In nearly all the campaigns in which the Seventh Infantry participated, it was outstanding. Some actions for which the Regiment might be cited were those performed in French Morocco; Sicily; those of the first crossing operations of the Volturno River in Italy when the "Cotton Balers" were congratulated by a personal message from Gen. Mark W. Clark; for actions on the Anzio Beachhead and on the road to Rome; for actions in southern France, the Vosges Mountains, and Alsace; for shattering the main resistance in the Third Infantry's sector of the Siegfried Line; for actions in Germany and Austria.

Besides citations for some of its individual actions the writer believes that the Seventh Infantry is deserving of an award or citation for its entire combat record of World War II, "From Fedala to Berchtesgaden," which was compiled through ten campaigns over a period of two and one-half years.

The Seventh Infantry was the regiment which was used in the assault more often than any other regiment in the division with which it fought. Also the Seventh Infantry suffered the most casualties of all the units of the Third Infantry Division, and it is quite commonly known that the Third Infantry Division led all divisions of the United States Army in the same field.

However, whether or not the Seventh Infantry is cited for its World War II actions as a unit is of little consequence. Down through the years the Regiment has garnered its share of honors. Few regiments (none in the 3d Infantry Division) fly so many streamers from their colors as does the Seventh Infantry. Every "Cotton Baler" who served in World War II knows that the record of the Seventh Infantry, sealed with the blood of thousands of its finest men and officers, could never be fully honored or recognized. Being the oldest, most battle-scarred, and for its actions since 1798 the most decorated of the three regiments which served with the Third Infantry Division in World War II, the "Cotton Baler" Regiment fought only to defeat the enemy.

⁵ "Cotton Balers" who went all the way from Fedala to Berchtesgaden have often wondered why there have been no citations for the fighting which occurred in Africa, Sicily, and Italy. For instance it is generally agreed that many of the roughest engagements were fought in Italy. The First Battalion was deserving of

its award for action from 20-24 November 1944 but it fought equally as brilliant in much rougher engagements on the Anzio Beachhead, after the crossing of the Volturno, and in the "Colmar Pocket Campaign." I think that many will agree that many of the other units have been overlooked.

⁶ Unfortunately during the stress of battle and for other reasons quite often deserving individuals go unrewarded for conspicuous, distinguished, gallant, or meritorious service in action. The question of awards has been quite often a bone of contention in the Army.

More than 2,000 awards (exclusive of the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge, etc.) were made to "Cotton Balers" during World War II. That may seem to many to be a very large number, but when one considers the number killed and wounded, and the number who served with the Regiment during the war, it will not be regarded as out of proportion to the sacrifices made. Many "Cotton Balers" who were deserving of awards were never cited.

Pfc. Juland A. Aaron, who was recommended for a DSC award, died of wounds but was only awarded the Purple Heart Medal. It would seem, that if his company officers saw fit to recommend for the second highest valor award, that upon disapproval of that award by higher headquarters, in lieu of it, he could very easily be awarded the Silver Star Medal or even the Bronze Star Medal. His case was just one instance of negligence on the part of the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Section. Very few of the dead members of the Regiment were awarded even the Bronze Star Medal.

On 1 Jan. 1946 at an open house party held by the C. G., 3d Inf. Div. in Bad Wildungen, Germany, Capt. Chas. C. Blossom, the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Officer, and the writer engaged in a friendly debate over the merits of the respective regiments of the division. It was agreed that the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry were just about the three best in the U. S. Army but there was strong disagreement as to which of the three was the best. Capt. Blossom maintained that the 30th Infantry had compiled the best record during the war and based his argument on the fact that more C.M.H.'s and more D.S.C.'s had been awarded to members of the 30th than to members of the 7th. The writer of course maintained that the 7th had the edge and based his argument strictly on the combat record. The argument was never settled to the satisfaction of either. No one from the 15th took part in the verbal war. Capt. Blossom, by the way, had served with the 30th Infantry before becoming the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Officer.

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand medals of honor to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection. And that the sum of ten thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect.

Later on officers as well as enlisted men were made eligible for the award. Then during World War I Congress established the medal as the supreme award for valor by the United States government. The conditions were increased to five. The resolution which was passed on 9 July 1918 reads as follows:

Be it resolved . . . that the provisions of existing laws relating to the award of Medals of Honor to officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Army be, and they hereby are, amended so that the President is authorized to present, in the name of the Congress, a Medal of Honor only to each person, who while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, shall hereafter, in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

The new conditions should be clearly understood. The winner of a Congressional Medal of Honor must be (1) an officer or enlisted man, who (2) in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, (3) distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, (4) at the risk of his life, (5) above and beyond the call of duty.

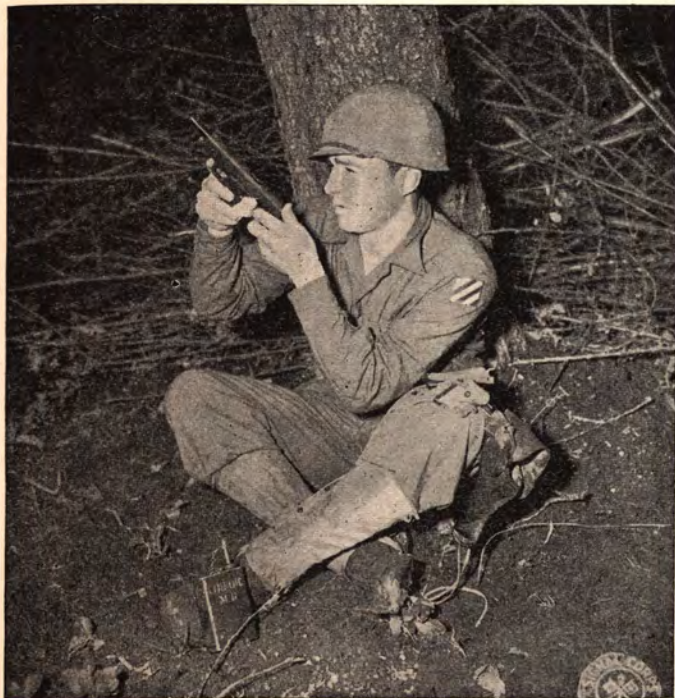
Of the two million men who went to France during World War I, only ninety were awarded the medal (28 posthumously). Seventy-three of the recipients were Infantrymen, five were Marines, four were members of machine gun battalions, two were Artillerymen, two were Airmen, two were Tankmen, one was an Engineer, and one was the Un-

known Soldier.⁷ Two of the recipients served with the Third Infantry Division.⁸ During World War II nearly 14,000,000 soldiers were mobilized for service in all theaters of operations and the zone of the interior. Of that great number only 239 received the highest valor award of the Medal of Honor (40% posthumously).⁹ Six (three posthumously) were "Cotton Balers" who are listed below.

* Indicates the award was posthumous.

1. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FLOYD K. LINDSTROM, Company "H".
For actions displayed on 11 November 1943 on Mount la Difensa, Italy. Private First Class Lindstrom was killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, on 3 February 1944.
2. *SERGEANT TRUMAN O. OLSON, Company "B".
For actions displayed on 30-31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Sergeant Olson died of wounds received in the actions on 31 January 1944.
3. SERGEANT JAMES P. CONNOR, Regimental Battle Patrol.
For actions displayed during the invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944.
4. STAFF SERGEANT STANLEY BENDER, Company "E".
For actions displayed in Southern France on 16 August 1944.
5. TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE ROBERT D. MAXWELL, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
For actions displayed near Besancon, France, on 6-7 September 1944.
6. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSE F. VALDEZ, Company "B".
For actions displayed near Rosenkranz and Housen, France, on 25 January 1945. Private First Class Valdez died of wounds received in the actions on 17 February 1945.

⁷ Hopper: "Medals of Honor," New York, 1929, vii-xix.
⁸ Recipients were Pfc. Charles D. Barger, Co. "K", 4th Infantry, and 1 Lt. George P. Hays, 10th Field Artillery Battalion.
⁹ Gen. Marshall's Report: "The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific," p. 110.



Private First Class Floyd K. Lindstrom



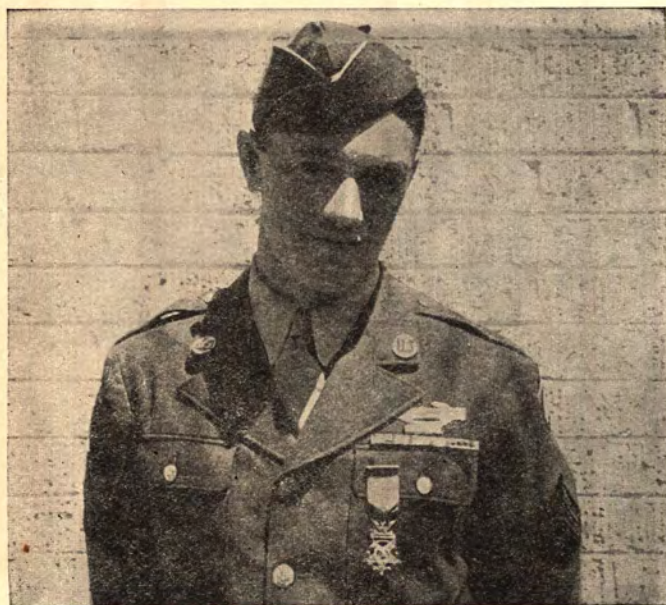
Staff Sergeant Truman O. Olson



Sergeant James P. Connor



Technical Sergeant Stanley Bender (on the right)



Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



"For extraordinary heroism in action."

Up to 4 February 1946 fifty-four awards had been made to former members of the Seventh Infantry of the Distinguished Service Cross and one award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the same medal had been made. The names of the recipients and the dates of actions for which they were cited are listed below in order of performance.

* Indicates the award was posthumous.

1. TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE SANFORD M. FORBES, Regimental Headquarters Company. 8 November 1942 in French Morocco. Technician Fifth Grade Forbes was killed in action in Sicily on 16 July 1943.
2. *PRIVATE WILLIAM H. BRAY, Company "L". 10 November 1942 near Casablanca, French Morocco, when Private Bray was killed.
3. *PRIVATE HERMAN A. WENDT, Medical Detachment. 10 August 1943 near Hill di Marco, Sicily, when Private Wendt was killed.
4. COLONEL HARRY B. SHERMAN, Commanding the Regiment. 24 September 1943 in Southern Italy.
5. SERGEANT BENNIE L. GUFFEY, Company "C". 13 October 1943 during the Volturno River crossing operations.
6. CAPTAIN WILLIAM P. ATHAS, Commanding Company "D". 16 October 1943 near Liberi, Italy. Captain Athas was killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, on 3 March 1944.
7. *CAPTAIN LEROY A. HASELWOOD, S-3, First Battalion. 18 October 1943 near Majorano di Monti, Italy, when Captain Haselwood was killed.
8. *STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS F. VALENTINO, Company "M". 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, when Staff Sergeant Valentino was killed.
9. MAJOR FRANK C. SINSEL, Commanding First Battalion. 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy.
10. MAJOR WILLIAM B. ROSSON, Commanding Third Battalion. 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy.
11. *STAFF SERGEANT HARRY J. LAWLOR, Company "L". 3 March 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, when Staff Sergeant Lawlor was killed.
12. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EMERY BROOKS, Company "E". 23 May 1944 near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead.
13. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN N. MEGOWN, JR., Company "A". 24-25 May 1944 near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead, when Private First Class Megown was killed.

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14. *TECHNICAL SERGEANT EARL E. SWANSON, Company "F".
25 May 1944 in Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead. Technical Sergeant Swanson later received a battlefield commission, advanced to the grade of Captain and succeeded to the command of Company "F". While leading his company in the attack near Utweiler, Germany, on 15 March 1945 Captain Swanson was killed.
15. SERGEANT SAMUEL W. POLLARD, Company "F".
25 May 1944 in Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead.
16. STAFF SERGEANT RUDOLPH R. DAVILA, Company "H".
28 May 1944 near Artena, Italy. Staff Sergeant Davila later received a battlefield commission.
17. PRIVATE CHARLES T. BORELLI, Company "A".
1 June 1944 near Artena, Italy. Private Borelli was later promoted to the grade of Sergeant.
18. *PRIVATE EDWARD S. HORYT, Company "E".
17 August 1944 near Hyeres, France, when Private Horyt was killed in action.
19. *SECOND LIEUTENANT PATRICK H. ADAMS, Company "I".
29 August 1944 near Montelimar, France. Second Lieutenant Adams died of wounds received in action on 28 December 1944.
20. STAFF SERGEANT JOHN H. STANTON, Company "L".
12 September 1944 near Noroy-le-Bourg, France.
21. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL J. SMERILLO, Company "H".
15 September 1944 near Les Aynans, France.
22. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLAYTON C. THOBRO, Commanding Second Battalion.
25 September 1944 near Ferdrupt, France.
23. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES M. HAUGHT, Company "A".
27 September 1944 near Rupt-sur-Moselle, France, when Private First Class Haught was killed.
24. STAFF SERGEANT VIRGIL D. FISHER, Company "A".
27 September 1944 near Rupt-sur-Moselle, France.
25. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WALTER E. HALLEY, Company "B".
7 October 1944 near Vagny, France. Private First Class Halley was later promoted to the grade of Sergeant.
26. PRIVATE THOMAS R. SMALL, Company "C".
20 October 1944 near Bruyeres, France. Private Small was later promoted to the grade of Staff Sergeant.
27. STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL A. ERNST, Company "C".
22 October 1944 near Domfaing, France.
28. TECHNICAL SERGEANT LEONARD LEWIS, Company "L".
23 October 1944 near Amberfosse, France.
29. *PRIVATE MACARIO J. GALLARDO, Company "L".
28 October 1944 near Maramossa, France, when Private Gallardo was killed.
30. *STAFF SERGEANT GEORGE A. GRANDO, Company "L".
31 October 1944 near Maramossa, France, when Staff Sergeant Grando was killed.
31. STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM R. DEZARN, Company "A".
3 November 1944 near Le Haute Jacques, France. Staff Sergeant Dezarn later received a battlefield commission.
32. PRIVATE EDGAR A. COSSON, Company "H".
4 November 1944 near Le Haute Jacques, France.
33. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EMIL STEFEK, JR., Company "K".
23 November 1944 in Saales, France, when Private First Class Stefek was killed.
34. *SERGEANT JOHN J. KELLY, Company "F".
1 December 1944 in Strasbourg, France, when Sergeant Kelly was killed.
35. FIRST LIEUTENANT BERNARD F. CODAY, Company "A".
22 January 1945 near Guemar, France.
36. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEPHEN C. LUDLAM, Company "E".
23 January 1945 near Ostheim, France, when Private First Class Ludlam was killed.
37. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ARTHUR MARCOTTE, Company "G".
23 January 1945 near Houssen, France, when Private First Class Marcotte was killed.
38. *PRIVATE CLIFTON C. THOMAS, Company "B".
23 January 1945 near Colmar, France, when Private Thomas was killed.
39. FIRST LIEUTENANT GARLIN M. CONNOR, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
24 January 1945 near Houssen, France.
40. LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH W. WALLACE, Commanding First Battalion.
24 January 1945 near Ostheim, France.
41. TECHNICAL SERGEANT HARRY E. HAVENS, Company "G".
25 January 1945 near Houssen, France.
42. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSEPH J. BALE, Second Battalion Headquarters Company.
30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, France, when Private First Class Bale was killed.
43. *PRIVATE MARIO POMPONIO, Company "E".
30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, France, when Private Pomponio was killed.
44. FIRST LIEUTENANT VICTOR M. MORRIS, Commanding Company "A".
5 February 1945 near Vogelsheim, France. First Lieutenant Morris was later promoted to the grade of Captain.
45. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CLARENCE FIRESTONE, Company "B".
15 March 1945 near Erching, France.
46. PRIVATE WILLIAM D. AVERY, Company "A".
15 March 1945 near Guiderkirch, France.
47. CAPTAIN WILLIAM D. ANTHONY, Commanding Company "I".
15 March 1945 near Utweiler, Germany.
48. STAFF SERGEANT ALBERT E. HASKELL, Company "A".
18 March 1945 near Zweibrucken, Germany.
49. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RUMALDO MEDINA, Company "L".
19 March 1945 near Althornbach, Germany.
50. SERGEANT ANTHONY J. BALBATON, Company "K".
22 March 1945 near Thaleischweiler, Germany.
51. TECHNICAL SERGEANT CLARENCE W. COPP, Company "B".
27 March 1945 near Sandhofen, Germany.
52. STAFF SERGEANT ANTHONY C. PECAR, Company "G".
8 April 1945 near Munnerrstadt, Germany.
53. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHARLES H. ZWECK, Company "M".
3 May 1945 near Siegsdorf, Germany.
54. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS VINCENT A. LOGAN, Company "I".
3 May 1945 near Berchtesgaden, Germany.

First Oak Leaf Cluster to the
Distinguished Service Cross

1. LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH W. WALLACE, Commanding First Battalion.
22 January 1945 near Guemar, France.



Capt. W. K. Dieleman, 1 Lt. H. W. Erhardt, and Lt. Col. C. C. Thobro during a training exercise in France.



The D.S.C. recipients shown above were: (1) T/5 Sanford M. Forbes, (2) Pvt. Herman A. Wendt, posthumously, (3) Col. Harry B. Sherman and (4) Capt. William P. Athas received their awards from Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark on 15 Jan. 1944 in the Piano di Quarto area, Italy, (5) Capt. Leroy A. Haselwood, posthumously, (6) Maj. Frank C. Sinsel, (7) Maj. William B. Rosson, (8) S/Sgt. Harry J. Lawlor, posthumously, (9) Pfc. Emery Brooks, missing in action, (10) Pfc. John N. Megown, Jr., posthumously, (11) Capt. Earl E. Swanson, posthumously, (12) Sgt. Samuel W. Pollard, (13) 2 Lt. Rudolph R. Davila, (14) Sgt. Charles T. Borelli, (15) Pvt. Edward S. Horyt, posthumously, (16) 2 Lt. Patrick H. Adams.

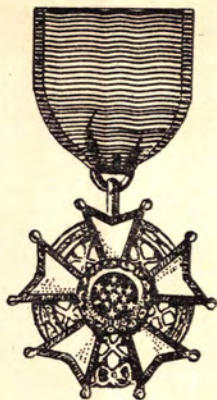


The D.S.C. recipients shown above were: (1) S/Sgt. John H. Stanton, (2) Pfc. Michael J. Smerillo, (3) Lt. Col. Clayton C. Thobro, (4) Pfc. James M. Haught, posthumously, (5) S/Sgt. Virgil D. Fisher, (6) Pfc. Walter E. Halley, (7) Pvt. Thomas R. Small, (8) S/Sgt. Michael A. Ernst, (9) T/Sgt. Leonard Lewis, (10) 2 Lt. William R. Dezarn, (11) Pfc. Emil Stefek, Jr., posthumously, (12) Sgt. John J. Kelly, posthumously, (13) 1 Lt. Bernard F. Coday, (14) Pfc. Stephen C. Ludlam, posthumously, (15) Pfc. Arthur Marcotte, posthumously, (16) Pvt. Clifton C. Thomas, posthumously.



The D.S.C. recipients shown above were: (1) 1 Lt. Garlin M. Connor, (2) Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Wallace, (3) Pfc. Joseph J. Bale, posthumously, (4) Capt. Victor M. Morris, (5) Pfc. Clarence Firestone, (6) Capt. William D. Anthony, (7) Pfc. Rinaldo Medina, (8) T/Sgt. Clarence W. Copp, (9) Pfc. Vincent A. Logan, (10) S/Sgt. William D. Avery.

LEGION OF MERIT AWARD



"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service."

* Indicates the award was for service with units other than the 7th Infantry.

1. MAJOR WILLIAM B. ROSSON, Regimental Field and Staff.
8 August 1942 to 18 August 1943.
2. MAJOR RICHARD T. YOUNG, Regimental Field and Staff.
1 September 1942 to 6 December 1944.
3. PRIVATE ORLAN P. LEMKE, Company "H".
8 to 11 November 1942. Private Lemke was later promoted to the grade of Corporal. He was killed in action on 16 October 1943.
4. FIRST LIEUTENANT JACK M. O'SULLIVAN, Company "E".
8 November 1942 to 26 July 1943.
5. STAFF SERGEANT TOM A. BAKER, Service Company.
8 November 1942 to 4 June 1944.
6. STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM H. BONHAM, Second Battalion Headquarters Company.
8 November 1942 to 15 August 1944.
7. FIRST SERGEANT FRANCIS F. ANDREWS, First Battalion Headquarters Company.
2 March 1943 to 26 November 1944.
8. STAFF SERGEANT CLARENCE MASSEY, First Battalion Headquarters Company.
2 March 1943 to 26 November 1944.
9. *LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILEY H. O'MOHUNDRO, Commanding Officer, Area No. 2, Invasion Training Center, North Africa.
1 April 1943 to 3 September 1943.
10. CAPTAIN RICHARD A. SMITH, Regimental Field and Staff.
10 June to 18 August 1943.
11. SERGEANT ROSS W. BRANSTETTER, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
10 June to 18 August 1943.
12. FIRST LIEUTENANT FRANK PETRUZEL, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
10 June to 18 August 1943.
13. MAJOR CLAYTON C. THOBRO, Regimental Field and Staff.
10 June 1943 to 4 March 1944.
14. TECHNICAL SERGEANT LENN A. SNELLENBERGER, First Battalion Headquarters Company.
26 June to 18 August 1943.
15. COLONEL HARRY B. SHERMAN, Commanding the Regiment.
10 July to 18 August 1943.
16. FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWIN G. JOHNSON, Service Company.
10 July 1943 to 30 September 1944.
17. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER EVERETT A. ROLES, Service Company.
10 July 1943 to 1 December 1944.

18. LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK M. IZENOUR, Commanding First Battalion.
25 July 1943 to 4 June 1944.
19. TECHNICAL SERGEANT MATT J. CHURACK, Company "M".
25 July 1943 to 4 June 1944.
20. CAPTAIN RALPH A. REED, Service Company.
16 September 1943 to 26 November 1944.
21. SERGEANT PAUL A. REINERTSEN, First Battalion Headquarters Company.
20 September to 16 October 1943 when Sergeant Reinertsen was killed in action.
22. TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE SAMMY COOPER, Service Company.
20 September 1943 to 1 January 1945.
23. FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY M. NOFAL, Service Company.
29 October 1943 to 5 June 1944.
24. FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE E. GUCKERT, JR., Cannon Company.
22 January 1944 to 11 February 1945.
25. FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM K. DIELEMAN, Company "B".
23 March to 17 September 1944.
26. SERGEANT WILLIS F. ALDER, Company "H".
1 May to 4 June 1944.
27. CAPTAIN JOHN B. ALARIE, Regimental Headquarters Company.
1 May 1944 to 22 January 1945.
28. *LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN A. HEINTGES, Executive Officer, 30th Infantry.
30 May to 4 December 1944.
29. CAPTAIN RALPH M. FLYNN, S-3, Third Battalion.
15 August to 26 November 1944.
30. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JACK M. DUNCAN, Commanding Second Battalion.
21 January to 8 May 1945.
31. *COLONEL BEN HARRELL, G-3, VI Corps.
February to August 1944.

First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit Award

1. STAFF SERGEANT WILLIS F. ALDER, Company "H".
15 October 1944 to 11 February 1945.
2. *COLONEL BEN HARRELL, G-3, Fifth Army.
January to September 1945.



Staff Sergeant Willis F. Alder



CAPTAIN WILLIAM K. DIELEMAN

See Page 98 for sketch of his early service with the 7th Infantry. He commanded Co. "B" during the fighting in France and was the leader of "Task Force Dieleman" during the fighting in the Vosges Mts.



CAPTAIN RICHARD T. YOUNG

He joined Co. "F" on 6 Oct. 1941 but served with that company only a short time. He was Ass't. S-1, Nov. 1941 to 10 May 1942, and from 1 Aug. 1942 to 15 June 1943; S-1, 10 May to 1 Aug. 1942, and from Mar. to Oct. 1944; C. O. 1 Bn. Hq. Co., 15 June to 17 Nov. 1943; S-2, 1 Oct. to 3 Dec. 1944; S-3, 6 Dec. 1944 to 9 Apr. 1945, and from 4 to 5 May 1945. He was promoted to Major in Dec. 1944.

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CAPTAIN JOHN B. ALARIE

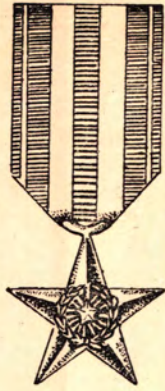
He joined the 7th Infantry in May 1944 and served as Communications Officer until 21 Sept. 1944 when he became C. O. of Regtl. Hq. Co. He was wounded and evacuated in Jan. 1945. He returned to the Reg't. three months later and became Ex. O. of the 2nd Bn. After the war ceased in Europe he was promoted to Major and was C. O., 2nd Bn., for a period of time.



FIRST LIEUTENANT JACK M. O'SULLIVAN

He joined Co. "L" on 14 June 1941 and alternately served as Ex. O. and C. O. of that company before he served as Ex. O. of Cn. Co. In Oct. 1942 he was assigned to Co. "E" as Ex. O. and made the Fedala landing in that capacity. He succeeded to the command of Co. "E" before being wounded himself. He was released from the hospital in Jan. 1943 and officially transferred from the 7th Infantry. While serving with the Judge Advocate's Dep't., Atlantic Base Section, he was promoted to the grade of Captain.

SILVER STAR MEDAL



"For gallantry in action."

At least 921 awards of this medal were made to "Cotton Balers" during World War II. Sixty-three members received the First Oak Leaf Cluster, four are known to have received the Second Oak Leaf Cluster, and one the Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the medal. Nearly all the recipients have been mentioned in the text and photos of many of the winners also appear in the volume.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL



"For valorous conduct, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service during actual combat."

From examination of Third Infantry Division general orders the writer has counted that 1,261 members of the Seventh Infantry received the award of a Bronze Star Medal for World War II service. However that figure is not believed to be all inclusive. One hundred thirteen members received the First Cluster, eleven the Second Cluster, two the Third Cluster, and one, Col. John A. Heintges, the Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster to the medal.

The Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge were also awarded to many "Cotton Balers" during the war, but the number is not known.

PURPLE HEART MEDAL



"For wounds received in action"

The original Purple Heart, which was actually called the Badge of Military Merit, was created by an order from General George Washington at his headquarters at Newburgh, N. Y., on 7 August 1782, which is quoted as follows:

The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward.

The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus opened to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest days of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one.

The award fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War however. But on 22 February 1932, the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth the present Purple Heart Medal was established.

It is impossible to say just how many members of the Seventh Infantry were deserving of this award. But because more than 2,000 "Cotton Balers" were killed and died of wounds, and more than 6,500 others are known to have been wounded the number undoubtedly is close to 9,000. Hundreds have received clusters to the medal.

Because of lack of time and incomplete records no attempt has been made to list the names of the recipients and those entitled to the award.

AIR MEDAL



"For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."

FIRST LIEUTENANT (LATER CAPTAIN) JOHN D. FOULK, S-2, 7th Infantry.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL



"For heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy."

LT. COL. JOHN A. HEINTGES, Cmdg., 3d Bn.
 T/SGT. JOHN H. EARL, Co. "B"
 T/SGT. JOSEPH PUNSKA, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.
 T/SGT. RAYMOND L. OLIVER, Co. "C"
 S/SGT. ARTHUR D. CASE, Regtl. B. P.
 SGT. OSCAR F. FUHRMAN, Co. "M"
 T/5 PAUL LANG, Sv. Co.
 T/5 JACK N. MILLER, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.
 PFC. GETTY EVANOSKY, Co. "C"
 PFC. JERWIN JENKINS, Co. "C"
 PFC. EDWARD P. MECCARIELLO, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.
 PFC. ERNEST J. VAILLANCOURT, Cn. Co.
 PFC. ELBERT T. WORTHINGTON, Co. "I"
 PFC. ALFRED A. ZEIGER, Cn. Co.
 PVT. JAMES A. GROENEVELD, Co. "D"
 PVT. KURT C. IRONS, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.
 PVT. HARRY LEVY, Sv. Co.
 PVT. WILLIAM H. MILLER, Sv. Co.
 PVT. KENNETH E. VOTRUBA, Sv. Co.
 PVT. JOHN P. WALL, Co. "D"

RECAPITULATION FOR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Congressional Medals of Honor	6
Distinguished Service Crosses	54
First Oak Leaf Cluster to the D.S.C.	1
Legion of Merit Awards	31
First Oak Leaf Cluster to the L. of M. A.	2
Silver Star Medals	921
First Oak Leaf Cluster to the S.S.M.	63
Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the S.S.M.	4
Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the S.S.M.	1
Bronze Star Medals	1261
First Oak Leaf Cluster to the B.S.M.	113
Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the B.S.M.	11
Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the B.S.M.	2
Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster to the B.S.M.	1
Air Medal	1
Soldier's Medals	20
 Total Known Awards	 2492
Purple Heart Medals	Number Unknown
Combat Infantry Man's Badges	Number Unknown
Good Conduct Medals	Number Unknown
Expert Infantry Man's Badges	Number Unknown

OTHER MEDALS

The Expert Infantryman's Badge was also awarded to a great number of the members.

FOREIGN AWARDS

The French Croix de Guerre was awarded to the following personnel of the Seventh Infantry:

COL. BEN HARRELL, Cmdg.
 COL. WILEY H. O'MOHUNDRO, Cmdg.
 LT. COL. FRANK M. IZENOUR, C. O. 1st Bn.
 LT. COL. CLAYTON C. THOBRO, C. O. 2nd Bn.
 LT. COL. LLOYD B. RAMSEY, C. O. 3d Bn.
 CAPT. RALPH L. YATES, Cmdg., Co. "L".
 1 LT. WILLIAM D. ANTHONY, Cmdg., Co. "I".
 1 LT. GARLIN M. CONNOR, 3d Bn. Hq. Co.
 1 LT. DENVER C. JIVIDEN, 3d Bn. Hq. Co.
 1 LT. GEORGE W. LAUDERDALE, Cmdg., Co. "K".
 2 LT. MANUEL M. ESPERSA, Co. "L".
 2 LT. JOHN E. LEAS, Regtl. B. P.
 T/SGT. HARRY E. HAVENS, Co. "G".
 S/SGT. WILLARD F. WAGNER, Co. "A".
 SGT. ARTHUR BENJAMIN, Co. "A".
 T/5 ROBERT D. MAXWELL, 3d Bn. Hq. Co.
 PFC. GEORGE L. HOFFMAN, Co. "G".
 PFC. ALBERT F. HOFFNER, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.
 PFC. TED L. MARSH, Regtl. Hq. Co.
 PFC. LAWSON H. WILLIGAR, Co. "H".
 PVT. EDGAR A. COSSON, Co. "H".
 PVT. CARLO D. PARISI, Co. "D".
 PVT. PETER RESTIVE, Co. "H".
 PVT. RAYMOND L. STERBERG, Co. "I".

Colonel Ben Harrell who commanded the Regiment from 22 August to 2 December 1944 received a long list of foreign decorations. However, they were received not for commanding the Seventh Infantry but for other service such as G-3, U. S. 5th Army. The foreign decorations received by Colonel Harrell include the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, Order of the British Empire, Brazilian Medal of War, Czechoslovakian Military Cross, Italian Military Valor Cross, and the Crown of Italy, and the Golden Cross of Merit with Swords from Poland. His American decorations include the Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit Award with Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with Cluster, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Captain (later Major) John C. Bell, S-3, Third Battalion, from 1 August 1942 to 1 February 1943, received the Order of the British Empire Award.

PICTURE CREDITS

3rd SIGNAL CO.
 Pages 123, 144, 158, 159, 163, 169, 193, 230, 279, 310.
 OTHER UNITS OF U. S. SIGNAL CORPS
 21, 30, 33, 40, 42, 43, 44, 51, 56, 61, 71, 93, 102, 111,
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 GEORGE SILF, Life Magazine Photographer
 Pages 115, 306.
 PFC. DONALD MROZOWSKY
 Page 138.
 T/5 HOSEA T. HOLLIS
 Pages 127, 131, 133, 135, 142, 152, 159, 163, 192, 201,
 203, 205, 207, 225, 278, 280.
 CAPT. RAYMOND E. VINT
 Pages 274, 276, 281, 306.
 CAPT. GEORGE YARNALL
 Pages 226, 240.

Biography of the Writer

Born on 12 December 1909 in Presque Isle, Maine, Nathan William White was the seventh of eleven children blessed to the union of Maurice and Helen (Farrell) LeBlanc.

He was graduated from the Training School in 1922, Presque Isle High School in 1926, and the Aroostook State Normal School in 1928. His teaching career was launched during the school year 1928-29 in the Sheridan School, a seven-pupil, rural school located in Township 1, Range 8, of the West Branch of Kennebec Purchase, in the Unorganized Territory of Maine. During 1929-30 he served as teaching-principal of a consolidated rural school in Caswell Plantation, Maine, and in 1930-31 he taught all eight grades of the South Presque Isle rural school.

From 1931 to 1934 he was social science teacher and athletic coach at the Gouldville School in Presque Isle, and in addition was varsity basketball coach at Aroostook State Normal School for three years.

He attended five summer sessions and one academic year at the University of Maine and received the Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1935.

During the year 1935-36 he was head of the social science department and athletic coach at Madawaska High School, Madawaska, Maine. From 1936 to 1939 he served as principal of the Fort Fairfield Grammar School, Fort Fairfield, Maine. He then became the first principal of the Charlton Street School, Southbridge, Massachusetts, and held that position until he went on military leave of absence to enter the Army of the United States.

His first military training was received at the Citizens' Military Training Camp at Fort McKinley, Great Diamond Island, Maine, in the summer of 1926. He attended the camp again in 1929. From 1927 to 1930 he served one term of enlistment with Battery "A", 152nd Field Artillery, Maine National Guard.

On 1 April 1942 he was inducted into the Army of the United States as a private, at Springfield, Massachusetts. For eight months he served with the Medical Detachment at Fort Banks, Massachusetts, then voluntarily transferred to the Infantry. Without previous Infantry training he was accepted for admission to the Infantry Officers' Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He successfully completed the required course and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 11 February 1943.

From 20 February to 30 April 1943 he served as a training officer at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, then from 3 May 1943 to 2 January 1944 he served with Company "F", 290th Infantry, 75th Infantry Division, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From 2 January until 25 May 1944, when he was assigned to the Seventh Infantry, he spent the time enroute or in replacement depots both in the United States and Italy. He held the following

assignments or positions while serving with the Seventh Infantry:

- (1) From 29 to 31 May 1944, Assistant S-2, Regimental Field and Staff.
- (2) From 31 May to 17 June 1944, Regimental Gas Officer and Executive Officer, Regimental Headquarters Company.
- (3) From 17 June to 5 August 1944, Company Officer, Regimental Headquarters Company.
- (4) From 5 August to 11 September 1944, Liaison Officer, Regimental Field and Staff.
- (5) From 11 to 15 September 1944, Regimental Gas Officer and Executive Officer, Regimental Headquarters Company.
- (6) From 15 to 21 September 1944, Commanding Officer, Regimental Headquarters Company.
- (7) From 21 September to 8 October 1944, Regimental Gas Officer and Executive Officer, Regimental Headquarters Company.
- (8) From 8 October 1944 to 4 February 1946, Liaison Officer, Regimental Field and Staff.

In December 1944 he was appointed Instruction Officer for the Third Infantry Division, and in addition to his other duties, was instructed to make plans for an information and education school to be opened for Third Infantry Division personnel upon the termination of hostilities in Europe. He completed a course for instruction officers at the Army Information and Education School conducted at the University of Paris. When hostilities ended in Europe and the Third Infantry Division assembled in Salzburg, Austria, he conducted the first school for instructors within the Third Infantry Division, and made the surveys which initiated the educational program conducted by the Seventh Infantry. Before the program was well underway the Third Infantry Division removed to Germany for occupation duties. He was relieved of his educational and liaison duties by Colonel John A. Heintges and was commissioned to prepare a history of the Seventh Infantry for publication.

On 4 February 1946 he departed from the Seventh Infantry and returned to the United States on 4 March 1946 with the 959th Field Artillery Battalion. He went on terminal leave four days later, and on 15 May 1946 was placed on the inactive list as a First Lieutenant, having received that grade on 1 January 1945.

While still on terminal leave he returned to Southbridge, Massachusetts, and on 1 April 1946, he again assumed his position as head of the Charlton Street School. At the end of the school year he terminated his seven-year principalship of the school.

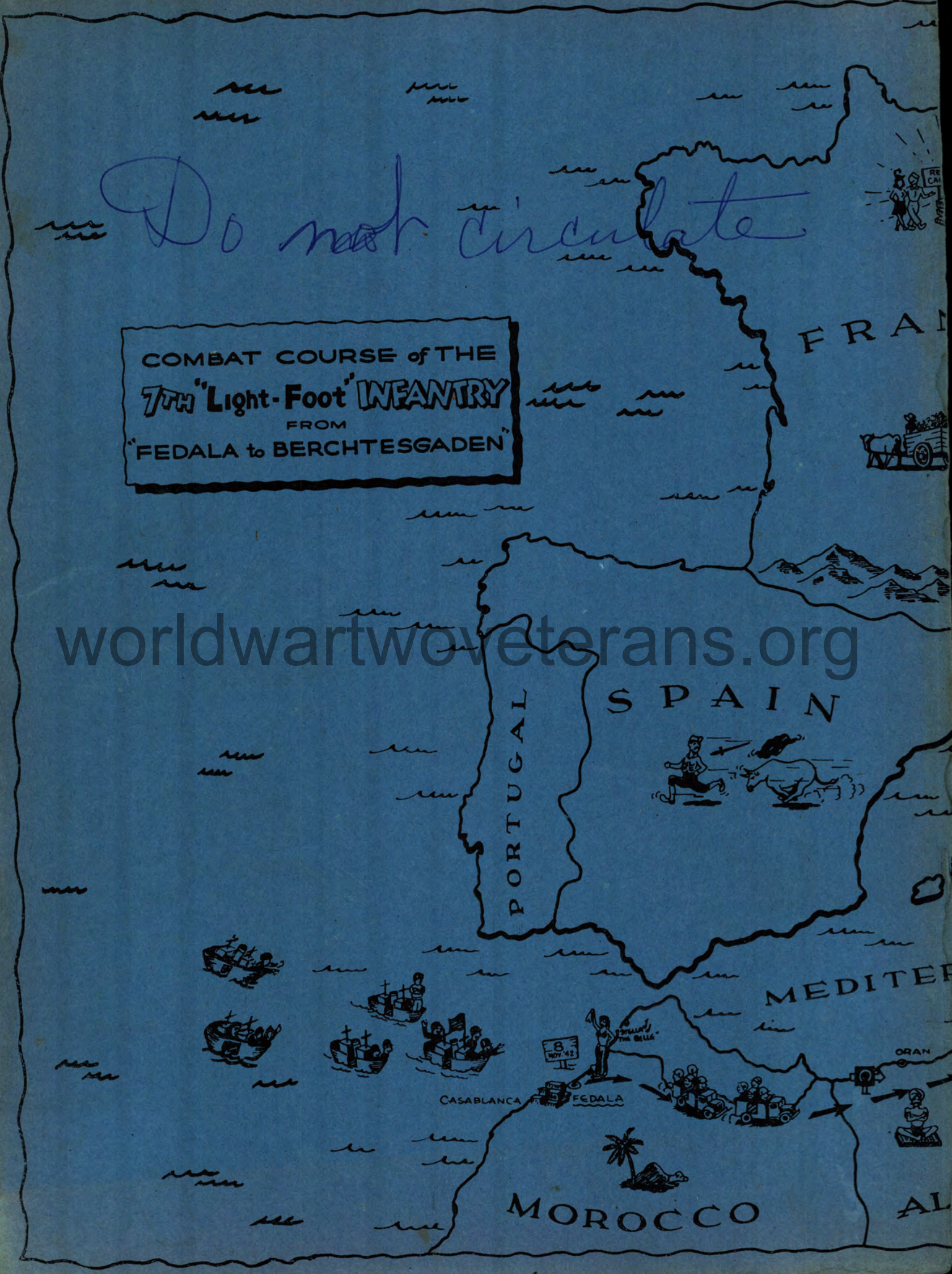
During the year 1946-47 he served as a social science teacher in the school system of Plainville, Connecticut.

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