



345th
Field Artillery Battalion

90th INFANTRY DIVISION

THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY

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IN MEMORIAM

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Dedicated

TO THE MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES WHO
MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE



THE BATTALION COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT Colonel Frank W. Norris was born October 21, 1915 in Wharton, Texas. Moving to Austin he attended Austin High School and the University of Texas in 1933 and 1934 before receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy. The Colonel entered West Point in 1934 and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery June 14, 1938.

Just out of the Academy, he was sent to the 15th Field Artillery at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he served as Battery Executive until June 1939, when he returned to the Point on Pentathlon detail and went into training for the Olympic Games. However, it soon became evident with the outbreak of war that there would be no Olympics, and in November 1939, the Colonel went to Fort Hoyle, Maryland, as an Assistant and later Communications Officer in the 16th Field Artillery Battalion, then at Fort Myer, Virginia. The 16th moved to Fort Riley, Kansas and it was there that Colonel Norris received orders in January 1942 to report to the 90th Infantry Division which was being reactivated at Camp Barkeley, Texas.

The Colonel served as Division Artillery Headquarters Battery Commander and Division Artillery S2 before he was given command of the 345th in October 1942. The Battalion was very fortunate in having Colonel Norris as commander straight through the period of its most intensive training and later through combat itself. It is in action that a soldier discovers of what his commander is made. At the end of eleven months of strenuous and nearly continuous combat Colonel Norris has gained the respect and confidence of all men who have served under him.

MARCH 1942 – JUNE 2, 1944



THIS is a story of the 345th in combat. It is a story of success, for it is a tale of a unit which fought the Krauts for 332 days, and fought them well. Our narrative could not possibly include the tale of all the man-hours of work, sweat, anguish, anxiety, fear, joy, and pride that went into its making. Nor can it hope to do justice to the individual men who worked so hard and so long to earn the battalion its excellent reputation in garrison and in combat. This is an overall picture of our operations with a few events spotlighted for posterity. There were many more that will be known only by word of mouth and in the minds of those who were there. Back of our combat performance lay 800 days of training—days of confusion, of disappointments, of anger, of discomfort, and occasionally, of joy. Sometimes the training task appeared too difficult, yet we stuck to the job and became soldiers.

The 345th came to life when the 90th Division was activated at Camp Barkeley, Texas on March 25, 1942. However, before activation, the cadre of officers and enlisted men who were to lead us through our first difficult period had spent months preparing to train us. Even now, forty months later, we owe much to that group of 79 enlisted men of the veteran 80th Field Artillery Battalion of the 6th Infantry Division and to the officers of the Reserve Corps, National Guard, and the regular Army who gave us our start. From March through December of 1942 we received our basic training, our unit training, and our combined training. In August we lost a number of our key officers and men when we sent a cadre to form the 155 Howitzer Battalion for the 104th Division at Camp Adair, Oregon; also OCS was a continual drain on our experienced personnel. However, each day we learned some soldier skill; and our selectees carried on well for the men we lost. Gun drill, calisthenics, lectures, close order drill, night schools, driver's training, carbine firing, day schools, athletics, service practice, survey work, wire laying, RSOP's, radio procedure, preventive maintenance, night exercises, 25 mile marches, reveilles, Saturday inspections, retreats, training films, proficiency tests, obstacle courses, parades — these and hundreds of similar activities kept us on the go. By the time we had completed our "D" exercises in December; we could march; we could shoot; we could communicate. We were artillerymen.

But, we were not ready for combat. We were not field soldiers; so off we went to Louisiana for maneuvers. There we learned how to keep ourselves neat and well-disciplined while living in the field. We put to practical use all of the technique and book-learning which we had acquired at Barkeley. Best of all, we became accustomed to the confusion which is a part of all military operations. We became flexible in mind and method. Appropriately enough, we celebrated our first birthday by winching ourselves out of the worst swamp in Louisiana. When our maneuvers ended in April, we were ready to fight real war against a real enemy.

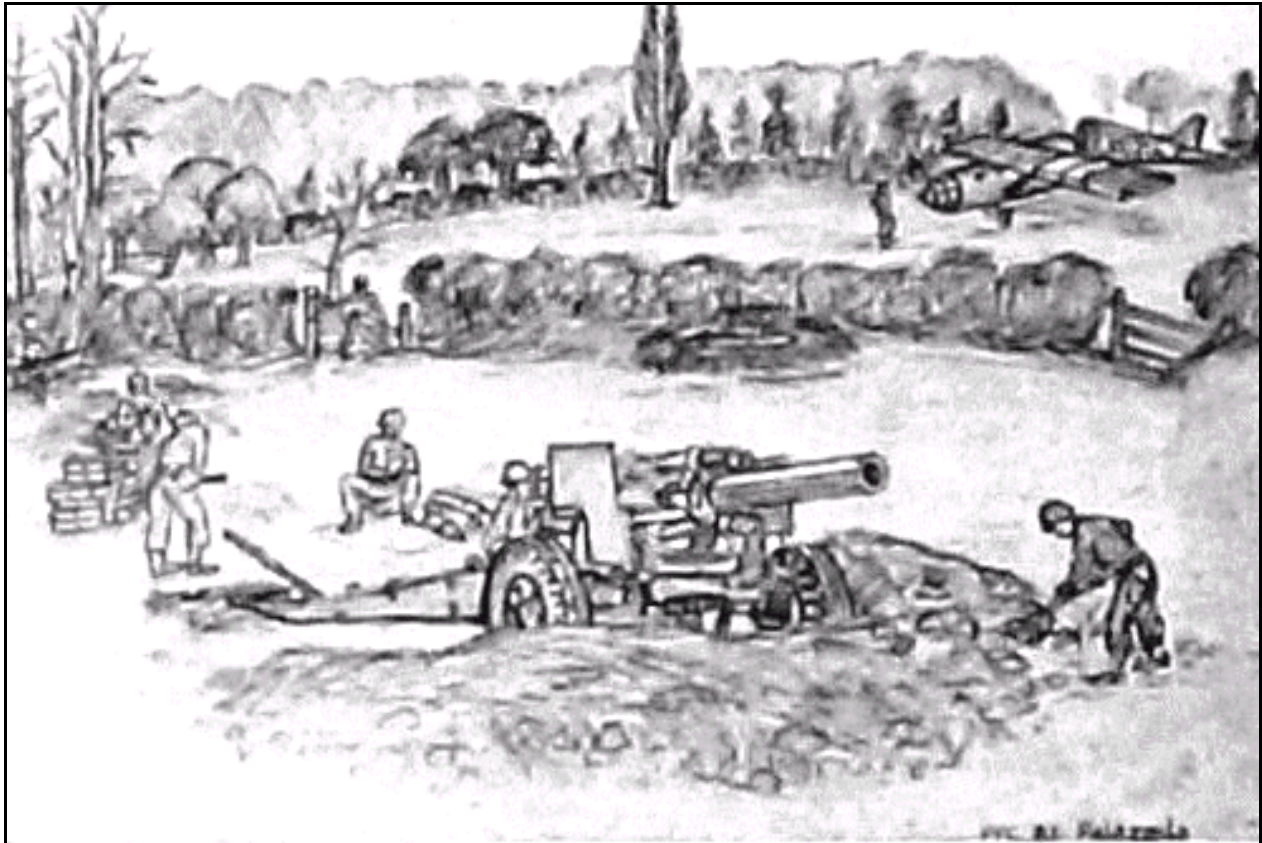
"D" Day, however, was fourteen months in the future; so back we went to Camp Barkeley. From May to September, we polished off the rough spots which maneuvers had developed. Many men were trained in two or more duties, and we steadily improved our technical abilities. Service practice,

coupled with battery and battalion tests, kept our Schneiders busy. Each man learned to fire his carbine accurately and with confidence. We spent long and arduous hours in physical development; pushups, burpees, and obstacle courses were daily routine. Much of the work was repetitious of previous training, but each day prepared us better for the coming maneuvers in the California desert.

In September 1943, the 345th bade farewell to Camp Barkeley, and we moved to the desert where we set up a livable camp at Granite Mountain. During the next four months, we became desert soldiers, learning to breathe dust instead of air, and to eat “C” rations instead of the fresh foods we were used to. However, we learned much more than how to endure discomfort. For instance, the experience gained in making long, rapid movements was invaluable to us when we met similar situations in Germany and France. At Christmas time, just as we completed our desert training, we received the long awaited orders to proceed to Fort Dix, N. J.

Those orders meant only one thing – overseas service. Our period of maneuvers and training was drawing to a close: soon we would be playing the game for keeps. After a transcontinental train ride, we passed through Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer in a cloud of paper work. We had so many show-down inspections that even the tent pegs snapped to at the command, “Attention”; but we were certainly P.O.M. qualified when we boarded His Majesty’s transport, Athlone Castle, on the 23rd of March 1944. Each of us remembers the food on the Castle, but we expected no picnic. Some of us remember seasickness – ask Sgt. Hughes, Sgt. Parsons or Lt. Stanley. However, the trip across was without serious incident; we landed at Liverpool on April 5. Going straight to camp Davenport, near Wolverhampton, we received twelve brand new M1 howitzers, tractors, and complete new section equipment throughout the battalion. Here we completed our final training with particular emphasis on gunnery and physical conditioning for all men. Our last stop before Utah Beach was made at Camp Heath, where our equipment was waterproofed and loaded. Here, too, we were briefed on our part of the coming operations. Each of us was a more thoughtful man when we heard that we would hit the beach on D plus 2. Captain Hanna expressed our sentiments when he laughingly said, “Here I always heard that only supermen would be picked for the Invasion of France. What in hell are we doing in it?” We were not a cocky bunch, for too much of the unknown lay ahead of us; but we did have complete confidence in our training, in our arms, and in ourselves. Future events were to prove that our confidence was justified.





THE LANDING AND NORMANDY

On June 3, 1944, a hell of a hot sultry afternoon, we left Cardiff's Heath Camp for the Cardiff Docks. Dressed in cotton underwear, long johns, 1 pair of wool socks, 1 pair of wool impregnated socks, wool O.D. uniform, impregnated fatigue uniform, impregnated shoes, field jacket, full field and rain coat, we marched 5 miles through Cardiff, Wales and melted to a stop at the dock area in an aroma surpassing any known odors! The Batteries Headquarters, A, B, and Service, filed aboard the SS Charles C. Jones (MT 209) and C Battery boarded the SS Charles D. Poston (MT 210). Clutching our sack lunch, we learned our assignments, explored the Liberty ship, and found our howitzers and vehicles already waiting for us. After satisfying our curiosity as much as possible, we bedded down for the night on the steel decks and in the holds. Daylight, June 4th found us en route from the Dock area to Barry Bac, Wales. It was on the beach of this some bay that we three days ago had tested our water proofed vehicles. The reasons for those tests began to dawn on some of us with new seriousness. We remained here until early morning June 6th, 1944.

Wales and England slipped out of view by late afternoon. On the morning of June 8th, after a relatively peaceful channel crossing, we steamed into Utah Beach off the Cotentin Peninsula, France... Here the battle was raging. Destroyers patrolling the beach were constantly shelling the shore line and bluffs, battleships loosed salvos that caused all of us to shudder. The ship to our left buckled at the sound of a terrific explosion and disappeared in twenty seconds time. We saw water spouts from enemy shell fire rising all about us – the bulks of sunken ships – the dismal stacks of a ship protruding above the water – a half-sunk destroyer still firing on the enemy shore installations. We watched a fortified

French village crumble away to rubble under the severe pounding of the battleships Texas and Nevada. On the beach, troops and equipment unloaded and vanished between the mysterious explosions.

With night came the enemy planes. They strafed and bombed the beach and harbor, illuminating the hundreds of ships and the sausage like balloons overhead. Anti-aircraft fire laced the sky, our ships' machine guns fired overhead. In the midst of all this excitement, an explosion occurred which rocked the SS Jones three quarters out of the water. Everyone bolted from their stations. "Hit a Goddamn mine"—minutes passed like years, life preservers were at a premium. Finally, as nothing more happened, we relaxed.

We unloaded. The worries, the fears, the sweat of the men who did the job will never be fully appreciated. The 13/ton tractors and 6/ton Howitzers were swung overboard and lowered to the LCT's. The gun crews, drivers, wiremen, and the rest of us climbed down rope ladders and boarded the landing craft as our vehicles were loaded. Earlier our reconnaissance parties had landed. Many of their vehicles were stranded beneath the water. Some are still on the Normandy beach. Our "Recon" parties guided us safely into position as we came inland, and the journey was packed full of exciting moments – mined roads, snipers, planes, and the dead.

June 9th, 1944, near Loutres, France, we fired as never before. In action supporting the attack by the veteran 82nd Airborne Division, our first combat efforts were rewarded by the many expressions of gratitude and appreciation from fighting men of the 82nd. To be complimented, sincerely, by veterans like those was the highest award we could ever hope for. Their praise was above any official reward – and we had so soon proved ourselves worthy!

In Normandy, the marks of war were harsh: the dead had not been removed – puffed bodies and bloated animals lay in the ditches, and the fields. A stench that didn't jibe with the apple blossoms and flowers persisted. The Chaplain always had a large congregation. God was wanted then.

On June 9th, we made our first displacement to a position near Ste. Mere Eglise. The night of June 12th we received our worst visit from the Luftwaffe. Enemy planes attacked our positions relentlessly, dropping flare after flare; no place escaped illumination. The diving roar of the planes, the sound of the bombs, the terror of the unknown will never be forgotten. During the attack we suddenly realized that we were not as well dug in as we should have been. We had to have fox holes – covered fox holes – a hard lesson had been learned. This was not maneuvers. For one week we remained in that position, firing while our doughboys and forward observers got their worst taste of combat in the jungle-like hedgerow warfare. Multi-colored parachutes, parachute equipment, and broken-backed gliders lay in our fields and the fields around us. Kraut equipment and ammunition was there also – abandoned in haste. We learned a whole hearted respect for our tough paratroopers as we saw them coming in singly or by pairs through the enemy lines – many times with valuable information. Our foxholes were lined with silk parachutes in those days.

From Ste. Mere Eglise our trail led to Amfreville, Orglandes, and across the peninsula to St. Sauveur Le Vicomte. The march to St. Sauveur was another night ride. Up north of us Cherbourg still held out but was being slowly cut off. The 357th combat team to which we were attached was to guard the rear of the troops advancing on Cherbourg and to prevent any Germans from escaping. Many Krauts did try to get out of the trap, but they were caught by our troops. We ourselves were constantly on the alert. In the distance there was a constant rumble of artillery and bombing as Cherbourg fell – piece by piece.

Occasionally in the daytime there would be a fast low-flying Heinie plane over the area going towards Cherbourg. In a few minutes he'd usually be back with twelve P47's on his tail.

On June 29th we moved again to positions near Beuzeville-la-Bastille. The peninsula was ours, and we were gathering for the big push. We were veterans now, fox holes with covers were automatic; Howitzers went down, and nobody opened up on "Bed Check Charlie", the one Kraut plane which droned nightly overhead. We talked a little French, accepted their bouquets like heroes, and were still

looking for the “Cokes and Zippos” that had gone to the armed forces. We heard that Rita Hayworth in “Cover Girl” was the favorite of the Normandy Battlefront,

Crossing the swollen Seves River at midnight, we looked to the right and left and saw the geysers of war spurt up as the Kraut artillery ranged in on the bridge.

This was the position where our doughs took Beau Coudray and Foret de Mont Castre, and proved themselves the best doughfeet in the world. In the forest the radio operators and instrument men carried their equipment up Hill 122 through woods and undergrowth that could rival the best jungles of the South Pacific.

The Engineers cut a path through the forest, it was impossible to get a jeep through, but they made it. And once again Jerry took a terrific beating from our guns. This also was the position where we got our first-quarter master bath – right out in the backyard of Gorges, buck naked – 2 minutes to wash and 2 minutes to rinse!

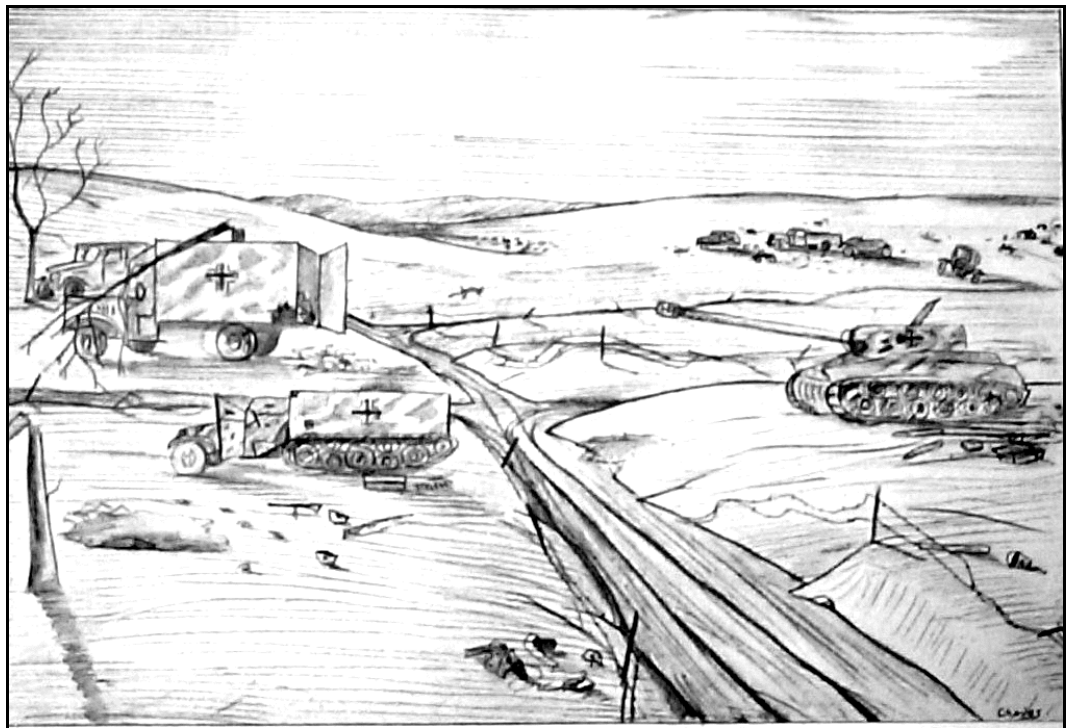
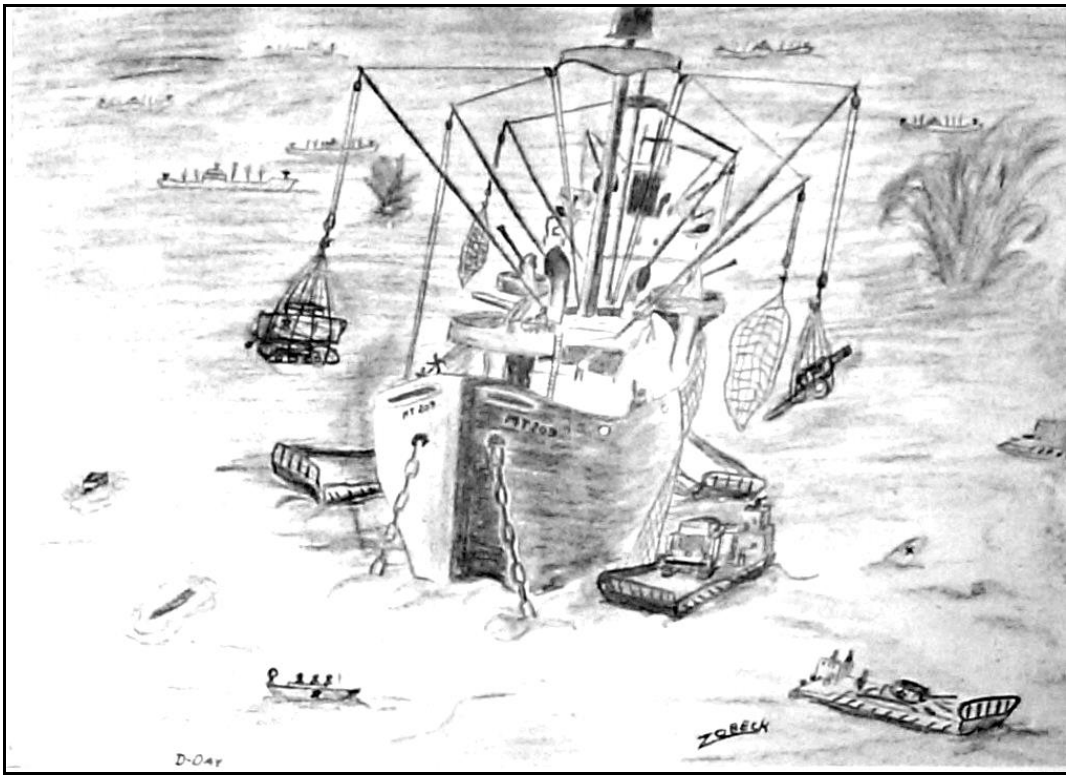
Jerry shelled us plenty, but to no avail ... remember the burned-out tanks, the fried spuds, the wine and cognac?

On July 14th, we moved to La Plessis where Able and Baker Batteries witnessed the construction of an airfield. “Gad, how the bulldozer drew fire!” Here Jerry pasted us with unbelievable accuracy.

On reconnaissance for our next position, near Gorges, our advance parties were strafed, and as our batteries came into position, they were severely shelled. The Heinie artillery whistled in relentlessly. Shells kicked up dust and dirt in nearby fields, but miraculously no one was hurt. In this position, we all encountered the heaviest and most constant shelling the Jerry had yet given us. Message Center, the medics, and “A” Battery were special targets. An unusual number of duds came in. Later the engineers found them filled with sawdust.

On July 28th, the Germans had enough. We lost contact with them and ended up at Cathelinais. We did not fire during our stay here, but prepared for the chase to come. We listened avidly to news broadcasts, put up our situation maps, cleaned our equipment and went on foot marches. Our only enemy activity here was “Bed Check Charlie”, and the German propaganda leaflets: “Hey Kid, Why miss all this and let that 4F'er run around with your wife?” Pretty racy looking wife too!





FALAISE POCKET

So we waited in our positions at Cathelinais chafing at the bit to join the chase which we knew, by the radio news, was going on. We knew also that, although we were not in the war, others were; for we had seen the 6th and 4th Armored Division's streaming down the Normandy highways to Brest. What a site they were! Mile after mile of Shermans and halftracks, thousands of machine guns and mobile cannons ready to chase the Krauts clear across France.

During our brief rest we looked around us and realized that this Normandy we had been fighting in was beautiful when you had time and inclination to look around. However we were not to rest long. The 2nd of August found us on the road again. The highway to Avranches was the best that we had seen so far. Scattered along the road were German tanks and vehicles, evidence of the swift passage of our armor. At one point near La Haye-Pesnel the battalion column was forced to detour around the muzzle of a Panther tank which was squarely in the middle of the road. General Patton was on the road that day, and as he passed the column some of us got our first glimpse of our Army Commander.

As we passed down that long straight highway we wondered about the mighty German Luftwaffe. Where was it? Except for fast-moving reconnaissance planes and occasional hit-and-run ground attacks we had seen nothing of the German Air Force in the daytime. The few planes that did get through our air cover were kept away from us by our own antiaircraft outfit, the 537 AAA (AW). C Battery of the 537th had been attached to the battalion and we were happy to have them. Those Bofors and multiple 50's looked mighty good to us and we welcomed the additional fire power of Captain Joe Levin's outfit.

The 345th halted at the little town of La Charrurie 11000 meters east of Avranches for the afternoon of the 2nd and moved again that evening to positions near its base Le Bourget. The march to Le Bourget was made from 2200 to 0115 on a beautiful moon-lit night. The sound of enemy planes and the sight of the crisscrossed tracer streams reaching up into the sky are memories that are forever in minds of the men who were riding on the trucks that night. The battalion reconnaissance parties sweated the batteries out as they saw the occasional shadow of a bomber in the sky and heard the distant chatter of strafing attacks and the answering machine gun fire. The Battalion rolled in safe as usual led by Major Guthrie, map in hand and standing on the running board of his command car.

At chow time the men gathered around the kitchen truck to eat and listen to the radio. We learned that the armor was racing across the base of the Brest Peninsula practically at will that German resistance had broken. On August 6th the battalion moved into position near St. George Butavent under cover of darkness in support of the newly formed Task Force Weaver (our assistant Division Commander). The task force was split into two parts under General Weaver and Colonel Barth, CO of the 357th Infantry, and was directed to proceed by two routes to seize Le Mans as quickly as possible: The 345th received the mission of direct support artillery for Task Force Barth. Our route of advance was to be Mayenne, Monteur, Ste. Suzanne, Bernay, Chauffour Notre Dame, Le Mans. We were to overcome or by-pass any resistance. Thus began one of the most interesting actions of our history.

En route from Gorges to the position area south of Connmer three ME 109's strafed the battalion column just as A Battery was turning off the road. This was the first experience of its kind the battalion had. We were getting into the spirit of a fast moving situation and enjoyed it after this slow moving, slugging war in Normandy.

We moved into position and prepared for a goodnight's sleep after eating our evening K ration. The 1st Battalion was already way ahead and the 2nd Battalion of the 357th was moving up behind us. Colonel Norris, Major Salisbury, Captain White, and Lt. Sheely were up ahead in the town of Ste. Suzanne, arranging for close artillery support with Colonel Barth. Everyone was feeling very secure that night, with an infantry battalion in both the front and rear, even though there was a rumor in B Battery that some Kraut soldiers were hiding in a farmhouse nearby.

Suddenly a machine gun cut loose from the edge of woods about 800 yards in front of the battalion position. A perimeter defense was formed and B Battery evacuated their tractors from the open field in

front. General McLain, the Division Commander, when he attempted to go forward on the road through the battalion position, was halted by the same machine gun fire so he returned to confer with Captain Tetzlaff, the A Battery commander. Just as Captain Tetzlaff was organizing A Battery to overcome the resistance, the 2nd Battalion came down the road and took over. It was decided that the 2nd Battalion and the 345th would stay in position for darkness was falling and we would continue the march in the morning when the amount of resistance could be determined.

In the morning the advance was resumed on the road to Ste. Suzanne where the advance party was engaged in confused fighting with German Infantry and tanks. Our plan was to put the 345th in position just south of the town, but as the head of the column reached a point 100 yards from the town the reconnaissance party ran into shell fire. High velocity fire was falling on the road ahead and on each side. Major Guthrie halted the battalion and General McLain gave orders to go into position and start shooting. The Major immediately turned the batteries over to the battery commanders. Within fifteen minutes after receipt of General McLain's order, the battalion was in position and ready to fire. This occupation was one of the fastest and most efficient ever accomplished by the battalion and came at just the proper moment: for the infiltrating German tanks had created a most critical situation in Ste. Suzanne. These tanks had direct observation on all movements across the main square of the town; so our tank force was completely stymied. Lt. Clark, B Battery observer, took up a position on the high ground north of town while Lt. Everett went forward into Ste. Suzanne to obtain observation on the tanks.

Meanwhile, Captain Swift, B Battery Commander, climbed a tree and discovered the enemy tanks approaching the town from the southwest. He immediately took them under fire, The rounds chased the tanks into the thick woods where many battalion volleys were dumped on top of them. Four fires were started by these rounds. Several more fires were started when Lt. Clark spotted the tanks attempting to get out and again fired the same concentration from his OP. We never ran into the tanks after that. Lt. Lilly fired on tanks and infantry in the same general location from his air OP. As soon as the tank threat was definitely over, we displaced to the vicinity of St. Symphorien, and from there to Bernay.

As B Battery left St. Symphorien it was dusk and difficult to see, both for the men in the rear of the column and for the Heinie truck that pulled up to the last vehicle as the column started to move, It was a case of mistaken identity and all around and what happened is not clear even to Sgt. Beacham, Cpl. McKeon, Sgt. Roberson, and the rest of B Battery involved. However, since the battery was moving out someone threw a hand grenade as the trucks moved. No doubt was left in the minds on the Germans that we did not want them in our column.

The Bernay position was occupied around midnight; strong guards were put out on the crossroad around which the battalion was drawn up in the form of a square. That night, while the headquarters battery wire crew was laying wire, Pfc. Grimes stopped a vehicle, which was about to run over a wire which Sgt. Beauchamp and his crew were laying across the road. Grimes waved the vehicle to a stop and picked up the wire so the truck could pass. As the vehicle passed he realized what he had done – the vehicle was a German ambulance.

Early the following morning the advance continued with the 1st Battalion in the lead. Lt. Crabtree, Charlie observer, was with C Company following the lead tank when they reached the road junction at Chauffour Notre Dame. Lt. Lilly and Lt. O'Connor, our liaison pilots, had reported a large amount of enemy traffic on the LeMans-Laval highway; so the 1st Battalion deployed to protect the junction and ambush any Krauts trying to escape. Our pilots were continuously in the air acting as the eyes and ears of the column scouting flanked roads and territory far in advance of the head of the column. They reported many vital bits of information. Both Lt. Lilly and Lt. O'Connor deserved the Distinguished Flying Cross they later received for their work.

As German tanks and vehicles approached the crossroad, Lt. O'Connor took them under fire. Lt. Crabtree and Captain Huckaby, in position at the crossroad, kept in contact with the plane as the pilot crept the rounds into within 50 yards of their position. The tanks were knocked out or disbursed.

Through the combined efforts of our own tanks and artillery the highway was littered with German vehicles. This was a sample of what was to come later at Chambois.

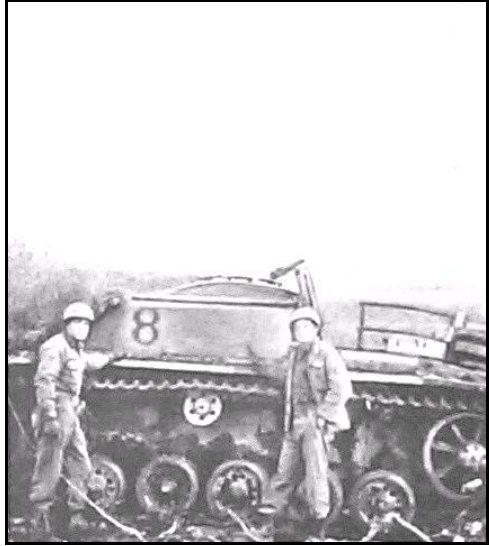
The drive continued to LeMans where the column turned North toward Falaise to meet the British who were driving south to meet us. We had broken through the enemy lines and were now in rear of them. All that remained for us to do was cut off and annihilate the German 7th Army. The Krauts now had their once favorable situation reversed on them. A few days before, they had threatened to cut us off by capturing Mortain in our rear, and attempting to drive on to Avranches to thus split the 1st and 3rd Armies. They failed, but we would not.

At Alencon the 345th had its second bombing while in the position area. We were awakened at midnight by the noise of planes and looked up out of our foxholes to see the sky so bright with flares that we could read a fine print newspaper by it. Lord, how conspicuous we felt. Each bomb sounded like it was going to land right on top of us but again we came through without injury.

On the 15th of August we moved into position near Nonant le Pin. The next day the 90th Division doughboys moved in to close the final escape gap of the German 7th Army. In the afternoon a heavy battle raged at Le Bourg St. Leonard, and Lt. Efaw fired our battalion until the last minute as A Company of the 359th Infantry was forced out of town. The 345th poured volley after volley into the town to stop any further enemy advance. The Germans were trying desperately to hold an escape route open. Already the passage had been narrowed to a few miles, and General Eisenhower in his historic order of the day had called on the allied ground, sea, and air forces to close the gap and liquidate the enemy. From the ridge east of the Le Bourg St. Leonard our OP's had a beautiful view of the valley through which the remnants of the 7th Army were driving to escape. Continuous artillery fire fell as routed Germans tried first one road then another in full view of the OP. Most roads were blocked either by our own infantry or by knocked out tanks, vehicles, and artillery. German columns out of touch with the situation would frequently drive right into our lines; and many sharp clashes resulted. Tank destroyers, adjusted by our own battalion observers, Lieutenant Efaw, Everett, and Goulko, fired point-blank at the bewildered panzers.

The wreckage and devastation of the "The Pocket" evades description. In the final stages it was artillery that completely mangled the frantic breakthrough attempt, while the infantry frustrated any escape. On the 17th of August, it was all over. Those of us who went down to view the remains of the Army, were overwhelmed by the ruins. British Tommies were there visiting the battlefield also, and it was our first glimpse of our British allies since we had left England.

By now the war had left us behind and had moved on with our swift advancing armored columns to Chartres, Fontainebleau, and Paris itself. We had a few days of well-earned rest as the British went by on the coast route. Then it was off across France for us. Our trail passed through Sees, Mamers, La Ferte Bernard, Chapelle-Royale, Malesherbes, to Fontainebleau where we bivouacked for the night of August 26th in the historic forest of Fontainebleau. We were bypassing Paris, much to our disgust. Early in the morning of August 27th we crossed the Seine River and moved by bounds to follow the advance of the 357th Infantry through legendary Châteaux Thierry to Cormicy, near Reims.





ACROSS FRANCE TO METZ

In September and October, the activities of the battalion, though varied, were not as spectacular as some of our previous fighting. Many moves were made with comparatively little firing being done.

At the outset of this period, our positions were in the vicinity of Cormicy, Boulton-sur-Suippe, Beine, Nauroy, Suippes, Ste. Menehould, Verdun, Etain, Spincourt, Bouvrois, Duzey, Nouillonpont, Vandoncourt, and, Roudelaucourt.

On September 5th the battalion received its movement orders and began the long march from Boulton-sur-Suippe, to positions near Etain. The march itself was uneventful except for the crossing of the Meuse River at Verdun, Verdun was interesting to all of the battalion because of its previous fame in the First World War, in the last War 500,000 Frenchmen died between Verdun and Reims, and over 600,000 Germans were killed. The march took the battalion through hostile territory, and although there was no contact with the enemy, the area had not been completely cleared of Germans. The French had taken matters into their own hands and, armed with every conceivable type of weapon, they protected the route for our motorized division.

The 345th closed into positions beyond Etain and still the 90th Division had not made contact with the Krauts. The situation was fluid: little was known concerning either the enemy or friendly disposition of troops.

Captain Huckaby, Battalion S2 (with his usual shrewd foresight) sent Lt. Stanley and his forward observation party to the infantry near Spincourt. Lt. Stanley, the only observer present with the infantry, was aroused early on September 6 with the cry "counterattack". He wasted no time getting into action. Baker Battery was laid on the town and went to work. From then on, it was "Katie bar the Door" and "the Devil take the Krauts".

It was on this occasion that the "Desert Fox", Major Salisbury, made one of his most characteristic statements to Div-Arty Hqrs. Said the Fox, "I have just leveled the town of Spincourt, and now I am burning it up." The krauts were as surprised as we and took a sound thumping, withdrawing before daylight. The enemy force consisted of tanks and infantry and was part of a German Panzer division. Apparently they were unaware of our locations, and contacted had been accidental. From this time on, the division was in constant contact with the enemy again.

For the assault on Briey, Lt. Ritenbaugh's C Battery party of T/5 Ruiz and Cpl. Alonzo was sent to the 2nd Battalion 357th Infantry to accompany the attack. A German Infantry battalion was holding the town of Briey, which was situated between four hills. Any attempt to enter the town brought immediate crossfire from enemy machine guns. The enemy could not withdraw from the town during the daytime without being subject to heavy concentrations of artillery. The situation became stable with both sides taking shots at each other whenever possible.

With the aid of several Frenchmen, the observers from our battalion, the 343rd FA Battalion, and the 282nd FA Battalion were able to work over many of the buildings in which the enemy was located. One of the Frenchmen managed to slip into town and learned the whereabouts of the more important German installations. These included the location of the building in which the Germans stored their munitions and supplies. The locations of the Battalion CP, the officer's quarters, and the location of several of their machine gun emplacements, was also learned.

The battalion CP and supply dump were assigned to our observer since they were the largest buildings. The other observers were assigned the remaining targets, and all went to work on them with their respective battalions. Adjustments were made on both targets assigned to our battalion, The ammunition dump was hit several times. It began to burn and was still burning three days later. The German battalion CP took several direct hits from our 155 shells.

Following the concentrations on the CP, an enemy party requested permission to enter our lines to speak to the Commander. As they approached, a cease-fire order was given. The party, consisting of an Oberlieutenant and a Pvt., requested permission to negotiate a surrender between the two unit

commanders. A meeting was arranged and the enemy battalion surrendered 435 officers and men. The only concession to the enemy was the fulfillment of his request of aid to their wounded. The town of Briey was occupied that evening by our Infantry.

From the Briey vicinity the battalion maneuvered through the general vicinity of Lommerange, Fontoy, Milvange, Velmerange, and Marspich. On the 11th of September C Battery of the 537th AAA Battalion, Undue Charlie, was relieved of their assignment as air defense for our battalion. On 12th September, we were attached to the 344th Battalion with the mission of direct support. On the 14th, all batteries except C Battery were relieved of this assignment and moved to a rendezvous area in the vicinity of Avril.

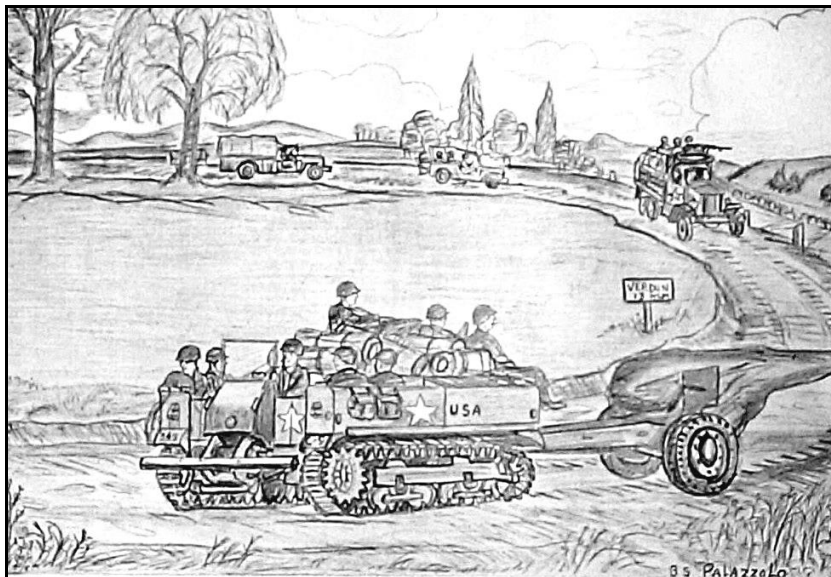
C Battery, assigned the mission of supporting the fires of the 344th FA Battalion, set up its own fire direction. With the aid of several of the members of the battalion fire direction team, T/4 Zink, T/5 Cioffi, and Cpl. Stephens, the battery FDC successfully accomplished its mission. Charlie Battery was located about 1000 yards behind several of the larger forts of the Maginot line. The battery was subjected to intermittent shelling, but no damage was incurred. The remainder of the battalion had moved to the Metz sector and was firing constantly on targets at Malmaison, Gravelotte, St. Hubert, Moscou Farm, Armanvillers, Champenois, and Forts Jeanne D'Arc, Lorraine and Driant.

Beginning the 27th, the battalion, with two batteries, was in position near Montois. From this position, we had the mission of general support and reinforcing the fires of the 343rd FA Battalion. C Battery was relieved of its assignment at Marspich and returned to the battalion to occupy a position area at Malancourt. The first platoon D Battery, 537th AAA Battalion was attached as air defense for the 345th.

During October, the battalion remained in position in the Montois sector generally supporting the attack for the town of Mazierres les Metz. D Battery, a battery of 10.5cm German howitzers, was used extensively and many rounds of German ammunition were sent back to the original owners via their own weapons. The position areas were not too good. However, after a few day's work on the part of everyone, the firing batteries had positions that were suitable for any type of action. Large gun pits were dug and afforded plenty of protection for the howitzers and crews. Behind the pits, the crews placed their dugouts. Electricity was available in some cases and C Battery had lights, radios, and heat in every section and was given a special commendation from General Bixby, CG 90th Div-Arty. The fight for Mazierres was long, tough and bitter. This industrial city had many factories and masonry buildings which provided excellent sites for defense; so it became a vital hinge in the defense of Metz. The enemy elected to defend Mazierres to the last man.

The fight progressed: the Infantrymen had to move from house-to-house, fighting every step of the way. Many times there were Americans in one room of a building and Germans in another. The Germans had also installed many fortifications throughout the town, so 8 inch howitzers and self-propelled Long Toms were brought in to aid the infantry. Our battalion, with its attached batteries of 8 inch howitzers, 10.5 cm German howitzers, and a battery of 240 mm howitzers, fired daily into the defenses in and around the city of Mazierres. Observation points were manned by the battalion observers who were situated so that the town could be observed from three sides. Firing was continuous throughout the battle; the batteries were constantly busy.

Several enemy batteries which were in position near Mazierres were fired upon by air and ground observers. In one case, five of our batteries fired a time-on-target mission on one of them. Krauts themselves were firing. No more fire came from that battery. Four more battery positions were fired upon and hit heavily.



METZ – TO – SAAR

Mazierres finally fell after hard house-to-house fighting. Our Battalion remained in position near Montois until the 1st of November when the 90th Division was relieved by the newly arrived 95th Infantry Division. We retired to a rest and training area near Avillers. Just as it looked as though we were in for a real training period, schedule and all, we were alerted for movement. We were ready to go, for our motors and material had received a thorough going over, and our billets were French farm houses with the habitual manure pile in the front yard. We felt that the war had not been going on very fast while we rested.

Our observers were well acquainted with the Moselle River after having observed it for several days from observation posts in the Maginot line near Thionville. Now we found that the 90th was to cross that river and surround Metz by meeting the 5th Division 15 km east of the city. With the utmost secrecy the 345th made a night, blackout march of 30 miles on November 5th to the vicinity of Boust. Here the Battalion took up well camouflaged positions in the woods. Vehicles were kept in position and

movement was kept to a minimum until the morning of the crossing. At 0330 on the morning of November 9th the assault boats started across the River. Canonneers were standing by and at 0350, when the element of surprise was lost and the Heinie's new that we were coming, they started firing in support of the crossing. By six in the morning 249 rounds had been fired at Basse-Ham and the surrounding area. Our firing continued constantly in support of the hard pressed Infantrymen who were having to fight the flooded river as well as the enemy. The Moselle was having one all its worst floods in years and the bridges would not stay in; the combination of high water and continuous shelling prevented any successful bridging operation.

All ammunition and supplies had to go over in boats and the situation was critical. Some badly needed medical supplies and explosives were flown over and dropped by our liaison pilots who flew into small arms range to accomplish their mission. Finally a bridge was finished across the turbulent Moselle. The approaches to the bridge, however, were underwater; and ordinary vehicles could not make the crossing.

The 345th came to the rescue. Our tractors worked long hours night and day to tow loaded supply trailers across the flooded bridge. The badly needed supplies were delivered to the infantry. Major Guthrie supervised the work and was awarded the Silver Star. T/5 Veriegge received the Silver Star; also Captain Thomas, Sgt. Ernst, and T/5's Ruitter, Hiemstra, Dougherty, and Kikoski received the Bronze Star for their excellent work.

After super-human work by all of the members of the Division, the enemy cracked and was forced to pull back on the high ground overlooking the river.

On the afternoon of the 13th Colonel Norris led his reconnaissance party into a boat and crossed the Moselle through the artificial smokescreen to make a foot reconnaissance of the position which the battalion would occupy the next day. On the morning of November 14th the 345th crossed the river and prepared for action in the town of Koenigsmacker. Our battalion CP was in the railroad station. That night the town was shelled heavily and the CP building received a hit and several other near misses. One incoming shell set a Service Battery ammunition truck on fire in the rear of the building. Sgt. Batinovich, Cpl. McDarment, Cpl. Finegan, and Private Carlson, of Service Battery extinguished the fire and later were awarded the Bronze Star Medals for their act.

We occupied the Koenigsmacker position for four days while the Germans slowly retreated. 90th Doughboys fought their way forward across the heavily mined fields and the pillbox studded terrain, toward Metz for a juncture with 5th division, We fired heavily all the time on targets picked up by our observers. At night our interdiction fire crashed into road junctions, towns, and enemy battery positions.

November 17 found us on the road again. Passing around Fort Koenigsmacker we dropped trails rapidly – first near Valmestroff, then Metzeresche, Metzervisse, Vigy, and finally Laneauville as our infantry met the 5th Division and sealed off the escape routes for any Krauts left in Metz. There were some left. The first two nights in position we spent catching prisoners. Our alert guards picked up the bewildered Wehrmacht and SS troops whenever they entered our areas. Our haul for the two nights was around 50 prisoners, most of them collected by B and C Batteries.

During our fighting around the Moselle, rain fell continually. Without our M5 tractors, it would have been impossible to move out of the mud in which we often found ourselves. Time and again our competent drivers and their tractors saved the day for us. It was a common occurrence for our drivers to move us from one mud hole to the next mud hole and then take their tractors off to help one of our 105 battalions make a displacement.

With Metz in American hands, the 90th was off to the Saar River and the Siegfried Line. We followed the path of the 10th Armored Division which had crossed the Moselle on our bridgehead and turned east. The 345th moved to La Croix and then to Grindorff where we fired heavily at targets just short of the Saar. We were about to enter Germany: our observers were already there.

The 29th of November was the big day. The 345th entered Germany for the first time. That night the Heinies gave us such a hot reception that we almost wished we hadn't. In the afternoon incoming

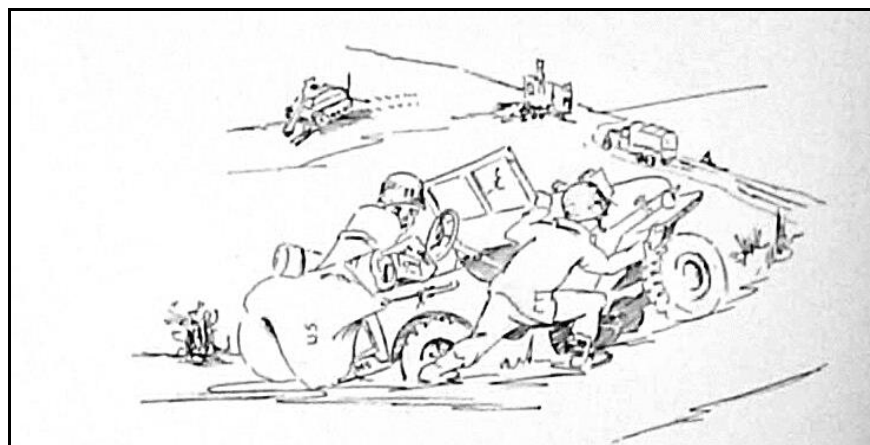
shells began to whistle. As usual, one of the first shells hit the Officers' latrine (how that thing did draw fire)! Baker, Able and Headquarters caught the bulk of the fire. That night, after everyone in the CP had gone to sleep except the night crew, the Krauts got the range and threw a round almost in the window of the room in which the fire direction crew was sleeping. The shell tore the wall out completely. Freakishly, no one was hurt, although until we dug the crew out from under the ruins, there were a few anxious moments. Corporal Spear provided the most amusing incident as he was being dragged feet first from the debris. Complained Corporal Spear, "Take it easy! Do you want to hurt somebody?"

Then came December. On the 3rd we moved across the anti-tank ditch to Gerlfangen. The division was planning to force a crossing of the Saar River and crack through the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Dillingen. For the crossing the battalion moved to Guisingen. Very little firing was done from this position until 0415 on the 6th of December when our infantry stormed across the river in assault boats into the pillboxes on the opposite shore. Before daylight our doughboys had gained a foothold in Dillingen and our observers, Lt. McAtee and Capt. Crenshaw, who crossed with the leading wave, were firing. From the first the fight was hot and heavy. Enemy shell fire made bridge construction costly and almost impossible. Ferries provided the only means of getting tanks and TD's across the river. Flanking fire from bypassed pill boxes prevented reserves from reaching the assault troops during daylight. Lt. McAtee and Captain Crenshaw fired on pillboxes to their front, rear, and flanks. Capt. Crenshaw knocked out several of the little forts by adjusting direct 155mm gun fire on them. Communication was a difficult problem for the attackers as wire would not stay in; many times the radios of the observers were the only means of communication for the bridgehead. Fanatical counterattacks were beaten off several times daily by our sharp shooting infantryman. By the 22nd Dillingen was ours. The 345th had poured five thousand 100 pound shells in and around the town.

During those last few days we heard disturbing rumors that swiftly become facts. Up north of us in the Ardennes the Germans were counterattacking in strength. Other divisions nearby were moving north. The 3rd Army was moving north. Soon perhaps we too would go, but for the time being the 90th Division received orders to evacuate Dillingen and hold along the west bank of the Saar. The Infantry made sure that Dillingen would be of no use to the enemy even if they did reoccupy the town. Then our Doughs slipped back over the river under artillery cover. The 345th then moved to Betting.

Christmas day passed, and New Years found us still in position in Betting. We listened anxiously but calmly to the radio to find out how our troops in the Ardennes were doing. Snow was on the ground and the weather was getting colder. We figured that the 90th would soon join the other American divisions of the 3rd Army who were so valiantly attacking the "Bulge". Every now and then low flying enemy planes would come in over our area and strafe or bomb. One dropped an egg in the C Battery area to cover up a tractor with dirt. Lt. Buntain brought down an ME 109 as it flew over his machine gun near Waldwisse.





THE ARDENNES

On the night of January 6th the battalion again hit the long road. Everything was strictly secret. T-O's were taken off helmets and clothes, and vehicle markings were rubbed out. We knew we were on the way to grapple with the Krauts in their Ardennes thrust. Our steel-tracked M-5 tractors couldn't negotiate on the snowy, icy roads so we borrowed Diamond T's from a Corps artillery outfit for the trip. Capt. Thomas and the tractor drivers skidded the tractors along while the rest of the battalion took off. What a trip! All night long through the snow covered landscape past Koenigsmacker and Cattenom, through sleeping Luxembourg City, through the white clad forests of the little Duchy, rumbled the 345th. Morning found us in the little Belgian village of Tontelange, asleep anywhere we hit.

A few short hours of sleep and away we went to go into a position to counterattack the German tide. The 90th Division's mission was to spearhead a three division thrust that would cut off the south flank of the German Ardennes salient. General Patton himself was there to watch our Division start. For the next few days our cannoneers fired about 650 rounds a day. Our forward observation teams struggled through the snow and rolling forestland with the infantry. German "screaming meemies" added a continual note to the round-the-clock rumble and whistle of incoming and outgoing artillery fire.

One night a command came down to the batteries from fire direction center. "Fire normal barrage on enemy counter attack." There was a scramble in the darkness of the A Battery gun pits as crews were alerted. Projectiles were rammed, charges slammed home, and lanyards pulled. After the counter attack was stopped and excitement died down, it was discovered that along with Charge V, one section shot the powder thermometer as well. The thermometer had been placed in the powder charge, then charge and thermometer put in the breech. Not a trace of the thermometer was ever found. That section was really giving its all!

On the fourth day of the attack, we started our daily jumps again, the everlasting toil of going into and getting out of position, over and over, day-in and day-out. Throughout this action, we stayed close to the Belgium-Luxembourg line. We were never quite sure in just which country the position area was located until we looked at a map. War had dealt more harshly with this area than any we had seen since Normandy.

We were not immune to battle casualties. Lt. Kiefer was one of the luckier ones. A shell hit a tree beside him, but he escaped, hardly scratched, after being pinned down by the shell-severed tree. Others of our battalion were not so fortunate. In one two day period some members of three different observation teams were wounded or killed in action. On one road a Headquarters Battery jeep made several runs. Another truck later came over the same road and exploded a mine.

All units of our division were elbowing one another for any of the few available houses. The infantry always had first priority. During those days any kind of a shelter was a real comfort. We hated to see the civilians livestock suffer because there was no one to care for them, so some of us fed them as long as we were around. The cold was bitter and unrelenting. Our only uniform regulation was, "Wear anything that keeps you warm".

Forward observer teams were the first to be issued the new shoe packs. We all wanted them, for the shoe packs were warm and helped to prevent trench foot. We did get new sleeping bags. Everyone struggled with the zippers on them in trying to crawl in and crawl out. The bald headed boys like the new bags the best!

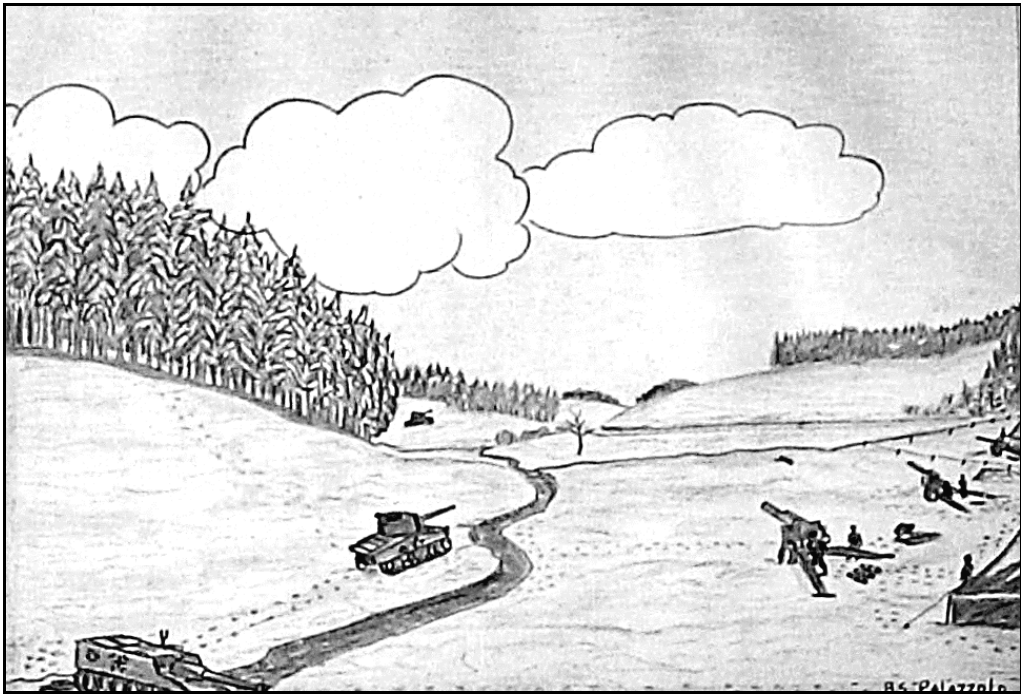
Our guns were painted white to blend with the snow, but we did not worry about camouflage too much. We had never been allowed to build open fires during basic training, but in that cold a little smoke didn't worry us, We made coffee at all hours of the day and night, and it was good, even without cream and sugar. The 15th of January was a memorable day for T/4 Edward E. Buntain of Charlie Battery. He received his discharge from the army. Buntain was not a civilian long, however, because he immediately received a battlefield commission as a 2nd Lieutenant to take his place with three other enlisted men of the 345th who had become officers, of the 345th at Christmastime. The other new lieutenants were Lt. Jack Cherry, C Battery; Lt. Joseph A. Kiefer, B Battery and Lt. John E. Beck, A Battery.

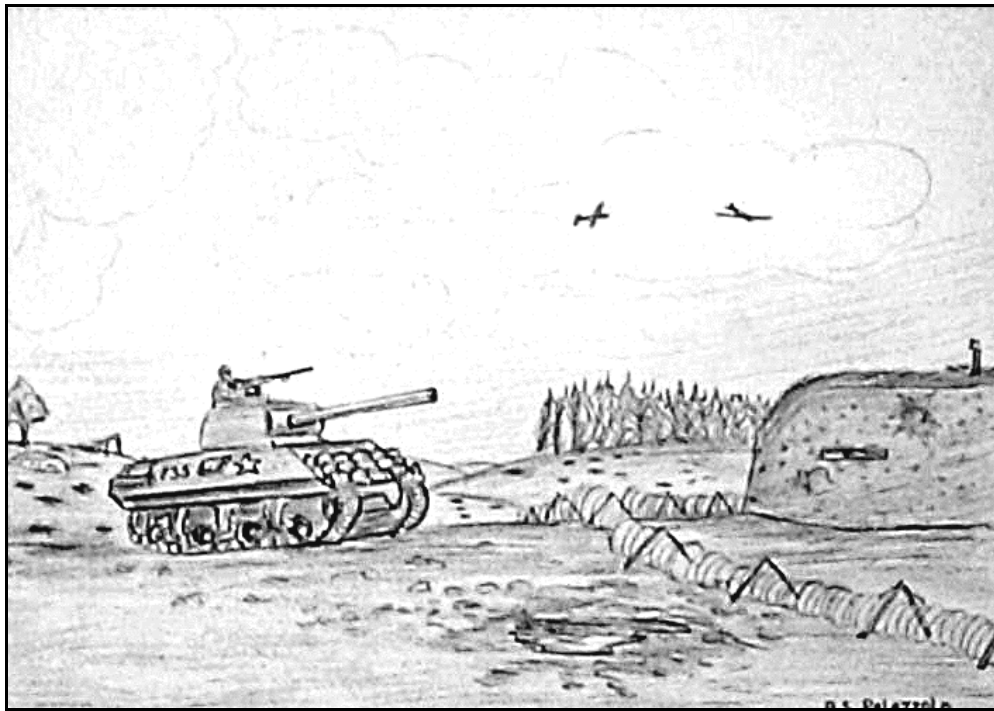
Finally our division met the 6th Armored Division at Bras, Belgium to close the German pocket east of Bastogne. The 90th had taken over 1,500 prisoners during a week of bitter fighting. The Forest was littered with scattered German equipment – and bodies of men. We had often seen burned-out German motor columns. Now on the road east of Bastogne we saw the remains of one of our own armored columns, mute testimony to the surprise and strength of the German offensive.

We found ourselves, near Longvilly about the 19th of January. Prisoners streamed in from the German 1st and 2nd Panzer Divisions. Lt. Maina fired a mission from a house top in Bras and reported excellent results. The C Battery FO team spent the day in a dugout overlooking the enemy held town of Oberwampach. Fire direction center men were betting on which battery would be ready first for time-on-target and other battalion fire missions. Cannoneers were puttin' 'em out fast despite the snow and cold. Service battery moved up from their previous position in battle-blasted Bastogne.

We did not stay in one position long enough to make it comfortable. We would shoot up the town, then move into it. The ammunition train was constantly on the torn up roads and hauling enough ammunition to keep our howitzers firing. Captain Wood, out as forward observer, reported that he was having a tough time keeping oriented. The snow clad landscape obscured landmarks shown on the map. Neiderwampach, Hamicille, Stockem, Binsfeld, Weiswampach, Luxembourg – at each of these villages we had a brief stay. The Ardennes threat of the Germans had been completely crushed, and the Americans hurriedly licked their wounds as they reorganized and pushed steadily towards Germany – and the Siegfried Line again.







FROM THE OUR TO THE RHINE RIVER

The 90th Division had once more battered an opening into the Reich – the first in our Corps to enter Germany after von Rundstedt’s grab had been rebuffed. The next several days would see this opening wedge, expanded, and driven deeper until the entire Division was facing the mighty Siegfried Line. This was historic country at the junction of Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany. Twice the Germans had ridden rough shod through this passage to the west, first in 1940 and more recently in the breakthrough. Now, this gamble ended in disheartening failure, von Rundstedt had pulled his elite, but battered divisions back to the security to the west wall, leaving Volksgrenadiers along the German border to breast the rising tide of Allied might and to cover the withdrawal of major forces.

On January 29, the battalion moved into position around Steffeshausen, Belgium, on the banks of the Our River, the last barrier into Germany. This was during the height of the “Battle of the Billets” when all units were scrambling for the few houses that were not completely wrecked as the tide of war swayed back and forth across this country. Snow still lay on the ground and all the roads but those kept open by the engineers were almost impassable or impossible to find. The terrain was very rough, with hills sloping steeply down to the Our River. It was plain to see that the battle had turned definitely in our favor. In the early stages of the Battle of the Bulge, we had seen more wrecked American equipment than German equipment, but now German armor and vehicles were everywhere. There was a big new German Royal Tiger tank near A Battery’s position that had apparently run out of gas. What a monster!

Two very important events happened while we were at Steffeshausen. The first was the firing of the battalions 50,000th round in combat. The round was fired at 0115, February 5 by the 1st Section of C Battery on a road junction.

The second event was the coming of the rain. Winter was over, and from now on it would be mud and slop instead of snow. The snow vanished rapidly under the insistence of the rain. Once again our M-5 tractors could be used to fullest advantage without slipping and sliding all over the road.

While we were in this position, we were continually pounding the towns in the very heart of the West Wall – Habscheid, Grasslangenfeld, Kesfeld, and Eigelsheid.

On the afternoon of February 5 the Battalion moved to the northeast of Winterschied, Germany. We crossed the German border shortly after leaving Steffeshausen and moved over very rough terrain. The battery positions were necessarily exposed and from some of the positions it was easy to see the Heinie “Screaming Meemies” and our own fire falling in and around Brandscheid, one of the key points of the Siegfried Line.

The roads now were rapidly giving away. Even the hard surface roads were almost impassable. The recent thaw and heavy rains caused the road beds to cave and buckle under the weight of the heavy military vehicles. Service battery was working day and night to keep us supplied with ammunition, food and gasoline.

From this position we supported the 358th Infantry as it broke through the main crest of the Siegfried Line in the northern sector of the Division zone. Early in the morning of February 6th, the 1st Battalion of the 358th began relieving part of the 4th Division, who had a toehold in Brandscheid. At that time the Germans launched a very strong and determined counterattack employing about 450 men and 3 assault guns. The fighting was hard and confused but our troops managed to retain the town. Then on February 7th, the 1st Battalion began methodically mopping up the pillboxes on the ridge to the southwest of the town. Company C led off using tank destroyers for direct fire to knock out the pillboxes one by one. This method proved so successful that 10 pillboxes and 80 PW’s were taken before the Battalion was ordered to a halt. We assisted the operation by smoking a hill that had observation on our troops, thus lessening the German mortar and high velocity fire considerably. On the next day 1st Battalion, 358th continued the attack and by dark had reduced 55 pillboxes, gained 1800 yards and established contact with the 359th who had also broken the main defenses of the line in their sector. Meanwhile the other two Battalions of the 358th fanned out behind the 1st Battalion and took six more pillboxes. Captain Wood, BC of B Battery, was with the 1st Battalion as it made this great attack on the Nazi stronghold and was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action and valuable assistance given the Infantry. The 9th of February the 358th continued the attack, gained 2000 yards and captured 12 more pillboxes. Thus the Siegfried Line was broken except for a thin but tough inner shell.

On the morning of February 10th, the Battalion moved to a position about 1000 meters to the southeast of Bleialf and started pounding towns along the Prum River in front of the Infantry. From these positions we had our first glimpse of the much photographed Dragons teeth protecting the forts of the West Wall. Late in the afternoon of February 11th, we had the opportunity to inspect the fortifications at close range as the batteries moved into position right in the heart of the Siegfried Line. The Dragons teeth appeared just as the photographs showed them; and there is no doubt that many of us had a feeling of exhilaration as we rode through the breach. We used many of the forts for CP’s and living quarters, while we were in this area. C Battery found a minefield in their position when one of their wire trucks ran over an anti-personnel mine. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and the engineers removed and destroyed the rest of the mines.

Our infantry moved up to the high ground overlooking the Prum where they stopped in a holding position to consolidate and regroup. It was a period of relative quiet. Some 30 miles to the south, the XII Corps had also breached the Siegfried Line; and the attack was planned to effect the junction of these two forces at Anuel and clear the enemy from west of the Prum River. For the Division, this meant initially an attack toward the south down the flank of the West Wall, then a change of direction to the east. The attack was to begin on February 18th. All went well, and, in the 359th sector, an early-morning attack caught 400 PW’s, a regimental commander, and two battalion commanders still asleep in their pillboxes.

On the morning of the 19th our Battalion sidestepped to positions around Habscheid to support the 359th Infantry. This was still in the Siegfried Line. The Medics lost their dog there to an anti-personnel

mine. Our troops continued to make good progress against stiff resistance and heavy high velocity shelling and mortar fire.

About midday on 22nd of February, the Battalion moved south to a position about 1200 yards southeast of Nieder Uttfeld. Many of us will remember this move because we went back out of the Siegfried Line and then reentered it. All along the route were numerous forts that the engineers had blown up and here and there were great slabs of concrete four to 6 feet thick standing at queer angles and even on edge. While we were in this position, every howitzer in the Battalion was fired from a calibration point. Data was obtained which enabled us to regroup the pieces, make corrections and mass the fire of the Battalion much better during the rest of the campaign in Germany.

In the afternoon of February 25th, we moved into a bivouac area at Eigelschied and the Division was withdrawn from the line and put in SHEAF reserve. The village had escaped complete disruption, but was well beat up. However, we found room for everyone inside and managed to get some rest and relaxation. Who can forget the "Hayloft Follies" – Sgt. Wright of Service Battery in his diapers, Captain Woods "sweet potato", Lt. Stanley's singing, and all the rest. We also got in some badly needed care and repair of material including the important testing of sights and a regrouping of howitzers.

On March 3, the Battalion moved out of its bivouac area. As we moved out, none of us dreamed of what the immediate future held for us. The tempo of the war was to change rapidly. No more would we have the slow and painful movements. The slugging match was over. From now until we were to cross the Rhine it was going to be a mad race through the Eifel Hills with one; two; three; and even four displacements a day; then a quick wheeling movement to the south that was to jump the Moselle River for the second time and more of the same rapid movement until the Rhine River was to be crossed.

While we had been resting, the 6th Armored Division had punched across the Prum River and was moving toward the next expected line of resistance, the Kyle River. Our Division was ordered to pass through and relieve the 6th Armored Division. We crossed the Prum River on a Bailey bridge at Pronsfeld and went down the river to Waxweiler. The Air Corps had done a fine job on these two towns. From Waxweiler, we turned east into the Eifel Hills and arrived at Eilscheid late in the afternoon. The reconnaissance parties were out early the next morning, March 4th, and by noon we were on a sloppy, muddy road again. We occupied positions around Wetteldorf on the Nims River. Now we were getting into a country where the houses and billets were much better, and they continued to be good until we crossed the Czechoslovakian border. At Wetteldorf our position was well organized when the order came to move again – this time to Seiwerth, where we arrived before dark. The Battalion stayed in Seiwerth all day March 5th and moved out the morning of the 6th to positions in the woods that enabled us to fire for the Infantry crossing the Kyle River in the vicinity of Gerolstein. Our fire was directed mainly at self-propelled guns harassing the doughs. The Division successfully established a bridgehead and preparations were made for the 11th Armored Division to pass through us and pursue the fleeing and disorganized enemy. A bridge across the Kyle River was completed on March 7th, but this road and bridge were reserved for the 11th Armored. For that reason the 345th had to take a roundabout road to cross the river on another bridge to get to our position at Gees. Few of us will ever forget that march through the bottomless mud in the forest, near Gees. There was one stretch that was impassable for any vehicle except our M-5's. The tractors were busy all night pulling our own trucks through and also those of Service Battery of the 344th. What a night!

In the afternoon of March 9th, we moved to Gelenberg. Most of us will remember this place because there were parts of many V bombs, which had taken a nosedive when the Krauts were trying to get them launched. We beat our own infantry into that town and, to say the least, they were chagrined to find our reconnaissance parties there when they came to find out if it was clean. The 11th Armored was ranging far in front of us while we followed and mopped up. They left behind confused and bewildered groups of enemy who offered little or no resistance. In some villages, which the 90th Reconnaissance Troop entered, the German townspeople waved white flags and offered to surrender the German soldiers if their towns were not fired upon. In others, German soldiers were chased from the village to fight in

the woods. Nearly every town was a babble of polyglot nationalities – Russians, French, Belgians, Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Italians and others impressed as laborers or captured as German PW's; Military Government resources were strained to the limit to provide food and water for these wanderers.

On the 10th we moved to Kussenberg near Mayen, and the following day found us in Bassenheim overlooking the Rhine River at Koblenz. Surely now things would settle down a bit while we stopped to regroup in preparation of the expected crossing of the Rhine. But no! New orders had come out which directed that the 90th and the 5th turn south to force a crossing of the Moselle. It was with some reluctance that we turned away from the Rhine. We wanted to cross it then and there. We were transferred to the XII Corps and moved to a position in the vicinity of Gierschnach the morning of the 12th to support the attack. The Divisions moved into their positions on March 13, relieving the 4th Armored Division, and commenced their attack on the 14th at 0300 in assault boats with the aid of "artificial moonlight" provided by searchlights. The attack came as a surprise to the Germans. Sporadic small arms and machine-gun fire sprayed the crossing area, but enemy resistance did not build up until along toward daylight. We heard that the 6th SS Mountain Division was opposing us.

The Battalion moved up to Metternich in the morning in preparation for our crossing early in the morning of March 15th. Leaving Metternich at 0515, the 345th crossed the Moselle for the second time – this time at Moselkern. Our position was 1500 yards southeast of Hatzenport. This was very beautiful country, with the hills sloping down steeply to the swift flowing Moselle. The steep slopes were covered with vineyards. A tank had caved off the road we had intended to use to climb out of the valley; so the Battalion had to rendezvous on the road beside the river while another route to the position area was found. The famed 4th Armored Division began to cross the river at noon to pass through the bridgehead we had established. The armor soon started flushing out enemy vehicles of armor, which afforded our air observers the opportunity of a real field day. Our Battalion took full advantage of the situation.

On the 16th of March we moved to the vicinity of Mermuth. Because the 6th SS Mountain Division south of Koblenz was offering a serious threat to our left flank, the Battalion was faced north to shoot almost toward the direction we had come from. However the 87th Division soon crossed the Moselle, and took over the flank sector; so our troops were freed to turn south and mop up after the speeding 4th Armored (who had already encircled Bad Kreuznach on the Nahe River). We moved to Norath on the 17th and faced the Rhine River while various elements of the Division and 2nd Cavalry Group were mopping up to the river. We got in some good shooting on steamboats and ferries on the river, and vehicles on the far bank. On the 18th the Division was given a task of capturing Mainz while the 4th Armored was to continue south and head for Worms.

Early in the morning of the 19th the Battalion occupied a position at Dichtelbach, and then in the afternoon, we made a long march that took us across the Nahe River. A little before dark we arrived at our position Area near Jotzenheim, northeast of Bad Kreuznach. The country was flat and open with many vineyards. It was good to be in open country again after all the rough terrain we had been through in the Eifel and south of the Moselle.

On the morning of March 20th we moved into position around the railroad station at Worrstadt. There was much enemy air activity, which gave D Battery of the 537th AAA the chance to do a little shooting. There were several task forces in front of the Division composed of units of the 712th Tank Battalion, 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and 90th Reconnaissance troops. The doughs followed on foot to cleanup resistance bypassed by the task forces. We made rapid progress against a disorganized enemy. The Division was now moving east toward Mainz. There were numerous pockets of resistance formed by German antiaircraft units, which formally protected the towns against air attacks. These units were disposed to meet our ground attack with their 88's and 20 mm flak guns. Late in the evening we moved into positions around Udenheim. During the day we fired at a large concentration of flak guns at Nieder Olm, and late in the evening we gave a severe pounding to a very stubborn and tenacious group of flak guns at Hahnheim. Our fire was directed by our own plane and by a Cavalry observer. When the

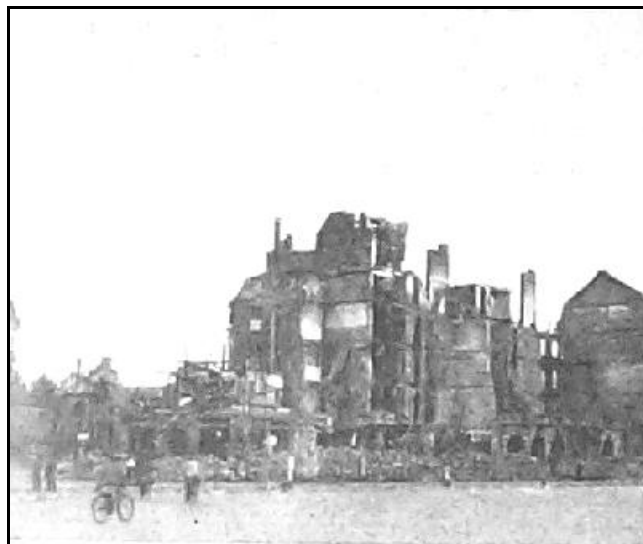
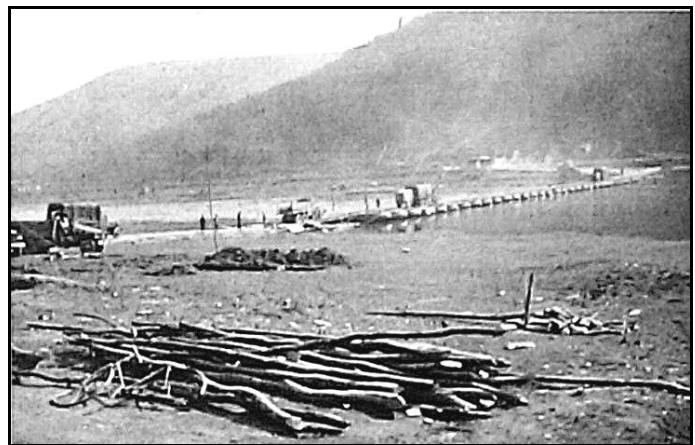
Krauts ran from their guns our plane directed murderous time fire on them. This fire softened the resistance. Later examination showed that we had done great damage and caused many casualties.

The next morning we displaced to Klein Winternheim. Charlie Battery, however, was turned around to our rear most of the morning until we were certain that the trouble at Hahnheim was finished.

The 22nd of March was indeed a sorry day for the defenders of Mainz. A coordinated attack by six Infantry Battalions of the Division was commenced at 0530. The capture of Mainz itself was fantastically easy considering the stubborn resistance that was put up before the city. Despite the Germans avowed intention of fighting to the last shell, more than 4000 prisoners were captured. Mainz town was completely secured before dark. In the afternoon, the 345th moved up to enable us to fire a preparation for a feint crossing of the Rhine west of Mainz.

That night the 5th Division crossed the Rhine River with ease. Hardly a shot was fired in the initial phase, and at 0700 hours, leading elements were some 3000 yards east of the river.

At 0925 hours on March 23rd, Corps ordered the 90th Division to assemble two regiments and be prepared to cross that night on the 5th Division bridgehead.





RHINE CROSSING TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

We departed from Draais, Germany at 1500 hours, 23 March 1945 and moved a distance of approximately 35 miles to descend into the Rhine valley at Dienheim, closing into an assembly area at 1700 hours to await darkness – and to sweat out our turn to cross the Rhine River! The crossing was to be made on a pontoon bridge established by the 5th Infantry Division at the ferry site just north of Oppenheim, Germany. Orders came at 2100 hours to follow the 915th FA Battalion over the river. The bright moonlight made blackout driving relatively easy, but the same moonlight also made enemy aircraft active at the crossing site. Plenty of excitement ensued when a strafing plane set fire to a loaded gasoline truck approaching the bridge entrance from the north just as the head of the 345th column was about one third of the way across the river. The column halted on the bridge for approximately one hour while a 915th FA Battalion 2½ ton Service Battery truck which had jumped the track with its front wheels was placed back on the bridge. The Heinie planes continued to maneuver and strafe, friendly antiaircraft artillery pumped shells into the air, and the gasoline truck continued to burn and light up the bridge site bright as day. Fortunately there were no casualties sustained at the crossing site or on the remainder of the movement to the next position area in the flats northwest of Leeheim, Germany. There were some near casualties though, the incidents are humorous ... now! Captain Decker, Battalion Communications Officer, and Captain Douglas, BC of D Battery of the 537th AAA Battalion were in Leeheim making a “reconnaissance” before our Battalion arrived. Captain Decker had done right well. His pockets were bulging with eggs. As the two officers were walking down the street, the Krauts suddenly put in a perfect concentration of artillery. Although some shells hit just a few yards away, neither of the officers were scratched as they lay biting the dirt in the gutter. Captain Decker’s eggs were a total loss; his coat went in for salvage!

This position area also will be remembered, for though we were situated far enough from the bridge site to be out of the way of enemy planes, and far enough from Leeheim to be out of the way of enemy artillery firing into the town, we were situated at the end of the trajectory of American anti-aircraft artillery and AA machine guns defending the bridge. This friendly fire made things lively for us during our two nights stay. We found foxholes very comfortable.

In the Leeheim position area, the firing batteries did excellent shooting under the observation of Lts. O'Connor and Hertzog. We destroyed two 88's, five 20mm anti-aircraft guns, five 40mm anti-aircraft guns, and one heavy machine gun in the vicinity of Wolfskellen; this eliminated enemy resistance holding up the 90th Division's advance to the east.

Again the 4th Armored Division passed through us to take battle position on our Division's south flank. With enemy resistance broken along the Leeheim-Darmstadt road, the division quickly advanced both east and north to positions along the Main River east of Frankfurt. There on the 28th of March, the 357th Infantry forced a crossing of the Main river at Rumpelheim, and the 358th Infantry forced a crossing of the Main at Dornigheim. The 345th supported CT 358 in the river operation, and we crossed the river at 2230 hours on the night of March 28th.

On the 29th, we were assigned the mission of reinforcing CT's 358 and 359 in their mission of following and mopping up behind the 4th Armored Division in an advance to the northeast – and thence southeast of Hof, Germany, near the Czechoslovakian border. We started this operation on 30 March 1945 at Enzheim. Often we occupied two, three, or four positions daily. Our route passed through the towns of Merkenfritz, Schlitz, Ausbach, Vacha, Bad Salzungen, Bad Liebenstein, Wiesenthal, Schmalkalden, Zella Mehlis, Gehlberg, Ilmenau, Gehren, Volkmannsdorf, Schlaga, Schonbrunn, Lobenstein, Frossen, and Krebs. After twenty-eight positions were occupied, we reached Hof on 18 April.

At Ausbach, the batteries had march order. They were moving out on the road just as an urgent fire mission was received from Captain Call's liaison section. Immediately the batteries were ordered back into positions for immediate firing. Though we did not have to fire, the batteries set a record of march ordering, moving 200 yards down the road, and preparing for action in the worst field in 17 minutes. The "Sad Sack" of this fast operation at Ausbach was T/5 Cervantes, Major Guthrie's driver did not see a farmer's spiked tooth harrow lying in the grassy plot in which he selected to turn his vehicle around. Movement was imminent, and there he sat with three flat tires.

On 4 April, on our move between Dorndorf and Leimbach, we had the experience of moving through a crossroad which was being registered on by the liaison plane of one of our corps artillery battalions. No one was hurt in our battalion, though there were some who became slightly nervous.

At Zella Mehlis, we found the Walther pistol factory, much to our delight. Later, much to our disappointment, our "captured" pistols were ordered returned to the factory.

Now we were in the mountainous country next to the Czechoslovakian border. In our move from Heidersbach to Gehlberg, we rose 1500 feet higher over a one-way mountain road to a total elevation of nearly 3000 feet. Snow patches were still lying on the ground beneath the heavy growth of pine trees. In the position area at Gehlberg, we received one of our heaviest enemy counter-battery fires. Several men were wounded. Everyone was happy to leave the position on 10 April.

The next position area was near Stutzerbach, which will long be noted for the trout that came out of the swift flowing mountain streams to supplement the K and C ration diet to which we were being subjected.

When we reached Hof, orders were received by the division to continue the advance to the southeast parallel to the Czechoslovakian border. The 345th again reinforced CT's 358 and 359 in their advance along the Czechoslovakian border, occupying twenty positions from 19 April to 5 May 1945. We fired from nearly every one of these position areas in order to convince the towns in our sector to surrender without resistance.

During this phase of operations we passed through Rehau, Schonwald, Theirsheim, Mitterteich, Tirschenreuth, Floss, Waldthurn, Pleystein, Eslarn, Schonau, Schonthal, Cham, Kotzting, and Furth to end up in the small towns Wolkersdorf, Barnsdorf, and Traidersdorf on 5 May 1945.

T/4 Medlin and the other members of his radio relay station crew (T/4 Talbot, T/5 Patterson, and T/5 Wood) found out the hard way that there are two towns by the name of Pilmersreuth in the same section of Germany. They likewise found out that one of them, the one they first went to, was in enemy

territory. At the time they couldn't decide whether the Hungarians whom they encountered were our enemies or friends and therefore let them go their way with all their weapons, field glasses and belongings. They are still wondering why the Hungarians likewise allowed them to return to friendly territory when they found out their mistake.

When the battalion was in position at Madersdorf and Thenried, Battery A moved to Neukirchen near the Czech border for the day of 29 April to afford artillery support to a combat patrol going into Czechoslovakia.

While in position at Grub, Battery C shot time-fire directly into the woods in front of their position area on the night of 27 April, and the next morning captured 198 prisoners. 311 prisoners were captured by our battalion during the month of April.

Our position area, occupied for three days 1000 yards north of Furth, was just south of the Czechoslovakian border, and many men took this opportunity to walk over the border into Czechoslovakia for the first time. From this position, we laid our howitzers on the route of approach of the German 11th Panzer Division as it marched into our lines from Domazlice, Czechoslovakia by the way of Vseruby, to surrender to the 2nd Battalion, 357th Infantry. The surrender of the 11th Panzer Division delayed our assembly movement for the next phase of the Division's operations. When our battalion did move south on the morning of 5 May 1945, its movement was hampered by having to share the road with straggling vehicles of the 11th Panzer Division, which was moving into an assembly area near Kotzting.

From our assembly area in the small towns of Woldersdorf, Barndorf, and Tradersdorf east of Kotzting, we moved 54 miles on the afternoon of 5 May 1945 to Paseko, Czechoslovakia by way of Kotzting, Wettzel, Viechtach, Regen, and Zwiesel, Germany and Mestys Zelenzna Ruda. At last we were in Czechoslovakia.

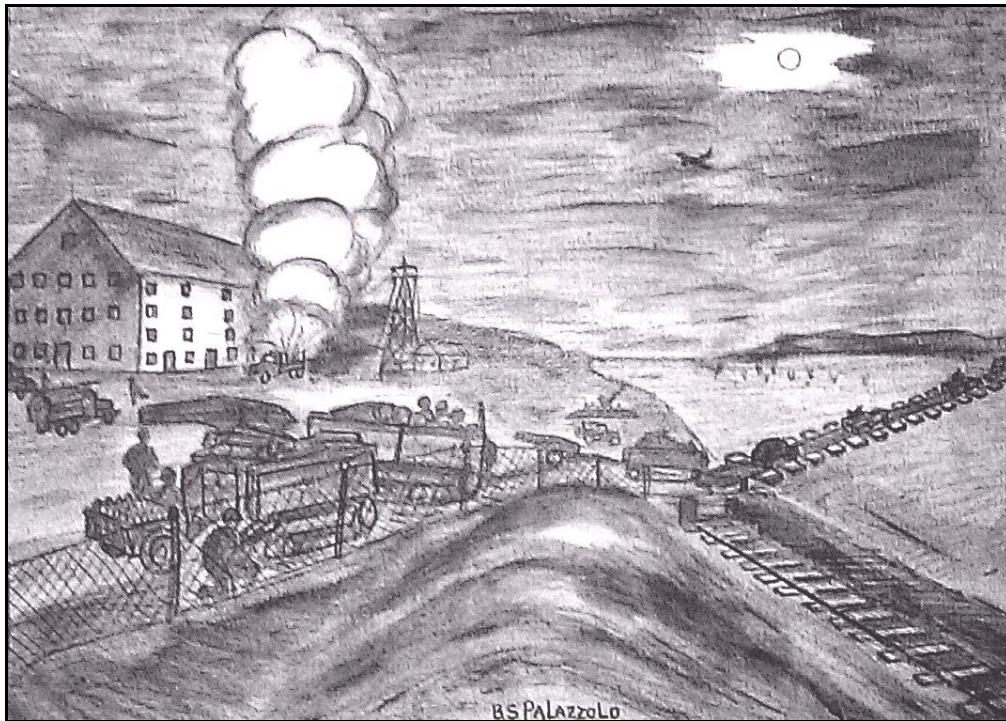
The last combat march of the battalion over the narrow, rough, muddy mountain trails between Poseko and Kasperski Hory, Czechoslovakia, was (perhaps) a fitting climax to the end of the war for the 345th. That march was made over the most difficult road conditions that we encountered throughout the whole war. Starting from Peseko at 061830 May the first vehicle arrived in Kasperski Hory, only 17 miles away at 062200; and after much hard work and loss of sleep the last vehicle arrived there at 071000. At Kasperski Hory we received the unofficial information that Germany had unconditionally surrendered effective 090001 May.

Our next move was to Drazowitz, where the local fire pumps were borrowed to wash all vehicles. Here the townspeople invited us to participate in their liberation ceremony and gave a dance on May 9th in honor of the battalion and "D" Battery, 537th AAA Bn, our attached anti-aircraft battery.

On 10 May we moved to Resanice, Czechoslovakia, and on the way overtook and passed a small convoy of our Russian allies, our first contact with them.

We remained in this fraternizing country until 14 May 1945. Then we moved to Neunburg vorm Wald, Germany by way of Horazdovice, Stribrne, Hory, Klatovy, and Domazlice (Czechoslovakia) and Waldmunchen and Schonthal (Germany) to become occupation troops for the Neunburg Kreis.





OCCUPATION

THE end of the war had arrived quietly for us. In almost a year of combat we had learned to take things as they came. In September 1944 when we were beginning to be veterans we had made the mistake of sharing the general enthusiasm that the war would be over in a matter of weeks. We had been disappointed then and were not to be surprised again. The battalion kept on playing the game hard from day to day and got out of the habit of listening to the news every hour on the hour. The Cannonball Courier, our battalion newspaper, carried a daily news summary.

In spite of our wariness against over-optimism, however, we began to see certain signs during the last few months that could be sanely and safely interpreted as a preview of the end. When the 11th Panzer Division surrendered to our division even the most pessimistic agreed the war would soon be over; it was.

When Prime Minister Churchill announced VE day as the 9th of May the battalion area was quiet. We went on doing our jobs. We were thankful, but many thought of the job ahead. On the 14th of May our combat job was done. We left our last firing position in Czechoslovakia and headed for our occupation zone, Neunburg vorm Wald, Germany. The day was warm and sunny. At 1920 Battery A, the lead battery of our march column, entered the town that was to be our home for some months to come. We looked around and saw a fairly large German rural community, reported to have a peacetime population of 2,500 persons. Now it was crowded with refugees and DPs of many nationalities. Many former inmates of concentration camps wandered dazedly about the streets. Many of their fellow prisoners had been shot by SS troops in the woods just outside of town. Later on, Lt. Sheely, and his CIC (counterintelligence) crew supervised decent funerals for these victims.

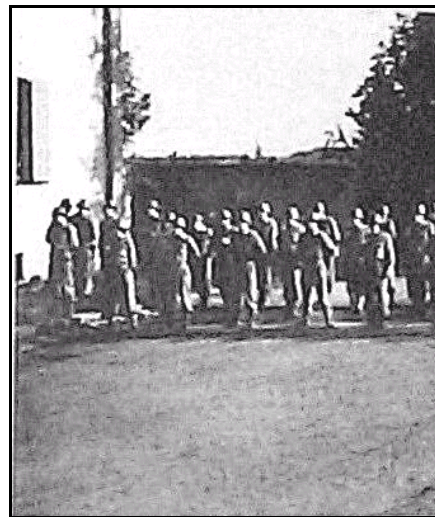
We got right to work on military government for our Kreis and found out that there was more work than we thought. During the first two weeks battery patrols brought in over 2000 PWs to the battalion PW Cage down by the town creek. It seemed as though the whole German army was on the road trying to get home before they were caught. Down the roads and through the fields they came and were caught by our patrols and road blocks.

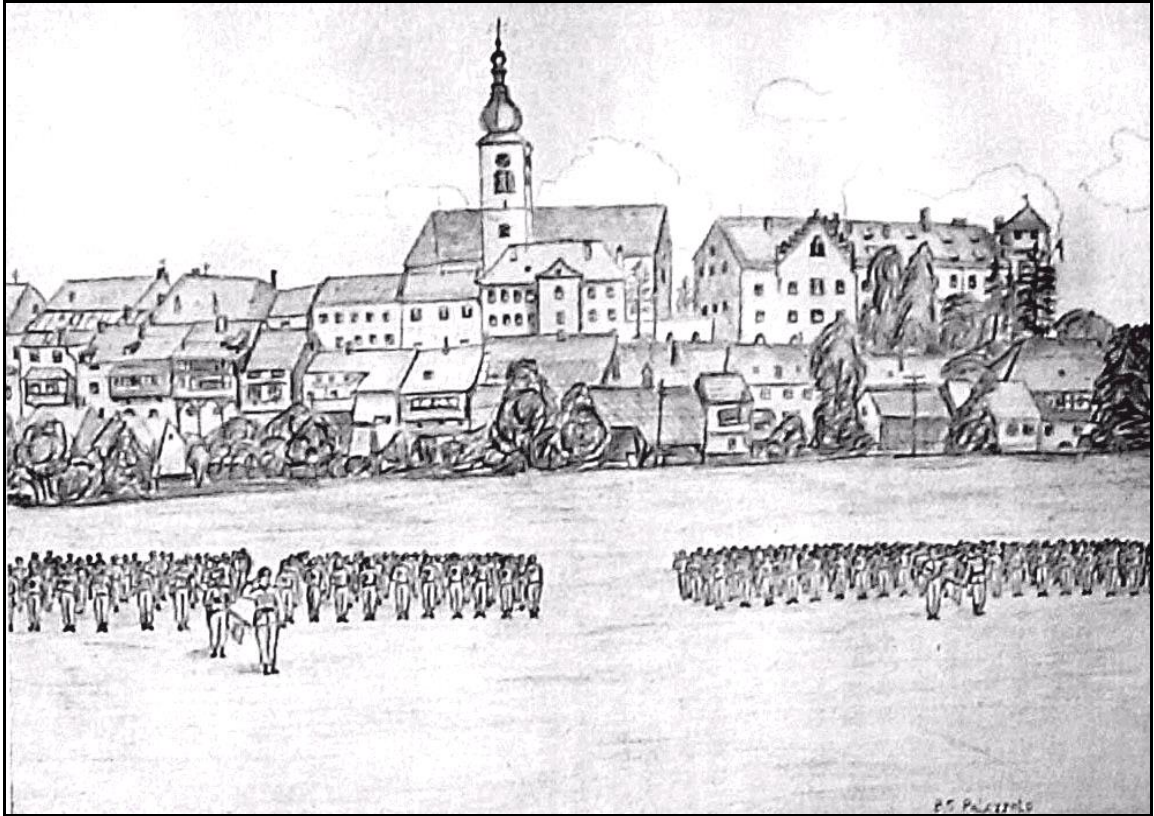
While we pulled guard and performed our military government duties we were also making our new home livable. Battery A moved into a Gasthaus downtown. Headquarters moved into the Tax Assessor's office, and the other three batteries moved into apartment houses. Our billets were by far the best in which the 345th had ever lived. After living outdoors for so long they looked mighty good to us.

Every man in the Battalion was kept busy either cleaning up our equipment, on guard, military government, or working on the quarters. We began to see an occasional movie, and the athletic program got underway. Volleyball courts, baseball diamonds, and horseshoe pits took shape. Captain Walls and Lt. Gitchel worked hard on the I & E program, and Lt. Stanley outfitted a dark room and started developing pictures. We had acquired around 40 horses, so riding rapidly developed into a major pastime.

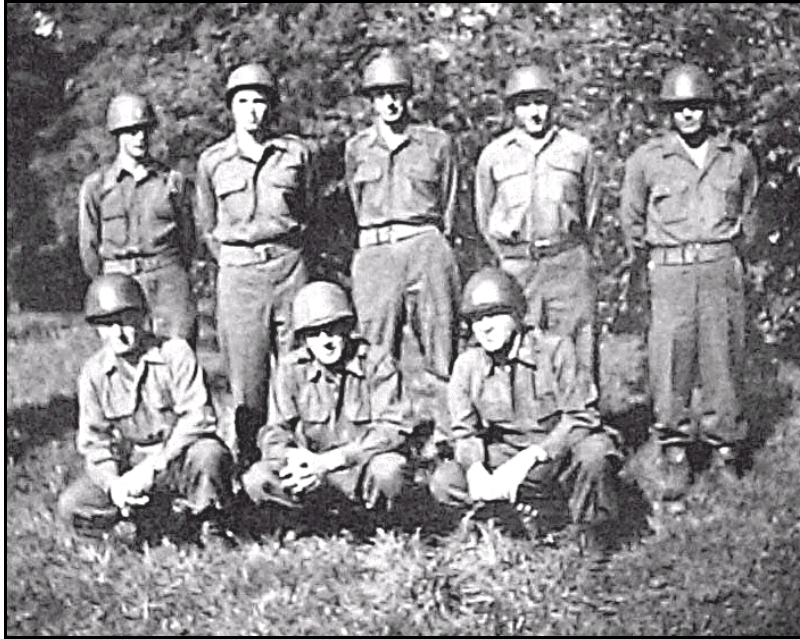
There were many things to do to keep busy, and all the while we kept reading the Stars and Stripes about REDEPLOYMENT. We did not expect to leave the outfit so we kept on with our work. By July 4th we were well established in Neunburg. Our occupational duties were routine now, and we had more time for athletics and recreation. A battalion PX had been set up under the supervision of Mr. Robertson, and we also had an Enlisted Men's club. We began buying our rations there and tasted our first coca-cola since leaving home. There was beer too, and a beer garden.

It was a blow when we started losing our old-timers and high-pointers during redeployment. On the 4th of July, Colonel Norris brought the bulk of the battalion together for the last time in the Rec hall. 1st Sgt. King of HQ Battery received the Silver Star, and several Bronze Stars were presented by the Colonel. He followed the presentation by a talk in which he bid farewell to the 79 men and 8 officers who were to leave the next day, and those who would follow them. Most of us had been together since the first, and it was a sad day for all. The Colonel wished the departing men God Speed and turned to the task ahead. The task of building a new outfit with the nucleus of those who remained. The battalion would go on and perhaps write another chapter such as this in the combat history of the 345th Field Artillery Battalion, 90th Infantry Division.





BATTALION STAFF 345th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



STAFF AT THE BEGINNING OF COMBAT

CO	LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK W. NORRIS	TEXAS
EXEC AND S1	MAJOR ALFRED C. GUTHRIE	MO
S2	CAPTAIN DONALD J. HUCKABY	OKLA
S3	MAJOR LLOYD R. SALISBURY	WASH
S4	CAPTAIN WILLIS B. HANNA	IOWA
ASST S2	2ND LIEUTENANT JAMES R. SHEELY	COLO
ASST S3	CAPTAIN LLOYD M. WALLS	TEXAS
LIAISON O	CAPTAIN JAMES S. BYNUM	TEXAS
COM O	CAPTAIN CHARLES M. DECKER III	TEXAS
MED O	CAPTAIN MITCHEL R. WEISBUCH	ILL
AIR O	1ST LIEUTENANT GRADY F. LILLY	OKLA
PER O	CWO TRAVIS C. MEREDITH	TEXAS
BN MTA O	1ST LIEUTENANT JOSEPH J. THOMAS	OHIO

STAFF AT THE END OF COMBAT

CO	LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK W. NORRIS	TEXAS
EXEC AND S1	MAJOR ALFRED C. GUTHRIE	MO
S2	CAPTAIN ARTHUR D. SWIFT	ILL
S3	MAJOR JAMES S. BYNUM	TEXAS
S4	CAPTAIN WILLIS B. HANNA	IOWA

ASST S2	1ST LIEUTENANT JAMES R. SHEELY	COLO
ASST S3	CAPTAIN LLOYD M. WALLS	TEXAS
LIAISON O	CAPTAIN CHAUNCEY C. CALL	UTAH
COM O	CAPTAIN CHARLES M. DECKER III	TEXAS
MED O	CAPTAIN JOSEPH MINDLIN	ILL
AIR O	1ST LIEUTENANT ALLAN T. O'CONNOR	CAL
OBSVR	2ND LIEUTENANT JOSEPH A. KIEFER	PA
PER O	CWO TRAVIS C. MEREDITH	TEXAS
BN MTA O	CAPTAIN JOSEPH J. THOMAS	OHIO

OTHER COMBAT STAFF MEMBERS

ASST S3	CAPTAIN JOHN I. WHITE	ILL
LIAISON O	1ST LIEUTENANT B. A. MAINA	ILL

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

OFFICERS

Major Grady F. Lilly, Okla.	Captain, Charles M. Decker III, Tex
Captain Largent C. Thompson, Tex.	1st Lt. Charles J. Buysse, Mich.
1st Lt. Donald E. Gitchel, Ark.	1st Lt. Frank S. Hertzog, Colo.
1st Lt. Jack C. Hester, Ark.	1st Lt. Allen T. O'Connor, Cal.
1st Lt. Russell J. Bardee Ohio	

BATTERY HEADQUARTERS SECTION

1st Sgt. Harold Baker, N.J.	1st Sgt. Ted G. King, Ia.
Pfc. Jack Havens, Ala.	Pfc. Clayton C. Fox, Tenn.
Pvt. Augustus F. Livengood, Tex.	Pfc. Hurley C. Moore Ark.
Pfc. Frank Watkins, Tex.	

OPERATIONS

M/Sgt. Lyle D. Johnson, N. D.	M/Sgt. John Polinsky, Mich.
M/Sgt. Harold Warren, Ia.	T/Sgt. Paul Mowry, Mo.
T/Sgt. Warren E. Markert, N. Y.	S/Sgt. Dan A Bowler, Minn.
S/Sgt. Steve J. Liberski, Wisc.	S/Sgt. George A. Schuelke, Colo.
T/4 Gerald W. Fowler, Ia.	T/4 Arthur J. Rau, S. D.
T/4 Leonard B. Zink, Mo.	Cpl. Donald G. Raker, S. D.
T/5 Warren C. Behr, Ill.	T/5 John O. Cervantes, Cal.
T/5 Paul J. Perry, Ohio.	T/5 Emmett Reed, Ohio.
T/5 Alexander Stepanick, Kans.	T/5 John A. Woods, Nebr.

Pfc. Melvin L. Hambrick, N. C.
Pvt. Samuel F. Husat, Ohio.

Pfc. John E. Johnston, Jr., Md.
Pvt. Lambert S. Joel, Wash. D. C.

MESSAGE CENTER

Sgt. Donald E. Krug, Ia.
Cpl. Arne R. Selin, Minn.
T/5 L. V. Wallace, Ariz.

T/4 Howard D. Blatchford, Nebr.
T/5 Charles O. Tisthammer, Cal.

SURVEY SECTION

S/Sgt. Charles W. Frye, Kans.
T/5 Burnis R. Arkerson, N. C.
Pfc. William D. Boone, N. C.
Pfc. Quinton D. Gerdes, Nebr.
Pfc. Carl Meredith, Nebr.

S/Sgt. William J. Frank, Jr., Ill.
T/5 Raymond J. Kulas, N. D.
Pfc. Gerald D. Dabbs, Tex.
Pfc. James B. Gillie, N.Y.
Pfc. Irving W. Quimby, N. H.

AIR SECTION

T/3 Albert G. Perlbach, Pa.
Pfc. Leonard L. Card, R. I.
Pfc. Wilson E. Rabe, Tex.

T/5 Elmer G. Boecker, Colo.
Pfc. John G. Klag, Ohio.
Pvt. John Marchitelli, N. Y.

RADIO SECTION

S/Sgt. Frederick S. Jones, Tex.
Sgt. Harry W. Smittle, Ohio.
T/4 Glenn A. Dismore, Tex.
T/4 Henry D. Lightfoot, Tenn.
T/4 Clifford A. Talbott, S. D.
Cpl. Harvey Jeff, Nev.
T/5 Joseph J. DeSantis, N. Y.
T/5 Arthur C. Jacobs, Pa.
Pfc. William P. Gillespie, Ga.
Pfc. Herman L. Latham, Tenn.
Pfc. Joseph Melnick, Pa.
Pfc. Jeffery Thomason, Mich.
Pvt. Thomas A. Penesis, Ill.

S/Sgt. Clement J. Knoll, N. D.
T/4 Charles B. Benton, Cal.
T/4 Milton Kirshner, N. Y.
T/4 Eric L. Medlin, N. C.
T/4 Isadore Spring, Del.
Cpl. William J. Okerlund, Mich.
T/5 Alfred F. Holthaus, Ohio.
T/5 John A. Patterson, Ind.
Pfc. Arren M. Hardee, S. C.
Pfc. Chester G. Malinowski, N. Y.
Pfc. James R. Moore, N. J.
Pvt. James M. Dunlop, Ida.

WIRE SECTION

T/Sgt. Walter E. Kalley, Ohio.
S/Sgt. James W. Beauchamp, Tex.
Sgt. Charles J. Kortan, S.D.
Cpl. Rheinhold H. Braun, N D.
Cpl. John M. Wilber, Jr. Colo.

T/Sgt. Oliver C. Roby, Ia.
S/Sgt. Glenn F. James. Okla.
Cpl. Arthur Anderson, Ga.
Cpl. Matthew F. White, Okla.
T/5 Anthony A. George, W. Va.

T/5 Dale F. Rhone, N. D.
T/5 Paul J. Romore, Ia.
T/5 Harold E. Totten, Ind.
T/5 Clinton S. Witherell, N, Y.
Pfc. William R. Edward, N. C.
Pfc. Arthnr L. Franklin, Miss.
Pfc. Vicente M. Gaoana, Jr, Tex.
Pfc. Raby J. Grimes, N. C.
Pfc. Louis A. Garrou, N. C.
Pfc. Edward F. Janiak, Mass.
Pfc. Paul E Mulwane, N.Y.
Pfc. John J. Samalewicz, Mass.
Pfc. Sparks R. Shifflett, Va.
Pfc. James J, Wakeen, Mich.
Pvt. Merton N. Butts, N.Y.
Pvt. Leon A. Kisielewiski, Mass.

T/5 Elzia L. Rodden, Ida.
T/5 John J. Spear, Ark.
T/5 Alfred F. Wilkens, Minn.
Pfc. Mitchell E. Douglass, Jr. Fla.
Pfc. William C. Fellers. Tenn.
Pfc. Harrison R. Funk, Ohio.
Pfc. James M, Grady, N. B.
Pfc. LeRoy E Gallos, Ill.
Pfc. Gunther J. Gildemeister, S. D.
Pfc. Fred T. Moomau, Pa.
Pfc. Doyle F. Salzsieder, S. D.
Pfc. Neal R. Shaffer, Pa.
Pfc. Wilburn P. Smith, Miss.
Pfc. Eugent E. Wright, Okla.
Pvt. Thomas H. Griffith, Ill.
Pvt. Cotarino Trujillo, N. M

PERSONNEL SECTION

T/Sgt. Johnnie D. Hurst, Tex.
Cpl. Donald L. Dowell, Ohio
Cpl. Lawrence Kaplan, N. Y.
Pvt. Frank E Morgan, Pa.

T/4 Joseph F. Wicki, Kans.
Cpl. Norman A. Stewart, Jr., Tex.
Pfc. David C. Dempster, Mass.

MESS SECTION

S/Sgt. Raymond L. Marcum, Tex.
T/4 Lee Tan, Ariz.
T/5 Joseph P. Milam, N. C.
Pfc. John F, Dudley, Ala.
Pvt. Louis A. Trinidad, Tex.

Sgt. Henry C. Martin, Ariz.
T/5 Henry W. Jones, N. Y.
T/5 Louis Paulo, N. Y.
Pfc. Sam Emmett, Tex.

SUPPLY SECTION

S/Sgt. William R. Ingalls, Minn.

S/Sgt. Jhalmer Lunde, N. D.

MOTOR MAINTENANCE

S/Sgt. Delmar D Willard, Ore.
T/4 William F. Shoemaker, Ohio

T/4 Virgil O. Kelly, Kans.
T/5 Albert F. Kukla, Ohio

BATTERY A

HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Capt. Ralph W. Tetzlaff, Ill.

1st Sgt. Allen E. Hughes, Okla.

Cpl. Gerald Baris, Mo.
T/5 Victoria D. Spell, Miss.

T/5 William F. Johnson, Wash.

DETAIL SECTION

1st Lt. Edward R. Efaw, Wis.

2nd Lt. John E. Beck, Iowa

SURVEY

S/Sgt. Lowell E. Borke, N. C.
Cpl. James F. McLean, N. Y.

S/Sgt. Willard W. Cronk, Iowa
Cpl. Thomas L. Sigler, Colo.

COMMUNICATIONS

T/4 Odis T. Herndon, Jr., Tex.
T/4 Elmer E. Van Gelder, Iowa
Cpl. Lawrence B. Fauquier, Neb.
Tec. 5 Raymond C. Allen, Ill.
T/5 Clementi H. Bowman, Colo.
T/5 Ray Love, Okla.
Pfc. Quedo J. Cavalier, Ohio
Pfc. Bernard Greenthal, N. Y.
Pfc. Carl H. Kramer, Pa.
Pvt. John Barina, N. Y.
Pvt. Floyd H. Keeling, Wash.

T/4 Kenneth A. Peterson, Minn.
Cpl. Richard B. Chapple, Tex.
Cpl. William W. Slover, Tex.
T/5 Arnie T. Boatman, Tex.
T/5 John J. Egan, N. V.
T/5 Joseph F. Neigowski, N. J.
Pfc. Delwin H. Goddard, Me.
Pfc. Armando L. Hernandez, Cal.
Pfc. Harold G. Wiser, Neb.
Pvt. Arthur F. Chandler, Tex.

FIRING BATTERY

Capt. Vern Clayson, Utah

Pfc. Randall R. Lampman, Iowa

1ST SECTION

S/Sgt. Kenneth R. Andre, Iowa
Cpl. James J. Ertz, Pa.
Cpl. William H. Mottesheard, W. Va.
T/5 Nick N. Holliday, N. Mex.
Pfc. Virgil L. Clausen, Iowa
Pfc. Arnold Jaffe, N. Y.
Pfc. Clifford E. Nicholson, N. D.
Pfc. Fred Schneider, Ill.
Pvt. Leonard Kazmerczak, N. Y.

Sgt. Martin Becker, Tex.
Cpl. John F. Miller, Jr., Ohio
T/5 Raymond C. Baker, Tex.
Pfc. Steve Billas, Pa.
Pfc. Raymond R. Cooper, N. Y.
Pfc. Reid L. Jordan, Ga.
Pfc. Jose E. Rendon, N. Mex.
Pfc. Kester B. Stire, W. Va.
Pvt. Robert N. Sterling, Pa.

2ND SECTION

Sgt. Billy N. Landers, Okla.
Cpl. Leslie O. Davis, Okla.

Cpl. Isadore Boltax, N. J.
T/4 Joseph F. Foran, Kan.

Pfc. Arthur J. Abbate, N. Y.
Pfc. Louis H. Boysen, Tex.
Pfc. Glenn M. Farwell, Pa.
Pfc. Claud J. Gossett, Tex.
Pfc. John T. Kennedy, Pa.
Pfc. Roxie A. Mudge, S.D.
Pfc. Manuel L. Navarro, Calif.

Pfc. Domenic J. Bertolin, Pa.
Pfc. Richard E. Dake, Calif.
Pfc. Zyygmund S. Yorski, Conn.
Pvt. Lionel B. Dennis, Calif.
Pvt. John H. Goode, Ten.
Pvt. Frank J. Kalanoski, N.Y.
Pvt. John N. Kutzler, Pa

3RD SECTION

1st Sgt. Burl Hodgins Okla.
Cpl. George Andriensen, Iowa
Cpl. Ben Ellis, Tex.
Cpl. Gilbert F. Glanz, Md.
T/5 John F. Hallweck, Wis.
Pfc. Victory P. Dean, Neb.
Pfc. Manuel A. Fernandez, N. Mex.
Pfc. Erwin Johnson, N.J.
Pfc. Clarence L. Knouse, Ohio

Pfc. Roy W. Lashley, S.C.
Pfc. Alvin O. Melcher, Tex.
Pfc. John Olson, Wyo.
Pfc. Theodore Plumb, Ariz.
Pfc. Jerome Ransom, Ind.
Pfc. Herberp L. Summers. Ill.
Pfc. Juan S. Vasquez, Tex.
Pvt. Michael R. Koken, Ind.

4TH SECTION

S/Sgt. Elias M. Avilo, Tex.
Cpl. Raymond L. Drury, Kan.
Cpl. Bert E. Jacks, Ohio
Cpl. Robert J. Lansing, Idaho
T/5 Edward P. Kochanski, Ill.
T/5 Elmer L. Vieregge, Tex.
Pfc. James O. Beasley, Ky.
Pfc. Ralph Blueye, Tex.

Pfc. Able D. Collins, La.
Pfc. Cole B. Gaines, S. C.
Pfc. Bosilio C. Gallardo, Jr., Tex.
Pfc. Albert P. Lesikar, Tex.
Pfc. Leroy McDonald, La.
Pfc. Leo H. Slotsve, N. D.
Pvt. Robert le Cain, Mass.
Pvt. James R. Monger, Okla.

5TH SECTION

Sgt. Bert H. Adoms, Tex.
Sgt. Joseph W. Jackson, Jr., N. Mex.
Sgt. Andrew Shunko Jr., Ohio
Cpl. Clarence J. Kottsick, N. D.
T/5 John E. Figaniak, Pa.
Pfc. T. G. Carter, Tex.
Pfc. Alfred L. Cruz, Mass.
Pfc. Samuel Fleck, N. Y.
Pfc. Charles E. Freeman, W. Va.
Pfc. Bennie J. Gatlin, Ala.
Pfc. John L. Gonzalez, Calif.

Pfc. Richard F. Hartman, N. Y.
Pfc. Earnest R. Honenycutt, Okla.
Pfc. Homer W. Judy, Kan.
Pfc. Edward F. MaMahon, Wash.
Pfc. Benjamin S. Palozzolo, N.Y.
Pfc. Howard T Pitts, Md.
Pfc. Carl M. Pugh, Ala.
Pfc. John L. Rust, Jr., Ohio
Pfc. Domenic J. Salbato, Colo.
Pfc. Orville D. Starnes, Colo.
Pvt.. Robert R. Barkeley, S.C.

MAINTENANCE SECTION

2nd Lt. James R. Dennis, Jr., Tex.	T/4 Harvey C. Huddleston, Jr. Okla.
2nd Lt. David Lee, Ind.	T/4 John C. Renskers, N. D.
2nd Lt. Peter Francis McAtee, N.Y.	T/4 Archie C. Smith, Tex.
S/Sgt. Joseph Brault, Minn.	T/5 Ross F. Howard, Ark
S/Sgt. Woodrow W. Lloyd, Ark.	T/5 Henry F. Kominczak, Tex.
S/Sgt. Rudolph P. Soltis, Wyo.	T/5 Mayton Prather, Ark.
S/Sgt. Dan Z. Topjian, Calif.	Pfc. Leonard W. Elbrandt, Wis.

BATTERY B

HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Capt. Arthur D. Swift III.	S/Sgt. William C. Beacham, N. C.
Capt. Earl H. Wood, III.	Cpl. Orval P. Hanson, S. D.
1st Sgt. John Abraham, Iowa	T/5 Thomas M. Mitchel, Tex.
1st Sgt. Perry A. Robertson, Ark.	T/5 Mark J. D'Angelo, Pa.

DETAIL SECTION

Lt. Frank C. Thampson, Ind.	Cpl. Andrew S. Garnett, Va.
1st Lt. Kenneth, R. LaMoe, Wis.	T/4 Gerard W. Fowler, Iowa
2nd Lt. Robert W. Grell, Pa.	Cpl. Clifford A. Muchmore, S. D.
2nd Lt. Joseph A. Kiefer, Pa.	Cpl. Richard E. Howard, Ariz.
2nd Lt. Hugh L. McManus, La.	Cpl. Joseph J. McKean, N.Y.
S/Sgt. Bert H. Adams, Tex.	Cpl. Jerry M. Pickup, Okla.
S/Sgt. Donald C. Callahan, Ill.	Cpl. Joseph Petruska, N.J.
Sgt. Rex Bradshaw, Tex.	T/5 David C. Tyner, Va.
Sgt. James C. Canady, Tex.	T/5 Frank C. Pauli, N.Y.
T/4 Vernon A. Nyback Minn.	T/5 Fredrick Ruitter, Ill.
T/4 Harold R. Wiles, W. Va.	T/5 Baul P. Swantkoski, Okla.
T/4 David N. Whitaker, Tex.	Pfc. Roy E. Lee, Tex.
Cpl. Clarence I. Sime, Wis.	Pfc. Isaac F. Gearhart, N.Y.

WIRE SECTION

T/4 Paul A. Peterson Minn.	Pfc. Peter J. Mannella, N.Y.
T/5 Harold L. Friday, Kans.	Pfc. Peter A. Dilosa, La.
T/5 Joseph R. Cebula, N. B.	Pfc. Willie L. Schaffer, Okla.
T/5 Joseph Haugen, Minn.	Pfc. William A. Conerty, N.Y.
T/5 Frank W. Childers, Wy.	Pfc. Albert J. Bacon, N. Y.
Pfc. Norval Dixon, Ky.	Pfc. Sonny S. Harjo, Okla.
Pfc. Milliard J. Ryan, Calif.	Pfc. Gethin T. Gibbon, Pa.

FIRING BATTERY

1st Lt. James P. Stanley, Mo.

1ST SECTION

Sgt. Chelcie Parkey, Tex.
Sgt. Laurence P. Staniford, Calif.
Cpl. John M. Sp'nder, Iowa
Cpl. John B. Hurta, Tex.
T/5 James H. King, Tex.
Pfc. John A. Johnson, La.
Pfc. Joseph F. Vidmar, Colo.
Pvt. Harry Kissig, Pa.
S/Sgt. Jhalmer Lunde N. D.

Pfc. William C. Coaten, Miss.
Pfc. Lew E. Gleixner, Pa.
Pfc. Clifford L. Darling, R. I.
Pfc. Juan C. Canava, Tex.
Pfc. Leo Vail, Ala.
Pfc. Ernesv W. Gripp, Pa.
Pvt. John L. Fresen, Ill.
Pvt. Louis M. Sisneros, N. M.
Pvt. Arthur Joseph, Mass.

2ND SECTION

S/Sgt. Herbert H. Barsons Mo.
Cpl. Ernest M. Olson, N. D.
Cpl. Robert L. Cuthbert, Wyo.
Cpl. Joe R. Boatright, Tex.
T/5 Robert R. Bullock, N. M.
Pfc. Philip T. Ales, Miss.
Pfc. Sam Anastas, N. Y.
Pfc. Solvatore Bafuma, Conn.

Pfc. Anton V. Gaber, Jr., Colo.
Pfc. Robert W. Gant, N. J.
Pfc. Harold F. Gouge Tenn.
Pfc. Dilly M. Flannagan, La.
Pfc. Alcan L. Fothergill, Ohio
Pfc. Harley Lonnie, Ariz.
Pfc. Marvin D. Spencer, Ill.
Pvt. Scharles E. Weidman, W. V.

3RD SECTION

S/Sgt. Michael A. Conforti, Wis.
Sgt. John N. Jacquez, N.M.
Cpl. Joseph E. Labate, Calif.
Cpl. George W. Binion, Tex.
T/5 Harold B. Madison Iowa
T/5 Virgil L. Edwards, Tex.
Pfc. William K. Bowers, Pa.
Pfc. Angelo Cerasulo, Jr., Mass.
Pfc. John Kochevar, Minn.

Pfc. Dane W. Lamont, Ohio
Pfc. Frank ft Okruhlik, Tex.
Pfc. Luis A. Ortiz, N.Y.
Pfc. George Pulchano, R. I.
Pfc. James A. Stanton, N.Y.
Pvt. Anthony Amarante Conn.
Pvt. Ernest A. Miller N.Y.
Pvt. Frank A. Gerlette, Pa.
Pvt. Seheriano Guzman, Ind.

4TH SECTION

Sgt. Thomas L. Weir, Kans
Cpl. Carlo P. Paolini, Calif.
Cpl. John V. Luther, Okla.
T/5 Everett T. Cagle, Okla.
Pfc. Marvin J. Bohn, Mo.
Pfc. Oskar M. Christensen, Wash.

Pfc. Haskell E. Gann, Tenn.
Pfc. Leandro Fernandez, Tex.
Pfc. Floyd M. Gustafson, Ill.
Pfc. Francis L. Roseman N.Y.
Pfc. Daniel Varchol, Pk.
Pfc. Willim F. Osburn, Okla.

Pfc. Agustin C. De La Rosa, Tex

Pfc. Ralph R. Catlin, N.Y.

5TH SECTION

Sgt. Apolph, J. Schneider. S. D.

Sgt. George J. Olivieri, Calif.

Cpl. James Serdonov, Mich,

Cpl. Robert J. Riggs, Tex.

T/5 John P. Rhyne, Tex.

T/5 Albert J. Klink. N.Y.

T/5 Harold L. Woods, Mo.

Pfc. Silveo Balli, Calif.

Pfc. John R. Clark, Tex.

Pfc. Robert L. Dennis. N. C.

Pfc. Eliseo Giron, N. M.

Pfc. Steve Krancz, Conn.

Pfc. Melvin D. Lankford, Mo.

Pfc. Melvin O. Laughlin, Idaho

Pfc. James H. Wells, Mo.

Pfc. Edwin R. Burrer, N. D.

Pvt. John R. Nemergut, Pa.

Pvt. Wesley F. Heil, Pa.

Pvt. Albert Post, N.Y.

Pvt. Irving Konowski, Mass.

Pvt. Anselme. A. Laroche, N. H.

Pvt. Angelo O. La Malfa, N.Y.

Pvt. Thomas F. Kiley Mass.

Pvt. Joseph T. Krawiec, N.Y.

MAINTENANCE

1st Lt. Donald W. Clark, Tex.

MESS

T/4 Antonio K. Garcia, N.M.

Cpl. Evans Burkett, Tex.

T/5 Wallace H. Hartje, N. D.

T/5 Norman C. Shafer, Minn.

Pfc. Antonio P. Bacanegra, Tex.

Pfc. Manuel Oliveira, Mass.

Pfc. William F. Hatwig, Ark.

Pfc. Billie D. Hogue, Ark.

Pfc. Herman L. Smith, Pa.

MOTOR MAINTENANCE

T/4 Carl W. Manuel, Ark.

T/5 Alfred W. Platt, Tex.

SUPPLY

S/Sgt. Russel C. Peirce, Nebr.

Cpl. Kermit O. Maristuen, N. D.

Cpl. Lewis R. Funderburg, Okla.

Pfc. Gilbert G. Vasquez, Tex.

BATTERY C

HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Capt. Leon Crenshaw, Mo.

1st Sgt. L. C. Homesley, Tex.

1st Sgt. Marion O. Slape, Tex.

T/5 Leon R. Bixby, N. Y.

T/5 Jack C. Chapman, Tex.

T/5 James H. Whitaker, Calif.

Cpl. Woodrow W. Applegate, Tex.

DETAIL SECTION

1st Lt. Burton K. Gulka, N.Y.
2nd Lt. Jack W. Cherry, Nebr.
2nd Lt. Charles L. Crabtree, Ill.
S/ Sgt. James E. Stokes, Tex.
Sgt. Vincent S. Alonzo, N. Y.
Sgt. Troy V. Sims, Tex.
T/4 Glen E Allen, Iowa
Cpl. Otis L. Rhodes, Tex.
Cpl. Edward J. Carragee, N. Y.

Cpl. Kenneth S. Stephens, Nebr.
T/5 Jacob D. McMorries, Tex.
T/5 Joseph V. Ruiz, Calif.
T/5 William E. Minderman, Nebr.
T/5 Edward L. Brown, Kans.
T/4 Jimmy Yazvac, Md.
Pfc. Woodrow F. Bavota, Tex.
Pfc. William E. Berteotti, Pa.

WI RE SECTION

Cpl. Emilio R. Diridoni, Calif.
Cpl. Harold F. Howard, Ill.
Cpl. Louie A. Palmer, Mo.
T/5 Rosco P. Dowling Mo.
T/5 Howard B. Brown, Wyo.
T/5 Jim Holloway, Okla.
T/5 Jose N. Struck N.M.

Pfc. John W. Kozemczak, Pa.
Pfc. Milford A. Larence, Tex.
Pfc. Thomas T. Livaudias, La.
Pfc. Steve S. Pienciak, N.J.
Pfc. Phillip, O. Keltner, Ky.
Pfc. Alfred F. Tenbush, S.D.

FIRING BATTERY

1ST SECTION

1st Lt. Edward R. Rittenbaugh, Pa.
1st Lt. Robert E. Wills, N.J.
S/Sgt. Michele B. Paolercio, N. J.
Cpl. Dewey G. Cannon, Miss.
T/5 Durward E. Minks, Minn.
Pfc. Enory F. Wagner, Mo.
Pfc. Costabile L. Cipullo, Mass.
Pfc. Edwin P. Dudenhoeffler, Mo.
Pfc. Charley B. Frye, Tenn.
Pfc. Walter J. Loyd, Okla.
Pvt. Claire W. Portor, Pa.

S/Sgt. Fredrick M. Adams, N.Y.
S/Sgt. Donald J. Hitchcock, Minn.
Sgt. Dick Goldston, Tex.
Cpl. Teddy S. Zobeck, Mich.
Pfc. Ceolo O. Maxberry, Okla.
Pfc. Ramon A. Aragon, N. M.
Pfc. Clemens O. Conrady, Okla
Pfc. Joseph D. Forti, Kans.
Pfc. Ramon N. Gonzales, N. M.
Pvt. Domingo G. Rivera, Calif.

2ND SECTION

1st Sgt. Lavon E. Ayres, Kans.
Cpl. Robert C. Randolph, Ark.
T/5 Olen O. Daugherty, Ind.
Pfc. Roy J. Camp, Miss.
Pfc. William H. Gowin, Wis.
Pfc. Oscar Haugen, N. D.

Cpl. Archie Crisp, N. C.
T/5 Nanno Hienstra, Wis.
Pfc. Russel M. Boselund, Utah
Pfc. Ferdinand P. Civetti, Miss.
Pfc. Jesse A. Chaves, Tex.
Pfc. Louis J. Krantz, Colo.

Pfc. Ralph O. Kushner, Conn.
Pfc. Stanislav J. Suchomel, Tex.

Pfc. Andrew M. Messina, N. Y.
Pfc. Lewis O. Tomlinson, Va.

3RD SECTION

Sgt. Charles A. Trimbo, Minn.
Cpl. Steve J. Hrin, Pa.
Cpl. Albert S. Torres, Tex.
Pfc. Johnie S. Allison, Tex.
Pfc. Stephen J. Galla, Conn.
Pfc. Isaac M. Torres, Tex.
Pfc. Lidal C. Haynes, N. C.
Pfc. Joseph A. Kowalski, Conn.

Cpl. Walter J. Brent, Tex.
Cpl. Thomas E. Steranka, Penn.
T/5 Keneth A. Garner, Ind.
Pfc. Eugene M. Conant, Pa.
Pfc. Benoit H. LaHaye, Conn.
Pfc. Steve F. Lavallie, La.
Pfc. Marvin L. Jones, N. C.
Pfc. Mathew W. Whittet, Conn.

4TH SECTION

Cpl. Terrence Barry, Minn.
Cpl. William E. Lavine, Tex.
Pfc. Nicholas Tonkovich, Mo.
Pfc. Alexander E. Wroblewski, N. Y.
Pfc. Duard R. Brown, Ark.
Pfc. Ernest A. Henline, W. Va.
Pfc. Stanley J. Hickey, Ga.
Pfc. George C. Cole, Ark.

Cpl. Leo L. Foust, Okla.
T/5 Raymond J. Cioffi, N.Y.
Pfc. Ricardo Valdez, N. M.
Pfc. Jim Brending, Tex.
Pfc. Robert T. Harrod, Tex.
Pfc. John E. Herring, Tex.
Pfc. Frank S. John, N. Y.

5TH SECTION

Sgt. Ralph O. Bane, Cal.
T/5 Francis R. Hardcastle, Utah.
Pfc. David A. Bolen, Tex.
Pfc. Burton G. Gilfus, N. Y.
Pfc. James G. Lumpkin, N. M.
Cpl. Glen R. Peterson, N. D.
Pfc. Arthur F. Schiwart, Tex.
Pfc. Ellis C. Walker, Calif.
Pfc. James W. Brough, Mont.

T/5 John E. Trumble, N.J.
T/5 Frederick O. Hodill, Penn.
Pfc. Charles A. Smail, Penn.
Pfc. Leonard R. Royce, Calif.
Cpl. Walter J. Minucci, Ariz.
Pfc. Harvey A. Klement, Wis.
Pfc. Emil J. Gestel, Ill.
Pfc. Charles T. Williams, N. C.

MESS

2nd Lt. Edward R. Buntain, Kans.
S/Sgt. Sebastian S. Alessandro, Calif.
S/Sgt. Joe E. Trinkka, N. D.
T/4 Clarence R. Smith, Nebr.
T/4 Willie H. Berger, Tex.

T/5 Herman, S. Baumgartner, N. D.
Pfc. Calvin Hoyle, Ariz.
Pfc. Easter J. Pezzatti, Calif.
Pfc. Herman J. Zoner, S.D.

AUTO MAINTENANCE

1st Lt. Joseph C. Zufall, Ind.
S/Sgt. James M. McKamy, tex.
T/4 Emil E. Eisenhauer, Nebr.

T/5 Frank W. Cap, S.D.
T/4 Gorden L Burton, N. D.
T/4 Joe W. Chanik, Tex.

SUPPLY

S/Sgt. Winfred E. McPherson, Tex.
S/Sgt. Jack Wise, W. Va.

S/Sgt. Harry G. Okelly, Tex.

SERVICE BATTERY

BATTERY HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Capt. Willis B. Hanna, Ia.
1st Sgt. Victor R. Meier, Calif.
1st Sgt. Stanley J. Zaorski, Mass.

Cpl. Hayes W. Gyles, Tex.
T/5 Hewitt A. Dardeau, Tex.
Pfc. George W. Albright, Pa.

AMMUNITION TRAIN HEADQUARTERS SECTION

1st Lt. Birdell F. Grossman, Wis.
S/Sgt. Michael Mikula,, N. J.
T/4 Emil Volcik, Tex.
Cpl. Kenneth R. McDarment, Calif.

Cpl. Rocco F. Mesite, N. Y.
T/5 Steve C. Higgs, Tex.
Pfc. Felipe D. Barela, N. M.
Pfc. Gerald F. Knight Nebr.

BATTERY MAINTENANCE SECTION

1st Lt. Langdon S. Barron, Jr., Mo.
S/Sgt. Rollo O. Woods, Calif.
S/Sgt. Karl F. Brehme, Mo.
S/Sgt. Virgil V. Yoho, Ohio
S/Sgt. Alan Espey, Tex.
T/4 Adam A. Kuss, Mich.
T/4 Arvid Erickson, Minn.
T/4 Lee R. New, Calif.

T/5 Paul A. Grefe, Kans.
T/5 Cyril A. Birkenmeier, Mo.
T/5 Paul Blatt, Pa.
T/5 Everett B. D. Tatman, Colo.
Pfc. John Bachie, Ohio
Pfc. Billy J. Byrd, Tenn.
Pfc. Lawrence J. Nemecek, Ill.

BATTALION MOTOR SECTION

Capt. Joseph J. Thomas, Ohio
M/Sgt. Francis J. Krenik, Minn.
T/4 William E. Chester, Tex.
Cpl. Eugend Poputz, Ohio
T/5 Wilbert G. Trueman, Pa.
T/5 Daniel M. Kikoski, Mass.
Pfc. Herschel V. Greene, Ohio

M/Sgt. Edward A. Ernst, Ia.
T/3 Charles Maranich, Pa.
T/4 George J. Karmazin, Nebr.
T/5 Raymond C. Finegan, Ia.
T/5 Walter R. Storlie, Minn.
T/5 Albert F. Kukla, Ohio.
Pfc. Clarence Hackard, Ia.

BATTALION SUPPLY SECTION

WO(jg) Forst L. Robertson, Mo.
T/Sgt. John C. Glendinning, Colo.
T/5 Elmer J. Groseth, S. D.
T/5 James C. Allen, N. C.

T/Sgt. Oswald J. Bernardy, Minn.
S/Sgt. Donald J. Kohrs, Ia.
T/5 George R. Purves, Pa.
Pfc. Joel T. Tande, N. D.

AMMUNITION TRAIN SECTIONS

Sgt. Victor Batinovich, Wash.
Pfc. Joseph H. Oakes, Wash.
Pfc. Edward H. Berard, N. D.
Pfc. Frank C. Stobnicki, N. Y.
Pfc. Oscar H. Worley, Ga.
Pfc. Oren V. Davis, Ark.
T/5 Howard A. Leffler, Tex.
Pfc. Ralph B. Lee, Ohio
Pfc. Robert L. Madden, Tex.
Pfc. James B. Rader, W. Va.
Pfc. Floyd H. Keeling, Wash.
Pfc. Hurley C. Moore, Ark.
Pvt. Vernon C. McCahan, Ohio
T/5 Walter A. Phelps, Okla.
Pfc. Benjamin Salazar, N. M.
Pfc. Floyd B. Choat, Ala.
Pfc. Jack G. Sims, Calif.
Pfc. Ira C. Chiles, Tex.
Pfc. Gaston W. Gilbert, Tex.
T/5 John S. Treaster, Okla.

T/5 Lionel W. Albert, N. H.
Pfc. John Lauck, Wyo.
Pfc. Guy French, Ala.
Pfc. John D. Steele, Wash.
Pfc. Robert H. Scruby, Colo.
Sgt. Archie D. Tivis, Nebr.
Pfc. Edgar L. Hood, Okla.
Pfc. Felipe V. Cordova, N. M.
Pfc. Alva E. Kinsey, Tex.
Pfc. William J. Carlson, N. D.
Pfc. Earl S. Crimmins, Pa.
Pfc. Douglas H. Slessor, Mich.
Sgt. Orville M. Wright, Ia.
Pfc. Mason B. Hamilton, N. Y.
Pfc. Jean H. Chaves, Cal.
Pfc. George J. Friedel, Tex.
Pfc. Patrick C. Maloney, Ind.
Pfc. Mike Polori, Minn.
Cpl. Milton R. Wells, Tex.
Pfc. John F. Hoy, N. Y.

ATTACHED MEDICAL DETACHMENT

S/Sgt. Louis J. Stevens, Minn.
T/3 Bernard C. Boullion, Minn.
T/4 Martin J. Smith, Nebr.
T/5 Raymond A. Burnham, S. D.
T/5 Owen A. Wibstad, Minn.
Pfc. Victor G. Rivas, Tex.
Pfc. Tom Settas, Mich.
T/5 George J. Eppel, Ohio

T/3 Elvin E. Betts, Nebr.
T/4 Howard J. Kersey, Ohio
T/4 John F. Weed, Mass.
T/5 Tony J. Serra, Ill.
Pfc. Immanuel B. Jones, Tex.
Pfc. Herbert E. Parker, Ohio
Pfc. Walter A. Wood, Minn.

AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Maj. Grady F. Lilly

1st Lt. Allen T. O'Connor

SILVER STAR

Cpl. Edward J. Carragee

Pvt. Arthur F. Chandler (Posthumous)

2nd Lt. James R. Dennis, Jr.

1st Lt. Don W. Everett

1st Lt. Burtlon T. Goulko (Posthumous)

1st Lt. Robert H. Grell (Posthumous)

Maj. Alfred C. Guthrie

1st Lt. Frank S. Hertzog

1st Sgt. Ted G. King

1st Lt. Allen T. O'Connor

T/5 Dale E. Rhone

1st Lt. Edward R. Ritenbaugh

Pfc. Gilbert G. Vasquez

T/5 Elmer L. Vieregge

1st Lt. Robert E. Wills

Capt. Earl H. Wood

SOLDIERS MEDAL

Sgt. Adolph J. Schneider

T/5 Paul P. Swantkoski

AIR MEDAL

1st Lt. Charles J. Buysse**

1st Lt. Frank S. Hertzog****

2nd Lt. David Lee*

1st Lt. James R. Sheely

Maj. Grady F. Lilly*****

1st Lt. Allen T. O'Connor*****

T/3 Albert C. Perlbach

Note Each* indicates an Oak-leaf Cluster to the Air Medal

BRONZE STAR

1st Sgt. John Abraham

Sgt. Vincent S. Alonzo

T/4 Glen Er. Alrlen

Cpl. Arthur Anderson

S/Sgt. Kenneth R. Andre

Sgt. Elias M. Avila

Sgt. Victor Batinovich*

Pfc. Woodrow F. Bovota

S/Sgt. William C. Beacham**

2nd Lt. John E. Beck

T/3 Bernard C. Bouillon

Cpl. Walter J. Brent

S/Sgt. James W. Beauchamp

T/5 Edward L. Brown

T/5 Robert C. Bullock

2nd Lt. Edward F. Buntain

Maj. James S. Bynum

Pvt. William J. Carlson

2nd Lt. Jack W. Cherry

Pfc. Ferdinand P. Civetti

Capt. Vern Clayson

2nd Lt. Charles L. Crabtree

Capt. Leon Crenshaw**

T/5 Olen O. Dougherty

Capt. Charles M. Decker, III

Cpl. Emilio P. Diridoni

Pfc. Norval Dixon

1st Lt. Edward R. Efaw

S/Sgt. Rayymond L. Marcum
Cpl. Kenneth McDarment
S/Sgt. Janes M. McKamy
Cpl. Joseph J. McKeon*
S/Sgt. Winfred E. McPherson
T/4 Eric L. Medlin
Pfc. Sam Emmett*
T/5 George J. Eppel
M/Sgt. Edward A. Ernst
1st Lt. Don W. Everett
Pfc. Leandro Fernandez
T/5 Raymond E. Finegan
Pfc. Haskell E. Gann
T/5 Kenneth A. Garner
T/Sgt. John C. Clendinning
Pfc. Bernard Greenthal
T/5 Elmer J. Groseth
Maj. Alfred C. Guthrie
Capt. Willis B. Hanna
T/4 Odin T. Herndon, Jr.
1st Lt. Frank S. Hertzog
T/5 Nanno Hiemstra
S/Sgt. Donald J. Hitchcock
T/5 Nick N. Holliday
T/5 John F. Hollweck
Pfc. Ernest R. Honeycutt
Capt. Donald J. Huckaby
T/5 Daniel M. Kikoski
S/Sgt. Clement J. Knoll
Cpl. Charles J. Kortan
Pfc. Joseph J. Kowolski
T/4 Adam A. Kuss
Pfc. Melvin D Lankford
S/Sgt. Steve J. Liberski
Pfc. Harold S. Madison
1st Sgt. Victor R. Meier
CWO Travis C. Meredith
S/Sgt. Michael Mikula, Jr.
T/Sgt. Paul Mcswry

Cpl. Clifford A. Muchmore
Lt. Col Frank W. Norris*
1st Lt. Allen T. O'Connor
S/Sgt. Herbert J. Parsons*
T/5 Frank C. Pauli
T/3 Albert C. Perlbach
T/4 Paul A. Peterson
Cpl. Joseph Petruska
Cpl. Jerry M. Pickup
T/4 Arthur J. Rau
1st Lt. Edward R. Ritenbaugh
Pfc. Victor G. Rivas
WO(JG) Forst L. Robertson
T/5 Frederick Ruitter
T/5 Joseph V. Ruiz
Maj. Lloyd R. Salisbury
1st Lt. James R. Sheely
1st Sgt. Marion O. Slape
1st Lt. James P. Stanley*
Cpl. Kenneth S. Stephens
S/Sgt. James E. Stokes
Capt. Arthur D. Swift*
Capt. Ralph W. Tetzlaff*
Capt. Joseph J. Thomas
1stLt. Frank A Thompson*
Pfc. Lewis O. Tomlinson
Sgt. Charles A. Trimbo
Pfc. Daniel Varchol
Capt. Lloyd M. Walls
Sgt. Thomas L. Weir
Capt. Mitchel R. Weissbuch
T/4 David N. Whitaker
T/5 Own A. Wibstad
T/4 Harold R. Wiles
Capt. Earl H. Wood
Pfc. Walter A. Wood
S/Sgt. Rollo O. Woods
1st Sgt. Stanley J. Zaorski

Note: Each * indicates an Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star.

BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

2nd Lt. John E. Beck
2nd Lt. Edward E. Buntain

2nd Lt. Jack W. Cherry
2nd Lt. Joseph A. Kiefer

PURPLE HEART

1st Sgt. John Abraham	T/4 Odis T. Herndon, Jr.
Sgt. Vincent S. Alonzo	T/5 Jim Holloway
Pvt. John F. Barina	Cpl. Harvey Jeff
2nd Lt. John E. Beck *	T/5 James H. King
Sgt. Martin Becker	Pfc. Edward P. Kochanski
Cpl. George W. Binion, Jr.	Pvt. Roy W. Lashley
Cpl. Rex Bradshaw	2nd Lt. David Lee
Cpl. Walter J. Brent	Pfc. Herman L. Latham
Pvt. James W. Brough	S/Sgt. Steve J. Liberski
T/5 Robert C Bullock	S/Sgt. Raymond L. Marcum
T/5 Everett T. Cagle	T/4 Eric L Medlin
Capt. Chauncy C. Call	T/5 Walter J. Minucci
S/Sgt. Donald C. Callahan	Capt Joseph Mindlin
Capt. Vern Clayson	T/5 Joseph Niegowski
Cpl. Edward J Carragee	Pfc. Herbert L. Parker
T/5 Fernand C. Chassagne	T/5 John A. Patterson
Pvt. william A. Conerty	Cpl. Joseph Petruska
Cpl. Archie Crisp	Cpl. Jerry M. Pickup
Capt. Charles M. Decker III	Cpl. Donald G. Raker
Pfc. David C. Dempster	1st Lt. Edward R. Ritenhaugh*
2nd Lt. James R. Dennis, Jr.	Pfc. Victor G. Rivas
T/5 Virgil L. Edwards	1st Sgt. Marion O. Slape
1st Lt. Edward R. Efaw	T/5 Victoria D. Spell
Cpl. James J. Ertz	Cpl. Kenneth S. Stephens
1st Lt. Don D. Everett	S/Sgt. James E. Stokes
T/5 Kenneth A. Garner	Pfc. Stanislaz J. Suchomel
T/Sgt. Oliver C. Roby	Pfc. Alfred F. Tenbush
Pvt. Charles A. Smail	Cpl. Albert S. Torres
T/5 Alexander Stepanick	Sgt. Charles A. Trimbo
S/Sgt. Louis J. Stevens	S/Sgt. Joe E Trinka
Sgt. Laurence R. Standiford	Capt. Lloyd M. Walls
T/4 Clifford A. Talbott	Capt. Mitchel R. Weissbuch
1st Lt. Frank A. Thompson	T/5 James H. Whitaker
Pvt. Nicholas Tonkovich	Pfc. Walter A. Wood
Pvt. John H. Goode	Pfc. Gilbert G. Vasquez
Pfc. Ramron N. Gonzales	Sgt. Thomas L. Weir
Pfc. James M. Grady	T/4 David N. Whitaker
1st Lt. Birdell F. Grossman	Cpl. John M. Wilber, Jr.
Pfc. Bernard Greenthal	T/4 Leonard. B. Zink

Note: Each * indicates an Oak-leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart.

FOREIGN AWARDS

CROIX DE GUERRE WITH PALM
CROIX DE GUERRE with Silver Star
CROIX DE GUERRE with Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Frank W. Norris
1st Lt. Edward R. Flaw (posthumous)
T/Sgt. Paul Mowry

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS, DATES AND POSITIONS

25 March 1942 The 90th Infantry Division was reactivated at Camp Berkeley, Texas. Major General Henry Terrell, Jr. was the Division Commander and Brigadier General John A. Lewis commanded the Division Artillery. Lt. Colonel Milo B. Barragan was the commander of the 345th F. A. Battalion.

7 July 1942 Col. George Shea becomes The Division Artillery Commander.

14 October 1942 Major Frank W. Norris assumes the command of the 345th F.A. Battalion.

26 January 1943 the 90th Division left Camp Berkeley for the Louisiana Maneuvers.

2 April 1943 The Division returned to Camp Berkeley from the Louisiana Maneuvers.

10 September 1943 The Division left Camp Berkeley for the Arizona – California Desert Maneuvers.

25 September Brig. General John M. Devine becomes the Division Artillery commander.

2 January 1944 the Division arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey, from the Desert Maneuvers.

16 March Left Fort Dix for Camp Kilmer.

22 March 1st Comp Kilmer, New York.

23 March Sailed for England from New York Harbor. How long will it be before we take another look at the States?

6 April Arrived in England. What a relief to get off that boat. Moved into Camp Davenport.

14 May at Camp Heath, Wales. Getting ready for the big show.

3 June Oh that hot walk that took us to the boat. All our worldly possessions that were hung and tied on us didn't exactly make the stroll a pleasure. Boarded ship. Is this another dry run?

4 June Aboard the SS Charles C. Jones and the SS Charles D Poston. What suspense.

8 June Disembarked. Moved to position near Ste. Mere Eglise, France. What a soaking we got. So this is France.

9 June Fired our first round, "B" Battery does the honors.

11 June Bombed by enemy aircraft..

17 June Moved to Amfreville. Fired a lot of interdiction.

18 June In positional Orglandes.

19 June In position at St. Sauveur Le Vicomte.

20 June "C" Battery moves to near Besneville to prevent Germans from escaping over a bridge.

22 June Nine enemy planes gave us a slight scare.

29 June Moved to Beuzeville La Bastille. Doesn't this rain never stop.

30 June Shelled by enemy artillery for 2½ hours.

3 July Still raining. And Noah thought he had troubles.

4 July Everyone celebrated Independence Day by firing everything at noon. Some of the celebrants' small arms fire made things a bit hot.

6 July Moved to St. Jores.

14 July Shelled by enemy artillery. Moved to Le Plessis.

16 July Took another shelling. A very small dose of our own medicine.

19 July Moved to Gorges and Durauville. Enemy artillery made this position a hot one. A few enemy planes flew over us.

28 July Moved to St. Michel De La Pierre. No rounds were fired.

2 August Moved to La Boulouze. Moved again to Le Bourget.

3 August Enemy planes drop flares near us. So much light made us feel somewhat insecure.

4 August Planes overhead. Service Battery captured 1 German officer and 4 men complete with payroll.

6 August Moved to Commers. Truck column strafed.

7 August Moved to St. Suzzane. Fired at tanks holding up a task force. Moved again to St.

Symphorien.

8 August Moved to Bernay during the morning. Fired on trapped enemy forces. Moved to Chauffeur Notre Dame at night.

9 August Moved to north edge of Le Mans. No rounds fired.

10 August "A" Battery captures 2 German soldiers. Service Battery traveled 32 hours covering 280 miles for 300 rounds of ammunition.

11 August Moved to Courcemont in the morning. To Rene in afternoon.

12 August Moved to Alencon. Enemy planes overhead at night dropped flares and bombs much too close for comfort.

13 August Moved to Colombiers.

14 August Moved to Cuissai. No rounds fired.

15 August Moved to Nonant Le Pin. Fired interdiction on enemy vehicles.

17 August Moved to another position near Nonant Le Pin. Fired 2961 rounds on vehicles and troops attempting to escape from the Falaise Pocket.

18 August Ammunition train making 3 trips per day with 19 trucks. Cannoneers, making many, many trips to guns with powder and projectiles.

19 August Fired on German convoy. Many Krauts went west to a hotter place.

22 August Moved to another position near Nonant Le Pin.

26 August Moved to assembly area near Fontainbleau. Travelled 170 miles in 12 hours.

27 August Moved to Chateaubleau.

28 August Moved to Pontoise. No rounds fired. What a welcome the French were giving! We nearly drowned in wine.

29 August Moved to rendezvous near Charmel. Moved on to Venteloy.

30 August Moved to Cormicy. No shootin' just chasin'.

1 Sept. Moved to Boulton-Sur-Suippe. Still Chasin'!

5 Sept. Moved to Eton. Traveled 116 miles. Saw some famous World War I battle sites. Start shooting again. Urged some Krauts out of town.

7 Sept. Moved to Anoux, NW of Briey. Made our presence known.

10 Sept. Moved to Mancieulles. Moved again to Lommerange.

11 Sept. Moved to Neufchef. Fired on Marspich. Col. Earnest A. Bixby becomes Division Artillery Commander.

12 Sept. Moved to Marspich. Fired on Guenange and Barth Range.

14 Sept. Moved to Montois. "C" Battery at Veymerange, attached to the 344th F. A. Battalion.

15 Sept. Moved to Verneville. Fired on Forts Jeanne D'Arc. Lorraine and Driant.

27 Sept. "C" Battery moved to Malancourt. "A" and "B" Batteries at Ne Montois. Fired on Maizieres, St. Remy, Bertrange, and Blettange.

10 Oct. American Red Cross Clubmobile visited us. It had been a long time since we had seen American girls.

The firing batteries spent October at Malancourt. Headquarters and Service Batteries were at Montois. In holding positions reinforcing fires of the 343rd F. A. Battalion. Formed and used a "D" Battery of three 10.5 cm German guns.

25 Oct. "B" Battery moved to Rombas.

1 Nov. Moved to Avillers. Service and "C" Batteries moved to Haucourt La Regal. Intermission.

6 Nov. Moved to Boust. Service at Volmerange. Everything was secret. Supported Infantry crossing of the Moselle. Reducing Fort Koenigsmaker.

12 Nov. Moved to Garche. Headquarters and Service stayed at Boust.

14 Nov. Crossed Moselle River on a pontoon bridge. Went into position at Koenigsmaker. Headquarters Battery took 2 German prisoners.

17 Nov. Moved to Valmestroff. Fired on Metzeresche and Homburg.

18 Nov. Moved Iv Metzervisse. Then to Alstroff and finally to Vigy.
19 Nov. Moved to Laneauville. Only fired registration. Metz surrounded.
20 Nov. "C" Battery takes 11 prisoners. "B" Battery takes 10 prisoners including 1 captain.
23 Nov. More rain and more mud.
25 Nov. Moved to Grindorff. Harassed and interdicted enemy artillery.
28 Nov. Fired 70 rounds on distraction mission to cover noises of building bridges across an antitank ditch.
29 Nov. Moved to Oberesch, Germany. Shelled again. Headquarters got a close one. Entered The Fatherland.
3 Dec. Moved to Gerlfange. Fired on targets across the Saar River.
4 Dec. Moved to Guisingen. No firing; observed secrecy.
6 Dec. Supported Infantry Crossing of the Saar River. We did our part in wrecking Dillingen.
22 Dec. Moved to Betting, France; went into a holding position.
25 Dec. Our dreams of a White Christmas came true. But this one was in France instead of America. May it be the last one away from home.
6 Jan. Left Betting, France and started that cold night march to the Ardennes Campaign.
7 Jan. Early in the morning we arrived at Tontelange, Belgium; did a bit of resting. In the afternoon we continued traveling to Bonnal, Luxembourg.
The trip had covered 77 miles of icy roads. The tractors had come in a separate column. They had skidded up.
12 Jan. Moved to Bavigne, Luxembourg, fired on Bras, Grummelscheid, and Bohey.
13 Jan. Moved to Tarchamps, Luxembourg, Headquarters at Harlange; Service at Rambrouch.
16 Jan. Moved to Wardin, Belgium. Fired interdiction and on counterattacks.
21 Jan. Moved to Neiderwampach, Luxembourg. Fired on self propelled guns.
22 Jan. Moved to Hamiville, Luxembourg, moved again to Stockem.
25 Jan. Moved to Binsfeld. Fired on nebelwerfers, mortars and towns.
28 Jan. Moved to Weiswampach. Interdiction fires.
31 Jan. Moved to Bracht, Belgium.
5 Feb. At 0115 the 50,000th 155 mm. round was fired by the first section, "C" Battery on an interdiction mission. Moved to Winterscheid, Germany.
10 Feb. Moved to Bleialf. Fired on tanks and infantry.
11 Feb. Moved to Brandscheid. Fired on enemy OP's and horsedrawn vehicles.
19 Feb. Moved to Habscheid. Preparation fires.
22 Feb. Moved to Nieder Uttfeld. Had 2 direct hits on enemy tanks and destroyed many vehicles.
25 Feb. Moved to Eigelscheid to a bivouac area. Cleaned equipment and had a physical (a parade for the doc). Corps reserve.
3 March Moved to a position near Eilscheid. Service at Pronsfeld.
4 March Moved to Wetteldorf and then on to Seiwerath.
6 March Moved to Eigelbach. Moved to Hinterhausen.
7 March Moved to Gees.
9 March Moved to Gelenberg.
10 March Moved to Kurrenberg.
12 March Moved to Bassenheim. Moved again to Gierschnach.
14 March Moved to Metternich.
15 March Moved to Hatzenport.
16 March Moved to Mermuth.
17 March Moved to Norath. Supported a cavalry group.
19 March Moved to Bichtelbach. Moved again to Zotzenheim.
20 March Moved to Worstadt. Moved again to Udenheim.

21 March Moved to Klein Winternheim. Fired on ferry, and tugboats on the Rhine River.

22 March Moved to Drais.

23 March Moved to Dienheim. Across the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge. Sweated out enemy planes, ack-ack fire and artillery. Want a relief to leave this position.

25 March Moved 3 times. To Wolfskehlen to Weiterstadt and finally to Erzhausen.

26 March Again we moved 3 times. To Egelsbach, Gotzenhain, and Heusenstamm. Knocked out 2 AA guns, destroyed 2 artillery pieces and set fire to a flak tower.

27 March Moved to Lammerspiel. Fired in support of the Main River crossing operation.

28 March Moved to Mittelbuchen. No firing done.

29 March Moved to Heldenbergen. No firing done.

30 March Moved to Enzheim, Bergheim and finally to Merkenfritz helping guard the division right flank.

31 March Moved to Shlitz (just the name made us homesick for a taste of an American beverage of the same name). Moved on to Queck.

2 April Moved to Neukircken. Convoy was strafed. Moved again to Eromannrode and finally to Ausbach.

3 April Moved to Unterbreizbach. The 537 AA A gets on enemy plane as it flies over the battalion area.

4 April Moved to Dorndorf. "B" Battery convoy shelled. Moved to Leimbach and finally to Allendorf.

5 April Moved to Bad Liebenstein.

6 April Moved to Bernbach.

7 April Moved to Zella Mehlis. Helped repel a counterattack.

8 April Moved to Heidersbach.

9 April Moved to Gehlberg. The battalion gets shelled heavily. "B" Battery displays heroism and several earned Bronze Stars. Several had Purple Hearts forced on them.

10 April Moved to Stutzerbach. Fired on Ilmenau, Gehren, and Roda.

11 April Moved to Gehren.

12 April Moved to Mankenbach. Then over the mountains to Volkmansdorf.

13 April Moved to Schlaga. Moved again to Burglemnitz.

14 April Moved to Ebersdorf.

15 April Moved to Frossen.

16 April Moved to Gefell and then on to Krebs.

17 April First shot fired into Czechoslovakia.

18 April Moved to Haidt and to Doberlitz.

19 April Moved to Kuhschwitz, Pilgramsreuth, and Schonwald.

20 April Moved to Ober Weissenbach. Moved again to Thiersheim.

21 April Moved to Brand and Hoflas.

22 April Moved to Grossen Sterz. Snow.

23 April Moved to Schonbrunn. Rain. Fired on fortified towns.

24 April Moved to Pleystein. Snow. Fired on enemy machine guns.

25 April Moved to Eslarn and Hannesried. Fair weather; the impossible had happened.

26 April Moved to Schmitzdorf, Zifling and to Runding.

27 April Fired on Beckendorf, Arndorf. Moved to Gehstorf, Niederndorf and Grub.

28 April Moved to Madersdorf. "B" Battery takes 10 prisoners. "C" Battery engages in a fire fight with some Krauts. It fires direct fire into a woods filled with Germans at the range of 600 to 800 yards. 1 SS Officer Kaput. Takes 198 prisoners.

29 April "A" Battery to Neukirchen. Returns to Madersdorf during the day. "B" Battery took 6 prisoners.

30 April Snow. 311 prisoners of War had been taken by or surrendered to the battalion during the month.

1 May Snow Fired on Seughof and Neu Aign, Germany.

2 May Moved to Schafberg. Snow. Fired on enemy strong points.

4 May Rain Fired on enemy vehicles, self propelled guns, tanks and artillery.

5 May Moved to assembly areas. "A" Battery at Traidersdorf, "B" and "C" Batteries at Barndorf; Headquarters at Wolkersdorf, Service at Hofern. Then moved to Paseko, Czechoslovakia. Traveled 71 miles.

6 May Moved to Kasperske Hory. Fired on Seckerberg.

7 May Moved to Draznovice (Drazowitz). At 0930 authentic information received that Germany had unconditionally surrendered to the Allies at 0241. Surrender to become official at 090001.

10 May Moved to Resanice. In a defensive position.

11 May Col. Charles A. Pyle takes command of The 90th Division Artillery.

14 May Moved to Neunburg, Germany and Occupation area. Traveled 88 miles.

18 May Moved into garrison. Start cleaning equipment, resting and being a part of the army of occupation.

8 July Many of our old buddies and 88 pointers leave us for demobilization units. Many new friends step into their places.